

Prayers of Intercession

Individual congregation members are invited to pray aloud on behalf of the congregation one of the following printed prayer petitions:

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of wanderers, you sent the magi from afar to witness the mystery and majesty of your birth. Send us into the world with your will in our hearts and on our lips. We pray especially this day for ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton, Synod Bishop Lee Miller, II, and our companion synods Zimbabwe and Zambia; The Chuck Stewart and all leaders and staff of St. James' Episcopal Church; and our congregation of Holy Trinity. Merciful God, receive our prayer. You created heaven and earth. Through your Spirit send your all-encompassing love over the cosmos. Bless the stars that guide our way and the night sky that invites the earth into slumber.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You sent the magi to follow the star into an uncertain future. May all leaders and peoples seek your face, especially when paths are not clear, conflicts rage, tyrants oppress, and fear abounds.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You sent your Spirit to dwell with Paul in prison. Send your Spirit to those who are imprisoned and enslaved. Give courage and wisdom for building roads that lead to justice and freedom.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You sent the holy family to seek safety in a new land. Protect all who make similar journeys. Send your guiding Spirit to asylum seekers, refugees, and all who journey toward safety.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Your glory is shown to the saints. We give thanks for those whose earthly journey has ended and now dwell with you forever. Give us signs of your continual presence until that day when we arise in you.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**