

Prayer of the Church – 3.17.24 – Lent 5

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 of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship.

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

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations.

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

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict.

Prosper the work of our partners, such as **Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Social Services**, and keep safe those who work to safeguard and promote the good across the world, including our own **Patrick, Claire, Nate, Carter, Jonathan, 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 of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with illness and pain, **especially Donna, Ralph, Bob, Paul, Donna, Esther, Mary, Ray, Diane, Janet, Jan, and Allen** as well as our **friends and family requesting prayers, and those whom we name in our hearts.**

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

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation, especially our core area of Congregational Care & Nurture, prayer at the rail, our prayer chain, and our Wednesday evening prayer gathering. Move us to pray for and reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill.

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

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Help us to express Christ's sacrificial love, as we give and serve with our time, treasure, and talents, especially during Lent. Prosper the work of our partnerships in our community, including with Cornerstones, the food pantry, the hypothermia shelter, and The Closet. Help us share what we possess so that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities.

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

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us, **especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland**, whom we commemorate today, as we remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love.

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: **Chris, Jon, Rob, Minnie, Arlisa, Drew, and Bethany**, and we give thanks for the safe arrival of **Kiara Tatum David**, Danielle and Gene Davis's daughter and Carolee White's granddaughter, **Madison Louise White**, Tim and Kaitlyn White's daughter and Carolee White's granddaughter, **Lydia Caroline Westman**, Eric and Hannah Westman's daughter and Alison Carlson's granddaughter, and **Harper Rose Price**, Jackson and Delaney Price's daughter and Janet Hulme's great granddaughter. 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.**