

## Prayers of the Church

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

Dear God, thank you for the gift of forgiveness. In spite of our sin you have chosen to draw close to us. Write your words upon our hearts today so that we find joy in your presence and excitement in sharing your love and forgiveness with others. Lord in your mercy...

Almighty God, we often get distracted with the things of this world and we fail to spend the time reflecting on your word of life, Jesus Christ. Make these remaining Lenten days into times of penitence and deliberate contemplation of the blessings you have given us. Conform our lives to yours. Lord in your mercy...

Humble Lord, it is amazing for us to think about your great sacrifice for us. Give us servant hearts and form all leaders, secular and sacred, into willing servants. Awaken those who govern us to their obligation to lead with honesty and integrity. Bless the warring nations of the world with a resolution to their conflicts and we pray especially this day for the people of Haiti and an end to the chaos that rules that land. Lord in your mercy...

Holy God, we thank you for all of those saints and martyrs who have gone before us. Today we especially thank you for the witness of Saint Patrick. May we be so passionate about your gospel message that we listen for your voice in times of trial and follow where you lead, even if it is into unfriendly territory. Lord in your mercy...

Holy Father, give Your Church pastors, bishops, and theologians who faithfully proclaim Your Word of Law and Gospel. Make them faithful, true, and bold. Let them find joy in Your service. We pray for our bishop, Dan Selbo, our General Secretary, Amy Little, as well as the staff of the North American Lutheran Church. We pray also for our Central Mission District, for our Atlantic Mission Region, for each of the congregations of the NALC, and especially today for Sattazahn Lutheran Church in Jonestown, Pennsylvania. Grant each of us the strength to confess Christ boldly before the world. Lord in Your mercy...

Precious Savior, you know our pain and in your mercy you ease our burdens. Help us to use our times of difficulty as avenues to draw closer to you in prayer and praise. Bless those we know of this day who are carrying heavy burdens and send us as agents of your love to help them carry their load. We include in our prayers Messiah members Beth Martin, Dick Miller, Dorothy Martin, Gordon Ebright, Karen Fox, Marion Bowman, Nick Adams; and our friends Abigail, Barry, Betsy, Bill & Janet, Brian & Cindy, Daniel, Doug, Glen, Harry, Karen, Kristin, Mark, Mark, Matthew, Mikey, Peter, Randy & Dottie, Roberta, Ruth, Sandy, Scott, Sharon, Pastor Ted, the family of Annabel Karnes, and those we name in our hearts (*pause for 30 seconds . . .*) Lord in your mercy...

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. amen.