

## **A Prayerful Reflection (Second Sunday of Easter)**

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Hymn – CMP**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
born of His Spirit  
washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

### **A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – 1 Peter 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Peter, the author of this letter writes to Christians living in Asia Minor. By way of encouragement, he identifies them as people who live in the light of their relationship to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

**Verse 3** 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.' Our salvation is grounded in God's mercy, His act of compassion toward us in spite of our condition of sinfulness. 'to a living hope' hope here does not imply a wishfulness but rather a confidence that does not end with this life but continues throughout eternity.

**Verse 7** 'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith,...' As the purity of gold is brought forth by intense heat so the reality and purity of our faith are revealed as a result of fiery trials we face. Ultimately the testing of our faith not only demonstrates our final salvation but also develops our capacity to bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Verse 9** 'for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls'. There is a final positive outcome for trusting God through all the difficulties of life. Our 'salvation', the rewards of eternal life for following the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Prayer** – Heavenly Father, thank You that in Christ, we have all that we need for life. Help us to keep the eyes of our heart looking away from the things of this world and firmly looking to Jesus. May we never become spiritually short-sighted and forget all that Christ has done for us but become increasingly fruitful in the knowledge of my Saviour, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name we pray, **AMEN.**

## Prayer of Intercession

### Let us pray.

Christ our Lord, risen from the dead, come and enter into the darkness of our doubt and despair, with the bright light of your presence, that we may put our trust in you and in the power of your resurrection, that we may rejoice in you the risen Lord, our Saviour who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end **Amen**

We pray for leaders of nations and governments, for all in authority, that they may be wise and gentle in their dealings, that they may be caring and respectful of others. We pray for those seeking to rescue the poor and who are in danger. We pray for an end to the many who are suffering through wars and hostilities.

Jesus come among us – **in your risen power.**

We pray for those who minister the living Word each week that people may come to know the truth of Jesus Christ. We pray for our ministers, for Rev Peter on Sabbatical, Rev Richard, Deacons Kathy and Clare and also for all our Local Preachers, bless their ministry in the circuit as they serve your people.

Jesus come among us – **in your risen power.**

We pray for our emergency services and all who risk their lives for others. We pray for doctors, chemists, and all who give their gifts and talents helping those in need. We give thanks for the food banks and pantries that help the many who are in need.

Jesus come among us – **in your risen power.**

We pray for all who have had a hard week this week and all who look in fear towards the future. We pray for those who find it hard to rest and sleep and are weary and tired. We pray for those who are anxious and depressed and low in spirit, for those who have watched over the ill and suffering. We pray for those known to us and are in need of our prayers.

Jesus come among us – **in your risen power.**

Finally,....take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for families, friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time. For those who have lost a loved one. We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. Lord, comfort and help those in need we pray.

## Pray the LORD'S Prayer

### Peace

*The presence and power of the risen Lord fill you with all joy and peace.*

*The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

### A prayer of blessing

*The power and peace of the risen Lord be with you to protect you.*

*The grace and goodness of the Lord of life go with you*

*That you may dwell in him and he in you, **AMEN***