



St Michael's

L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

Opening Prayer

In a world bound by fear and despair; pain and death – God proclaims life! Easter proclaims a new reality, beyond the tombs of this world. So let us give thanks to our God in prayer: Living God we praise you for your work of transforming death into new life. Pour out your spirit of joy this day that we might join the heavenly chorus in proclaiming the power of your love over every grave and tomb. Through you we find our hope and our peace. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Holy God, we praise you for this resurrection promise that death does not have the final word, that brokenness brings about wholeness, that new things can be born in places as cold and dark as an empty tomb. God you encounter us in the very places we least expect it- and though we never expected to find ourselves here in this pandemic, we hold hope in your resurrecting power to make all things new. Hear us O God for your mercy is great.

We pray for the church around the world, gathering not in sanctuaries but in homes, in hospitals, and homeless shelters. Bind us together O Lord, that we may serve you in this time of great need, making tangible the love you have for this world. Hear us O God for your mercy is great.

God of comfort, we cling to your promise of eternal life especially for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones – we today we pray for Sara Johnson on the death of her aunt, and all those who have lost loved ones to the COVID-19 virus. We pray for those who are seeking healing and lift up Sue and Lyle Jacobson's daughter in law as she continues cancer treatment. We pray for Kathy Callinan and all those awaiting surgery. We pray for those who are in senior care facilities or hospitals, remembering today Ron Herrick. We pray for those who protect us from harm's way, lifting up Josh Reinke as he enters military service, and all those who sacrifice for the greater good. Hear us O God for your mercy is great.

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of the resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.