

Sunday Prayers.4.14.2024 Easter 3

God of Easter, On the third day...you rose...and forever changed our forever. Thank you. The amazing details of that day, the future that opened for all of humanity—all of us—is beyond our imaginations. We cling to that resurrection reality. Like the disciples before us, we want to keep learning about what all of this means. Please continue to make yourself known to us in all the places we gather, in the breaking of the bread wherever we share it, and in the ways we foster new life with each other. Lord in your mercy....hear our prayer.

God of Resurrection, many of us have lost people we love and are grieving. This promise reminds us that life doesn't end with death and yet, we grieve those we loved and lost. Especially we remember:

- Patrick and Martha Barlow and family on the death of Martha's sister, Julie.
- Bruce and Judy Engebretson and family on the death of Bruce's sister, Mary Beth.
- Nick and Elaine Mischler on the death of their friend, Claire.
- Amy Caron and her sister, Sarah on the death of their Mom, Linda Cohen.

Refresh us with hope, fill us with courage, bless us with gentle memories. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Hope,

Do you follow the news? Do you know the needs? Have you seen the issues that are plaguing our world? The wars unnerve us. The tragedy of genocide is beyond our reason. You have commanded us to love one another...can you help us make that possible? We need softened hearts. We need open minds. We need to see each other, hear each other, help each other, feed each other, and make sure that hunger of all kinds is satiated. We need comfort in the midst of chaos. Please help us help your world. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Healing,

Healing is needed by so many people for so many things—physical ailments—chronic pain, cancer, cardiac issues; mental health concerns—depression, grief, fear and anxiety, spiritual parts of us too—the need to know...the doubt...the questions...help us in the midst of all that needs healing in us, to be healed. Help us to feel whole in your love. We are told that you are as present as the air we breathe...help us know that in the breath that fills our lungs right now. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of New Life,

The grass is growing and becoming green. The buds are visible on the trees. The daffodils and tulips and crocuses are pushing through and beginning to color our world. We feel the warmth of the sun. We feel the hope as we welcome a new season. And, the total eclipse of the sun this week reminded us of how the world works in ways we don't even think about often. As we live in the beauty and complexities of your creation, help us find ways to keep it safe and protect its future. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Us,

We are Easter people. We need grace—like full on measures of love, and hope and chocolate and ice cream. We need to remember to be alive and live fully. We need to remember to love ourselves as we love others. We need to remember to love others as we love ourselves. We don't always get it right. Being human requires balance and compassion and patience and great amounts of forgiveness and love. Guide our growing. Help our becoming. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray—everything that we lift before you...and trust that you will tend it all with mercy and love. Amen.