

Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers
as dear to us as our own needs.

Loving our neighbors as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.

The prayer will be in sections today, and I'll leave some space for your own silent or spoken
prayers for each section. I'll close that time of silence with "Lord, in your mercy, hear our
prayer." You're welcome to join me in that at home, as well.

Let's come before God together:

Gracious God,

We praise you for our fellow Christians all over the world!

We ask that all who love you will be united in your love.

We pray for the church in North America, Central & South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and
all places in between... [our own prayers]

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the many people and nations around the world. You have created us in such
diversity!

We pray for reconciliation between individuals and people groups around the world. May we be
a world pursuing justice and peace.

We pray for the world... [our own prayers]

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the many joys in life - for sunshine, for people we love, for activities that give
us purpose.

We lament the ugly sides of life. We pray for all who suffer from prejudice, greed, or violence.

We pray especially for prisoners and for refugees.

We pray for all who are oppressed... [our own prayers]

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the good gifts that you have given us - people to love, jobs, money to spend,
homes to live in. We pray for those who do not enjoy these same gifts, perhaps because of
natural disasters, the COVID pandemic, the cycle of poverty, or other reasons.

We pray for wisdom with the gifts we are given, and we pray for those in need... [our own
prayers]

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the land, the sea, the sky—

for your whole beautiful creation, which longs for its redemption. We pray that we may live with
respect for your creation and use your gifts with reverence.

We pray for the creation . . . [our own prayers]
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer mental, physical, emotional, or spiritual pain.
Give them strength, courage, comfort, and endurance.
We pray for those who suffer... [our own prayers]
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And now we'll join our voices in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**