

April 12, 2020 ~A Prayer for Easter Sunday~



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*"He is not here:
he has risen.
just as he said."*

Matthew 28:6

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:5-6

Lord God, your love is greater than any love we can imagine.

Lord Jesus, the price you paid for our sins was greater than what we deserve.

As each prophesy was fulfilled, you drew closer to the cross, but you knew the prophesy of resurrection followed that cross. Your victory over death and the sins of all mankind was revealed to the women at the empty tomb. You were not there, you had risen, Jesus, just as you said.

Today we celebrate your resurrection and the promise of eternal life, but the circumstance of our world threatened weeks ago to take away our worship and praise this Easter Sunday.

Churches around this country are empty today. A worldly, viral enemy has changed everything about our lives, and brought fear into our hearts, suffering into bodies, and death to so many. Much has been taken away from us, but we won't allow anything or anyone to deny us this day of remembering and celebrating your resurrection, Savior Jesus.

Our church building is empty, and so was the tomb, but our hearts are filled with your Holy Spirit. We are the church. In our homes, at our tables, with our Bibles, and our pastor leading us. we are the church. Your church will worship you. You are our God. You are our Savior. You are the Spirit in our hearts. You deserve our thankful praise for your sacrifice of redemption and salvation that we've asked to receive. You are omnipresent, always with us. We know you are with each of us in the places we are when the live stream begins.

We remember the images of lilies and candles, of pure, white banners beside our lighted cross. We'll share your peace, say your prayer together, and commune in memories of the bread and the wine. We'll remember sharing breakfast and watching children hunt for eggs. Lord Jesus, your tomb was empty, but our lives are filled with blessings and assurance that we belong to you, now and forever, no matter what.

Merciful and Gracious God, we ask today for your presence in every servant helping the suffering and dying. Give strength to all recovering and your peace to grieving hearts. Protect each one of your children in every place and in every circumstance, Father, from being infected. Continue to give us patience, and remind us to encourage each other. Give your wisdom to our leaders and researchers. We ask you to reduce infections and deaths and increase recoveries to help flatten the curve, Lord, please open the eyes and minds of everyone in our nation to understand unity speeds up recovery and victory, but criticism and divisiveness accomplish nothing.

Lord God, your love is greater than anything we can imagine.

Lord Jesus, the price you paid for our sins was greater than what we deserve.

Let us shout what the angel told the women long ago,

“He has risen. He is not here.” Hallelujah^[00]!

Savior Jesus, it's in you name that we pray this Easter Sunday.

Amen.