

Pastoral Prayers for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

Prayers

Gracious and loving God,

Today as again we give you praise for giving us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, we give you thanks for the signs in this time of light shining into darkness, of kindness answering anger and fear, of wisdom turning away rashness, of compassion overcoming instincts for self-preservation, of generosity winning over profit, as humanity faces the challenge of a pandemic sweeping around the world.

We give you thanks for kindnesses that have broken into our own lives to dispel gloom and loneliness, for opportunities opened to us to show kindness to neighbours, family, and friends, and for heartening stories of efforts made by many to bring music, laughter, encouragement, and comfort into the lives of others in a challenging time.

We lift up before you people known to us affected directly in this pandemic. We pray for those who have become ill, for those who struggle for life and breath, and for all who care for them, whether at home, in hospital, or in long-term care homes.

We pray for all who mourn, and especially for many who could not accompany their loved one in their dying as they would have wanted or be present to mourn and comfort others for prayers and the burial of the dead. Help us find ways to comfort and support them now, and in days to come.

We pray for doctors and nurses who work in hospitals to save and heal the critically ill, and for workers in long-term care homes who have always cared for people in their frailty, and now stay with them in times of acute risk.

We pray for the leaders in our city, province, and nation who work to mobilize the resources to fight the pandemic and also enable people to continue their daily lives in the face of lost jobs or canceled opportunities.

We pray also for the leaders of each nation, and for the many organizations that respond to health and humanitarian crises in many places all around the world.

We pray for our congregation, for the faces we do not see today, but remember before you, that you will show us the way forward in a time of transition.

We pray for the churches of Christ in every place, for the challenges they face both for bearing witness to the Gospel and living it in the service of others in this challenging time. We pray also that people of all faiths might be drawn closer together to acknowledge and respond with compassion and grace to the frailties and needs of our common humanity.

Hear our prayers, gracious God, as we look forward in hope, looking to Jesus, raised from the dead, and alive forever more.

We pray as Jesus taught us:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace.

Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always. AMEN