

Prayer of the Church – 5.9.21 – Easter 6

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 God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

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, Kurt, Bill, David, Mark, Jeanne, Jim, and Donna 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.**

Healing God, for the people of India, Brazil, and their neighboring countries that the Lord would comfort those who have lost their loved ones by the reality and power of the resurrection. That aid would pour into those countries (a la 5 loaves and 2 fish) whose people are in desperate need of medicine, vaccines, and supplies.
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. 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: **Kathy, Jonathan, Forrest, Jeff, Marty, Holly, Charlie, Deanine, and Mark.** 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.**