

PRAYER OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
AT SUNRISE SERVICES, EASTER MORNING, MARCH 28, 1948,
6:15 A.M.

O God, our Father; the God of all power, mercy, and love; thou who art life and giveth life; we thank Thee for this day that is marked by the testimony of every believing heart, Jesus lives. With reverent faith we thank Thee that when Thou hadst made a world which was meant to be a tabernacle of love and immortal life for man, and man by disobedience brought death upon it, Thou didst not leave us desolate.

Thou didst come into the world in the mystery of the Incarnation. Thou didst speak as never man spoke concerning eternal life. Thou didst go about doing good, healing the sick, comforting the sorrowing, raising the dead. But above all Thou didst take upon Thyself our sins and bear them on Calvary's tree. Then, triumphant over death, Thou didst come forth from the tomb to declare Thy victory. Thou art now at the right hand of God interceding for us, the living Saviour, the very Son of God.

We pray that our world may be made to know the truth that Jesus lives, the grave is not the end. Ours is a dead world. So long as men hate, death is in their hearts. So long as nations seek to destroy one another, so long wilt Thou be shut out. Help us by unselfish service to prove to our world that Christ is alive. May we reaffirm again and again our confidence that our Christ in His living power is the only hope for this or any day.

Fulfill in our hearts this morning the promise of Thy resurrection life. Manifest Thyself unto us that we may rejoice in Thy presence and know Thy nearness. As we consider loved ones who have walked the way of death, whose

faith was in Thee, we whisper joyfully, they live.

As we gather here to worship, may the life that is in Thee, and
from Thee in us, reach out to warm our world with the radiance of its love.

In Jesus name,

Amen.