

Happy Easter in the Domestic Church

Pray from Home - Celebrate with us - Stay Connected

A. D. 2020

BLESSING OF FOOD FOR THE FIRST MEAL OF EASTER

The minister then greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

A. Before the Easter Vigil

For our sake Christ became obedient, accepting even death, death on a cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him the name above all other names. Blessed be God forever.

And all reply:

Blessed be God forever.

B. After the Easter Vigil

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

And all reply:

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

One of those present reads a text of sacred Scripture:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35)

They knew Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

At the end of the Gospel, the lector acclaims:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All reply:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

**God of glory,
the eyes of all turn to you
as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death.
Bless us and this food of our first Easter meal.
May we who gather at the Lord's table
continue to celebrate the joy of his resurrection
and be admitted finally to his heavenly banquet.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.