

Prayers of the Church

5th Sunday of Easter

Lord Jesus, thank You for cutting us from our tree of death and grafting us to Yourself, the Living Vine. Give us courage: Your Father's pruning shears frighten us at times! Give us faith: He prunes us to bear much fruit in You! Give us love: it is the sweetest fruit of Your blessed vine. Grant that Your Holy Church may always abide in You, and You in it. May its words and deeds bear the fruits of Your Holy Spirit. Through its witness, graft many souls to Yourself. Lord in Your mercy...

Holy Jesus, You are the vine, and we are the branches. Keep this congregation united in and to You. Make our ministries bear fruit in the lives of those around us. Give us joy in knowing and serving You. Bless and direct us as Your disciples. May our friendship with those who do not yet know You well bear much fruit. Use us to kindle or renew faith in many hearts. Lord in Your mercy...

Holy Father, give Your Church pastors, bishops, and theologians who faithfully proclaim Your Word of Law and Gospel. We pray for our bishop, Dan Selbo; Amy Little, our General Secretary; and for 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 Advent Lutheran Church in Winchester, Virginia. Keep us steadfast in faith to follow the True Vine, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord in Your mercy...

Blessed Jesus, death shall never have the last word over Your beloved people. Thank You for speaking words of forgiveness and life to all who have died trusting in You. Abide with us. Lead us to that place where we shall dwell with You and with all the redeemed, and shall feast at Your heavenly Table forever. Grant to all who suffer a double portion of Your Spirit. Fill them with Your life. Keep them steadfast in faith. Bless and strengthen all who care for them. We pray especially for 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...