

PRAYERS for April 18, 2021 – Third Sunday of Easter

Worship Assistant: On this third Sunday of Easter, let us praise the name of the Lord and pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: Holy Father, we pray that we may always enter into Your presence in a very humble and very thankful way. We come today with thanksgiving for what You have done for us. You are merciful; You are faithful; You are comforting; You are loving. To You be praise and honor and glory and might forever and ever. Fill our worship with grace, with love, and with gratitude. Give us ready minds to believe Your Word and to see the wisdom that is in all Your ways and purposes. We know that Your Word endures forever.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Glorious God, how often our eyes are closed, and we fail to recognize Your greatness and Your grace. How many eyes are still closed today to the truth that Jesus is risen? How often Jesus walks close by our sides, and we don't even know it? We ask You to increase the light in our hearts and the brightness of our paths. Strengthen our poor hearts and help us see that the hatred of the world should not affect us so that we grow impatient and loveless toward one another. Instruct our poor hearts and convince us that our Risen Lord is with us in our ordinary lives: our coming and our going, during quiet times and turmoil, in our waking and our sleeping, among our friends and those who hate us, in days of sickness and in health.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Lord Jesus Christ, You revealed Yourself to Your disciples many times after Your death and glorious resurrection. You reveal Yourself to us in new ways each day. Grant that we will reveal Your love in all that we do, and that we will feed Your sheep and care for Your lambs. Strengthen our hearts and help us fix our eyes on the great glory which will one day be ours because You have saved us with Your blood.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Heavenly Father, we come to You with our doubts and fears, with our joys and gladness, with our concerns and worries, with our sadness and grief. Please hear us when we call. Sometimes Your children are sent out to places that are dangerous and among people who are ungodly. Give us Your guidance and protection to follow Your ways and to lead others to You. Help us to return good for evil to those who love neither You nor Your followers. Let Your healing 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 20 seconds for names.) **Lord, in Your mercy.....***hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Almighty God, we pray for our leaders and ask You to bless and guide them to serve the people and not themselves. Keep safe the innocent people whose lives are being impacted by the riots. Be with all who labor to protect us: our military, police, firefighters, border patrol, emergency first responders, and medical personnel. Keep them safe in the midst of danger and enable them to carry out their duties trusting in You. Be with all who labor to educate us: our parents, pastors, teachers, assistants, and administrators. Help them use their efforts to encourage and educate our young people who have had so many challenges the last several years. Help our schools be places of safety and learning and not hatred and indoctrination. **Lord, in Your mercy.....** *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**