



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

April 21, 2019

He Lives!

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. –1st Corinthians 15:20-22

We know that Jesus Christ is alive, because a variety of eyewitnesses gave testimony to His death, burial, and resurrection.

- **Jesus' disciples heard Him predict His crucifixion, and resurrection.** *From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. –Matthew 16:21*
- **John was eyewitness to Jesus' death.** *But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” –John 19:34-37*
- **Several women witnessed Jesus' death and burial.** *There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. –Matthew 27:55-56*
- **John testifies to Jesus' resurrection.** *On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. –John 20:19-21*
- **There were multiple eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection.** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter) then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. –1st Corinthians 15:3-8*

Because Jesus is Alive, we pray with confidence

- **We pray because Jesus Christ is alive and listening.** *He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. –Hebrews 7:25*
- **We pray, knowing that God understands, because He became one of us.** *We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. –Hebrews 4:15-16*
- **We pray, knowing that Jesus cares, because He gave His life for our sins.** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures ... –1st Corinthians 15:3*
- **We come to the Father, knowing we're forgiven, because Jesus gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin.** *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt ... Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by*

his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. –Isaiah 53:10a, 11

- **We can expect God to answer, since God gave His Son for us.** *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?* –Romans 8:32
- **We trust God’s wisdom in answering our prayers, because He’s God Almighty, working out His perfect plan.** *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.* –Ephesians 1:11

Jesus Christ is Risen Indeed! That fact is the basis of our hope as we pray and the reason why we do everything we do to the praise of His glory.

He Lives!

I serve a risen Savior; He’s in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I here His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He’s always near.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair.
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian! Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal Hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way.
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

–Alfred H. Ackley, 1887 - 1960

Pray that God will send His Holy Spirit to help us live in the reality of Jesus’ current life and reign over the earth. Pray for faith to walk in His presence day by day, receiving His guidance and relying on His power. Pray for spiritual leaders who can teach us that theology speaks about the reality His people live in every day.

Pray this for our leaders.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Tamene Menna, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn.

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. –Isaiah 53:11-12 (722 BC)