

## Pastoral Prayer May 5, 2013

Eternal God, when we see the green freshness of our earth renewed by the showers of springtime, we bow our heads in wonder and in thankfulness. When we discover that your love and goodness have been seeking us long before we sought you, we respond with grateful, quickened hearts.

We thank you for all that makes us glad: for the beauty of our world, for strong muscles, for home and church and country. We thank you for the light which shines from the Bible, showing us truth, showing us how to live, showing us Jesus with his promise always to be with us as our greatest friend.

Bless us Lord while you have us here in this church. Give us wisdom. Give us kindness. Give us strength. Enable us to use our powers in ways which produce contentment and peace, for ourselves and for others. Protect and guide our little ones so that they grow in mind and body, filled with happiness and peace.

Deal gently with the ones who must cope with infirmities and with lingering illness. Grant us wit when we encounter those who are distorted and who never see good anywhere, the ones who parade their misery and catalog their ailments, looking far and near for pity. We beg your healing touch upon the souls who despise peace and who never leave a word unspoken if there is some way they can stir up strife. God, you know them. Grant some of your good humor to them, and to us when we must be near them.

Guide now our hearts to your holy altar, where we get life in perspective, where we get our thoughts together. Enable us to discern Jesus and to follow his saving way. At great cost you sent him to us. We now express our thanks.

We are aware, Lord, of the enormity of the cosmos and the vastness of your power. Yet we know that where a few people gather and call your name, you are there with us. Your spirit is gladdened by our worship.

Thank you, God, for coming here to this place of prayer, and for bringing us here. We lift our prayers, silent and spoken, in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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May 5, 2013