

PRAYERS for March 19, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship Assistant: On this fourth Sunday in Lent, let us pray that You might bring us closer to the cross so that we know how much You loved us and gave Yourself for us.

Worship Assistant: Heavenly Father, You give our hearts such comfort to know that we can call You. We thank You for the light of the sun and moon, the stars and streetlights, the candles and lamps. But most of all we thank You for the true light of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lead us to His light which no darkness can overcome. Father, we worship You today with not only our words and our deeds but also with our hearts and our souls. Help us to remember to be glad and rejoice in You this day and every day.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Good and Gracious Shepherd, we pray today for all people who are in positions of authority and those who work for peace; for the military and all who defend us; for those who will die and those who are born this day; for all the baptized and those who have not yet come to Your saving water. We pray for those who teach and those who learn; for those who work and those who seek employment; for those who set their hands to any honest labor and those who are retired; for those who live in the safety of their homes and those who have no homes. We ask Your protection for those who are persecuted because they love You, for You are the most important voice and light in their lives.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Guiding Shepherd, heal the blindness from which we sometimes suffer. Give us new eyes to see Jesus in one another, and for His sake, to love even the people we don't always like. Give us eyes to see new opportunities for serving You; for sharing our faith in You; and for making this church a lamp that shines with the light of Christ's love for everyone we encounter. Help us to overcome ourselves and remember that in Your house there is plenty and peace; there is pardon and acceptance.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Healing Shepherd, as You healed the man born blind, we pray that You would also bring light and hope to all who are in need of Your healing. Receive the petitions of Your people who are lonely, ill, or injured. Encourage all who need uplifting, protect all who live in fear, celebrate all who are rejoicing, and cheer all who have sadness in their hearts. Be with all the friends and families on our prayer list and those whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 15 seconds for names.) Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Loving Shepherd, we know that not all believers in the world have the freedom to assemble, to worship You, and to be ambassadors for Christ. We ask Your protection for Your missionaries and for all who seek to be disciples of Jesus. Give them clear sight and strong faith, so that through their work, many who are spiritually blind may be led to Jesus and be healed. We ask that You enter into us, let us be ambassadors for Christ, and enable Your light to shine through us for others to see Your love and care. Be with the people who serve You in the many local, national, and international groups supported by Word of God. Let these works be clearly seen as being carried out in Your name.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**