

Prayers 19 September

In response to the message

Heavenly Father we thank you so much that it is only through your goodness and mercy through Jesus – through his death and resurrection – that we can have a certain hope. Lord please help us to understand the gospel in a truthful way – in a way that reflects your desires and your agenda and your word. We pray Father that we would increasingly see the reality of the future that awaits us; that we would so firmly anchor our lives to Jesus' resurrection, and live obediently in great anticipation of his return. Lord help us to proclaim this good news, and delight in it as well. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Our nation

Father, our nation is in turmoil; still fighting the virus, still wrestling with how to ease restrictions safely; still wrestling with border closures; still grappling with a crippled economy. Father have mercy on our nation. May people come to you in trust, in love and to cry out for your help. May these remaining months of 2021, find people coming to you in a new way; in dependence, in repentance and in trust. Please help our nation out of this mess, and as your people may we continue to live faithfully and point others to the hope we have in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For our church

Our loving heavenly Father, in the synod address last weekend, we saw the reality of the present situation of our church. We cry out to you for the transformation of our own hearts, for the renewal of your church. We especially pray for grace to reach the missing generations, of those in their late teens, their twenties, their thirties, their forties, their fifties. Father these people need to hear the saving news of Jesus and find themselves involved in a church where they are built up in you, where they are taught your word, where they are made disciple-making disciples. So Father please, renew our vision. Give us a heart that longs to see more people coming to you, and please show us how to make contact with those who most need to hear of your good news. Renew our clergy; build up our lay leaders; and inspire each and every one of us to a new chapter. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Those who we know and love who are struggling

Our Father we bring before you those who are in need today; because they're sick or unwell in one way or another; because they are recovering from surgery or facing surgery; perhaps because they're nearing death. Please be their refuge and strength and very present help. Help us to love and serve and support them where we can. And please heavenly Father, through these difficult days, no matter what they're facing, may our loved ones find themselves drawing ever closer to you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing prayer

Faithful God, you have promised to hear the prayers of all who ask in Jesus' name. In your mercy, accept our prayers. Give us what we have asked in faith, according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.