

## **SELECTED PRAYERS FOR THE**

### **Gather + Grow + Glorify + Nurturing God's Mission – 24 hour Prayer Vigil**

#### **Health and Healing - for those who heal**

Into the hands of others you have placed your healing power, O God – into the hands of doctors and nurses, pharmacists and chemists, paramedics and first responders, lab techs and healthcare managers. Help us to remember – that their power to heal comes from You. You are the great healer. And you carry all of your children in your healing hands even when they are the hands of others. Bless those who heal even as you bless us with them. We pray in the name of Jesus.

#### **Health and Healing – Guardian Angels**

Oh Lord of Angel hosts above, you have promised that your angels will hold us up, guarding us last week trip and fall. Send now your guardian spirits to all who require their presence, those who are ailing, those who face peril especially..... Surround them with your heavenly host. And fill them with comfort and the blessed assurance that you are near. In Jesus name we pray.

#### **Health and Healing – to touch and comfort**

Stretch out your hand, will gracious God, to touch and comfort those for whom we pray,..... Mary, Stan, Floyd, Isaac, Mr Sievers, Emil and Dorothy, Guy, Nancy, Charles, Doris, Lorrie, Hellen, a neighbor with cancer, all the elderly, little fragile Lilah, Logan, little Luca, Gary, Jim, Melissa, father/grandpa who may have cancer, Jim in need of surgery, Jean in need of corrective surgery, Luke, Ludwig, Robbie. According to your kindly will and with your mighty power, let them feel your healing hand and know your presence in their need, upholding and supporting them even in their pain. In your good time grant them relief, the answer to our prayers, and theirs. Through Jesus Christ the great physician of body and soul we pray.

#### **Health and Healing – for the helpless, homeless, hopeless**

Lord, guard with your grace all those who live under the shadow of dire discouragement. To those who suffer, daily the discouragement of homelessness, provide the warmth of shelter. To those who bear the weight of helplessness, provide an necessary aid. And to those who, strong out at the end of their rope, cannot endure the hopelessness of their lives. Period. Upon them let the light of hope shine. For you are a God of shelter, a Lord of help, a king of encouragement. Make us heralds of your happy hope through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – for those in nursing homes**

Look with care upon those in our congregation who now reside in nursing homes. May they still feel at one with this community of faith through the visits we make in the cards and letters that we send. Help us to keep lifting them up in our prayers, and help them to find joy in moments of reflection and revelation, and hobbies and activities, and then the people that are now a part of their lives. Encourage them by your mighty hand and everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – for caregivers**

Throughout your life, O Lord, you cared for the sick, injured and the dying, and you have called others to do the same. Give to these caregivers patience, dedication, and wisdom from day-to-day. Keep them safe in their important work. Guard their hearts and lives from all harm and danger. Help them to see your hand at work in the people they are privileged to care for. And bless them comfort and rest when their workday is done. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

### **Health and Healing – cancer research**

Oh Christ, who healed the blind and the lame; We thank you for all those who are involved in medical research, especially those who work to eradicate life reddening disease. Bless them with your wisdom, and with the patients that their work demands. And bless them, too, with the knowledge that they are fortunate to be doing your work in the world. Make their burden light. And guide them toward success through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – genetic diseases**

Oh Christ, who makes all things new; sustain with your great gift of hope, all those who are under the shadow of death – especially those who fear the onset of hereditary diseases – neuromuscular diseases, chronic heart ailments, Alzheimer’s disease and all forms of cancer. Lighten their burden, O Christ. Help them to enjoy the here and the now. And spark in them the Spirit hope – hope for science and research, hope for the future, and a happy hope that you, our Lord, make all things new. In your name we pray.

### **Health and Healing – names that are always on our prayer list**

What shall we do, Lord, for those whose names seem never to leave our prayer list? Struck down by chronic illness or burdened by the long, slow approaching of death, these dear children are yours and have become fixtures in our hearts and in our prayers. Guard us, Lord, from the temptation to lose hope. Keep our prayer is faithful. Keep our concern alive. Remind us that, even in the face of chronic illness, you are the God of healing. You are the Lord of life for evermore. In your name we pray.

### **Health and Healing – inwardly renew the sick**

Oh Emmanuel, come to dwell with those who are suffering from long-term illnesses in the hospital or at home. Though there are our bodies may be wasting away, renew them inwardly, we pray, with your Spirit's presence. Restore their faith in your power to bring them relief and healing. Revive in them a sense of confidence and trust. And refresh them with your of peace and rest. In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **Health and Healing – for those struck down by life.**

Let your light shine, O Lord, in the lives of those who have been struck down by life – the sick, the injured, the homeless, the unemployed, the victims of crime, the abused, the neglected, and the powerless. Leave them away from the brink of despair, and lift their spirits with the news that you will never forsake nor leave your children or let them be destroyed. With each passing day in your presence, brighten their vision for the future. And may they be struck, instead, by the depth of your love made known through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – that we might be Christ's presence**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised us that when we help those who are sick or suffering, weak, in fact, are helping and serving you. Thank you for blessing our service with your holy presence. Lord, today we ask that you would fulfill the opposite – that we might become your presence for those who suffer..... For those who are sick, especially... Motivate us to continue to pray for them and visit them. Motivate us to help them in whatever way we can. And grace us with this great gift – that we might have the honor of being your presence for them. In your name we pray.

### **Health and Healing – Thanksgiving for recovery**

We thank you, dear Lord, for granting recovery to those who have been ill. Continue to strengthen and uplift them and grant them a grateful heart. Through this glorious active healing, may your work be made known to others, and may our trust in you be enlarged. Keep us ever fervent in our prayer life and have her earnest in our worship of you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – healing bodies and hearts**

Lord Jesus Christ, who knew suffering and pain, upon this earth you healed the sick, and looking into their eyes, embraced all their pain. You not only saw it, but felt it as well, choosing to take the path of suffering for the redemption of the world. Look with

compassion upon all who suffer now, O Lord for you know the heartbreak that accompanies all physical suffering. Heal the broken hearts of all who suffer. And heal their bodies, Lord, as well. In your name we pray.

### **Health and Healing – for the suffering**

Gracious Lord, you desire good for your people, your people everywhere. You desire good. Yet, there is suffering in this world. There is sickness. Keep those who are suffering in your care, O God. Hold close the ill, especially... Mary, Stan, Floyd, Isaac, Mr Sievers, Emil and Dorothy, Guy, Nancy, Charles, little Luca, Doris, Lorrie, Hellen, a neighbor with cancer, all the elderly, little fragile Lilah, Gary, Jim, Melissa, father/grandpa who may have cancer, Jean, Luke, Ludwig, Robbie. For you desire good for your people, O God let your desire become a reality through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – the healing power of forgiveness**

The roof tiles were pried up above your head, O Christ. A pallet was lowered through the ceiling. And, when you look into the eyes of that man – a man broken and helpless – you gave him what he truly needed. You forgave his sins. Remind us that, O Lord, when we come to you in our pain and suffering. Remind us of the fact that you are a God who heals not only broken bodies, you are a God who heals broken heart. Heal all in need. Heal up Lord. Lord have mercy. Hear our prayer.

### **Health and Healing – be still and know the sick**

Help those, O Lord who are wrestling with illness and pain, and addictions. May they hear you say to them, “be still and know that I am God!” Quiet them with your love. Assure them with the sweet sounds loved ones look after them. Comfort their fears, and reveal to them how much you care. Grant healing to their bodies and to their souls Lord. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – all in the health industry**

You protect us in so many ways, HEALING Lord, through so many people, with so many hands. And so we raise our hands to you, and praise of all the people you provide to heal our pains. For the chemist, who, with beaker and burner, with crucible and electrodes that distills chemicals into medicine. For the internist, whose stethoscope, pressure cuff and tongued oppressor poke and prod, squeeze and tickle to discover our ills. For nurses and surgeons, pharmacists and hospital managers – for all make us well, O Lord, we thank you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – cancer**

O Christ, who cleansed the ailing lepers, we know it is not your Father's will that any of his children suffer. Yet, the blight of cancer exists in our world, making its chilly presence known in our families and in our congregation. Bless with a special measure of your comfort all who are touched by the icy finger of this dread disease especially..... Bring medical attention close. Make medication Swift and effective. And healed their bodies we pray. Heal the wounded hearts and spirits of all who stare this Spector down. Hear out our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – chronic illness**

The broken leg will mend, O God. The cut will heal – a kidney stone will pass. You have placed your healing power within our bodies... Within our genes. What beautiful and wondrous beings you have created. O God, bless with an extra measure of your grace all those who suffer from chronic illness – illness for which there is no cure... Illness with which our bodies cannot deal. Inspire researchers to seek answers. Provide helpful medicines. And to give the greatest gift, Lord – the gift of hope. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Health and Healing – sharing in the suffering**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with those who are sick and injured, as you, too, suffered pain on the cross and emerged triumphant. Comfort them with the knowledge that you understand what they are enduring and that you are working to bring them relief. Comfort them with your healing presence Lord we pray

### **Health and Healing – relief to the hurting**

With your strong arm, O Lord, ease the pain of those who are hurting in our congregation. May they heed your call to “Come to me in the day of trouble, and I will give you rest.” Surround them with your love. Support them in their struggles. And may your Spirit lift them up to new levels of peace through Jesus Christ our Lord

### **Gifts and Graces – preview to resurrection**

In snow enshrouded, cold, barren, un-breathing, the world lies in wintry death... Until, peeping from under a naked shrub, creeping from its snowy blanket, leaping from deaths stronghold, a solitary flower reaches toward the sky and... Against all logic, against all nature... Blossoms! Into our daily death this tiny, bright reminder whispers in our anxious ears... “Wait,” it says. And again it

whispers, "Hope!" We do hope, Lord. Thank you for this preview, tiny as it seems... This preview to the resurrection of all things and all flesh! In Jesus name we give thanks!

### **Gifts and Graces – birthday blessing**

O God of life, look with favor upon all those celebrating birthdays this month. May gratitude reign in their hearts as they reflect on the time you have given them in their life. And may they joyfully anticipate all the many blessings that await them in the years to come. This we pray in the name of our Creator, renewing us even before we were born.

### **Family – those without parents**

For those of us blessed with your good gift of family, Lord, the life of this world's parentless children seems foreign at best, terrifying at worst. Bless those without parents, Lord. Give them gentle caretakers kind teachers, and... Gift of all gifts... Give them loving adopted families. Bless those without parents throughout the world, Lord. And make us a blessing to them, as well. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

### **Family – adoptive parents**

Blessed with a special measure of your Holy Spirit all adoptive parents that they, in their families, might bear good fruit. Let's love unified. Let joy inspire them. Let peace will over them. Let's kindness radiate from them. Let goodness burn and. Let faithfulness grow between. Let gentleness and self-control dictate their actions. So shall their families grow, even as you have adopted all of us to live in your family.

### **Family – anniversaries**

Spirit of love; in the beginning you recognized our need for partnership, creating us for one another. At the beginning of your ministry you blessed a couple at Cana with your presence and the miracle of wine. We thank you for the gift of marriage, and bless you for each anniversary. Now, teach us to learn from one another. May young couples rekindle in us the joy of budding love. Make older couples teach us the blessings of faithfulness and togetherness. Teach us to love Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.

### **Times and Seasons – safety in travel**

You guide our ways, O Lord. You lead us safely through death's dark valley. Protect, we pray, all who travel during this season of vacation. Make pilots clearheaded. Keep bus drivers alert. Guide captains, conductors and engineers as they fulfill their various

tasks. Keep parents awake at the wheel. For you are with us all, we know. Your rod and your staff, they comfort us. Keep us safe, O Lord our good and faithful Shepherd.

### **Times and Seasons – VACATION**

Lord, you bless us doubly for our labor! You give us the pleasure of work-the simple happiness of jobs to fill our time and fulfill our needs accomplishment. You provide us, through our work, with incomes that make our living easier – providing us, along with saving, food and shelter, needs and wants. And during this season especially, you provide us with vacation time-time away from our labors to appreciate other pleasures in your wondrous world, and time to appreciate time itself. For these good gifts we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in whose name we pray.

### **Times and Seasons-Vacations**

You are with us, O Lord, wherever we go. As we go all over the country – and the world – on trips and vacations with family and friends, help us to never forget that you are by our side to protect us and guide us and love us no matter what we encounter. May your holy Angels guard and keep us safe in our travels. Open our minds to new experiences, and grant us peace and rest in these breaks away from our usual routine. We pray in the name of Jesus our Lord.

### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH – for those who teach**

Oh God of wisdom: consecrate the lives of those whom you have called to teach, that by their words – and by their deeds – they may be faithful witnesses to you, channels of your gracious will, examples of your goodness. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH – the beginning of wisdom**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” your Word instructs us, gracious God. Along with all the other lessons our children must learn, send forth your Spirit to impart this most important: “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” May they learn this lesson from the examples of each one of us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH – students returning to college**

Lord Jesus Christ; you recognized the value of time apart, and often sought respite in the hills to pray. We thank you for providing our college students time at home with family and friends. And we thank you for blessing us with them. Be with them in Spirit, Lord,

that, refreshed and renewed with your goodly gift of fellowship, they may journey back to their studies with fond memories, new hope and, most important of all, strong, happy, vibrant faith in you. We pray in your most holy name.

#### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH – graduation**

Bless, O Lord, those who are graduating these days from grade school, high schools, colleges and universities. Be their source of hope as they look to the future. Be their source of strength as they encounter new and different things. Be their source of peace when they are sad or afraid. And to be their source of guidance and direction as they set out to find a place for themselves in this world. Guide them in their vocation as they place their trust in you Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH – For all graduates**

God of all wisdom, as summer approaches, bless all our graduates. From the tiny graduates of preschool who look to the excitement of kindergarten, to the eighth graders who will meet the challenges of high school; from the 12<sup>th</sup> graders whose eyes focus on the new world of University, to the college grads who look toward the horizons of employment... Bless them all. For you are the Lord of our accomplishments, O God. Grant each of them joy as they pursue new opportunities and new beginnings. Through Jesus Christ our Lord the source of all wisdom we pray.

#### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH-Taking ownership of the church**

O Christ, who held the little ones on your knee; guide and help the youth of our church-the children and the teenagers-to feel and ownership of this place-to consider this not “my parents ‘church,” but “my church.” Open their eyes to the opportunities that abound for them here-in worship, in learning, in fellowship. And to guide the adults of this parish to create more opportunities for them. Keep us, and to them as well, ever mindful of the fact that “your Kingdom belongs to such as these.” Make that so, even here at St. Peter. In Jesus’ blessed name we pray.

#### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH-Sunday school**

We pray, O Lord, for our Sunday school. For the young minds, that they might be fertile and receptive. For the teachers, that they might be Godly men and women open to your will and enriched by your Word. They are YOUR servants in this place, O Lord – use their talents. For the parents, that they might bring their children and share in the teaching of their children encouraging their learning beyond the classroom. This is a chance for parents to learn, too, Lord. We pray, O Lord, for our Sunday School. Bless it’s ministry Lord we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord.

## **EDUCATION AND YOUTH-colleges and seminaries**

As one to call disciples, Lord, and train them and equip them for their service in your kingdom, continue to call faithful followers. Let our colleges and seminaries be filled with your Holy Spirit, that those who teach and those who learn may take their places in the ranks of those whom you your soft called, equipped and trained, and sent to speak your Word. In your holy name we pray.

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

We join the crowd who lauded you along your way toward death, O Lord. With palm fronds in our happy hands, we praise the Son of David. With palms uplifted, hands held high, we greet you, Son of Man. With psalms and hymns and shouts of joy we raise to you our songs of praise. And now, with souls uplifted, too, we offer you ourselves. You are our light, our love, our LORD. With palms and palms and psalms and souls we worship you, Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. In your name we pray.

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

From our inmost being, we praise you, O God. May we forget not all your benefits to us. May we see your abundant, steadfast love at work in our lives. And may we rejoice in all the good things you do to satisfy our desires, renew our strength, and remove our sins. For your care is everywhere and your Kingdom encompasses all. With Thanksgiving and praise the name of Jesus.

**PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING** - For the eyes that can see the beauty of the earth, the smile of a loved one, the awkward first steps of the toddling young one... For ears that can hear the babble of a brook, the giggle of a child, the crackle of a fire...for nostrils that can inhale the heady sea breeze, the aroma of a fresh apple pie, the cologne of a spouse...for tongues that can taste the saltiness of a pickle, and the creamy delight of an ice cream cone...for fingers that can feel the smoothness of a robin's egg, the chill of an ocean wave, the warmth of a tender touch – for all things beautiful we thank and praise you, Lord our God. In Jesus' name we pray.

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

Stand with all our couples who enjoy the gift of marriage. Bless them as husband and wife, as you promise to be with them in sickness and in health loving them forever. Richly bless their lives together as you affirm that you are their source of joy. May they rejoice in one another and experience joy throughout their lives together. You are the Bridegroom of our souls and we bless your holy name.

### **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING –**

How shall we thank you, gracious God, for all the blessings of your hand which had overflowed onto our tables and into our lives? Help us to see and each of them the evidence of your bountiful goodness towards us, to receive them with true gratitude and thanksgiving, and to deal with others in their need as you have dealt with us mercifully and graciously through Jesus Christ, the son of your most gracious giving.

### **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

From our inmost being, we praise you, O God. May we not forget all your benefits to us. May we see your abundant, steadfast love at work in our lives. And may we rejoice in all the good things you do to satisfy our desires, renew our strength, and remove our sin. For your care is everywhere and to your kingdom encompasses all. In Jesus name we pray.

### **DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL – Comfort**

Lord of the broken hearted, come near today to those who mourn, especially.....,Enter into their sorrow so that they may find joy in your presence and hope in the resurrection of the dead. Assure them of the celebration that awaits all your dear children in heaven, where nothing is broken and all is at peace. In Jesus the resurrection and the life we pray.

**DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL** - On Lord of life and death: let not the pain or fear of death becomes so strong that your own calling voice was drowned out in the din, but as your Son once triumphed even over death according to your will, now let your will be done. Make your Almighty comfort and compassion a surrounding presence for your servant..... that even here and now loud trumpets may be heard, preparing for the wedding feast that has no end, there where pain and fear forever are forgotten in the glory of the Lord. As strength grows weak and sight grows dim, let faith in Jesus Christ burned bright. In his blessed name we pray.

### **DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL**

O Lord of life, you have promised through your Word that you will transform our mourning into dancing and our sorrow and joy. At this time of sadness in our lives, remind us always of the glory that awaits us in heaven, the happy reunion we will experience on the last day, and the peace that all the Saints enjoy now with you. May the changes that your resurrection has brought about bring us confidence and strength in our time left on this earth. We pray in the name of the resurrection and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL**

All Lord above, welcome your Saints, especially..... Into the holy halls of the heavenly bliss. Fling wide the gate and throw open your arms to receive them/him/her. Embrace them your children. Hold them close to your heart, and never let them go. In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL**

Oh Lord – the God who redeems life from the pit and crowns all believers with love and compassion – raise up our loved ones from death to life everlasting in your heavenly Kingdom. And crown your loved ones with perfect peace and rest in you. In Jesus name we pray.

### **DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL**

Lord Jesus Christ, teach us from the example of Joseph of Arimathea. He had a dirty job to do—a sad and somber job. But he did it anyway. Although the disciples were hidden in shame, he cared for your body after your death. While the women were frozen in grief, he gave his very grave for you. Teach us to care for the grieving. Whether in the form of hugs or notes, physical presence or even casseroles, guide us to care for the grieving in tangible ways. In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL**

Your voice once broke the darkness, mighty God: “Let there be light!” In the darkness of our grief and need, Almighty God, let there be light! Keep those who mourn within the brightness of your constant love, Almighty God, until you bring us to the light in which your Saints already live, eternal light. In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL**

Into the ground we place them. We cover them with dirt. We lay thought up on the dirt, and crown it all with a monolith of granite. And the rains come... and the inevitable decay. It seems so utterly “over.” Remind us that one day a foot will kick that granite monolith over... and Angels, spades in hand and backs to work, will break through the sod and then the dirt. And then, O Christ, with your once dead hand you will crack open the box in which our loved ones lie and you will breathe into the clay you find in that box. Remind us, O Christ in whose name we pray.

## **DEATH AND LIFE ETERNAL**

You hate death, O God! Keep us mindful of that as we grieve! You hate death! It was not included in your seven-day creation. You hate death! Death and sin, hand in hand, snuck in the back door of your world – a door we opened. You hate death! It has ravaged your good earth. You hate death! It has corrupted your chosen people. You hate death! Keep us mindful of that as we grieve! And keep us mindful of this as well. You hate death so much...that you KILLED IT! Through Jesus Christ our Lord you did this and we thank you!

### **SOCIETY-- For civil authorities**

All authority in heaven and earth comes from you, Almighty God those who govern this world do so at your behest. Grant them the wisdom to carry out their tasks as faithful servants of your will; and make your people responsive to their service in your name. In Jesus name we pray.

### **SOCIETY—homelessness**

All God of shelter and protection, the same for all those that this present time have no certain dwelling place. Leave them people and places that can help them. Got them to see open doors for assistance and bright windows of opportunity. Be their safe haven in this uncertain time in their lives, no matter where they may be dwelling. In Jesus name we pray.

### **SOCIETY—Our nation and the world**

Oh Lord of all: watch over our nation all who stand together in the service. Bless and protect the world's leaders to declare for peace, freedom, and justice. Increase the knowledge of your will and obedience to your ways, so that people everywhere may live for you and serve one another day by day.

### **SOCIETY-- our president**

Lord, bless those who are in authority over us, especially our president Barack. Grant him wisdom as he leads and discernment of your will. Bless all our leaders in government. According to your will, may they not be greedy for power and influence, but eager to serve. May they not lord over those entrusted to them, but be examples to follow. And, in all their ways, may their mission be to bring about changes that improve the lives of people they represent. In Jesus' name we pray.

### **SOCIETY—Our Nation**

O Lord, you have blessed this nation and we are blessed as citizens of it. Thank you, Lord. But keep us, your people, mindful of the responsibilities that such blessings carry with them. The decisions we make-the laws we pass, the leaders we elect, the treaty reforms-send out ripples of repercussions throughout the world! Lead us, Lord, and all that we do-as one nation under you our gracious and loving God. In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **SOCIETY-- God's grace**

You all God are in supreme control of all that is around us. Remind us of that, O God, as the stock market rises and falls... plummets and soars. Remind us that you wish only blessings for your beloved children, regardless of the fluctuating economy. For the stock index is no measure of your love for us. Though the market changes and the economy is unpredictable you never change and your love is always constant. We know the treasures stored up for us in heaven's halls are beyond our wildest dreams. We thank you for your investment in us. In Jesus name we pray.

### **SOCIETY—For social agencies**

You call your people to regard those in need, and provide for their care through various groups and agents. Bless those who serve you. We pray especially for those who show your love through..... Help us to support and affirm their ministry, and let it be a blessing to many. Through him whose care was boundless, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **SOCIETY--To whom much is given**

By the world's standards we are rich, O Lord. Your blessings to our nation are high above the norm. Never let us forget that. Never let us take for granted. For even the poorest in our land are richer than the world's poor. Ours is the only culture what televisions are stolen rather than food. We are well. Thank you, Lord. Now, never let us forget how well. For our society has been given the gift of great wealth. And to whom much is given... much is expected. Let our society live up to its expectations. Equip us to make it so through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **SOCIETY—For moral leaders**

Bless us, O Lord, with good leaders. Bless us with good role models. For power corrupts, and the immoral path is easily trodden by the powerful and the popular. Give our leaders high standards of morality. Given the role models of our youth the gift of generosity.

And give us, especially our children, discerning minds. Grant purity of heart to those who lead and give us opportunity to support and encourage them. In Jesus name we pray.

### **SOCIETY--Generosity to our neighbor**

help us, O Lord, to live out a life of the Good Samaritan -- to reach out to those in need across our path, to give generously of our time, and to share what you have with others. Remove all pride and fear that would prevent us from caring for our neighbors, and move us to reverse the effects that violence has caused in this world. In Jesus name we pray.

### **THE CHURCH -- Vision for leadership**

Lord, whose disciples called you "Teacher"; guide the leaders of your Church. Give them humble hearts. Give them decisive minds. But most importantly, give them vision. Open their eyes to the mission of your Church. Open their minds to new ways to accomplish your mission. Give vision to your Churches leaders, O Lord. And give action to your Churches people, that the vision you create and give might become a reality. In Jesus name we pray.

### **THE CHURCH -- The time of empty pews**

There are empty pews this time of year, O Lord. More than usual. It is no surprise. This is vacation season, after all. The cycle of the year prepares us for decreased attendance. And we rejoice in it. Not only because our friends are enjoying themselves in well-deserved time off. No, we rejoice, as well, that the people of this congregation are out in the world -- taking the gifts that we share here with. Remind us of that, when we look at our empty pews, Lord. You have sent us out to save this world through Christ our Lord. Thank you for trusting us. We pray in the name of Jesus our Lord.

### **THE CHURCH -- To love one another**

Lord, enliven your church from the inside out. Pour out your Spirit into our very hearts so that we may fulfill your most fundamental of commandments. Help us to love one another. By this, everyone... Everywhere... Will know that we are yours. In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **THE CHURCH -- Thanksgiving for the Saints**

Bless your Church! Bless it with the Spirit to believe, that its members might see with eyes of faith. Blessed with the power to act, that your people might work to change the world. Bless it with the will to speak, that we might spread the glorious Gospel. And bless

your people here on earth with the powerful knowledge that Saints above have gone before. For your Church is the only institution with active membership on both sides of the grave!

### **THE CHURCH – Celebrating grace**

Sin made us enemies of God, O Jesus. But you made us friends. We thank you for your grace, which allows us to be reconciled to God. We thank you for your love, which sees us in our distress and rescues us from condemnation. And we thank you for the faith which you have placed into our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us to see that you are the one who has brought salvation to our souls through Jesus Christ our Lord in whose name we pray and give thanks.

### **THE CHURCH -- the Saints**

From generation to generation, you are God, O Lord. Today we celebrate the lives of those who live in generations now past, and who now live in heaven with you. By their witness, many came to faith. And by their example, we learned what it means to serve you with our heart, soul, and mind. May looking at the ways you work through the lives of all the saints give us confidence in our day as we seek to follow your will and put our trust in you through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

### **THE CHURCH -- Focusing on Christ**

We are worried and distracted by so many things. Even in your house of worship Lord. As members of your family of faith here on earth, keep us focused on worshipping the. Remove from our minds all the things that are bothering us, and fill them instead with your words of peace and love, comfort and rest, blessing and salvation. May you and your Word remain at the center of all the discussions and decisions that take place within our congregation here at St. Peter. In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **THE CHURCH – Baptism**

O Christ, who entered Jordan's murky waters and that there, baptized by John, was anointed for ministry; O Father, who watched from heaven's height and on that they shouted in delight; O Spirit, who, as a dove, descended upon our Lord: bless, we pray, all your baptized children everywhere. Fill them, O God, with the Savior's love, the Father's strong creative force, and that the never ending blessing of the Holy Spirit. Unite us, Lord, as family! In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **THE CHURCH – Catch fire!**

O Lord, rekindle in your Church the fire of Pentecost's first flame. Enliven your people with your Holy Spirit, that, blown by unseen when, warmed by mystic flame, filled with your own breath, we might spread your good and gracious word throughout the world. Light your Church on fire, Lord. Make St. Peter BLAZE! In Jesus name we boldly pray.

### **THE CHURCH -- Gospel inspiration**

Almighty God, with the ministry, the wonder and the work of the Holy Trinity, inspired your Church, today – that the creative force of you, O Father, might fill us with creativity and drive to work your will within your world; that the saving work of you, O Christ, might urge us to spread the Gospel to all corners of the globe; that the presence of you, O Holy Spirit, might burn in us with such old white hot flame that our holiness would be a beacon to everyone, everywhere. In the name of Jesus we pray.

### **THE CHURCH -- To love one another**

The mission of your Church begins here, in this place. For you have given us a command... and a promise. Your command is to love one another. And that's begins here... In this community. Remind us of that. And reminds us, too, of your promise— that the world knows us not because of our doctrine or our school for our pretty buildings for our stern moral stances. They will see our LOVE... and will give you glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **THE CHURCH -- Open our doors**

Open the doors of your Church— in this place and throughout the world. Swing them wide, O God. And put us your holy people... Into the wide open doors of your Church, waving our joyful hands, welcoming your lost children into your presence. Open the doors of your church, O God. And opened the doors of our hearts as well. Make us a welcoming people through Jesus Christ our Lord who welcomes us into his grace!

### **THE CHURCH -- for our leaders**

O Christ, our Head, guide the leaders of your Church—from the presidents, and the bishops in their positions of power to Sunday school teachers in their classrooms, quilting club coordinators behind their sewing machines, youth group directors driving their van loads of teenagers, committee members around their meeting tables. Pour into their hearts an extra measure of your Holy Spirit, and enable them to lead with wisdom and compassion. Guide the leaders of your Church, O Christ in whose name we pray.

### **THE CHURCH – Pentecost People**

All rushing Wind, O tongue of flame, O Holy Spirit, Holy Dove, blow into our congregation with mighty, rushing power. Burn in our hearts with the passionate flame. Three into our lungs your holy breath. For we are your Pentecost people— bearers of the play that burst into being on that first Pentecost morning. Many God’s witnesses, all caps your, throughout the four corners of this world— witnesses of your presence... Witnesses of your love. Guide us, your Pentecost people. In Jesus name pray.

### **THE CHURCH -- On our knees**

O Christ, who sought out times and places to pray, make us a prayerful people... A people who are led to see our heavenly Father... A people motivated to act upon their words of prayer. For you have promised to be with us when we pray. And you have assured us that our Father will grant what we ask. Remind us that prayer never consists of hollow words spoken to a deaf God. You are listening to your people. And we are an army, marching on our knees. In your holy name we pray.

### **THE CHURCH – Our Church meetings**

Blessed with a special measure of your Spirit, Lord, all who attend meetings and councils in our congregation here at St. Peter. Bless our commissions and boards and all who lead. Give them the wisdom to lead. Give them the Spirit to guide. Give them patience when decision-making gets tough. And give them vision... Your vision... as we nurture Your vision for Your Church. Raise up additional leadership as needed Lord we humbly pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **THE CHURCH – In the World , But Not of the World**

Holy Lord, you called your people to be different, separate... Holy. “Do not be of the world,” you said. It is a challenge, Lord. For the world is enticing. But we are up to the challenge. You urge us to be in the world. You don’t want the world to change us—for we are different, separate... Holy. You want us to change the world. Put us in the world, Lord... Right in the thick of it. Lead us to be involved... Charity, government in activism, in faithful stewardship. Put us in the world... To change it through Jesus Christ our redeeming loving the Lord.

### **THE CHURCH -- Children of the Light**

God of creation’s celestial light, you have led us to yourself, even as you once led others into the presence of your Son. Make us work the reflectors of your glorious light -- a light that shines for all people. Help us to live lives that mirror the love you have

shown for this earth in the sending of your Son. And lead us, at last, to your halls of never ending light. Through Jesus Christ the light of the world we pray.

**GENERAL PRAYER – the cost of discipleship**

Lead us, O Lord, to put you at the center of our lives and to follow in your footsteps. Remove anything from our past that would distract us from your mission. And give us the strength trust in your will for all our future days. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**GENERAL PRAYER -- Service to God**

O God, our Master, we owe all that we have to you. May we use what you have given us to advance your kingdom, and not advance ourselves. May we treasure what you have given us, and not squander it away. And above all, may we value the riches of heaven more than all the riches of this earth. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER – The wealth God gives**

O King of kings and Lord of lords, may we never be fooled into thinking that there is no life beyond the blessings of this world. Remind us always up to eternal splendor that awaits all believers in. And fill us with the confidence to share this good news of salvation with all who have yet to believe. In the name of Jesus we pray.

**GENERAL PRAYER -- Lord of the harvest**

Lord of the harvest, how many gifts and abilities you have given us! Help us to use them to your glory. Spire us to work with joy to labor with love. Open our eyes to opportunities to serve, and awaken us to chances to share your good news through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER -- love for God and neighbor**

O God, you have been so good to us! When we were hurting and in pain, you picked us up and brought us relief. When no one else would give us the time of day, you stopped to help us in our time of distress. May we now follow in your footsteps, caring for those we see in need. We give thanks to you for the blessings of this place here at St. Peter. We pray in the name of Jesus our Lord.

## **GENERAL PRAYER**

Keep us ever constant in our prayers to you, O Lord. Prepare us for answers to our prayers we may not expect. Provide us with solutions that strengthen and inspire us as we seek to nurture your mission in our midst. And give us, at last, the greatest gift of all – your presence with us all. Pray in the name of Jesus our Lord.

### **GENERAL PRAYER -- Invitation for all**

Oh Lord above, may we take your call to, and join you seriously. May we prepare ourselves to enter into your bank with all rejoicing. May we truly sense how honored and privileged we are to be invited to spend time with you. And may we be ever grateful to you for giving us so much, when we deserve so little. We pray in the name of Jesus.

### **GENERAL PRAYER -- Investment of talents**

We thank you this day for all the talents and abilities you have given us, O Lord. Help us to see all the ways that we can use our gifts to your glory. Give us the courage to use the gifts you have given us whenever we have the opportunity to share them. And help us to shape and sharpen our skills into what you want them to be through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **GENERAL PRAYER -- Called to be servants**

Oh servant of all, may we follow your call to be a servant by caring for the people around us, humbling ourselves before you and one another, reaching out to those in distress, and taking the time to participate actively in the work of our congregation and the Church. Support and sustain us in all that we do as your servants in this world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **GENERAL PRAYER --**

God, our great Three – In – One, work with us – – creating and re-creating us in your image, forgiving and renewing us in our service to you, and sustaining and inspiring us in our journey toward heaven. May all the acts of Father, and Spirit keep us active in our faith, and alive in Your Love.

### **GENERAL PRAYER --**

O Lord, our Healer, though we are unworthy, still you listen to our pleas and you help us in our time of need. Give us the faith and trust in you whenever we for those we love are sick or in pain. And help us turn all our cares over to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

O God, who raises the sons of widows to new life, raise us to new life. Inspire us, by your Spirit, to carry on in our care for one another. Restore in us an active and energetic faith. And bring us safely to the new life above, one for us by our risen son, Jesus in whose name we pray.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Christ, you know the sins we bring before you this, and we know how lovingly you forgive your people. Help us this day to heartily confess of our sins so that we might receive the forgiveness we so desperately need, which you one for us on the cross. May we live no longer in sin, but in the riches of your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Christ, our Leader, help us to follow you first, above all else. Overpower our desires to follow the ways of the flesh that your way. And instill in us a love for you that transcends all our other loves. May ours be a stewardship of love and grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Holy Spirit, with tongues of fire you came into the world. Now move our tongues to speak the Good News of Christ Jesus to all the world. Give us the words we need to make Your message clear. And inspire us with your wisdom from above in our conversations with one another.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Jesus, our Brother, we thank you for making us one with God our Father, and for leading us to believe in you through your Word. Now may we spread your Word to all the world, so more people will come to believe. Unite us together as your brothers and sisters and they through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Lord Jesus Christ, provide us, we pray, with the peace that only you can give: the peace that comes because we are forgiven by you, the peace that comes because you are with us all, and the peace that comes because your resurrection has brought us new life. May this peace keep our hearts and minds forever united with you our Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Great Giver of good gifts, all that we have comes from you. Help us to see how we can use what you have given us to expand your kingdom come to reach out to others, and to enrich our own lives. In all that we do, may our love for you grow. In the name of Jesus we pray.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

O God, you are truly alive in this world. You renew us day by day to love and serve you. You take our fallen race and restore our faith in you. And you take our bodies and raise them to new life. We pray this day to keep our bodies, minds, and souls alive in you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Day by day, O Lord, you are here with us. And day by day, we wonder if this will be the day when you will return in glory to take us home to be with you in heaven. When that time comes, help us to rejoice in that day, and not shrink back in fear. Help us to look forward to what you have prepared for us, and help us never to look back. We pray in the name of Jesus our returning Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

O Lord of heaven and earth, come to us and unite your people here on earth. May faith in you bring together every tribe and nation. May forgiveness turn enemies into friends. And by the power of your presence, may we grow to love each other more and more through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Lord, so often we fail to thank you as we ought. So often we are not aware of how you are answering our prayers. And so often we go about our daily routines without giving a second thought to what you have done for us. Forgive us, and help us to stop and take the time to praise your name. We pray in the name of Jesus our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Listening God, as we wrestle with questions and problems that plague us, help us to remember that constantly coming to you and pray can provide us with the wisdom and insight we so desperately need. Keep us firm in our commitment to communicate with you with prayer unceasing through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

O God, the great Sower of the Seed, you have planted the seed in each of us. Help us to nourish and sustain that faith by your grace. And keep us strong so that we may continue to grow ever closer to understanding your will for our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER –**

O King of and Lord of lords, may we never be fooled into thinking that there is no life beyond the blessings of this world. Remind us always of the eternal splendor that awaits all believers in heaven. And fill us with the confidence to share this good news of salvation with all who have yet to believe. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Oh God above, we thank you now for the privilege of prayer. For you are always there to listen and to love. Keep us committed to communicating with you. Help us to trust in your answers to our prayers, and draw us closer to you with each and every prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Great God of blessing, you have given us so much. Forgive us when we are greedy for more, when we treasure the things of this earth more than the things of heaven, and when we congratulate ourselves instead of giving you glory. May we never forget that you are the source of all good things and every good and perfect gift. We pray in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior the best gift of all.

**GENERAL PRAYER --**

Lord of the Sabbath, we worship you this day as we unite in prayer. Lead us to worship you everywhere. At home, at school, at work, and at play may we glorify your name and what we say and how we serve. May our worship of you constantly come from the depth of our hearts through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **GENERAL PRAYER --**

Lord exalted now on high, who humbled your cell by coming down to earth to save us from our sins. Help us to follow your example by humbly ourselves before one another and before you. Forgive us when we look down on others or let pride cloud our vision. And keep us ever joyful in our service and faithful in our devotion to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **The Church**

Bless the proclamation of that Word that all may know Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, as One who is able to sympathize with their weaknesses. Thank you for Pastor Cunningham. Grant him strength and perseverance as he serves us here at St. Peter. May he never lose heart or his enthusiasm for preaching your Word. Give us thankful hearts that we may acknowledge the mercy You have shown to us in sending Your beloved Son to die in our place so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. In the name of Jesus we pray.

## **General Prayer**

Thank you gracious God for our wonderful friends, our pets, who give us joy as we care for them and enjoy their companionship. Help them to be nice and friendly as we seek to offer friendship, care and all that is needed to give them comfort. Bless them and keep them safe in your loving arms. In the name of Jesus we pray.

## **General Prayer**

Lord, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. Thank you for all that you provide for our benefit and for our care. We are ever thankful for the addition that unites our church and school. Now we need to retire our debt so that we can continue to envision ministry that will carry us to the future you have already planned for us. Grant us success as we gather sacrificial offerings for this purpose. We bless Your holy name and thank you for your goodness through Christ our Lord.