

Prayer of the Church - 2.21 – Lent 1

Leader – Georgia Thorstenston

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Strengthen our outdoor, indoor, virtual, podcast, and hybrid ministries, deepening our relationships. Provide all of us patience, understanding, and empathy for each other's opinions, cares, frailties, concerns, and needs. Renewing God, expand the reach of this congregation, so that we can be a light to many, especially during these times.

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

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, scientists, farmers, and those serving in the fishing and energy industries.

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

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Sustain and keep safe all who work to defend, safeguard, and promote the common good across the world, including our own **Bethany, Patrick, Claire, Scott, Nate, Carter, Jonathon, Alex, Carson, Erica, and Jackson.** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of ventures, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless our missionaries: **Megan and Mark Mantey and Krista and Joel Young in Africa, Katie, Lutheran Braille Workers, Bethania Kids in India, Pastor Jon Diefenthaler and Lutheran World Relief, and the many other missionaries** and relief organizations we support financially and prayerfully.

Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer, **especially our own Lesley, Donna, Martin, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Diana, Lilli, Kelly, and Allen as well as our friends and family requesting our prayers**, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs, many of whom put themselves in harm's way, including our own **Lani, Ouwen, Barry, Alexia, Carolee, Chad, Sandra, Laura, David, Megan, Jennifer, Errel, and Jane.** Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression.

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

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen Marilyn Voigt, our elders, Pastors James and Johann, and this congregation's ministries of care and nurture.

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

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign.

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: **Michael, Sienna, Jessica, Ric, Ryan, Carolee, Megan, Ken, Erica, Chip, Paula, and Claire.** May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal the Holy Spirit's love, life, and light in the midst of disease, destruction, desperation, and despair.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**