

Prayers of the People (May 31, 2020)

OUR COMMUNITY

(from Psalm 138) I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands. **As the Holy Spirit leads, give thanks to the Lord for his never-ending love and faithfulness.**

Heavenly Father--Giver of Peace--we plead with you on behalf of the many who are struggling under the weight of loneliness or depression, especially during this coronavirus pandemic. Manifest your peace to teens, stay-at-home parents, the elderly, and others who feel cut off from community. May this time of darkness draw them to you as the true Light! Holy Spirit Helper, come. Bring the comfort that you have promised, casting aside trouble and fear in Jesus' name. **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for the darkness to be lifted from our community.**

Sovereign God, we ask for your blessing and wisdom to flow through church and ministry leaders within our community as they begin to reopen services and events. Keep all of us humble, trusting in you, and wise in our decisions and actions. Cultivate in our hearts a deeper sense of community that exists outside of buildings and services and finds fulfillment in you alone! Unite us while we are apart in vision and purpose and practice! **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for the local church to be wise, united, and strengthened!**

Lord, as we watch the news in Minneapolis and even here in Sioux Falls, we see our community's deep sins and prejudices uncovered. Father, break in and bring your healing in the divide we continue to see across our nation. Holy Spirit, bring unity, clarity, and wisdom in communicating with people of different races and cultures. Empower your church to advocate for justice. Help us as believers to stand shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with those who have been marginalized and minimized. Let us not be silent in the call for integrity, truth, and fairness. **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for justice, unity, and peace in our community and across our nation.**

Abba Father, be the shepherd of our children. Lead them to green pastures and beside still waters. Restore their souls. Guide them in paths of righteousness for your name's sake. When they walk through the valley of the shadow of death, may they have no fear, for you are with them. Anoint their heads with oil, overflowing their cups. May goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their lives, until that day we celebrate YOUR PRESENCE in the house of the Lord together, forever. **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for salvation and an increase in faith for all the children at life church.**