



Prayers of the People

Loving God, we praise you this day for loving us. We are your church, the agent you have chosen to bring Christ's grace to the world. We are so feeble and faulty, and yet you love us and use us despite ourselves. On our best days we are not worthy through anything we have done, and yet we still hear and respond to your call. We pray your strength and grace for our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and all other ministers. Lord, bless your church, ***as we walk by faith.***

Loving God, we live in interesting times, when we seem to be divided on so many things. We need your light to shine bright these days, and may our lives become mirrors of your light. We pray for those in authority in this and every land. May their choices reflect your light. May they be uniters not dividers. May they put justice and goodness above petty differences or pride. When we doubt or fear, bring us forward toward your Kingdom, ***as we walk by faith.***

People are starving and war reigns down on so many, too many this day. Prince of Peace we trust in you. Make us agents of your peace where there is hunger, thirst, hopelessness, and fear. May your Spirit go before us as we move to make your Kingdom come, ***as we walk by faith.***

We have needs and wants among this congregation, concerns of our own and those for whom we are responsible or in relationship with us. [We pray especially for _____ (name those for whom prayers are requested) _____.] Help us be the kind word, the gentle touch, the cool drink that they need. We commit ourselves, ***as we walk by faith.***

God of our Journey, you called us, loved us, welcomed us, and led us, and you still do. Your invitation is to any and all. We pray for those who suffer and are in any sort of trouble, those things known and unknown. Help us be open and loving to all we meet. In this coming year, draw us closer to you and to one another, ***as we walk by faith.***

Expectant God, you await the day when you will call all of Creation unto yourself. For those who have already ended their earthly pilgrimage, and are in your loving hands [especially _____] we commend them to you, and trust you will bring us to our eternal home when our time comes ***as we walk by faith. Amen***