**August 31, 2025**

**Prayers of the People**

**Leader:**  
Beloved in Christ, we lift before You, O God, all the requests spoken and unspoken in our gathering today, trusting that You hear each need with compassion and care. Hebrews 13 calls us to let mutual love continue, to show hospitality, to remember those in prison, to honor our commitments, and to do good and share what we have. Let us bring our prayers before God, trusting in Christ who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

**For the Church**  
God of steadfast love, we pray for your church around the world and here in this congregation. Help us to let mutual love continue among us. Teach us to welcome strangers with courage, to honor one another with grace, and to offer our praise in lives of service. Guard us from fear, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is our helper and our hope.  
Lord, in your mercy…  
**People:** Hear our prayer.

**For Children and Families**  
We lift to you, O God, the children throughout the world. Protect them as they learn and grow. Bless parents and teachers with patience, wisdom, and compassion. We especially pray for the children, parents, and congregation of Annunciation Church. Comfort those grieving the loss of young lives, heal the wounded, and strengthen Pastor Zehren as he shepherds a traumatized community. Surround them with your peace that passes understanding.  
Lord, in your mercy…  
**People:** Hear our prayer.

**For the Persecuted and Imprisoned**  
Merciful God, you call us to remember those in prison as if we were there with them. We pray for all who have been arrested or detained, especially those stopped on their way to or from Your house of worship. Give them courage and bring them justice. May your Spirit be present in cells and courtrooms, reminding your people that they are not forgotten. Stir us to solidarity and embodied love.  
Lord, in your mercy…  
**People:** Hear our prayer.

**For Those in Places of Violence and War**  
God of peace, we remember our sisters and brothers in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and every place torn by conflict. We grieve the bombing of churches, the deaths of civilians, and the fear that stalks communities. Shelter the vulnerable. Guide leaders to seek peace instead of power. Give your church the strength to be a light in the shadows, proclaiming Christ’s love in the midst of destruction.  
Lord, in your mercy…  
**People:** Hear our prayer.

**For Those Affected by Natural Disasters**  
Creator God, the earth groans with floods, fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes. We pray for those who have lost homes, communities, and loved ones. Bring relief through the hands of neighbors and first responders. Strengthen the weary and supply every need according to your riches in glory.  
Lord, in your mercy…  
**People:** Hear our prayer.

**For Ourselves**  
Holy One, keep our lives free from the love of money and make us content with what we have. Teach us to trust your promise: “I will never leave you or forsake you.” Inspire us to honor our commitments, to forgive as Christ forgave us, and to live as people who proclaim your kingdom through mercy, justice, and love.  
Lord, in your mercy…  
**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:**  
Through Jesus Christ, our great shepherd, we offer these prayers. May our lives be a continual sacrifice of praise to you—loving one another, welcoming the stranger, remembering the imprisoned, and doing good for your glory.

**All:**  
Amen.