**Praying for Sunday Worship Services (A)**

**Opening prayer:** O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Worship/Praise**

**Hebrews 12:28: Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe….**

* *That our worship would be rooted in thanksgiving to Him*
* *That we would worship God with reverence and awe*

**Posture of the congregation**

**Psalm 108:1,4-5: My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!  For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!**

* For hearts and minds that are fixed on bringing praise to our loving, faithful Lord
* That as we sing his praises we would glorify the one, true living God

**The Word of God (read and preached)**

**2 Timothy 4:1-2: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.**

* *Guide Ben (or the preacher) to rightly divide the word of truth and to boldly proclaim it.*
* *Sanctify us in Your word, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.*

**Impact on the congregation and individuals**

**Luke 4:18-19:** “**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”**

* *That we would humbly receive the word of God*
* *That Jesus would set us free from any areas of our life where we are in bondage; that we would be built up in the faith*
* *That any in the congregation who do not yet know you would repent and have faith in Jesus Christ*

**Protection**

**Matthew 6:13(b) “…deliver us from evil.”** **John 17:15: I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.**

* *For God’s protection over the congregation from every attack of the enemy*
* *Help us be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might and to resist the devil.*

**Prayer**

**1 Timothy 2:1-4: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

* *Grant that we would so**abide in Christ, and His words abide in us that whatever we ask will be done for us.*
* *That our prayers would not be vain repetitions but that we would seek Him with all our hearts.*

**Financial offerings**

**2 Corinthians 9:7: Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

*That we would give cheerfully in accord with His will for us.*

**Confession/Forgiveness**

**Psalm 51:1: Have mercy on me O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

* *That we would humbly confess our sins and receive His forgiveness in Christ by faith.*
* *That we would not condemn ourselves, but stand in His grace and righteousness.*

**Relationships within the Church/Unity**

**John 13:34-35: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

* *That any members of the congregation who are estranged from one another would be reconciled to each other*
* *That we would warmly welcome visitors*

**Holy Communion**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-25: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said,** “**This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,** “**This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

* *That the congregation would individually and collectively remember Jesus as we celebrate Holy Communion*
* *That we would celebrate His sacrifice with a spirit of thanksgiving*

**Closing prayer**: O Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Praying for Sunday Worship Services (B)**

**Opening prayer:** Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant that in this *Congregation* the pure Word of God may be preached and the Sacraments duly administered. Strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of your truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Worship/Praise**

**Psalm 84:2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

* *That our worship would come from hearts longing to be close to the Lord*
* *That the joy of the Lord would permeate our worship*

**Posture of the Congregation**

**Psalm 100:1-4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!**

**Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

* *That the congregation would be aware of His presence and that we belong to Him*
* *That the congregation would overflow with thanksgiving and praise to God*

**The Word of God (read and preached)**

**Hebrews 4:12:  For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

* *That the written word of God would be read with reverence, authority and skill*
* *That the word of God would be preached in the power of the Holy Spirit*

**Impact on the congregation and on individuals**

**Romans 12:1-2: I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

* *That the congregation would grow in our awareness of the spiritual riches we have in Jesus Christ*
* *That we would individually and corporately offer ourselves to the Lord as a living sacrifice*

**Protection**

**Ephesians 6:11-13: Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.**

* *Grant that the congregation, individually and collectively would put on the whole armor of God that we might stand firm against the schemes of the devil*
* *Help us grow in the conviction that through Christ we have victory over the flesh, the world and the devil*

**Prayer**

**Ephesians 1:17-19: …that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might…**

* *That the Spirit of God would guide and empower our corporate prayers including the prayers of the people and the other prayers in the liturgy*
* *That we would be listening for and receptive to whatever the Holy Spirit is saying to us*

**Financial Offerings**

**1 Timothy 6:17-19: As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.**

* *Grant that our congregation would set our hopes on God, not on our financial prosperity.*
* *Help us to give generously to the Lord for the extension of His kingdom.*

**Confession**

**1 John 1:8-9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

* *Help us see rightly your holiness and love and our sins against You*
* *Grant that we would not live in condemnation or guilt but hold firmly to your gracious promises to forgive us through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice, once for all*

**Relationships within the church (unity)**

**John 17:21: …that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”**

**Romans 12:10: Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.**

* *That our congregation would guard our unity in Christ, loving and honoring one another and not gossiping about one another*
* *That we would increasingly discover our unity in Christ and not in lesser things*

**Holy Communion**

**1 Corinthians 10:16:**-**The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?**

* *Pray that we would give thanks to the Lord for offering himself on the cross as a sacrifice for us, allowing his body to be broken for us and his blood to be shed for us.*

**Closing prayer**: O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen***.*