

P Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation.

P Merciful God, **G** receive our prayer.

L We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. For flooding in California, Western Australia, and all places with too much water. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern and northern hemispheres. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably.

P Merciful God, **G** receive our prayer.

L O God, your divinity transcends distinctions of gender, and through the generations you widen our awareness of human diversity. We gather here before you in our various expressions of gender identity, all of us one in Christ Jesus. Open the church to their witness. We ask that with your creative Spirit you cultivate new relationships, mend old wounds, and nurture communities of respect, for the sake of the one who embraces all persons in love, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

P Merciful God, **G** receive our prayer.

L Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely.

P Merciful God, **G** receive our prayer.

L Gracious God, we give you thanks for bishops, pastors, and deacons – South Carolina Bishop, Virginia Aebischer and our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Inspire leaders of the church to proclaim your mighty deeds, that your saving faith may be known to all.

P Merciful God, **G** receive our prayer.

L Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors.

P Merciful God, **G** receive our prayer.

P We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life.

P Merciful God, **G** receive our prayer.

P We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.