

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**How big is God?  
Palm Sunday  
Psalm 118:1-13**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

As we are called into worship today,  
it is sobering to remember  
that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus,  
most of the world did not recognize him  
and therefore did not worship him.  
Today we ask for faith that will open our eyes  
to see Jesus for who he is,  
that we might worship him in truth.  
People of God, behold and see your God!

**We open our eyes to see his glory.  
We open our ears to hear his wisdom.  
We open our hands to offer him gifts.  
We open our mouths to sing his praise.  
We open our hearts to offer him our love.  
He is Lord!**

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

We praise you, O God,  
for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.  
He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph  
and was proclaimed Messiah and King  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Just as we carry these branches,  
may we follow Christ in the way of the cross,  
that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Special Music: "In Christ Alone"**

### **Dedication**

#### **Minister**

A baby dedication is a wonderful time and as a church we have been blessed to have another baby join our church family. We will take time today to honor the family and the child that they have welcomed into their household and into our household of faith. We as a church are committed to helping this family raise this child in the name and the ways of Jesus Christ.

This process is called a dedication in that the child is placed before God and a covenant is made between the parents and God, and the Church and parents to say this child belongs to God, much like Hannah bringing Samuel to the temple in the Old Testament or Mary and Joseph bringing the young Jesus to the temple in the New Testament to say he is yours Lord.

There is a distinct difference between a baptism and dedication. A dedication is a commitment to raise the child in Christ and allows them to receive the sacrament of Baptism when they choose to make their own commitment to Christ.

The dedication means that this child's family and church family will put forth every effort to raise the child in a way in which they will see what it means to live a life of loving God first and loving your neighbor as yourself.

The parents and the church get to live a life that models what it is to be a Christian in those around them, this is a blessing for the child, the parents, and the church. This is also a strong call upon the church and its members to support the parents through prayer, encouragement, and direction as they raise their child in the ways of the Lord.

This is a covenant that we all take together, as a church to come alongside these parents as they disciple their child in God's ways. It is a commission to the parents to raise their child in the ways of the Lord. This is not something that is commanded or required in the Scriptures, but it is something that we do as a congregation of Christ to offer our blessings and support of these parents as they have blessed us by being members of our church community.

In the family of God, we are all commissioned to teach our children about God from birth; to follow God in his ways, to trust him at every step of life and this day we formalize that and make our commitment to raise the child in the ways of the Lord as parents and as a church community.

Parents would you please come up with your child and any other family members who wish to be a part of this dedication.

It is a blessing to be a part of a church in which there are new babies, new blessings from God, and it is a blessing and a joy to be given the opportunity to pray, to watch them grow up and to encourage these parents and their child to follow in the ways of Jesus Christ.

We will begin with the affirmations of the family, a commitment to the things that as parents (and direct family members) that you will promise before God to do and then as a congregation we will also make some affirmations before God.

**Minister**

Parents, your child is precious in the sight of God, it is he who will carry on the mission, the glory, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ after us. He must hear, be taught, and believe the Word of God, the glory and wonder of God, and the story of God and the deliverance of his people from death to life through Jesus Christ.

Parents, the Lord is our God and by his power and grace will you love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, strength and with His help and in His promises will you lead and teach by your example and in your words, so that your child might know the mercy and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ?

**Parent(s)**

We will.

**Minister**

Will you strive to diligently love your child and talk with him in the morning, and the day and the night about the goodness of our God?

**Parent(s)**

We will.

**Minister**

Will you to the best of your ability and under the grace of God be a Godly example to your child, knowing full well that he will follow after the examples that you present before him in his life?

**Congregation**

We will.

**Minister**

We will pray over your child today and lay hands over him. I would ask the Elders of the church to join me as we pray and lay hands of blessing on this child.

**(sprinkle)**

Child, you are made in the image of God, fearfully and wonderfully made by the creator of all. Since the very beginning of time, he has known you. God knows who you are and who you will become, may you grow by his power and grace to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, strength, and mind. May you walk in the presence of the Lord every day of your life. On this day we ask you Lord that you bless this child and his parents in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen,

Parents are committed to raising your child in the ways and the name of Jesus Christ and the Gospel and that is a high calling. However, we as their church family also have the opportunity, the responsibility and in fact the duty to partner with them both in person and in prayer.

I would ask that the congregation now stand as we make our affirmations as a church family.

Perth Community Church, as a holy fellowship we are bound together in the Holy Spirit, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And as a body of the one true church, we are presenting this child as well to the church body and it is our joy and duty to support these parents, and their child.

If you are willing, raise your hand in blessing and answer these questions which I will put before you with 'we will'

To the saints who are gathered here at Perth Community Church, remember our God is a faithful God. Will you seek to hold fast to your hope in Jesus Christ without wavering?

**Congregation**

We will

**Minister**

Will you consider, ponder, and think deeply upon, and stir up, encourage, and comfort these parents as they raise their child in the love of the Lord and His Word?

**Congregation**

We will

**Minister**

Will you pray for these parents to be equipped to patiently love, to disciple their child, and to grow in the knowledge and understanding of God as the years go by?

**Congregation**

We will

**Minister**

Will you alongside these parents, as God's elect exiles do all that you can to love them, encourage them, pray for them, and to be a Godly example not only to these parents, but to this child as well?

**Congregation**

We will

**Minister**

Let us pray,  
 Father,  
 We ask that you would be with this family.  
 May this child be set aside from this world for your purposes.  
 May this family bring the light of Christ wherever they go in this world.  
 Father, we pray that you would use us as the church to love them.  
 And to help them grow in spiritual maturity.  
 And wisdom and favor with God and man.  
 Father helps us to be a community of Godly Love.  
 Lord as you have loved us, let us love them.  
 Father be with them, encourage them, strengthen them, and provide for them.  
 We pray this in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
 Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit as the One True Living  
 God. Now and Forever. **Amen.**

**Children's Hymn #250: "Lord of the Dance"**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
 And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;  
 And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
 At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John -  
They came with me and the Dance went on.

*Chorus*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die.

*Chorus*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black -  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the Dance, and I still go on.

*Chorus*

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

*Chorus*

### **Call to Confession**

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Let us make our confession to God.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Jesus, our Lord, we shout hosannas to praise you.  
With eager hands, we place our cloaks and palms on the path before you.  
Yet, Lord, we confess that the mouths that seek to praise you often deny or defy you.  
And we confess that the hands that seek to serve you often become fists.  
Lord, hear us as we confess to you our sins in our hearts.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Christ came into the world not to condemn the world,  
but that the world through him should be saved.

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children.

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Hosanna! Amen!

### The Lord's Prayer

**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 the Evil One.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

### Music Ministry: "Do You See That Man" Choir

### Responsive Reading

#### Psalm 118:19-29

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> **This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> **The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> **This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we pray, O LORD!

O LORD, we pray, give us success!

<sup>26</sup> **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God,  
and he has made his light to shine upon us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
up to the horns of the altar!

<sup>28</sup> **You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.**

**<sup>29</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

**Hymn #214: “All Glory, Laud and Honour” (V 1,2,3)**

*All glory, laud, and honor  
To Thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Make sweet hosannas ring.*

THOU art the King of Israel,  
Thou, David’s royal Son,  
Who in the Lord’s name comest,  
The King and Blessed One.

*All glory, laud, and honor  
To Thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Make sweet hosannas ring.*

The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before Thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before Thee we present.

To Thee, before Thy passion,  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To Thee, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.

**Prayer for illumination**  
**(Congregant Prepared)**

**Scripture**

**Psalm 118:1-13**

**118** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

<sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say,



**“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

**<sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

**<sup>5</sup> Out of my distress I called on the LORD;  
the LORD answered me and set me free.**

**<sup>6</sup> The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.  
What can man do to me?**

**<sup>7</sup> The LORD is on my side as my helper;  
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.**

**<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in man.**

**<sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in princes.**

**<sup>10</sup> All nations surrounded me;  
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!**

**<sup>11</sup> They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;  
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!**

**<sup>12</sup> They surrounded me like bees;  
they went out like a fire among thorns;  
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!**

**<sup>13</sup> I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,  
but the LORD helped me.**

### **Sermon**

Christians all around the world proclaim the power of God, in the world and in their lives. We have songs that proclaim how great and how powerful our God is, we have people saying that they can endure anything in this world because of God.

Yet these same people that sing these songs, and proclaim these words, take the all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God, and try to define who he is and what he can do. They essentially stick him into a box, so that they can understand in their own lives.

When they do this, they are trying to limit the power that God has in their lives, what he can do and what he can do through them in this world.

What is even more interesting is that this seems to be a problem that exists primarily in western culture. In places like South America, Africa and Asia Christians do not attempt to limit God and what he can do in their lives, they expect and anticipate that he will move in miraculous ways every day.

The western Church claims to believe the same things, we claim that God can save, heal, provide, touch, strengthen, restore and so many other things in the lives of his followers and others. Yet when it comes down to times of tribulation and trials, we tend to turn to ourselves and other worldly places first before we turn to God.

Why do we do this, why do we set aside God at the times when he can do the most for us in this world? We know that God can do all of these things, we know that the Bible is God's Word, and that God can heal, provide, strengthen, and save.

We know that God walks alongside us each and everyday of our lives, but when troubles, trials and tribulations hit, we suddenly doubt that God will do those things for us. Or we begin to get tired of waiting for God to do the things we want, so we put God in a box, and jump into the world to figure it out for ourselves.

Then when the world cannot help us, we turn back to God and we try to negotiate with God, or place demands upon him, saying 'God if you do this, I will do that.' And when what we want does not happen the way that we want, we throw a tantrum. We stomp our feet, pout our lips, and get angry with God.

We forget that we turned away from God first, we limited his influence in our lives by not placing our trust in him and instead turning to the world. We took on an attitude of defeat, we believe that we cannot be healed, or strengthened, or saved, because our worldly attempt failed. So, we turn to God with a sense of despair, and demand that he does it for us.

The truth is that when we turn to the world first instead of God first, we are letting the world into our lives, and it will destroy our hope and joy.

People of God you need to remember the word of Jesus Christ:

**Mark 10: 27**

**<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God"**

So many of us have seen God at work in our lives and in the lives of those around us, yet we still have trouble placing our full trust in the Lord. So many times, we find it easier to tell others to trust in God, than to place that same trust in the Lord ourselves.

Yet, we all need to learn to trust fully in God. The truth is that Trust in God is a central theme of the Scripture. Trust and Obey is the foundation of our faith and that trust is the very literal center of God's Word.

Did you know that the shortest chapter of the entire Bible is Psalm 117 and that the Longest Chapter of the Bible is Psalm 119. Psalm 118 sits between them, even more interesting is that there are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118. It sits at the center

of the chapters as well. What is most interesting however is if you add up 594 and 594, it comes out as 1188 or Psalm 118:8

**Psalm 118:8**

**<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in man.**

Many of us can empathize with and understand the writer of this Psalm. The author of Psalm 118 is suffering through situations in their life that are beyond their control. They might be overwhelmed by temptations, or troubles at home or at work. They might be financially troubled or social outcasts. They might even feel that the church would not be willing to accept them because of their past and have no hope of moving beyond it into a better future, they are just struggling to get by each day.

We have all experienced these feelings of doubt and despair. We have all had times when the struggle against the world seemed to be too much. And here at the very center of God's Word lies the answer, '**<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.**' In the very center of the Scripture, it tells us to place our trust fully in God, to find our hope and joy in God alone, because the ways of man will ultimately fail us every time.

We all know this, people, technology, science, all the things that this world turns to and places above God, ultimately fail us at some point. God will never fail us. Close to 170 times in the Scriptures that we are told to trust in God.

So why do we find it so hard to do so?

Trusting in God is one of the most challenging things that Christians learn to do as they live their lives. As we look out at the world around us, we often begin to wonder if there is a God at all, we look at the evils and problems of the world and we doubt God. We look out at a fallen world that is falling further and further into chaos and we begin to wonder even if there was a God, will he have time for me with everything else that is happening?

The truth is we want to trust in him, but it is hard. Even though we know and understand that trusting in the Lord is a vital part of our spiritual lives, it is quite often the weakest part of our faith.

And therein lies the irony, when we know just how amazing and powerful God is, we are willing to open up our lives to Him and we experience Him in our lives more and more.

But we cannot do that, so we doubt him, our faith is weak, and we do not experience God in our lives.

God works in mysterious ways, and when we begin to grow in our faith, when we learn to trust and obey more and more, we begin to see God more and more at work in our lives.

If you do not have faith or have a weak faith, your life will stay the same, governed by the ways of the world and destined to go through the turmoil of judgement at the end of times.

Trust and obey in the Lord, have faith in what he can do, and he will begin to do it in your life. There are millions of stories out there, examples of God working in miraculous and unexplainable ways, and yet we still find it so hard to have faith in him to do the same thing in our lives.

It is so simple. Yet it is so very, very, very difficult to have faith.

God asks us to do one of the most difficult things for a human being to do. He asks us to set aside our understanding of the world and the situation, to put aside our sense of earthy reality and logic and place all of our trust in him.

And that is the challenge. Trusting in God is not something we jump into fully all at once, it is not like a light switch either on or off. Trusting in God is like weightlifting. We start small and build our way up. The same way that our faith starts small and grows as we spiritually mature.

There are many times in our lives that we will trust in God. Pray to him, petition him and nothing will happen.

That is not exactly true however, something did happen, we trusted in God, and that trust will help us grow in our faith, sometimes just a little, and every time that we turn to him and trust in him, our faith grows just a little bit more.

As we grow in our faith, our spiritual maturity. We will believe in him more and more, we will want to know more and more about him, we will want to spend more time with him, and we will turn to him more and more.

We need to know that God is not the Genie from Aladdin, or Santa Claus. He does not give us what we want, just because we want it. There is no magic word, or secret club that gets everything that they want from God. Remember God is more concerned about our eternal being that he is about our short time here on earth.

When we go to God we need to trust and obey, remember last week, we need to be humble and reverent, submitting to Him and His Scriptures in our lives. God wants to be active in our lives, he wants to make things happen for our eternal well being and because of that we need to remember that His plans for our lives, and our plans for our lives are often very different.

When we have hopes and prayers that go unanswered, we need to remember that God knows what is best for our eternal being, we are too often focused on the here and now. We need to know that he always does what is best for us, and for our faith to grow. We need to learn to have faith, to trust and obey, regardless of what is happening in the world around us, regardless

of the situation that we find ourselves in, knowing that God is at work, he is fully aware of our lives and everything we are going through.

We have to take the proverbial leap of faith, trust God with our lives, knowing that he is there like a loving Father ready to catch us.

Having faith like that is difficult, it takes time, practice, and strength, through many smaller jumps. But once we can make that leap of faith into the arms of God, we give Him the freedom to do anything He needs to in our lives without our own will and desires getting in His way.

This is why the wise king Solomon said:

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

**<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.**

**<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.**

It is why the great prophet Isaiah said:

**Isaiah 26:4**

**<sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever,  
for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.**

If we are trusting in God, he is at work in our lives.

Every week when we pray the Lord's prayer, we pray that 'His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' We are saying God do what you need to on earth to bring your people home.

So how do we examine our lives and see if we are placing our complete faith in the Lord, if we are trusting and obeying in every way that we can?

The answer lies in Paul's letter to the Roman churches.

**Romans 8:5-17**

**<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,  
but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**

**<sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

**<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he**

who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

### **Heirs with Christ**

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

<sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

To completely trust in God, we need to be led by the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Holy Spirit enters us the moment that we give ourselves to Christ, He is ever present in us and constantly at work building us up in the character of Jesus Christ.

It is the Holy Spirit that leads us into an understanding of our sins and helps us stop letting the flesh lead us astray in this world. It is the Holy Spirit that strengthens us each and every day in our ability to trust and obey the Lord.

The flesh and the Spirit are constantly waging a battle against one another in us, there is no compromise, no middle ground, and no truce. There is God’s way and the world’s way, and on the day of judgement you will either be allied with God or allied with the world.

It is the flesh that causes us to doubt God, to put him in a box and to place our faith in the world.

So today, Palm Sunday, the day that the Lord entered into Jerusalem with a singular purpose, to be a sacrifice for our sins so that we would no longer be ruled by the power of the flesh, let us stop putting God in a box.

Let us learn to trust in Him in every aspect of our lives.

Let us be willing to be led by the Holy Spirit, even when it goes against the will and the ways of this world.

Let us stop allowing the flesh and our desires for sinful pleasures to win in our lives.

Let us trust and obey in the Lord as we walk as the Salt and Light of his Word in this fallen world.

Let us pray,

**Give Us Highest Comfort in Your Grace**

Lord God, heavenly Father,  
 in your fatherly grace you did not spare your only Son  
 but gave him up to death on the cross.  
 Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts  
 that we may find our highest comfort in your grace.  
 Protect us from temptations to sin more,  
 and help us patiently bear whatever hardships may come,  
 so that through him we may have eternal life.

***Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Lent 6 / Palm Sunday***

**Hymn #216: "Hosanna"**

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest  
 Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest  
 Lord we lift up your name with hearts full of praise  
 Be exalted Oh Lord my God: Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!  
 Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!  
 Lord we lift up your name with hearts full of praise  
 Be exalted Oh Lord my God: Glory to the King of kings!

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

**(Congregant Prepared)**

**Closing Hymn #217: "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" (V 1,2,5)**

Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
 hark, all the tribes Hosanna cry.  
 O Saviour meek, pursue thy road  
 with palms and scattered garments strewed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
 in lowly pomp ride on to die.  
 O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
 o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
 in lowly pomp ride on to die.

Bow thy meek head to mortal pain;  
then take, O God, thy power and reign.

### Pastoral Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You came to us in humility,  
reaching out to all God's little ones with mercy and compassion.  
You ask us to do the same.  
So today we pray for all those who find themselves in humble circumstances:  
For the homeless in our community and for refugees wherever they take shelter;  
For the poor and all who find themselves without resources to cope these days;  
For those who live in isolated communities in Canada and around the world,  
lacking access to care, resources and technology others take for granted.  
Strengthen them in your mercy,  
and humble us, lest we forget how much we have to be grateful for.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
hear us as we pray for all those who have been humbled by life's unexpected turns  
We remember before you  
those who face illness, pain or injury;  
those who have known death or disaster, fear or failure;  
and all who struggle with anxiety and uncertainty.  
We pray for victims of crime  
and those who suffer through the misjudgment or mistake of others.  
And we pray for those who suffer because of the consequences  
of their own actions and choices.  
Embrace them in your mercy,  
and humble us, lest we imagine we can live lives untouched by trouble

Lord Jesus Christ,  
hear us as we pray for those who have not learned the lessons of humility yet:  
for those who live carelessly or drive recklessly, endangering themselves and others;  
for those who abuse the trust and power in their positions,  
betraying those whose interests are in their hands;  
And we pray for those who mislead others for gain  
or indulge their fame with no thought for the example they set.  
Humble them in your mercy,  
And humble us if we are tempted to ignore the consequences of our own actions.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we watch you walk to your Cross this week,  
fill us with humble gratitude that you go before us into any challenge or crisis we may  
face.



Give us courage to stand with others facing injustice or prejudice,  
and give us words to speak out for those at risk at home or abroad,  
for you have given us words to pray for the coming of your kingdom,  
your reign of justice, mercy, and peace.  
In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

May the God who sent his Son  
so that we could be adopted as God's own children,  
send his Spirit into your hearts—  
especially in this week of remembrance and renewal—  
and equip you to live  
as God's own children,  
dearly loved and called to serve a needy world.