

SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023 - PRAYER OF THE CHURCH- LENT 4A

Jesus is the light of the world. Let us pray that his light may shine into the darkness of our world today.

Heavenly Father, thank you for opening the eyes of our hearts to see your will for our lives in Christ. As his light shines in our hearts to replace the darkness of our sin and weakness with his righteousness, help us to turn to you and seek your grace.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Lord, teach us to pray your will for our own lives and those we love and serve. Instruct us by your holy word, and direct us each day to Jesus and the prayers he prays for us.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

We pray for people who are blinded to Christ because of ignorance or because of sin and shame. And we pray for those areas in our lives we have kept shut to his truth and grace. Father, bring the light of the gospel to these people and places.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Where people are in despair for whatever reason please bring your peace. Relieve the pressure on those who suffer for your name.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Bless the church and all its work. Watch over Lutheran Care and its services, and those attending Christian retreats.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Uphold marriage and all who enter it and give all Christian parents the determination and ability to bring up their children in the faith.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Give courage to those who are physically blind and support those who help them. Give faith and strength to the sick and those who care for them. Provide for all in need, including those known to us personally and whom we now name in our hearts...*(brief silence)*

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

(other petitions may be inserted here)

We lift our eyes to you, O Lord. Restore us and the world in which we live through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**