

Opening prayer: O Lord as we continue to bask in your light of life and resurrection into eternal life, grant us the additional blessing of your presence in the time ahead. Renew your glory, receive our praises, and send into each heart and flame of the Spirit of our risen Lord, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Pastoral prayer: Lord, as we come before you in prayer this morning, two weeks have elapsed since we commemorated the glorious resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day. That is a very brief time by godly reckoning, but in human terms it is long enough for us to have begun to forget.

Help us, O God, on this 3rd Sunday of Easter to remember. Help us to recapture the reality of Easter, and to renew its celebration. Just as Jesus rose from death, ~~never~~ again, God us in living a resurrection faith from this day forward. Let us never again be content merely to accept this world's ups and down, for - through Jesus' great victory - we have been granted a permanent, eternal up. We praise you for that incomparable blessing, and we entreat your strength to help us share it until the entire world is blessed. As we have been with that same wonderful knowledge of life eternal, available thru Jesus our Lord