

Prayers April 19th

*When I say, "Lord, in your mercy," you respond, "**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**"*

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence is held.

Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, and all in need.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, relief workers, ordinary people who place themselves in danger in these extraordinary times, and all who find themselves in harm's way.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear now the prayers of our hearts, offered in the silence of our hearts:

Hold silence for a moment before going on.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith.

Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.