

PRAYERS for April 16, 2023 – Second Sunday of Easter

Worship Assistant: On this second Sunday of Easter, let us pray to our Risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: Living God, we give thanks that You love us and that You freed us from our sins. Long ago, faithful men and women proclaimed the Good News of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them; help us to keep our witness as bold; help us to keep our love as deep; and help us to keep our convictions as true. Open our hearts to Your power this morning.

Risen Savior.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Jesus, our Savior, You bore the cross of guilt of all the world. Although we have not seen You in the flesh as Your disciples did, we believe in You; we do not doubt You. We ask You to look on us with understanding as You see us with heavy hearts because of the present state of our country and our world. Help us remember that this will only be for a season and that we need this for our own perfecting. Let us not grow discouraged as You lead us through these difficult days. Let us not grow weary as our faith is tested. Make our deepest troubles the sources of our highest joys. Help us draw nearer to You even in our disappointments, difficulties, and concerns.

Risen Savior.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Holy Jesus, as we pray about worries, problems, and stress in our lives and in the lives of others, let us also pray for an increase in spirituality in the hearts and minds of those around us. Help all of us to see that by faith in You and love for You, we will know the fullness of joy in Your presence and the salvation of our souls that only comes from You. Thank You, Lord, for releasing us from past failings knowing that You have given each of us a new start. Help us to use our faith to be joyful Christians and live in unity with others.

Risen Savior.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Heavenly Father, You are the Alpha and the Omega. You are the comforter and healer of those in physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual pain. We lift up to You all our brothers and sisters who are in need of Your help. Give support to our citizens who are struggling because of lack of employment, hunger, and separation from family. Give comfort and care to all those families who have lost loved ones and homes because of storms, unrest, wars, and vicious attacks. Let Your touch be felt in the lives of all the people on our prayer list and those friends and families whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 15 seconds for names.) Risen Savior.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Lord Jesus, we have so many things for which to pray. We ask You to come with Your forgiveness, Your grace, and Your peace to the people of Word of God. Give us a hunger for Your Word, a thirst for Your goodness, and a vision of Your love. Give us a desire to serve You by serving others. Breathe Your Holy Spirit on Christians who are persecuted for naming You as Lord. Let their faithful endurance glorify You. Breathe Your Holy Spirit on all who stand in harm's way. Give them wisdom, courage, and strength to honorably accomplish their tasks.

Risen Savior.....hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**