

## Calling Out Doubt:

*Prayers of Faith for the Second Sunday of Easter*

**I***ntroduction:* These service prayers respond to the fear and disbelief of the disciples after Jesus was resurrected. The Risen Christ comes to meet us in our doubt, giving faith and second chances to all earnest, searching believers.

### Call to Worship

**Leader:** Come to worship Jesus Christ, risen forever.  
**All:** **Come to rejoice in life born out of death.**  
**Leader:** Come to grasp hope in the face of fear.  
**All:** **Come to find forgiveness for your sins.**  
**Leader:** Come to release your doubts into the very presence of God.  
**All:** **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Invocation

God of resurrection hope, as you have raised Jesus Christ from death, raise us to new life in your tender care. Draw near and fill us this day with your Holy Spirit. Call us back from places of distraction. Lift the veil of daily routine that hides your constant presence from us. Show us the path of true life, that we may know joy beyond joy in your light. **Amen.**

### Call to Confession

In the time that has passed since Easter Sunday, have we become a changed people? Have we lived with hope and promise, trusting in the Risen Christ? Or have we been more like the earliest disciples, still gathered behind locked doors out of fear? Trusting in a second-chance God who meets us as dedicated yet doubting followers, let us confess our sins in the presence of Christ and one another.

### Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God,  
the resurrection of your Son has not pulled us far from our old ways. Our faith becomes fear in the face of the world's troubles. We trust more in the power of "the way things are" than in the new life you grant. We hesitate to speak out against wrong, convinced it will do no good. We excuse ourselves from chances to help others, fearing for our security. We stay busy with small concerns to avoid facing our shortcomings.

**Holy God, forgive our fears and our doubts.  
Plant Easter seeds in us to push through the packed, dead ground of  
old habits. Transform our suffering into greater faithfulness.  
Catch us up into the dance of your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may find hope and strength for the living of these days.  
Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Even the hardest and most unchanging rock gives way to the persistent dripping of water. In the same way, God's continual grace washes away our failings and shapes us into faithful disciples of Christ. By the waters of baptism, God forgives us all our sins. Let go of the old ways. Live new lives of confident faith, abundant hope and overflowing love.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

### **Call to Offering**

Christ showed the disciples scars of violence on his body: the spear wound in his side, and nail marks in his hands and feet. How shall we respond to the scars of violence around us today? To those living with the effects of war, to the mentally ill, to the homeless and hungry stranger, to the addict, to the person who has been abused? For those wounded in the Body of Christ to day, let us respond with caring hands and generous hearts. The offering will now be received.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**God of the impossible made possible,  
make of these offerings more than checks and cash.  
Transform them into salve for the wounded bodies of your children.  
In the ministries that these gifts empower,  
bring forth light, bring hope out of despair and new life from certain death,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Benediction**

Go from this community of disciples with hope that overcomes your fears. Go with the promise of new life. Go with faith in God that anchors you in a sea of doubts. Go with the peace of the Risen Christ and the blessing of the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen. Alleluia!**

*Calling Out Doubt:* Prayers of Faith for the Second Sunday of Easter was written by Obadiah Ballinger, a young adult in seminary at Yale Divinity School, where he is preparing to serve as a United Church of Christ pastor.



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