

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- One: Stand near in the darkness, Gracious God.
We are broken by our losses and afraid of our future,
overwhelmed by all we cannot understand.
We are heavy with sadness and grief,
sick with despair, and aching with emptiness.
- All: Stand near in the darkness, Gracious God,
and comfort us.**
- One: We are confused and saddened by the injustices in our communities and world.
We are frightened to find ourselves doubting your love.
- All: Stand near in the darkness, Gracious God,
and comfort us.**
- One: Our bodies cannot rise or rest; our hearts are heavy;
we are anxious about today and tomorrow.
We are fearful and seeking; hopeful, yet hesitant.
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and shine your light upon us.
- All: Stand near in the darkness, Gracious God,
and comfort us.**
- One: Save and restore us, Good Lord, by your love.
Only you can heal us.
Send your life-giving Spirit to renew our broken hearts.
Increase in us patience with ourselves and one another.
- All: Good Lord, by your love,
save and restore us.**
- One: Give us grace to let go of lost dreams,
entrusting ourselves to your purpose and will.
Use our sorrows to enlarge our compassion toward others and ourselves.
Release us from fear, renew us in love, and rekindle our hope.
- All: Good Lord, by your love,
save and restore us.
Fill us with gratitude for the good things we enjoy,
and help us to notice our daily blessings.
Lead us to seek you,
and give us the grace to shine your light
in Jesus the Christ, who teaches us to pray, saying . . .**
- Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Reflect on the past year . . . and the year that lies ahead . . .

What are your hopes and dreams?

Your laments and praises?

Your joys and concerns?

Your losses and gains?

Jot down what comes to mind.

Then as you leave the sanctuary,
place them in the basket provided,
and your pastors will read over them
and lift them up in prayer to God.