

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

1) Consider having each petition of the prayers read by a different member.

Different voices offering prayer from various areas of the sanctuary contribute to the prayers being those of the people.

2) Please note that there are places to "individualize" the prayers for your congregation. 1st petition, add your pastor's name; third petition: list names of those for whom your community is praying; fifth petition: add the name of your congregation.

Assisting Minister: *Joining together as one voice, let us pray for the church, for those in need and for all of God's creation. With the prayer, "God of justice and kindness" we will respond, "Hear our prayer."*

First Voice: Creator God, your Son came among us not to be served, but to serve. We are thankful for the women and men who serve as leaders in our church: Bishops Susan, Greg, Larry, Cindy, Elaine and Michael; our pastor _____. Empower and embolden them to speak out as advocates seeking justice for the oppressed. Through their leadership, may our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada reflect your love that lifts up those who are bowed down.
God of justice and kindness. Hear our prayer.

Second Voice: God of abundance, our table is filled and our cup overflows. We live in comfortable homes in an affluent nation. Keep us from becoming captivated by wealth and possessions; guide us to use our resources with wisdom so that our prosperity honours you and serves humankind. Move us toward a world community where justice and kindness reign in place of oppression and suffering.
God of justice and kindness. Hear our prayer.

Third Voice: Compassionate God, you know the pain of your people, we pray that your healing waters will flow over all the earth. We hold before you those who are suffering; those without homes or jobs; those with disease of body, mind or spirit; those who hold onto vengeful, hurtful feelings. We pray especially for: *(list of names*

of those requesting prayers from congregation) and for those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts. *(pause for private prayer)* In this coming week may we reach out with kindness to those in pain.
God of justice and kindness. Hear our prayer.

Fourth Voice: All knowing God, you see through our false pride and desire to impress others. Grant us self-insight to walk humbly, knowing that all we have and all we will ever be are gifts from you. Stir up within us an awareness of your deep love for us and let our response to your love guide our lives and actions. Help us to be slow to judge, and quick to respond to the needs of others.
God of justice and kindness. Hear our prayer.

Fifth Voice: God, you call us into relationship. We thank you for the joy of human love: spouses, parents, children, sisters, brothers, grandchildren, extended family and friends. We thank you for those who have the gift of another birthday or another anniversary. We thank you for the love and acceptance we share here at _____ Lutheran. Finally we thank you for those special blessings we name aloud or in our hearts at this time... *(pause for private prayer)*.
God of justice and kindness. Hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: *O God of Justice and kindness, hear the prayers of your people and in your mercy, grant us all that we need, for you know us better than we know ourselves.*
AMEN.
