

Prayer of the Church – 2.28 – Lent 2

Leaders – Georgia Thorstenston & Pastor James

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

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. 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. Be with the 26 participants in our Connections Class group as well as the leaders of the sessions, Melinda DeWan, Brian Cors, Pastor Johann, and the Connection Coaches. Help us to open our arms to these followers of Christ, as they discern where to make their church home. If that be here among us at Good Shepherd, we thank you Lord for putting us together to love, pray, learn, and serve together. In addition, be with other visitors among us who are considering being a part of our next Connections Class group in a few months. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Be with those who are suffering from the ice storms and power outages in Texas and many other places, including those who are worshipping with us virtually. 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, Jackson, and Erica.** **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, Kaite, 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.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving, **especially our own Lesley, Donna, Martin, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Diana, Lilli, 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**. Be with the many involved in the vaccination process. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray thanksgiving for the precious gift of life. We thank God for the safe arrival of Kyle and Ashley's baby, Donald James Bentley and of Diana and Kevin's baby, Lily Grace Duvieilh. Also, by the presence of the Holy Spirit, add to the joy of those among us who celebrate their birthdays this week: **Cindy, Gerald, Jan, Ginny B, Oliver, Ted, Charlotte, Cy, Paul, Chloe, Robert, and Sophia**. 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.**