

Prayer of the Church – 7.21.24 – Pentecost 9

One, in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer. ***A brief silence.***

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land: Through the One who is the cornerstone of a firm foundation, join us together and build us up as a temple of mercy and peace.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For creation: Cause new trees to be planted. Restrain the melting of polar ice caps. Save land from destruction. Like a shepherd tends the sheep, raise up from among us caretakers of all you have made.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of nations and heads of tribes: Where peace seems far off, bring it near. Where justice seems fleeting, bring it to light. Where discord seems relentless, bring harmony, **especially in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific.** Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation, including those 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, Jonathon, Jackson, Stephen, Bryson, and Brendan** as well as our **missionaries** whom we are blessed to support financially and prayerfully.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the health and well-being of family, friends, and neighbors: Heal those who are sick, including **Donna, Ralph, Bob, Paul, Donna, Mary, Ray, Diane, Jan, Helen, Kristi, Alison, Ryan, and Chris** as well as **our friends and family requesting prayers, and those whom we name in our hearts.** Give courage to all who struggle with addiction. Touch with your tender care all who reach out to you in pain.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurture the faith of young people as they encounter new experiences and people. Break down dividing walls and inspire collaboration among people of every age.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold all travelers with your protection. Bless the comings and goings of the Good Shepherd community. Let all journeys be met with hospitality on the way, and let community members return to us in celebration.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant wisdom and clarity to all in seasons of discernment and transition. Graduates preparing for jobs or college, those shifting careers, and those navigating relationship challenges. Accompany them with your peace.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of relationships, You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve our neighbors. Nurture our partnerships with organizations, such as Cornerstones, the food pantry, The Closet, and Women Giving Back. Help us to express Christ's unconditional love, as we seed, give, and serve with our time, treasure, and talents.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, you gather us into your house of many dwelling places. We give you thanks for our faithful departed **Esther Benson**. Inspire us by this life of faith until, we together rest forever at our journey's end.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Bev, Lee, Jesse, Maddie, Abigail, Sanderijn, Bonnie, Zacary, and Tammy**. May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal God's goodness, grace, and glory.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**