

## Prayers of the Church

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

Dear Jesus, thank you for the healing power that comes from your name. Remind us to always reverence your holy name and to rejoice in the gift of faith. Make us bold in proclaiming your victory over sin, death and the devil so that repentance may lead to refreshment for all who turn to you. Lord in your mercy...

Thank you, Lord, for shining your light upon us. As we behold your glory in the blessings of your word and sacraments may our lives be changed. Guide our times of prayer and praise so that we may worship you faithfully and stay close to you in daily devotion. Purify our lives so that we may be effective witnesses of your grace. Lord in your mercy...

Holy God, we are so privileged to be called your children. Keep us on the narrow way. There are so many temptations and distractions in the world around us. Help us to be in the world but not of the world. Direct our leaders both sacred and secular so that our church, our community and our nation will be led according to your will. Bless those who run for political office with a sense of respect for your sovereignty and bring your peace to all the warring nations of the world. Lord in your mercy...

Almighty God, make us diligent in the study of Holy Scripture. Send your Holy Spirit to enliven our faith so that we would not spend our energy doubting but strongly believe and gladly follow. (Add the prayers for the NALC here....)

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 Vinemont Community Lutheran Church in Reinholds, Pennsylvania. Grant each of us the strength to confess Christ boldly before the world. Lord, in Your mercy...

Precious Savior, thank you for touching our lives with physical and spiritual restoration. Give us peace in our hearts when troubles arise knowing that you have conquered our greatest enemies and that in the end we will receive your resurrection promises. Bless this day those we know of who are struggling with health problems or other difficulties. We include in our prayers Messiah members Beth Martin, Dick Miller, Dorothy Martin, Gordon Ebright, John Lentz, Karen Fox, Marion Bowman, Nick Adams; and our friends Abigail, Barry, Betsy, Bill & Janet, Brian & Cindy, Daniel, Pastor David, Deb, Doug, Glen, Harry, Kristin, Mark, Matthew, Peter, Randy & Dottie, Roberta, Ruth, Sandy, Scott, Sharon, Pastor Ted, 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.**