

Prayer of the Church – 4.18.21 – Easter 3

Leader – Georgia Thorstenson

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.*

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. 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.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home.

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

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. 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.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness **especially our own Leslie, Donna, Martin, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Lilli, Allen, Kylenea, Pastor Eric Peterson, Kurt, and Bill 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.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Ava, Mark, Kevin, Ezra, James, Erica, David, Jennifer, Bob, and Xavier**. 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.**