

Prayer of the Church – 2.18.24 – Lent 1

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people, especially in this Lenten season of repentance, prayer, renewal, and service.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Strengthen the work of 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.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair, 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**. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, recovering, or traveling.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of service, empower us to give and serve generously with our time, treasure, and talents. 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.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace, including **Jacqueline Pelletier (Dan Pelletier'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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Joshua, Brendan, Janet, David, Dani, Lisa, Alice, Chris, Michael, Sienna, Ric, Carolee, and Ryan.** May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal God's goodness, generosity, and grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**