

# *A Devotion in the form of a Prayer*

Leader: Confident that God listens to our prayers, let us call upon God for the sake of the church, the world, and all who are in need of prayer.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Good and gracious God, your children thank and praise you for creating us in your image, calling us as your very own daughters and sons, and cultivating in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Send your Holy Spirit to energize and equip your whole church, that all may come to unity in Christ. God, in your mercy,

**Group: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Living Word, Jesus Christ, you know the hurts and hopes of nations and of peoples everywhere. Make your presence known at every table -- the tables of government, schools, workplaces, and homes; that your justice and peace may prevail. God, in your mercy,

**Group: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, to open our ears, to soften our hearts, to guide our words and our actions. Equip us to be little Christ's to all we meet; to lead lives of humbleness, gentleness, patience and love; to overcome evil with goodness. God, in your mercy,

**Group: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Healer of our every woe, hope of every living thing, hear our prayers for those who are heavy-laden with physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual ills, especially those we name now in our hearts . . . Ease their pain; restore their hope and joy in you. God, in your mercy,

**Group: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of all who bear witness to the Gospel, we give thanks for the ministry of the LWML – the Lutheran Women in Mission, especially those who serve in this zone and community on behalf of the whole church. We give thanks for all their ministries locally and globally, both today and throughout the generations. Continue to bless the witness and work of these women and the men who support them in their calling. Bless the mite gifts, that they may be used to equip the saints, build up the church, and reconcile the whole of creation to you. God, in your mercy,

**Group: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God, the Alpha and Omega, we give you thanks for the memory and witness of all who rest now in your presence, especially those we name now in our hearts . . . . Comfort those who grieve for them, and bring us at last to that joyful day when we will see them, and you, face to face.

Leader: Into your tender keeping we commend all for whom we pray, confident in your grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

**Group: Amen.**