

*Easter Litany*

*Leader:* From the dust of vainly traveled highways and the weariness of almost forgotten hopes,

*Response:* Lift up our eyes to Thee, O Lord.

*Leader:* From the mysteries of evil, and pain, and sorrow, and from the dark records of history and tradition,

*Response:* Lift up our eyes to Thee, O Lord.

*Leader:* From the depths of sin, the limitations of our vision, the failures of our will, the littleness of our spiritual experience,

*Response:* Lift up our eyes to Thee, O Lord.

*Leader:* That we may know life with its eternal setting and become new creatures with minds set on things above,

*Response:* Grant us the victory, we pray.

*Leader:* That we may transform every defeat into triumph, every opposition into a way of help, and every sacrifice into a new attainment,

*Response:* Grant us the victory, we pray.<sup>9</sup>

*Pastor's Easter Prayer*

Righteous and ever-living God, whose Son on this day didst shatter the power of death, bringing life and immortality to light: We worship Thee. On this day of all days in humanity's history, assist us that we fail not in low aim or dull sensitiveness to its high significance. Intensify our feelings that already are athrob with emotions stirred by Thee and the eternal suggestions of this day. Give us the joy of the resurrection that turned night into light and mourning into laughter, to lighten up our too frequently drab lives. Give us the power of the resurrection, which broke the reign of death, to shatter every ancient tyranny that entombs Thy people: The intrigues of war, the subtlety

of highly vested interests, contemptuous racial pride, and ambitious self-seekers. Give us the victory of Easter that turned a cross into a resurrection, and made the one-time symbol of shame the sign of Thy conquering hosts, to capture spiritual triumph from our worst material defeats, to make sickness a refining ministry to character, to transform tragedy into faith, and all bitterness into love. Give us the peace of the resurrection that calmed the terrorized hearts of Thy children of old. Until the day dawns grant us brave hearts and constant spirits; and ever to Thee be praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY

##### *Call to Worship*

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth (*Acts 1:8*).

##### *Invocation*

O Spirit of the Living God, breathe upon this assembled company Thy gracious power. Come to us as long ago like a flame of fire to burn out our moral pollution so that to the core of self we may be clean. Come to us as a rushing, mighty wind, scattering the mists of our doubt, stirring our spirits to health and action, sweeping aside the fears that have held us in captivity. Come to disturb our apathy. Come, Holy Spirit, come.<sup>10</sup>

##### *Scripture Lessons*

*Psalms*: 47:1, 2, 4-9; 67; 96:1-7; 96:7-13; 139:1-12, 17, 18.