

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in April, 2022

## Introduction

Leader Jesus' resurrection from the dead wasn't just a shock for the disciples of Jesus, it is also hard for us to believe. Yet we do and with joy. Our faith is rooted in a life that never ends. Alleluia!

## Opening Prayer

All God our Father, by raising Christ your son, you opened for us the way to joy that never ends. Increase our faith in Jesus' resurrection so that we proclaim his hope and our joy by the way we live each day. We ask this through Jesus in the power of his Spirit. Amen.

## Word of God John 20:1-9

Reader A reading from the Gospel of John Pause after the reading

*Optional* Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side.*

1. What experiences in your life have increased your faith in life beyond death?
2. Peter and John learned of Jesus' empty tomb from Mary Magdalene, an unexpected source. When has truth been revealed to you from an unexpected source?

## Response (John 20:1-9)

Side 1 had "Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed."

Side 2 May the meaning of the empty tomb bring us to a renewed hope in eternal life with God and the community of all our loved ones.

Side 1 "John saw the empty tomb and believed."

Side 2 We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief.

Side 1 "Peter and John had not understood the Scripture that Jesus 'must rise from the dead.'"

Side 2 May we ponder the Scriptures in order to enter more deeply into God's message for us today.

**Petitions** Individuals add intentions here.

## Closing Prayer Psalm 118:22-23

All Alleluia! The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. Alleluia!

*John 20: 1-9*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,  
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb  
and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.  
So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,  
the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,  
“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb  
and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.  
The two were running together,  
but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.  
He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.  
He saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head,  
not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in,  
and he saw and believed;  
for as yet they did not understand the scripture,  
that Jesus must rise from the dead.  
Then the disciples returned to their homes.