

## EASTER PRAYER 2021

Dear God, as we greet you joyously on this great day,

Thank you for not allowing us to come to it without pain.

This has not been an easy Lent. You have taken us on a journey of uncovering.

We have read of the Passion of your Beloved, only to find that we in turn have been read by you.

Confronted by his emancipating truth, we have felt the clinging bonds of our self-deceptions.

Exploring the layers of anguish endured by your Beloved has exposed the layers of our complacency and complicity in the causes of that pain.

We have been overwhelmed by the sheer magnanimity of your liberating, compassionate, suffering love, only to become more sharply reminded of how we collude every day with the powers that fear it and crucify it.

It has been a hard Lent.

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But today is the First Day of the Week!

Today we know!

We know that because of Friday, your pain-filled love for your world has nailed you to us forever.

We know that because of Jesus and because of Friday you drain the strength of deadly violence by suffering its anguish, enduring its agony, taking it into you breaking heart – and still loving, still forgiving, still holding us to yourself.

And we know that because of Jesus and because of Friday and because of today, evil is only the second-strongest force in the universe. We know that you can breathe life into that which has been dead. You can roll away the stones that hold us prisoner to the ways of death. You can make Resurrection happen.

Do it among us and for us and in us we pray.

May the life of Jesus be let loose in us today.

In the name of the crucified and risen Christ

AMEN

Our Father/Mother in heaven  
Hallowed be your name  
Your kin-dom come, your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive those who are in our debt.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kin-dom,  
The power and the glory,  
Forever and ever, Amen