

## Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Happy Easter!

Thanks to everyone who prayed the rain would stay away for our outdoor service last Sunday. Prayer worked. I think I was even amazed at that one. I was expecting the answer to our prayer to be 'No.' But as some of you know, the rain held off just enough to get everything put away and then as some were driving off toward home it started raining. I was happy I was able to drive with my top down on the convertible part of the way home and it didn't start raining hard until I was done with all my errands and got home safely. You'll probably hear more about my correlation between what we witnessed on last Sunday and the scripture for this upcoming Sunday in my sermon.

This is the weekly reminder to let me know if you have been vaccinated. Even if you want to share with me that you aren't going to be vaccinated, that will help in our counting. I know there are some people whose doctors have told them not to be vaccinated. We'll never require 100% vaccination level for our worship service.

As I shared last week, I'm continuing the *"Seven Reasons to Pray the Lord's Prayer Daily"* article from the Diocese of Oxford, Bishop Steven's Blog, given to me by Brian McCulley.

This week's reason – **"To find courage to live well in an imperfect world."**

*Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven*

The world is not yet as it was intended to be. God is at work within it, bringing justice and peace. That work was begun in Jesus Christ but is not yet complete.

We are aware of the suffering in the world like no other generation before us because of 24-hour news and instant reporting from anywhere in the world. We need a framework to understand that immense suffering and the evil in the world in order to know how to live."

I once heard a pastor change the words to the Lord's Prayer to 'Your kingdom come, your will be done in (name the city you live in) as in heaven.' This brought the prayer home to me. It's one thing to pray "on earth as it is in heaven," but something deeper and more personal to say, "your will be done in Sarasota as it is in heaven." Now whenever I say or hear that part of the Lord's Prayer, I think of not just the earth, but making it more direct - our nation, our state, our city, our community, and even our church or our homes.

May God bless you this Easter season!

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*-PrAshley*



*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.  
Amen.*