

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**For several weeks, the Prayer of the Church is a collective prayer written by 8th grade students of Emanuel Lutheran School and focused on a different petition of the Lord's Prayer. This week's Prayer of the Church reflects the Fifth Petition: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."*

M: Heavenly Father, we know we are sinful and do not deserve your blessings. However, in Christ you hold out the promise of forgiveness.

C: Forgive our sins against you and others. Forgive the sins of all people.

M: When we struggle to forgive others, remind us of your mercy.

C: With the strength of your forgiveness, help us to forgive others in the same way.

M: Often it is difficult to forgive those who have sinned against us. Help us to be repentant when anger tries to overpower our focus on Christ. Help us to forgive others gladly from the heart.

C: May our actions also reflect forgiveness as we do good to those who have sinned against us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions, especially asking for a forgiving heart.

Silent prayer.

M: Lord, your forgiveness assures us we will be in heaven with you.

C: For this and every spiritual blessing, we give you thanks. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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