

PRAYERS – SUNDAY 24th MAY

Below are some prayer points you can use, whether you are alone, as a couple, or with your family. Feel free to add to them as you wish.

Or, of course, you can also come up with your own prayers.

Alternatively, you can use the full responsive prayer further below.

If there are several of you together you may wish to share the prayers. After each part the person praying may like to say; *Lord, in your mercy*, to which everyone else responds; ***Hear our prayer.***

- Praise God that at Jesus' Ascension He showed that He truly is the all-powerful One, and that He raised Jesus to His side to sit in power and glory also.
- Give thanks that the God of power and might is also the One who keeps us in His love each day.
- Ask God to give us the strength to live as His people every day, knowing His love and care and living this out in all we do.
- Pray for all those who are going through hardship right now; people isolated from family and friends; those who have lost jobs or been cut back, or who's businesses are suffering, and those seeking to find work; our frontline workers who continue to make sacrifices to keep us all safe; our leaders, that they continue to make the best decisions for the good of us all; those having to put off or change plans due to our altered times; people for whom this time has increased their exposure to domestic violence, or who have found themselves more susceptible to any form of dependency or addiction; children who are in situations in which they are not safe or adequately cared for.
- Thank God that we know He is with us at all times, in all circumstances. Pray for His comfort and guidance in our lives, and that by how we live and speak we may also help others.

A Responsive Prayer

Our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ, has been raised to the right hand of God. Let us pray to him that he would intercede for us and for all the world before our Father in heaven.

Mighty God, we pray for those who exercise authority in our country, especially our Prime Minister, and all those involved in federal, state and local levels of government. Strengthen them in difficult times, and help them to make good decisions for the benefit of all.

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for those caught in sin that they may know the freedom which forgiveness brings. Help us to share your love with a world in desperate need of your grace and forgiveness.

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Just and Merciful Father, we pray for the release of captives, especially those unfairly imprisoned, and for lands ruled by oppressive regimes. Let your peace and freedom reign!

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for justice for the poor, and give thanks for a society which makes provision for people in difficult circumstances. Be with all those facing unemployment and all kinds of hardships in our society, and give us eyes to see and hearts to care for them.

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, we especially pray for those who bear intolerable burdens of illness, grief, or anxiety, especially in this time of COVID-19. Bring healing, comfort and peace. Bless all those who care for the sick.

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, you ascended into heaven, to your Father and our Father, to your God and our God. Always remember us, and never cease to represent our cause before the throne of God, with whom you live and reign, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**