

Prayer for April 19, 2020

Risen Christ,

We are a demanding people. We demand justice of you that we do not establish ourselves. We demand mercy of you that we do not extend ourselves. We demand health of you that we do not always foster in ourselves. Forgive us, we pray, not our demands, but our hypocrisy. May you guide us in the ways of righteousness, compassion, and healing.

Hear our urgent prayers for our world, O God. The news is not good in many places. Far too many people are sick. Far too many people have died. Far too many people are watching their savings dwindle. Far too many people lost their livelihood and had no reserves at all. They need your help. They need our help. They need the power and guidance you alone can bring. They need the human presence only we can bring.

Make us Thomases, dear God, who even amidst uncertainty, doubt, and fear, still dare in our demanding way to reach toward you. Make us Thomases who yearn for one another and for you. Make us Thomases who will earnestly declare, "My Lord and my God!"

As we come into this week, O God, renew us for the stresses of each day. Energize our minds that we might create. Quicken our hearts that we might feel. Strengthen our bodies to stave off disease. Multiply our spirits that we might share in joys.

Renew us, O Christ. We ache for your touch.

Amen.