

PRAYERS for March 21, 2021– Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship Assistant: On this fifth Sunday in Lent, let us praise the name of the Lord and pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: Father in heaven, we give You eternal praise, thanks, and love for Your gifts of grace and for being our God and for allowing us to be Your people. Today, we joyously celebrate the families who profess their desire to belong to this community of Your followers. We accept them with open arms, prayers of thanks, and words of welcome. Thank You for helping all of us find ways and opportunities to put You at the center of our lives. Thank You for creating new hearts in us and for giving us steadfast spirits.

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

Worship Assistant: Gracious God, we ask that in this Lenten time of repentance, You would draw all people close to You so that, as we confess Jesus as Lord, we may know Him and the power of His resurrection. We know that You have done wonderful things for us for which we are joyful. Help us to know that both in darkness and in light, in sorrow and in joy, in life and in death, we may always feel Your hand upon us and know Your peace. The peace that the world offers us passes away, but Your peace is perfect and eternal.

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

Worship Assistant: Jesus Christ, we want to see You just as the people wanted to see You during the days of Your flesh. We want to see You every day. Through our tears and our grief, we want to see You. Through the pain and the tragedies, we want to see You. Through our times of doubt and worry, we want to see You. Through our joys and our blessings, we want to see You. Show Yourself to us at every turn in our lives. Bless us with seeing eyes which will never lose sight of You, no matter what else might come between us, no matter what else might happen. Lord, help us to not let those who hate You, those who attempt to push You aside, or those who blame You, keep us from seeing You as our Redeemer and Savior throughout all the paths of our lives.

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

Worship Assistant: Lord God, healer of bodies and souls. You have promised deliverance to all who cry out to You. We know You feel the pain of the world. Look on all sick and suffering people. Wrap them in Your love so that in the midst of their distress, they might find Your presence and Your comfort. Watch over those who are in need of Your healing, Your wisdom, Your strength, and Your promises. We ask that You give Your peace to those on our prayer list and the families and friends whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 20 for names.) Lord, in Your mercy.....*hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: God our Father, protector of all Your children, be present with all who risk their lives to save the lives of others, especially our first responders and our military personnel. We ask You to guard and protect our missionaries, our leaders, our health workers, our police, and our caretakers. We thank You for Your protection for the faithful who suffer and struggle to live in places where they are persecuted for Your name's sake. We know that all life is precious to You. We also ask You to be with the volunteers who will serve at the Midwest Food Bank this week. May their service be to Your glory.

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**