

Intercessory Prayers

Sunday, March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who
removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us
and dishonor you:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering
for your word:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving
ambition,
and for disdainingly the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and
hope in the world:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and
discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth
to life:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness
abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of
Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from
the dead

dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to
free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us
the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised
to new life in Christ and serve you in
righteousness all our days, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers are prepared locally for each
occasion. The following examples may be
adapted or used as appropriate.*

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by
God's presence, let us pray for the world and
its needs.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives (*local places in nature may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized (*especially*). Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer our thanksgiving for (Jonathan Edwards and) all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the
earth

and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains
creation,

✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

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