

Redeemer, Covenant God,

We hold fast to you, our stronghold in all times and all seasons. We hold fast to you because we know that you hold onto us – you are there for us no matter the circumstance. We come before you in prayer today to grow in our relationship with you, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So please hear our prayer; pour your compassion and your mercy upon us; through this prayer, foster the intimacy of your Holy Spirit in our lives.

As your people, we come to you on behalf of ourselves and on behalf of the world. On behalf of the city of Grand Rapids, the state of Michigan, the United States of America, and whatever other people groups we might belong to or identify with. Lord, enable us by your Spirit to act not just as your representatives in the world, but also as those who take up the cause of our neighbor. We pray now for those experiencing violence in homes or in our streets. We pray for those experiencing homelessness. We pray for those on the front lines of health care and public safety. We pray for those ostracized, abandoned, forgotten, or oppressed (by us or by others). We bring all of these to you, Lord, so that you might look favorably on them: heal them, comfort them, have compassion on them.

Redeemer God, we also ask you to be with us. Please bring healing and quick recovery to Marilyn Lobbes, Ann Boermans, and Marge Wielsma. Please strengthen and encourage Marian Heerema. Please comfort those of us who are lonely and isolated, and speak to the hearts of those whose strength is failing. May you bring them energy and companionship, and empower Calvin Church as a whole to enfold all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Make us a community that continues to build up the body of Christ, no matter the circumstances.

Lord, on this Christ the King Sunday, we are grateful for your Lordship over all the earth. You are Sovereign, and in you we place our ultimate trust. We recognize that all human leaders are subservient to you, and we pray for those in leadership positions big and small to seek your wisdom, your truth, your justice, your grace. We profess with all creation that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords!

Almighty God, we know that we do not come to you in vain. You hear us when we pray, and your faithfulness endures through all generations. In the confidence of your promises and with humble hearts we ask that you never abandon us or leave us in a lurch. Thank you for our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray with these words:

**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.**