

Prayer

September 23, 2018

Jeremiah 11:18–20

Psalms 54

James 3:13—4:3, 7–8a

Mark 9:30–37

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, our redeemer, let us share our prayers and concerns, replying in unison “hear our prayer.”

Gracious God, James taught us that where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and wickedness. Grant that we demonstrate your pure wisdom in our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our prayers, so that we do not ask wrongly for our own pleasures. Lord of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, secular leaders sometimes blind themselves with selfish ambition. Open their ears to your wisdom and their hearts to Your justice. Lord of all, **hear our prayer**

God of Mercy, we pray for those enduring the ravages of war, religious turmoil, and economic oppression. We specifically name Idlib, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Palestine, the many immigrants and refugees, all people oppressed because of minority status. Only You know the depth of suffering in this world. Lord of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Justice, we are told that we live in a Nation of Laws, as we see criminals and innocents locked behind bars, some indefinitely, while powerful perpetrators remain free. Bring true justice to all. Remind those who claim to be followers of Christ that we follow God’s Law of love above any nation’s laws. God of justice, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, we ask that you empower the sexually abused, intercede for the oppressed, comfort the poor, and urge us to be advocates for these people. Before we judge someone’s worth, give us courage to greet him as our brother. Before we judge a person’s value, give us kindness to embrace her as our sister. Before we judge a person’s life, let us welcome them as a child of God. Spirit of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for people enduring UNnatural disasters, particularly the people recovering from hurricanes, typhoons, fires, and floods. We perceive ourselves as having dominion over this world, but dominance suggests control. When we push nature, nature responds in its fury with wind, fire, and water. As we enjoy the autumn color in the Keweenaw, remind us who has real power over nature and who just meddles with nature. Motivate us to actively value and care for your creation, to reduce selfish consumerism, and to be stewards of your gift to us. Lord of creation, **hear our prayer.**

Our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave hope to the hopeless. We pray for mending of body, mind, and spirit for those, whom we name: pause. Lord of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear now, holy God, these other prayers and concerns of your people: pause. Lord of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of eternity, we thank you for saints, all believers in your infinite love and grace. We ask your blessings on the church universal. Welcome us all as Your children into Your everlasting Kingdom. Lord of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Presider: Into your hands, O LORD, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son Jesus Christ our LORD, who taught us to pray . . .