

Prayer of the Church – 4.11.21 – Easter 2

Leader – Georgia Thorstenson and Pastor James

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *A brief silence.*

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. 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.**

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life.

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

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Sustain and 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 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, Lutheran Braille Workers, Katie, 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.**

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid, **especially our own Lesley, Donna, Martin, Michael, Alison, Lisa, 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 **Jennifer, Errel, Barry, Jane, Sandra, David, Megan, Alexia, Laura, Chad, Carolee, Lani, and Ouwen.** Give sabbath rest to all who labor; grant respite and renewal.

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

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You share the gift of eternal life. God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved people you have placed in our lives, including **Nikolai (Tatiana Loisha's father-in-law), Nancy Bunker (Audrey Blackburn's aunt), Bob Lauder (Carol Vinatieri's friend), and Karl Schilling (Heidi Cooper's friend)**. Console their loved ones in the mercy and hope of the resurrection. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community (*name*). Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. 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: **Philip, Joe, Christopher, Michael, Kim, Michael, David, Leta, Eric, Martin, Zane, Peyton, Matt, Zack, Beverly, Todd, Mark, Noor, Mark, David, Andrew, Kristen, Abby, Calvin, and Leah**. 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.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**