

# The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – April 16, 2006 Easter Sunday

---

Jesus was raised from death in a particular Jerusalem tomb on a particular April day. This is no fiction or figure of speech or figment of imagination. It's historical fact. Thank God. Let us pray.

God, our Father:

We thank You that the world's long night was over when the silence of that tomb and the stillness of that morning were broken by the laughter of a loving Father's heart. The vain tears with which we would douse our mourning over death, dry up in the bright rays of Your risen Son, our Savior and Lord.

On this, another Easter Sunday morning, as we try once more to take it in – even the little we can grasp of this good news – we worship in awe. We're astonished. We're overwhelmed by Your amazing grace to us, Your beloved enemies. We rejoice that when Christ arose – death did not. And because He walked out of that tomb and left death dead behind Him, we, too, in Him, may rise to Life, leaving death dead behind us.

Deep within our hearts we hear the loving laughter from deep within Your heart. The tension is broken. Our fears begin to fade away. In utter relief, we tear up and tremble – but now our tears are tears of joy and our trembling is in awe of Your costly love. How can we not run to You, our waiting Father? Your reassuring laughter embraces us and we, too, begin to laugh. We find we can't stop ourselves as we begin to realize how fully we're forgiven and how richly we're blessed in the risen Son, our Savior and Lord. And though one day we'll all be dead to this world, thanks be to You, we shall get out of this world alive and be raised to life in another world more wonderful than we can know now.

Our Father, how can we thank You for the love that crossed the chasm of sin and death to bring us back to You? Grant us such gratitude that we might adore You, giving voice to praise lived out in steadfast service to You and all in whom He comes to us each day.

Remind us that every Lord's Day is another Easter Sunday, so that we might begin every week of our lives with the joyful news: our Lord Christ is risen! Risen, indeed!

Hear our prayer as we pray the words our dear Savior taught us to pray, saying:

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. Amen.