

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy,

blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ⁵²Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Prayers of Intercession

As disciples of Christ Jesus, called to love and serve all people, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of steadfast love, we lift our hearts to you in thanksgiving. Restore our hearts to trust in the abiding love you have for all your children. Protect us and defend us from the power of evil. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As we give thanks today for the beautiful legacy of the Reformation, reform and unite the church in our day to work and serve according to your will. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

We pray that the leaders of all nations seek peace in war-torn areas of the world. Give them minds and hearts that are open to the truth, that all your children may be truly free. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In this election season, inspire all who seek public office to have the mind of Christ, who came, not to be served, but to serve. Unite us in your love and save us from all evil and wrongdoing in these days of decision. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

O Lord, have mercy on all whose lives are immersed in darkness, violence, and injustice. Send servants to bring light and dignity to those in trouble. Reform our world according to your will. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Lord, have mercy on all who are without food, shelter, and medical care. Send ministers to care for them, and provide for their basic needs. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Lord, have mercy on the sick and all in need of healing. Send your healing to all on our prayer lists, and in our hearts. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Remembering those who have gone before us to their eternal home, have mercy on all who grieve. Comfort them and place the light of the resurrection in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. Send your mercy and grace to the entire world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.