

Prayers for this Easter Season

Lord Jesus, risen from the dead and alive for evermore: stand in our midst today as in the upper room; show us your hands and your side; speak your peace to our hearts and minds; and send us forth into the world as your witnesses; for the glory of your name. **Amen.** (John R W Stott)

Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked, draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. **Amen.** (NZ prayer book)

Lord Jesus, at this, the strangest of Eastertides, with so many unanswered questions, come to us afresh, revitalise our hope in you, and help us to *be* Good News to those who are *really* struggling.

Lord hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus said: "I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart!

And the peace I give *isn't* fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."

Lord Jesus, we pray for that peace to flood your world today – to flood our minds, our homes, our surgeries, our hospitals and care homes; our houses of parliament, & all places of decision-making. We pray for all those serving on the front line around the world, as, together, we face this pandemic, and for those making, and living with the consequences of, decisions.

Lord hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for your Church worldwide, that your people would have the courage to stand and serve, and shine, for you. May our witness be seen, and draw others into your loving embrace.

Lord hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who are sick, anxious, or feeling the burden of isolation or incarceration – may they sense your healing and reassuring presence, and your promise to be there always.

Lord hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord Jesus, Lord of Life and Son of God,

we are so grateful that you were willing to experience death, something common to us all - and through your resurrection opened a pathway into the joy-filled life of eternity.

We pray for all who are facing death today, and for those who love and care for them; for those who have died in recent days, and for all who mourn their passing.

May each one experience your overwhelming peace in the midst of their struggle or loss, and discover in you both an ear constantly ready to listen and a heart also broken in sorrow.

Heavenly Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**