

Prayer of the Church – 11.21.21 – Christ the King Sunday

Leader – Pastor James (Outdoor) & Melinda DeWan (Indoor)

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need. *A brief silence.*

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that the truth about Christ will shine.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. Sustain first responders to help meet the complex needs of many. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Keep safe all who work to defend, safeguard, and promote the common good across the world, including our own **Patrick, Claire, Scott, Nate, Carter, Jonathon, Alex, Carson, Jackson, Erica, and Stephen.**

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Bless our very own missionaries: **Megan, Mark, Krista, and Joel in Africa, Gustavo and Ruth in Puerto Rico, Bethania Kids in India, Jon and Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Braille Workers worldwide, and the many other missionaries** and relief workers we support financially and prayerfully.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially through the ministries in our community, such as our own hypothermia shelter ministry, as the weather becomes cold. Renew those involved in these valuable, challenging ministries.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering **especially our own Lesley, Donna, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Lilli, Jim, Donna, Pastor Eric Peterson, Pastor Ralph Wiechmann, Bob, Carolee, Zane, Rafael, and Tad as well as our friends and family requesting our prayers.** Sustain **caregivers** with energy and patience. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Keep our children safe at school and in their pods, neighborhoods, and communities, including the staff, children, and families of our preschool. Surround them with your unwavering presence, protection, and friendship. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith as we give thanks for our virtual, livestream, and podcast ministries, which are able to transcend physical distances, allowing us to connect with anyone, anywhere, at anytime. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace **especially Shirley Ann Renshaw (Cynthia Lion'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. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Katey, Paul, Tara, Kelly, Eliza, and Dave.** May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal the Holy Spirit's love, life, and light. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.