

Heavenly Father,

For the prayer within, we pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus, as we approach Holy Week the most important things happen in the whole history of the world. You are saving us from being lost forever in payment for our sins by sacrificing yourself on the cross. Jesus, through this horrific and unbelievably painful sacrifice even unto death, you completely paid the price for every sin that we have committed or will commit in our entire lifetime. As long as we believe in you, confess to you, ask you for forgiveness, and remain followers of you for the rest of our earthly lives, we will be saved. Then on the third day (Easter Morning), you rose from death in a tomb and shortly after ascended into Heaven, opening up the gates of this perfect eternal paradise for all of us who love and follow you. What an incredible occurrence of events, Jesus, all of it just for us.

Now what if you were to ask many young children, "What is Easter all about?" Very unfortunately some would say that "They have never heard of Jesus," or perhaps coached by unbelieving parents the response might be that "Jesus is not real." Other young children might answer something to the effect of, "That's when the Easter bunny comes to leave a basket of candy and goodies for me and we will have a swell Easter egg hunt." Then if asked, "What about Jesus?" From some the answer might be, "Oh yes, and him too." There is nothing wrong with having these fun things for children at Easter; however everyone needs to understand just how incredible Jesus is and what he has done for us. Of course for the very young children the message about Jesus needs to be kept simple and understandable at that age.

Jesus, you are extraordinarily amazing with this immense love you have for us; to go through what you did around two thousand years ago. That should be proof enough to anyone that you really do want us to be with you and all other believers forever in Heaven. We who follow you, Jesus, know where our eternal future lies. What a relief that we have no doubt about your promises to us. We thank you so very much, Jesus, for that amazing love you have for all of us, such a deep love that we will never find anywhere else.

Lord In Your Mercy

Hear Our Prayer

Amen.