

Readings for April 2021

Sunday 4th April – Easter Sunday – I Corinthians 15: 1-11 & John 20: 1-8

Prayer for the Day

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Prayers for the Week

Easter Monday 5th Psalm 111, Song of Solomon 1.9-2.7, Mark 16.1-8

Wonderful, wonderful God! We praise you for the hope and joy of this day and for the assurance that Christ's resurrection gives us, that your victory will always have the final word over all the hurt and sorrow and the darkness of life

Tuesday 6th Psalm 112, Song of Solomon 2.8-end, Luke 24.1-12

Wonderful God, we praise you that we went to the empty cross and we found a Saviour, but we praise you more that when we went to the empty tomb we returned with a Lord.

Wednesday 7th Psalm 113, Song of Solomon 3, Matthew 28.16-end

Wonderful, wonderful God! We simply cannot find the words that will do justice to the Joy we feel and for the worship we long to offer you.

Thursday 8th Psalm 114, Song of Solomon 5.2-6.3, Luke 7.11-17

Wonderful God, we praise you for sharing our sin and our shame, but we praise more for the life-renewing light with which you have flooded our lives.

Friday 9th Psalm 115, Song of Solomon 7.10-8.4, Luke 8.41-end

Wonderful God, we praise you for the hope and joy that flowed over those first witnesses of Christ's rising, but we praise you more that the same hope and joy that was theirs still flows into our hearts and lives today

Saturday 10th Psalm 116, Song of Solomon 8.5-7, John 11.17-44

Wonderful God, we praise you for the way Christ's resurrection rekindles our faltering faith, gives light which breaks into our darkness, and touches us with the assurance that nothing will ever be the same again.

Sunday 11th April – Easter 2 – Acts 4: 32-35, I John 1:1 – 2:2 & John 20: 19-end

Prayer for Today

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 12th Psalm 2, Deuteronomy 1.3-18, John 20.1-10

Father, we praise you for every opportunity we are given to meet together for worship, fellowship, and praise and for your promise that whenever we meet in the name of Christ you will be in the midst of us and that your almighty presence will make us whole.

Tuesday 13th Psalm 8, Deuteronomy 1.19-40, John 20.11-18

Lord, we praise you for the way you came to the disciples when they most needed your presence and when they least expected it; when they had locked themselves in behind the closed door of the upper room you came and gave them your peace.

Wednesday 14th Psalm 16, Deuteronomy 3.18-end, John 20.19-end

Lord, when they **walked on the** road to Emmaus you came and gave them burning hearts in place of their despair; when they returned to their fishing, uncertain of what the future held, you came and shared their meal.

Thursday 15th Psalm 28, Deuteronomy 4.1-14, John 21.1-14

Father, we praise you for your promise to be with us always, even to the end and beyond, for those times when we have been lost and alone, when we have been uncertain and afraid, and when we have felt imprisoned and filled with despair and you have come to us.

Friday 16th Psalm 57, Deuteronomy 4.15-31, John 21.15-19

Lord, you have come when we most needed your presence and when we least expected it, you have come and given us new hope, peace and joy.

Saturday 17th Psalm 63, Deuteronomy 4.32-40, John 21.20-end

Father, we praise you for the new life that Christ has made possible and for his coming to live in our hearts and lives.

Sunday 18th April – Easter 3 – Acts 3: 12-19, 1 John 3: 1-7 & 11-14 & Luke 24: 36b-48

Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 19th Psalm 96, Deuteronomy 5.1-22, Ephesians 1.1-14

Father, we pray for those who are hungry for bread; and for those who are starving for food.

Tuesday 20th Psalm 98, Deuteronomy 5.22-end Ephesians 1.15-end

Father, we pray for those in refugee camps with no control and no power; for those who are hungry because of where they live, the conditions they face mean they are unable to grow their own food.

Wednesday 21st Psalm 105, Deuteronomy 6, Ephesians 2.1-10

Father, we pray for those who are hungry because of drought, human foolishness, or human greed.

Thursday 22nd Psalm 136, Deuteronomy 7.1-11, Ephesians 2.11-end

Father, we pray for those who are hungry for material possessions; for those who have so many things but nothing that really matters; and those who put all their energies into their accumulation of wealth.

Friday 23rd ‘George, Martyr, Patron of England’ Psalm 146, Joshua 1.1-9, Ephesians 6.10-20

Father, we pray for those who are hungry for endless activity; and those who never stand still so that they never see themselves as they really are; for those who are too busy to sit, and too busy to think of you.

Saturday 24th Psalm 108, Deuteronomy 8, Ephesians 3.14-end

Father, we pray for those who are hungry for life; for those who know how to take and need to learn how to give; for those who love to receive but have not learned to share; for our own nation which has received many riches, yet still think we are poor.

Sunday 25th April – Easter 4 – Acts 4: 5-12, I John 3: 16-end & John 10: 11-18

Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 26th 'Mark the Evangelist' Psalm 37.23-41, Isaiah 62.6-10, Acts 12.25 – 13.13

Thank you, loving God, for showing us the way to love and giving us opportunities to give, to take second place, to accept people as they are, to forgive them when they annoy us, and look for their needs before our own.

Tuesday 27th Psalm 139, Deuteronomy 9.23-10.5, Ephesians 4.17-end

Thank you, loving God, for comfort and sympathy, reassurance and practical caring when we are ill or sad. Make us all more aware of the needs of those around us and let our loving show in action.

Wednesday 28th Psalm 118, Deuteronomy 11.8-end, Ephesians 5.15-end

Thank you, loving God, for giving us space and support, guidance and forgiveness, challenge and reassurance.

Thursday 29th Psalm 33, Deuteronomy 12.1-14, Ephesians 6.1-9

Thank you, loving God, for the world we live in, for the colours and the shapes, the sounds and textures in it. Thank you for giving us minds and emotions and help us to reverence the whole of creation.

Friday 30th Psalm 33, Deuteronomy 12.1-14, Ephesians 6.1-9

Loving Father, we give you thanks for the comfort you provide in all our troubles, and for the richness of all our relationships.

Saturday 1st 'Philip and James, Apostles'

Psalm 139, Proverbs 4.10-18, James 1.1-12

Loving Father, into the laughter and tears of family life pour the freshness of your living presence, as we work at our relationships and deepen our love for one another.