

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*\*With the words of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus was not teaching us merely specific words to say, but good and pleasing things for which to ask our Lord. In light of that, the Prayer of the Church for the next several weeks will be a collective prayer written by 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of Emanuel Lutheran School. This week's Prayer of the Church reflects the Second Petition: "Thy kingdom come."*

M: Heavenly Father, we know your kingdom exists even without our prayer. We give thanks that you have chosen to bring us into your kingdom through your unfailing love and grace, displayed for us in the sacrifice of Christ. Through this good news you have called us out of the darkness and given us eternal life.

**C: May we live as citizens of your kingdom with godly lives that clearly express your will.**

M: Your kingdom comes to us through word and sacraments. Keep us close to these means of grace, that through them the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith.

**C: With a stronger faith, may we increase your kingdom by telling others of your saving love.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Give us the courage and strength to share the news of your kingdom with others that they may one day be in your heavenly kingdom with us.

**C: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

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