

Prayer of the Church – 3.14.21 – Lent 4

Leader – 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.

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry. 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.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season.

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

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. 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.

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

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn, **especially our own Lesley, Donna, Martin, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Lillie, 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. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor.

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

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless Holly

Vanderhoof and our Community Service ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long.

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

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises.

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

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs and those who've picked up their crosses, whose witness reveals the power of the cross, **including John Obermann, Kirsten Mahsman Bates's godfather. Hold the Obermann and Mahsman families and all of Brother John's loved ones** in your arms in the peace that passes all understanding, as we look forward to the resurrection and reunions to come. Give us the same trust in life and in death.

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: **Dave, Alyssa, Melissa, Roger, Jon, Harper, and Chris.** 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.