

PRAYERS for April 23, 2023 – Third Sunday of Easter

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

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

Risen Savior.....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 does Jesus walk 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. Instruct our hearts and assure us that our Risen Lord is with us in our ordinary lives; in our comings and our goings, during quiet times and chaos, in our waking and our sleeping, among our friends and those who treat us wrong, in our days of sickness and in health. If we do not believe that He is risen, then our faith is in vain. But we do believe and ask You to bring us closer to our Risen Lord.

Risen Savior.....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. We see Your compassion and presence in doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers. We see Your kindness and attention in teachers. We see Your love and selflessness in the many Pastors who daily feed Your flock with their words of encouragement and hopefulness. We see Your courage and strength every day in the police who endeavor to keep us safe. We see Your love and friendship in the family members and friends who keep us close. Please protect and guard us from the hatred of the world so that we don't grow impatient and loveless toward one another.

Risen Savior.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Heavenly Father, we come to You with our doubts and our fears, with our joys and our contentment, with our troubles and our worries, with our sadness and our grief. Thank You for hearing us when we call to You. Sometimes Your children are sent out to places that are dangerous and among people who are wicked. Give us Your guidance and protection to follow Your ways and to lead others to You. We ask You to send Your holy angels to watch over and comfort all those who are in need. 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: Almighty God, there is such evil in our world, and it comes in many disguises. We need Your help to recognize right from wrong. Help us to not be overcome by evil, but to always overcome evil with good. We know that there are many other things for which we need to pray. We thank You for knowing our hearts and minds even when we are unable to put our thoughts into words. **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**