

Today's prayer - Easter 2020

God, our Creator,

Thank you —

for your generosity and mercy,
for your power and grace,
for the resurrection of Jesus,
who lives among us.

This Easter —

we will miss traditional
gatherings at sunrise,
voices raised in unison hymns,
the sound of organ, drum, and trumpet;
our sanctuaries adorned with fragrant Easter lilies.

This Easter —

there will be no
community Easter breakfast,
no Easter parades or bonnets,
no neighborhood egg hunts,
no extended family at our tables.

In the midst of our disappointment, fear, and anxiety,
in the face of a pandemic that has brought
illness, death and economic hardship,
our Easter traditions will not comfort us —
our idols of wealth, sports, pride, and competition,
will not save us.

This Easter —

we need to hear the voice of Jesus;
we need to see him and hear him ask,
“Why are you weeping?”
“For whom are you looking?”
Like Mary, we need to hear him
call us by name.

Come to us again, O God —

to shatter our idols;
to melt us and mold us,
to challenge and inspire us;
to raise us up from the tombs
where we have stayed too long.

Speak to us once more of —
your message of life,
your plan for creation,
that Easter may be the miracle
that we live every day.

God, this Easter, we pray most especially
for people everywhere —
physicians, nurses, medical support staff,
pharmacists, scientists, transportation personnel,
cashiers, farmers, first responders, clergy, civic leaders, and public servants—
who are risking their lives,
giving their best,
leaving self-interest behind,
in order to take us from a Good Friday world
to an Easter world;
we pray for people who are moving us toward
the vision of your peaceable kin-dom:
watch over them and their families,
and grant them your protection and peace
in this challenging time.

Creator God, we see your majesty all around us —
robins, crocuses, spring buds and blooms.
So may our hearts, minds, and souls
experience resurrection;
So may we be released from
apathy to service,
bitterness to love,
fear to courage;
So may we tell the resurrection story
with our lives.

Holy God, hear our prayer —
Make us bearers of Good News in the midst of bad;
Bring us hope in our hour of despair;
Grant us your peace, in Christ, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray:
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

By Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar
Scripture: John 20:1-18