

Prayers of Intercession: April 16, 2023 – Easter 2A

First English Lutheran Church, Austin, TX

People of God, as we are united in the joy and wonder of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need and thanksgiving. *A brief silence.*

Holy One, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary and beautiful world. Following the women at the tomb, empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words, our work, and our play.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, as you breathed your Spirit into your first disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon us and all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains. Guide us to advocate for those displaced by severe weather. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction with purposeful action as individuals, and with our votes and actions.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, you prepare disciples for ministry by inviting us to move through our fears and granting us your peace with justice. Equip our communities' leaders, including our congregation council. Give them a spirit of determination and hearts and actions that burn for justice, that their leadership reflect your radical trust in us.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, you are present in unexpected and ordinary ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love because of our sin. Help us to trust each other with intention. Be a healing presence for anyone isolated and despairing by gun violence, addiction, hunger, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or any grief, including all who have asked for our prayers, and those we name, silently and aloud. *silence.* May surgeries, medications, therapies, spiritual care, and the love of friends guide us to a fuller wholeness.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, as you met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, show us your presence along our journeys. This community of faith belongs to you. Help us hold fast to this assurance. Bless our doubts and questions. Provide trusting and safe relationships and environments for all ages to nurture our connection to you and one another. Be present with Holden Fuerst as he affirms his baptism today in holy confirmation. May your Spirit burn brightly through him.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our journey, including those who rest in your love whom we now name. *silence.* Strengthen us, that with Thomas, we may know the eternal peace of your promises.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through things unknown.

Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**