

# **Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone**



**Prayers and Reflections  
for use at home**

**Sunday 3 May 2026**

**Easter 5**

Welcome to this week's Prayers and Reflections. As Eastertide continues, we contemplate another of our Lord's 'I am' sayings: I am the way and the truth and the life. This is our Lord's reassuring promise to his team as he prepares for the cross. It is a promise that all will be OK.

Enjoy exploring his promise.

God bless,

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*As you prepare to explore our Lord's three-part promise, think of him as your way to his Father in heaven.*

Thou art the Way: by thee alone  
from sin and death we flee;  
and all would the Father seek  
must see him, Lord, by thee.

*George Washington Doane (1799-1859)*

*based on John 14*

**Prayers and Reflections**  
**for use at home on Easter 5**  
**Promise**

**PREPARING OURSELVES**

*Take a moment to be still in God's presence, and feel his love. You may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here, in this room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.*

Risen Lord Jesus,  
as I prepare to spend this time in worship,  
I invite you to come and fill this space,  
and my inner stillness,  
with your presence.

**Amen.**

**LETTING GO**

*If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets, with things that you wish you had not said, done or been, offer them to God in the silence of your heart. And, when you are ready, reflect on the second verse of this week's hymn.*

Thou art the Truth: thy word alone  
true wisdom can impart;  
thou only canst inform the mind  
and purify the heart.

*George Washington Doane (1799-1859)*

*based on John 14*



*If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.*

*Feel the Father's forgiveness.*

*The Rule of St. Benedict begins with one word – listen. Listen to the Lord’s instructions and take them to heart. This is what Jesus is asking his team to do on the eve of the cross. ‘Listen. Listen to what I am saying, for in the hours to come, you will need to remember my words – my promise and believe. Believe that there is more to come.’ In the years to come, his team will need to believe in his three-part promise and hold onto everything that he has taught them as they face their own trials.*

*Jesus is inviting his disciples to believe. Believe in him as the one who connects them with his Father in heaven. Believe in him as the one who teaches them how to live as God desires rather than by worldly standards. Believe in him as the one who offers life in all of its wondrous fullness, feeling at one with the one who gives us life.*

*It is a beautiful three-part promise – a unique guide to life.*

*Pause to ponder how you have applied our Lord’s teaching in your life, your everyday life. How has this made you a better you?*

*Offer this verse of prayer and promise.*



Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
live my life for you,  
Son of God.  
All your commands  
I know are true,  
your many gifts  
will make me new,  
into my life  
your power breaks through,  
Living Lord.

*Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)*

*CCLI reported*

## PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER

### (The Collect)

*Today, this prayer is being said across our villages and the worldwide Church. Add your voice to the earthly cycle of prayer to our risen Lord who always listens to our prayers.*

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for our world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

*Our prayer invites us to contemplate what Jesus could see before him as he shared the Passover meal with his closest friends – trial, torture, death on a cross and a stone cold tomb. He had the courage to face this. Dying, he would take away all that might separate us from his Father in heaven. Rising, he would show us that death is not the end but the way to a life beyond this life. He had the compassion to see how very shocking these events would be for his team. His words would be at the heart of their life, post-Pentecost, as his church builders. His three-part promise would do two things. Firstly, it would show them how to stay close to him – how to abide in both his and his Father's love. Secondly, it would fill them with the courage to go out and risk everything – including their own lives – as they dared to share his good news.*

*Pause to ponder this prayerful request – Give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve. What is our risen Lord inviting you to do and be in his name? Think of his promise in this next verse.*



Thou art the Life: the rending tomb  
proclaims thy conquering arm;  
and those who put their trust in thee  
nor death nor hell shall harm.

*George Washington Doane (1799-1859)*

*based on John 14*

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

### The Way to the Father

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

*John 14:1-12*

### Stay Close...

*It is rather reassuring, isn't it, that even after three years of working with Jesus and learning from him, Philip and the others are still not sure – scared about what is about to happen. It is OK to have doubts. It is OK to feel at times that life is overwhelming. Jesus in his three-part promise offers a three step solution.*

*Firstly, he invites us to pause. Think about who he is and why he came to earth to be with ordinary people like Andrew and Peter, James and John, Philip and Thomas, you and me. Think about his own prayer life – daily, Jesus abided in his Father’s love. Step one is join in this at-one-ness.*



O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!  
Interpreted by love!

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)*

*Secondly, he invites us to ponder all that he did during his time on earth, how he drew close to those in need of his love and compassion. He cares. Think about how he cares for you, your family and friends. He will be with you as he was with his team. His Spirit gave each of his team the courage to do what felt impossible on that Thursday evening. They did not give up even in the face of huge challenges and dangers. Step two is to place your trust in him. Draw on his teaching.*

*Thirdly, he invites us to remember all that he has done for us – the cross, the resurrection. Know that he did this for you and for me. In this life, Jesus will not desert us. His Spirit is with us. You can seek his guiding – loving – comforting words at any time. Beyond this life, Jesus awaits us, in his Father’s house, where he has made a place for us. Living life with this promise – this vision – before us can help us to experience deeper joys and to bear with what feels like unbearable woes. Pause to ponder this.*



Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life:  
grant us that Way to know,  
that Truth to keep, that Life to win,  
whose joys eternal flow.

*George Washington Doane (1799-1859)*

*based on John 14*

## OUR PRAYERS

*Here are some Eastertide prayers. Feel free to add your own.*

Risen Lord, you are my way, my Sat Nav in my daily life.  
Forgive me, when I forget to listen to your voice,  
when I fail to abide in your love. Lord, help me to stay close...

Risen Lord, hear my prayer.

Risen Lord, you are the world's truth. Yours are the rules by which  
we should live. World leaders should look to your example as one  
who leads with love and compassion, justice and peace. Lord, guide...

Risen Lord, hear my prayer.

Risen Lord, you are the giver of life and hope. Through the cross,  
through your resurrection, you have shown us that there is life  
beyond this life. Lord, may this bring comfort to...

Risen Lord, hear my prayer.

*Offer your own heartfelt prayers and praise.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

*A closing prayer of blessing for this week.*

Risen Lord, come and meet me where I am,  
this Eastertide. Fill me with love and joy and peace,  
so that I may offer your hope to others.  
Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**