

# Easter 2024 - PRAYER

*"Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer." R. A. Torrey*

## PAUSE – quietness

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. (Psalm 62:5)

*Father, thank you for your loving invitation to draw near to you. Thank you Jesus for making the way for us to come to our heavenly Father, clean and unhindered. Teach me how to draw near. Teach me how to pray.*

Spend a few minutes sitting quietly in God's presence. If concerns flood your thoughts you can repeat, "Father, I trust you with \_\_\_\_\_." as needed.

## REJOICE – praise and thanksgiving

Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! (Psalm 147:1)

Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship,  
for they will walk in the light of your presence, Lord. (Psalm 89:15)

*Jesus, I praise you because you are \_\_\_\_\_*

*Lord, thank you that you have done \_\_\_\_\_*

*Father, thank you that you have given me \_\_\_\_\_*

*Papa (Abba), thank you that you are \_\_\_\_\_*

# REFLECT – THE LOVE OF THE FATHER

**For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**

**See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)**

# REFLECT - THE DEATH OF THE SON

**And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. (Matthew 26:27-28)**

**When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. (Romans 5:6-11)**

**When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)**

# REFLECT - THE GLORY OF JESUS

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. (Philippians 2:5-11)

Though he was God,  
he did not think of equality with God  
as something to cling to.  
Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;  
he took the humble position of a slave  
and was born as a human being.  
When he appeared in human form,  
he humbled himself in obedience to God  
and died a criminal's death on a cross.  
Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor  
and gave him the name above all other names,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

# REFLECT - THE INTERCESSION OF JESUS

Then who can sentence us to death? No one. Christ Jesus is at the right hand of God and is also praying for us. (Romans 8:34)

Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be kept holy.  
May your Kingdom come soon.  
May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the food we need,  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.  
And don't let us yield to temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:9-13)

# **ASK - OUR PRAYERS**

**I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)**

## **Let us pray for our nation and world ...**

- For God's kingdom of peace, justice, mercy and righteousness to come, and have a significant impact
- For God's children to be peacemakers
- For spiritual light to give a true understanding of the gospel

## **Let us pray for our community ...**

- For Grace, and our sister churches in the area, to be places of light, truth, peace, love, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit's presence.
- For the Holy Spirit to infuse each of us to act with radical, innovative fervor in invitation and hospitality to those around us

## **Let us pray for our church ...**

- For God's wisdom in planning services and events
- For innovative ways to create and sustain small groups
- For opportunities to come together in community to worship

# **YIELD – to the GLORY TO GOD**

**"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4:11)**