



Dear All,

It is with great delight that I offer this selection of prayers from *Praying Anew: 72 Hours (of Easter) for All Creation*. This fresh expression of Easter, its spirituality and prayer has gradually matured since 1988 in various worship settings - urban, rural, large, small, and diverse. Now it is my hope that this Easter may offer an enlivening grace to your community and you as well.

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In gratitude for your support of this work and our shared prayer that *All may Be One*,

Alexander

Praying Anew: 72 Hours (of Easter) All Creation
Selected Prayers

1. Prayer for Community Retreat (Season of Lent)
2. At the Threshold / Lighting the Easter Fire (Just Past Thursday Sunset)
3. Liturgy of Washing Feet / 1st Hour of the 72 (1st Night)
4. Universal Prayers around The Cross (1st Afternoon / Good Friday)
5. Prayers with the Great Vigil Readings (Great Night - Easter Vigil)
6. Baptismal Creed and Covenant (Great Dawn – Easter Sunday)
7. Sending Forth from the 72 Hours (Easter Sunday)

Just past Sunset / At the Threshold Lighting the Easter Fire

In this Easter, we gather around the place of the new Fire just past sunset on Thursday - and observe the fading light of day, the final minutes of Lent and the arrival of darkness -our threshold into Easter. In this text, the lighting of the new fire returns to its origins - as the opening ritual of Easter's 72 Hours. Once twilight has ended - night has arrived, someone strikes a large long match.

In the early darkness of night -as the match's flame burns: we pray:

We Rejoice. We Remember.
We Welcome The Christ,
the Spark that lit the cosmos at the beginning of time.

We Rejoice. We Remember.
We Welcome The Christ,
the Spark expanding across all time.

We Rejoice. We Remember.
We Welcome The Christ,
the Spark borne and sheltered by our ancestors.

We Rejoice. We Remember.
We Welcome The Christ,
the Spark fanned into flame by those who ignited
us in love, wisdom, and joy.

We Rejoice. We Remember.
We Welcome The Christ
the Spark a sacred trust we hold for all who follow us.

We Rejoice. We Remember.
We Welcome the Christ.

Now, the match is touched to the fire pit and we wait/watch as the fire spreads. After the fire comes to full blaze - The Prayer Over the Fire is prayed. Then one taper-candle is lit from the fire (not yet The Pascal Candle). We follow this lit taper- candle into the dark shadows of the sacred