

The Risen Jesus, with us. The Second Sunday of Easter  
An act of devotion for an individual or family group

1 Peter 1:3

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death.

HYMN

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does his successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Let every creature rise and bring  
its grateful honours to the King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Isaac Watts

1 Peter 1:4&5

This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away. They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

Opening Prayer

Christ is risen  
**He is risen indeed**

Lord we come today full of hope and full of expectation.  
As we worship you and listen for your word, show us your glory,  
fill us with new hope,  
new praise and new power to serve you  
**We come full of hope**

We gather together in the Spirit.  
May we meet with you  
and so to grow with you.  
**We gather full of hope**

Send you Holy Spirit to light our path.  
Open our hearts and minds that we may see and embrace your light.  
Fill us with the power of your Spirit  
to dwell in every corner of our lives  
that we may know the promise and joy of resurrection  
**We seek a new out pouring of the Holy Spirit**

We are the people of God.  
Risen Lord, as we gather today,  
may we see you and hear you,  
and may we know your presence with us now.  
Let us be still and know that you are God of our lives.

*A time of stillness*

God our creator,  
we are sorry that we choose not to forgive but to hold grudges;  
that we doubt you and do not trust;  
that we choose to rely on our own resources and not on you;  
that we believe only when we have proof.  
Help us to forgive more readily, and to trust more willingly.  
God who truly forgives hear our cries.  
All these prayers we raise in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

1 Peter 1:6&7

Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honour on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Reading: John 20:19-29

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. 20 After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." 22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then stretch out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe! Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God" Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

## 1 Peter 1:8

You love him, although you have not seen him, and you believe in him, although you do not now see him.

## Address

In the early 1920's Bukharia was sent from Moscow to Kiev to address an anti-God rally as part of the Communist attempt to control Russia. For over an hour he abused and ridiculed the Christian Faith. When he finished an old man rose and asked to speak. An orthodox priest he was told he must be short -- he nodded his assent and said, 'Christ is Risen' and back with a deafening roar came the reply 'He is Risen indeed'

Even after years of suppression the same cry goes up from Christians throughout the world just as it came from the women that first morning, 'He has been raised from death.'  
(Matt28v7).

This is the message for every generation in every situation, Christ is Risen and he has promised to be with us in every situation (Matt28v20). Even in lockdown Jesus comes to be with us, (John20v19-20). As we meet today we gather with the saints around the world, and with the saints in heaven as together we worship the Risen Christ (Rev7v9-12), there is standing space only in the room in which you are right now.

Jesus has shown His great love for you on the cross, and now everything that God has promised is yours, for you are a child of God, chosen and special (1Peter2v9-10). You are forgiven and promised life with Jesus for all of eternity (1Peter2v24-25). This is the power of the Resurrection, this is the power of Jesus.

Sadhu Sundar Singh is an Indian who became a Christian. He was once asked "What have you found in Christianity that you did not find in your old religion?"

Sadhu replied "I found Jesus"

He was asked "What principle or doctrine or ethic or understanding did you find?"

"I found the Lord Jesus" Sandhu answered.

So, what are we to say at this time? Do not tell God how big the mountains are that we must deal in these difficult days. Tell the mountains how big God is!

So come on let us proclaim our faith 'CHRIST IS RISEN' 'HE IS RISEN INDEED'

Peter Heckels

## Prayers of Intercession

The words from Philippians 4:6 -7 *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank God for all that he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus"*.

God, in whom we trust, you know the thoughts of our hearts.

As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,  
uphold us with the knowledge that we share in the resurrection,  
and restore to the fullness of life.

*Silence*

Heavenly Father, we pray for all the places in the world that need your peace: places where wars continue to threaten the stability of the nations; and the lack of peace has caused so much destruction; places where people have to flee their homes, their families destroyed, lives lost.

*Silence*

Give wisdom to world leaders: that they may strive for lasting peace and true justice, not putting personal ambitions before the needs of the people they are meant to serve. Guide them to the way that brings justice, healing, reconciliation, and well-being for all...

*Silence.*

We pray for those who need peace of mind: those weighed down by the stresses and strains of everyday life, or who suffer with anxiety, or are oppressed by worry and fear; for those who find it hard to let go of things and simply trust. Comfort those who are in distress, heal the sick, deliver those who are oppressed, forgive the oppressors and help us bear each other's burden.

*Silence*

We pray for our world in the grip of this crisis of the virus. We remember those who provide care and support, we think especially of nursing and residential homes. We think of the front line staff we are at risk. We pray for their safety and protection. Thank you for the good will which has been shown across our communities and the support to those who are vulnerable. Take away the fear and fill us with your peace.

*Silence*

God who hears to prayers of all people empower us to not only know what to do, but also to do what we know. May we listen to your call and during this time of challenge may we live as your light in the world. Amen

The Lord's Prayer.

HYMN

I know that my redeemer lives –  
what joy the blest assurance gives!  
He lives, he lives who once was dead;  
he lives, my everlasting Head!

He lives, all glory to his name;  
he lives, my Saviour, still the same;  
what joy the blest assurance gives,  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley

1 Peter 1:9

So rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express, because you are receiving the salvation of your souls, which is the purpose of your faith in him.