

Home Easter Basket Blessing

When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung.

The prayer leader says:

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

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

Amen.

The prayer leader 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 for ever.

And all reply:

Blessed be God for ever.

B. After the Easter Vigil

Christ is risen. Alleluia

And all reply:

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

In the following or similar words, the prayer leader prepares those present for the blessing.

Throughout Lent we have been preparing for the resurrection of the Lord by prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. Our Lenten fasting is a reminder of our hunger and thirst for holiness which is satisfied only by Christ who feeds and nourishes us by his word and sacraments. When we gather at our first meal of Easter may this food be a sign for us of that heavenly banquet to which the Lord calls us.

INTERCESSIONS

The intercessions are then said. The prayer leader introduces them and an assisting prayer leader or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The prayer leader says:

The Son of God who invites us to the Paschal feast stands ready to help. Let us call upon him in our need.

R. Lord, prepare us for the feast of life.

Assisting prayer leader:

That Easter may find us cleansed of sin and ready to live anew our Christian faith, we pray to the Lord. R

Assisting prayer leader:

That the bread we share may be a reminder of the bread of life we share in the Eucharist, we pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting prayer leader:

That we may be ready to give from our table to those who hunger and thirst, we pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting prayer leader:

That we may one day enjoy the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom, we pray to the Lord. R.

After the intercessions the prayer leader, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

Christ taught us to pray for our daily bread and so we dare to say:

All:

Our Father. . .

A lay minister who is not a priest or deacon 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.

The prayer leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May Christ nourish us and strengthen us in faith and love now and for ever.

R. Amen.

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