



*Light and
Love in the
darkness*

CELEBRATING AT HOME FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Jesus, our Way, Truth and Life (Jn 14:1-12)
A special prayer of blessing for Mothers*

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

Being Mother's Day in many parts of the world, you may also like to include photos of the mothers who are part of your family.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

CELEBRATING AT HOME

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in
this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you are our Way.

Lord Jesus,
you are our Truth.

Lord Jesus,
you are our Life.

Risen Christ,
give us the courage and strength we need
to be your living presence in the world.
Amen.

Scripture Reading (John 14:1-12)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him, 'and you still do not know me?'

To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same work as I do myself, he will perform ever greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Reflection - *Jesus, the Way, Truth and Life*

In the opening words of the Gospel Jesus calls the disciples to trust him and to trust God. He does so in the context of announcing his departure to them. Understandably, the disciples are afraid and uncertain which the questions of Thomas and Philip show.

Jesus calls them to trust him as the way to the God, the living truth about the God and the very life of God.

It is the spirit of Jesus who holds us in communion with God, who reveals to us the truth about God and who is the very life of God within each of us.

We want to live true to the vocation God has given us, aware of the Spirit which has been placed into our hearts, allowing that Spirit to change us into true believers so that the face of God might be seen within our own.

Mother's Day Prayer

God of Love, listen to this prayer.

**God of holy people,
of Sarah, Ruth and Rebekah;
God of Elizabeth, mother of John,
God of Mary, mother of Jesus,
listen to us and bless the
mothers of our families.**

Bless with the strength of your Spirit,
the mothers who taught us to stand and walk,
who continue to be strength for us
as we walk the journey of life.

**Bless with the melody of your love,
those who showed us
how to speak, how to sing,
how to pray to you.
Bless with a place
at your eternal table
those who fed and nurtured our life
as it was formed within them.**

Bless our mothers today
with good things and with health;
with joy, love and laughter,
and surround them with many good friends.

**May they be carried one day to your divine
embrace: there for all eternity to rejoice with
their family and friends.**

**Hold gently in your love our mothers who are
now with you.**

This blessing and all graces, we pray,
descend upon the mothers of our families:
**in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**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.**

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
in the resurrection of Jesus
you share with us his risen life.
Transform our darkness, fear and isolation
with your comforting presence
so that we can be your calm, loving,
healing presence to each other.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our trust in you.

Mother's Day Prayer adapted from Prayers for the Domestic Church
Edward Hays, Forest of Peace Books, Kansas 1990