

Prayers of the Church

4th Sunday of Easter

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

God of power and might, thank you for using your strength to bring forth life. Remind us to lean on you for all our needs of body and soul and to call on your powerful name in reverence and faith. Build up our lives on your solid cornerstone. Keep us from putting our trust in the fading nature of the things of this world. Hold us together as your people and give us the confidence to share your gospel boldly. Lord in your mercy...

Good Shepherd, you have provided for us so abundantly. Thank you for making us your people through the waters of Holy Baptism and feeding us with your Holy meal. As your anointed people may we ever walk on the pathways that you have prepared for us. Forgive us when we wander and draw us back with your staff of comfort and hold us in your loving embrace until that day when we meet you face to face. Lord in your mercy...

Generous Lord, help us to follow your example of self-sacrifice. There are so many hurting people in the world that sometimes we feel overwhelmed. Show us where we are needed and what we can do and then give us the will to do what you have called us to do. Loosen our grasp on the things of this world and grant us joy in giving. Especially may we be generous in forgiving others as you have forgiven us so that your Spirit of new life may abound among us. Lord in your mercy...

Thank you, Jesus, for caring so deeply about us that you would lay down your life. Thank you also for bringing us the hope of the resurrection to new life. Give us Easter joy even in the face of life's challenges. Bless all those who are suffering because of war, violence, and poverty. We think of the people of Ukraine and the Holy Land, the people of Haiti and the Sudan. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for the faith in hundreds of places throughout our world. Give them courage and bring an end to all oppression. 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 Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Grant each of us the strength to confess Christ boldly before the world. Lord, in Your mercy...

Precious Savior, thank you for your healing ministry. Bless those we know of this day who are struggling with sickness and who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Hold your cross before their eyes that they may have your peace which passes all understanding. 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, Doug, Glen, Harry, Kristin, Mark, Matthew, Peter, Randy & Dottie, Roberta, Ruth, Sandy, Scott, Sharon, Pastor Ted, the family of Deb Pruitt, 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.