

PRAYERS

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 5, 2023

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

A brief silence.

L For the family of Tyre Nichols and the city of Memphis as they experience the trauma of police brutality...Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and actions. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice.

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

L For a renewed commitment to seeking racial justice as we enter Black History Month...Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world, and ourselves.

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 Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness.

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

L Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way.

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

L Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors.

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

P The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven.

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.

G Amen.