

Synod Prayers for First Quarter, 2010

Prayers for January 3, 2010, Second Sunday of Christmas

Into flesh is made the Word, Hallelujah!
Our true refuge and our Lord, Hallelujah!
(ELW 291)

From our synod prayer calendar, we remember our **Residential Care Ministries**. We pray for **St. John's Lutheran Ministries, Billings, and its partners in ministry, The Crossings in Laurel, and Sapphire Lutheran Home in Hamilton** and all their ongoing ministries with residents, staff, and families, the Center for Generations Child-care Center and After-school program and the Transitional Care Center. We also pray for **Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell, and Valley View Lutheran Home in Glasgow**. May they be homes of dignity, peace, hope, and helpfulness within their communities. May those who are broken in body or spirit receive comfort in sorrow, company in loneliness, and know that they are safe and warm in these places. Amen.

Feet o' Jesus

*At the feet o' Jesus,
Sorrow like a sea.
Lordy, let yo' mercy
Come driftin' down on me.*

*At the feet o' Jesus
At yo' feet I stand.
O my little Jesus,
Please reach out yo' hand.*

-Langston Hughes

(This Far by Faith, p. 57)

Prayers for January 10, 2010, Baptism of our Lord

I bind this day to me forever, by pow'r of faith, Christ's incarnation, his baptism in the Jordan River, his cross of death for my salvation, his bursting from the spiced tomb, his riding up the heav'nly way, his coming at the day of doom, I bind unto myself today. (vs. 2)

From the synod prayer calendar, we remember **Central Hi-Line Ministries:**

Let your light shine on us, Lord God, and grant us the gift of discernment to understand what we must do to grow and to fulfill Christ's commission. May we follow his example in our ministries, and witness to his love wherever we are sent. Amen.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. (vs. 4)

-Patrick; Cecil Frances Alexander

(ELW 450)

Prayers for January 17, 2010, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora

Mi Corazon te sabe decir:

Santo eres Senor.

From our synod prayer calendar, we remember the **Cape Orange Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Africa**: Bless our companion synod in South Africa. Strengthen our companion congregation and help us to build strong relationships throughout the world for the building up of God's kingdom.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.

Argentine traditional, ELW 473

Prayers for January 24, 2010, Third Sunday after Epiphany

O Christ, your heart, compassionate, bore every human pain

Its beating was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast domain.

The heart of God, the heart of Christ, combined in perfect rhyme,

To write God's love in human deeds, eternity in time.

From our prayer calendar, we remember **Zion Lutheran, Lewistown**:

Lord, who calls us to love you with heart and soul and mind, prosper the ministries of Zion Lutheran as they enter their 98th year of ministry, and renew their commitment to its confessional and liturgical heritage, and their gifts of benevolence support to local people and agencies as well as to regional and global ministries of evangelism, justice, and humanitarian relief. Amen.

As once you welcomed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,

So may all bruised and broken lives through us your help still find.

Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a lone,

And help us bear another's pain as though it were our own.

-Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr.

(ELW 722)

Prayers for January 31, 2010, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

*O Christ, create new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
That joined by faith with your great heart become love's open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
That through our life and ministry your love may be revealed.*

From our synod prayer calendar, we remember **American, Harlowton; Trinity, Martinsdale; and Grace, Ryegate.**

Risen Lord, help us discern what it means to be people who are gathered in faith and sent in love to share the hope of the cross. Keep us ever mindful of rural poverty, and remind us that we can make a difference in the quality of people's lives by connecting them with Christ.

*O Love that made the distant stars, yet mark the sparrow's fall,
Whose arms stretched wide upon a cross embrace and bear us all:
Come make your church a servant church that walks your servant ways,
Whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sacrifice of praise.*

(Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., ELW 722)

Prayers for February 7, 2010, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see you.*

From our synod prayer calendar, we remember **Faith, Hamilton; Trinity Lutheran and First Presbyterian in Hot Springs**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we humbly thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We praise you for your creation and preservation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings in life. We pray that you would guide and bless congregations and denominations that are joining to work together and venture into new territories as bold witnesses to Jesus Christ in our communities.

I want to see you...

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.

Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see you.

-Paul Baloche

(Renewing Worship R 126)

Prayers for February 14, 2010, Transfiguration of our Lord and the Last Sunday after Epiphany

Calling on You, O Lord

*O God, you have prepared in peace
the path I must follow today.
Help me to walk straight on that path.
If I speak, remove lies from my lips.
If I am hungry, take away from me all complaint.
If I have plenty, destroy pride in me.
May I go through the day calling on you,
you, O Lord,
who know no other Lord. Amen.*

Anonymous

(This Far by Faith, p. 261)

From our synod prayer calendar, we remember **Pondera Valley and Golden West, Conrad; Our Savior's, Chester; and St. Olaf, Ledger:**

We thank you, Lord, for all your many blessings, and we ask you to guide these ministries in sharing their blessings for the sake of the gospel. May they boldly proclaim the good news, rejoicing always in your powerful presence in their lives and missions. Amen.

I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace.

From "O Lord, Now Let your Servant", Ernest Ryden
(ELW 313)

Prayers for February 21, 2010, First Sunday in Lent

*Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.*

*Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage—channel to a life made new.*

From our synod prayer calendar, we remember **First Lutheran, Savage; Grace Lutheran, Skaar; First Lutheran, Circle; and American Lutheran, Richey.**

We pray that you will stir up in us a desire to read and study your word. Guide us as we seek your purpose, and let the seeds of your word find good soil in which to take root and grow in us. May our minds know you, our hearts love you, our wills serve you, and may we ever remember whose we are. Amen.

*Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.*

*Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.*
Sylvia G. Dunstan
(ELW 455)

Prayers for February 28, 2010, Second Sunday in Lent

*Around you, O Lord Jesus, your own you gather still
To share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill...*

From our synod prayer calendar, we remember **Zion and Pleasant Prairie, Greater Flaxville Area; and Immanuel and St. John's, Greater Westby Area.**

We ask that you give us an awareness of your mercies, that with thankful hearts we praise you, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by living in your gifts of holiness and righteousness all our days. Grant us inspiration and motivation to overcome obstacles so that we may make worship spaces and worship places that are accessible to all people.

*...you are still among your people dwelling,
as you have said you will.*

Frans Mikael Franzen
(Excerpts from ELW 468)