

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Mighty God, by your power you raised Jesus Christ to rule over us. On this Ascension Sunday we praise you that he puts down tyrannies that threaten to destroy us and unmask powers that claim our allegiance. We thank you that he alone commands our lives and gives us freedom to love the world. Glory to you for the gift of his life! Glory to you for his saving death! Glory to you for Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our risen Lord, now and forever.

O Lord, as we seek your help to acknowledge your reign over all the world, we ask that your kingdom would come in every place. We lift up to you those affected by the COVID 19 pandemic, which is every one of us in some way. We lift up to you especially those who are sick, those who are medical caregivers, those who work in service industries and put themselves at risk for the sake of others, those who are lonely or unemployed or discouraged.

Lord, in our church and community, we pray for those who are sick or recovering or in some way in need of healing. Care for Jan W, Sharon H, Kim S, Natalie P, Marian H, John and Anne S, and all those who are on our hearts and minds.

Care for the people of Midland, Michigan after the flooding that occurred this past week. Guide and strengthen those who work to provide relief and safety for our neighbors in that city.

Heavenly Father, care for students who are finishing their school year, have finished, or are about to finish. This is not the ending they expected or hoped for, and we ask that you would guide them through this time. Give to us as a church the calling to care for our youngest members with passion and with dedication. Bless each generation through the others in this group of people, who are brothers and sisters because of the love of Jesus.

Jesus Christ, head of the church, we thank you for providing for your church through each member who gives of their time, talents, and treasures. Give our leaders what they need to lead your church, and give us as a congregation the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek to follow you. We thank you for our partnership with the church around the world through missionaries, and we ask that by your Holy Spirit you would empower each of us in the work of mission in our own neighborhoods and workplaces.

Lord Jesus, help us not to dwell too much on the past, holding you to the Galilean hills and the streets of Jerusalem, but to know you more and more as our Lord and Savior, risen, ascended, and always present with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.