

Prayers

Let us offer our prayers to God, responding to each petition with an echo from Ephesians, **“Grant us your peace.”**

A brief silence.

O God our shepherd, the church calls out for your care. Form bishops and pastors into courageous shepherds who guide the flocks of the baptized. Where the pandemic recedes, renew the worship and revive the ministries of your churches. Where throughout the world the pandemic rages, uphold your people with the strength of your word. We pray for ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton, Synod Bishop Macholz, our new synod Bishop-elect Lee Miller, II, and our companion synods in Zimbabwe and Zambia; all leaders and staff of Grace Chapel; and our congregation of Holy Trinity.

A brief silence.

Show mercy to the church, O God: **Grant us your peace.**

The lands and waters call out for renewal. Provide green pastures and still waters for livestock, and protect gardens, farms, and ranches from disaster. Where flood or drought threatens, save your creation with your loving might. We especially pray for the preservation of our beloved Finger Lakes.

A brief silence.

Show mercy to the earth, O God: **Grant us your peace.**

All the needy cry to you. Restore all who are oppressed or imprisoned. Visit Haiti and all nations in distress. Guide the leaders of nations to walk in the pathways of justice. Break down the walls that divide people of different nation, color, language, or ethnicity.

A brief silence.

Show mercy to the nations, O God: **Grant us your peace.**

Embrace all who are lonely or abandoned. Protect teenage runaways, and house any who are homeless. Grant acceptance to quarreling family members. Bless all governmental and church agencies of care with sufficient resources for their tasks.

A brief silence.

Show mercy to all in want, O God: **Grant us your peace.**

We pray for the safety of the athletes at the Olympics. Cultivate among them a spirit of friendly camaraderie, and protect the residences of Tokyo from COVID contagion.

A brief silence.

Show mercy to this worldwide pursuit, provident God: **Grant us your peace.**

Those who are sick stand in need of your care. Visit all who have COVID-19, and accompany those who are standing in the shadow of death. Be a strong rod to those who are weak, and with your staff keep evil distant from all your children. Hear our pleas for those named on our prayer list, along with those we name here before you.

A brief silence.

Show mercy to all who suffer, O God: **Grant us your peace.**

We thank you for all the faithful of every time and place. We pray that at the end, we all will dwell in your house forever.

A brief silence.

Show mercy to us all, O God: **Grant us your peace.**

Into your hands, mighty and merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your gift of life, through Jesus Christ, who is our peace. **Amen.**