

# Parish Meeting Prayers

## Introduction

For use in April, 2019

**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. Our faith is rooted in a life that never ends. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Opening Prayer

**All** God our Father, by raising your son Jesus you opened for us the way to eternal life. Increase our faith in his resurrection so that we proclaim his hope 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 *The reading is on the reverse side.*

**Optional** Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. What experiences have you had in your life that 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 (taken from John 20:1-9)

**Side 1** 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 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.

## 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***

On the first day of the week,  
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,  
while it was still dark,  
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.  
So she ran and went to Simon Peter  
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,  
“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,  
and we don’t know where they put him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.  
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter  
and arrived at the tomb first;  
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him,  
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,  
and the cloth that had covered his head,  
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in,  
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,  
and he saw and believed.  
For they did not yet understand the Scripture  
that he had to rise from the dead.