

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together in the love of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church, O God, that we may all unite in prayer as well as in practical help for those who are suffering for all reasons and seeking you. We pray for courage, wisdom and guidance so that we do not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel and being bearers of hope in this challenging and uncertain time. Grant our churches and communities strength and resilience as they minister among the most vulnerable among us and in every thing they do as reflections of your love. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us to the power of the Risen Christ who brings justice here on earth. We pray for the leaders of our nation that in the midst of this global pandemic they may work together for the common good, bringing down any barriers that divide us. Help them to act swiftly to cure and heal, for restoration and hope. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Grant peace and justice to nations and cities where there are conflicts, war or violence. Give us courage to hold accountable leaders of nations as they listen to the cries of the voiceless and protect the dignity of all people. We continue to pray for the Oromo people in Ethiopia and around the world; and others we name now... God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring healing and restoration for those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned, for those who are traveling and for those in any need (especially...); Move us to work from charity to justice as we serve and advocate for those who are oppressed, hungry, and victims of violence. Teach us to show radical hospitality and compassion to all no matter who they are. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Continue to inspire us to work for racial justice. Keep our heart burning to do your will until your love and mercy overcome and eliminates all inequalities and inequities. Make this synod a community of reconciliation that loves one another and our neighbors. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In life and in death, we are yours. We thank you for our ancestors in faith who have taught us to lament and to praise. We are especially mindful of the more than 500,000 people who have died in this country and the 2.5 million people who have died around the world from COVID-19. Bless the loved ones of those who have died with our presence and support. We remember those most dear to us whom we have entrusted to the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection of Jesus, and we name them now... God of mercy, **receive our prayer**

We commend these prayers to you, O God; we entrust to the Spirit those prayers that we cannot yet pray, trusting what the Spirit does for us, with sighs too deep for words. For all that you know that we hold, we pray in Jesus's name. **Amen.**