

Prayer of the Church – 4.25.21 – Easter 4

Leader – Georgia Thorstenson & 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.*

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Sustain 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, and bear witness to your expansive love, especially during these times.

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

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life.

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

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. 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, 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.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need, **especially our own Leslie, Donna, Martin, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Lilli, Allen, Kylena, 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 Owen.** Give sabbath rest to all who labor; grant respite and renewal.

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

Healing-Shepherd, 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.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit.

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

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you **Donna Kroese (Jeff Kroese's mother), and Terry Fleegal (Marty Gurtz's cousin).** Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever.

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: **Jayson, Jennifer, Regina, James, Matthew, Jake, Sharon, Jeffrey, Mary Lou, and John.** 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.**