

Prayer of the Church – 2.4.24 – Epiphany 5

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. A brief silence.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern our purpose and role in your mission in the world.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. Strengthen the work of resettlement agencies, especially our partners such as **Lutheran World Relief**, and keep safe those who work to safeguard and promote the good across the world, including our own **Patrick, Claire, Nate, Carter, Jonathon, Alex, Jackson, Stephen, Bryson, and Brendan** as well as our **missionaries** whom we are blessed to support financially and prayerfully.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need, especially **Donna, Ralph, Bob, Paul, Donna, Esther, Mary, Ray, Diane, Janet, Jan, Alison, and Allen** as well as our friends and family requesting prayers, and those whom we name in our hearts.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community, including with Cornerstones, the food pantry, the hypothermia shelter, and The Closet. Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace, including **Frances Huber (Debbie Linn's mother)**. Envelop them and us in your love, that with all your saints, we may be reunited with one another in the last days. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Matthew, Deon, Lisa, Allen, Ryder, Katrina, Laurie, Nancy, Charles, Graham, and Cameron**. May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal God's goodness, generosity, and grace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**