



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

# *The Steeple*



## *A Word from Father Steve*

Phone: 918-330-6108 email: fathersdhood@gmail.com

### **Happy Easter!**

Holy Week 2020 was not the weirdest Holy Week I've ever had. The weirdest year was 2003, the year Rivers was born on the Monday of Holy Week. It was my first Holy Week as rector of St. John in Thibodaux, Louisiana. On Palm Sunday, I woke up violently sick with a stomach bug (probably nerve related), and had to ask someone else to lead the services that morning. Then, on Holy Monday, Rivers decided he was tired of being held captive and entered the world a month early. So, my first Holy Week as a priest and rector was spent learning how to be a new dad and rector simultaneously. I will admit that learning how to be an online missionary this year runs a close second to Holy Week 2003.

### **Online Worship**

The Good News is we have entered Eastertide. The Alleluias are back, and we can now settle into the awkwardness of online church for another month or so. My hope is we won't be doing this type of gathering for very long. Online worship will get better as we continue to learn how to do it well.

I also know that online worship will probably continue even after we are able to gather together in person. It makes sense to avail the members of our congregation an opportunity to be with us in worship even when they can not physically be with us.

As social distancing is eased up, I will be seeking volunteers to give your time and talents to help us improve our online offerings. Most of what we've done has been by the seat of our pants. I need to thank Jeff Birk and Tracy Hood for their willingness to help me and encourage me as we've put our services together. Thankfully, YouTube videos and advice from colleagues across the state have made some of the guesswork less perplexing. At the same time, there is a lot more to learn, and, with each passing week, we will get better at it.

### **Writers and Photographers Wanted**

I want to offer anyone (children, youth, adults) in our congregation an opportunity to share your writing with us. If you want to write an essay or reflection or poem or story or prayer on a topic that might be helpful or uplifting to the members of St. Luke's. I'd love for you to send it to me, and I'll publish it in *The Steeple*. I'm mostly interested in topics of a religious or spiritual nature ("what God is doing in my life",

*(Continued on page 2)*

### A Word from Father Steve (*continued*)

“where I find Jesus in the midst of quarantine”, “what Easter means to me”, et al), but I’m willing to consider anything. I’m not interested political manifestos, but I am interested in spiritual autobiography and stories about how God has shaped your life.

Also, I need photos for Facebook and Instagram. If you have photos you have taken at parish events or have a special photo that you think will bring people joy, please share it with me so we can publish it on our social media platforms.

Peace,  
Father Steve

## Online & Mobile Giving Now Available

It’s a challenge to “pass the plate” when we can only gather virtually. But now there’s a way to continue your support of St. Luke’s with secure online or mobile methods. In conjunction with The Network for Episcopal Stewardship, the Tithe.ly online giving application is now available to St. Luke's members. The instructions for using this convenience are provided below and also on the [St. Luke’s website](http://episcopalbartlesville.org) (<http://episcopalbartlesville.org>).

Regardless of whether you can manage all or some of your normal giving, please continue to support our community of faith. And, if you’re not comfortable with virtual giving, there’s always the old-fashioned way of mailing a check to the church office: St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 210 E 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003 *or* dropping a check into our locked mail slot to left of the north church doors.

Thank you on behalf of the Vestry, Dan Droege

### Step-by-Step Instructions for Giving through Tithe.ly

- 1) Get started by going to Tithe.ly (yes, there’s a dot between the “e” and the “l”) and download the application. [Click here](https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app) or go to: <https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>
- 2) From the above link, you may donate directly from your home computer (vs. your phone/mobile device) by picking the Give Online option OR you may donate from your phone or other mobile device by selecting either the Apple or Android (Google Play) version.
- 3) Open the application and enter your name and email, and then create a personal password and PIN.
- 4) In the Find a Church window at the top, type in: St. Luke’s Episcopal Church (several St. Luke’s Episcopal Churches will pop up, so be sure to pick ours in Bartlesville)
- 5) Select the method of payment at the bottom: credit, debit, or bank account withdrawal.
- 6) Enter the amount of your gift and indicate whether you would like it to be Recurring and at what frequency.
- 7) Pick General Fund as the destination.
- 8) If you want to provide the full amount of your gift to the church, check Cover Fees box and the Tithe.ly service charge will not be deducted from your gift to the church. There service charge is 2.75% + 0.30 per credit/debit card transaction, which reflects a slight discount through association with The Network for Episcopal Stewardship.
- 9) The application will save your donation information for the next time you give. All you have to do is enter your PIN. Both the Give Online and mobile methods of Tithe.ly giving are secure. If you have questions, they will probably be answered by [clicking here](https://get.tithe.ly/faqs) (<https://get.tithe.ly/faqs>).



**Office Info:** Roseanne McKee, office manager/assistant to rector, is in the office Monday – Thursdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The north doors will be locked, but if you need anything, please call the office at 918-336-1212.

**Chapel Schedule:** The chapel will be open Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

#### Thursday, April 23:

9-11am: Jim Liehr

10:45am – 1pm: Jeff Birk, Dean Zervas

Glenda Garrison, Darian Kedy, Jen Peterson,

1:00 – 2:45pm: Carol Murphy, Radomir Petrovich,  
Becky Olsen

#### Thursday, May 7:

9-11am: Jeanne Julstrom, Becky Liehr

10:45am – 1pm: Kris Bonner, Rita Childers, Becky Liehr,  
Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary

1:00 – 2:45pm: Peter Julstrom, Miriam Petrovich,  
Wendy Hall

### **Habits of Grace: An invitation for you, from Presiding Bishop Curry**

As we learn how to adjust our lives given the reality of the coronavirus and the request to do our part to slow its spread by practicing social distancing, I invite you to join me each week to take a moment to cultivate a 'habit of grace.' A new video meditation will be posted on Mondays through May. They can be found on YouTube by ping in the search bar: Habits of Grace by Bishop Curry.



## St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

*Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Suzanne, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Melt, Belinda, Wendy, David, Tracy, Linda, Terry, Leaona, Connie, Tracy, Mark, Diana F., Jim, Bid, Ada, Lisa, and all members of our armed forces and their families.*

If you have a prayer request, contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinator Thelma Blackburn 918-333-7902 or [TPBGEN@aol.com](mailto:TPBGEN@aol.com) or the church office at 918-336-1212 or [office@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org). (Names on the Prayer List are rotated off every 4 weeks. If there is need for continued prayers, please let us know.)

**A Women's Bible Study "Zoom meetings" is planned** using the book...*GRACE* by Max Lucado. It is available at Amazon and [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com). Participants will read the first chapter and then meet via Zoom for discussion and thoughts.

Nancy Woods asks that those wishing to participate let her know via email of their interest and again when they have their books in hand at [nancywoods120@gmail.com](mailto:nancywoods120@gmail.com).

Dear Sunday School Parents,

Please check your email. I have sent out digital copies of the Godly Play lessons for Lent. I'm also going to send out prints of the plates for the story. If you don't have a printer, please let me know and I will mail you some.

It would be great if you could go through these lessons with your children the next few Sundays. If they attended Sunday School the first three weeks of Lent, a few of the lessons may be review.

I'm also going to post a video on the church website (I will email the link as well) of the lesson for you and your children to review. Please call, text or email me if you didn't receive my email or if you have any questions.

God's Blessings,

Keeli Droege

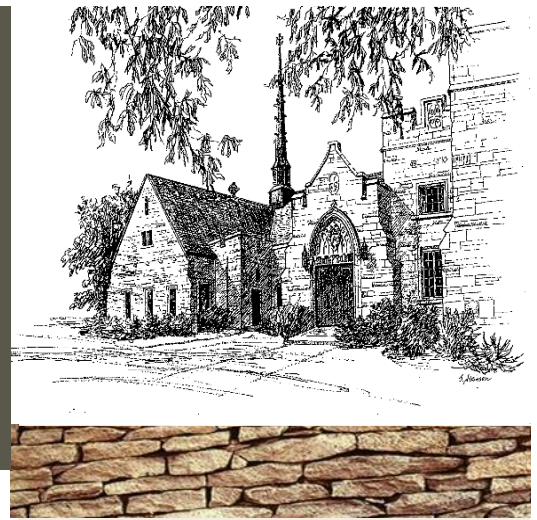
Christian Formation

[keelidroege@gmail.com](mailto:keelidroege@gmail.com)

918-697-8509

# Other thoughts...

- Be aware -- Father Steve will not request gift cards or other monetary support through email. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke's go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone or in person.
- FYI: Bishop Ed has inhibited the distribution of communion by the clergy to any parishioner (title IV violation). Additionally, Bishop Ed has prohibited public in-person gatherings of any kind including gathering in parking lots or other open spaces.
- **St. Luke's is now on Instagram! Follow St. Luke's at [episcopalbartlesville](#).**



## Bereavement Team 1

Susie Clark, Nancy Woods, Sally Lindsey, Georgia Gates, Jeanne Julstrom.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
210 East 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bartlesville, OK 74003

St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:  
The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector  
[fathersdhood@gmail.com](mailto:fathersdhood@gmail.com) 918-330-6108  
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon, retired  
[dfreebern@gmail.com](mailto:dfreebern@gmail.com) 918-914-0525  
In an Emergency, contact any of the clergy listed above.  
Roseanne McKee, Office Manager/Asst. to Rector ([office@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director ([dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Dan Droege, Sr. Warden ([dbdcomm.2@gmail.com](mailto:dbdcomm.2@gmail.com))  
Doug McIver, Jr. Warden ([dmciver@susandickcpa.com](mailto:dmciver@susandickcpa.com))  
Office Phone: 918-336-1212

## Connecting with St. Luke's

The parish staff and volunteers are working hard to keep the parish connected. Here are the resources available to you to stay connected:

- Parish phone tree—a phone tree has been set up to keep our members connected. If you have a need or concern, please let your phone tree captain know. If you aren't receiving calls from the phone tree, please let Jeff Birk know @ [jbirk54@gmail.com](mailto:jbirk54@gmail.com)
- Follow St. Luke's on Instagram. You can find us @ [episcopalbartlesville](#). Also, like our content so it will appear in your Instagram feed. Typically, the content on Instagram is also posted on Facebook, although not all of the photographs posted on Instagram will appear on Facebook.
- Follow St. Luke's on FaceBook. Search for St. Luke's Bartlesville on Facebook and like our Page. Also, once you start seeing our content in your FaceBook feed, please like it and share it. This helps others to see it, but it also keeps St. Luke's content coming into your feed. If you don't "like" our content, you won't see it. Facebook is about engagement, and you will see the things you engage.
- Friend Father Steve on FaceBook. He will friend you back and you can follow him and see his shenanigans.
- Subscribe to the St. Luke's YouTube channel [HERE](#). (If the HERE link does not work, go to <https://bit.ly/2QIgY7c> in your computer's browser.) Subscribing helps us gain followers which allows the content to be seen by a wider audience. The content includes recordings of our Zoom worship services. You can also access this content on your television with streaming devices (like FireTV) that have the YouTube app included.
- Check out the St. Luke's website for updates on a regular basis. The website is found here: [www.episcopalbartlesville.org](http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org). We are working hard to update it frequently, so the content is current.

- Receive *The Steeple* and other updates via Mailchimp. Please send Roseanne your current email @ [office@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org), and you can receive updates and the newsletter. *The Steeple* is usually published on Wednesday or Thursday and is often followed up with a weekend highlights on Fridays (not every Friday). We will also continue to mail a hardcopy of *The Steeple* to those who prefer to receive things via USPS.

### **Worship:**

Worship services are live on the Zoom app on Sundays at 10 am.  
The weekly bulletins can be found at [www.episcopalbartlesville.org](http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org).

Please note that there are three ways to participate in Worship:

1) Listen to the service by telephone. (This can be a home phone, or a flip phone, smartphone, etc.)

— To do this:

— Dial 1-346-248-7799

— When asked to enter the Zoom Meeting ID, enter 9365095026#

— When asked to enter a Participant ID, just enter the # sign

— When asked to enter the Meeting Password, enter 251445#

— That's it. You should now be in the meeting, by phone.

2) Use Zoom on a computer or smartphone.

— Click [HERE](#) to go to the Zoom website. (If the HERE link does not work, go to <https://zoom.us/j/9365095026> in your computer's browser.)

— When asked to enter the Meeting Password, enter 251445

— **Please mute your device during the worship service.**

3) Service will be uploaded to the St. Luke's YouTube channel on Sunday afternoons. Audio recording of the sermon will be found on St. Luke's website.

### **CONCERN Food Drive at St. Luke's:**

To ensure these items are available to those in need of food, St. Luke's will have a food drive through May 15. The following items may be dropped off in the chapel during office hours: sugar, flour, cornbread mix, pancake mix (that just needs water added) and dry milk. Items may be left on the back chapel pews.

This is not an emergency call for help, so there is no need to make a special trip to the store for this. Instead, just get one or more of these items during your regular shopping trips as your budget allows.

Father Steve can also pick up these grocery items from your porches. Just call the office and let Roseanne know where and when to pick up the items. Office phone is 918-336-1212.



**Daily Morning Prayer:  
Rite Two**

**Opening Hymn**

*The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these sentences of Scripture*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice  
and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*1 Corinthians 15:57*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek  
the things that are above, where Christ is,  
seated at the right hand of God.  
*Colossians 3:1*

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made  
with hands, a copy of the true one, but into  
heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of  
God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

You shall receive power when the Holy Ghost  
has come upon you; and you shall be my  
witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and  
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your  
praise.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

**Venite** Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for  
joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come  
before his presence with thanksgiving and raise  
a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King  
above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of  
the earth, and the heights of the hills are his  
also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his  
hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his  
pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that  
today you would hearken to his voice!

**Psalm 116**

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;  
\*I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my  
good above all other."

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in  
the land, \*upon those who are noble among the  
people.

3 But those who run after other gods \*  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, \* nor  
take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
\*my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me; \*  
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit  
rejoices; \*my body also shall rest in hope.



10 For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
\*nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; \*in your  
presence there is fullness of joy, and in your  
right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Lessons

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles** (2:14, 22-32)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption."

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us  
are witnesses.

*The Reader says* Here ends the the Lesson.

### **Canticle 11 The Third Song of Isaiah** (Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon  
you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \* and all your  
portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the  
moon. The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit: \*as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

### **A Reading from the Gospel According to John (20:19-31)**

When it was evening on that day, the first day  
of the week, and the doors of the house where  
the disciples had met were locked for fear of  
the authorities, Jesus came and stood among  
them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he  
said this, he showed them his hands and his  
side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw  
the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be  
with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send  
you.' When he had said this, he breathed on  
them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy  
Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are



forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*The Reader says* Here ends the the Lesson.

**Canticle 13 A Song of Praise**

*(Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34)*

Glory to you, Lord God of our ancestors; \*  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy  
Name; \*we will praise you and highly exalt you  
for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

**Homily** The Reverend Steve Hood

**The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator  
of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy  
Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
died, and was buried. He descended to the  
dead. On the third day he rose again. He  
ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right  
hand of the Father. He will come again to  
judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic  
Church, the communion of saints, the  
forgiveness of sins the resurrection of the  
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Hymn**

**The Prayers**

*The People stand or kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

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  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for  
ever and ever. Amen.





*Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages*

- V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.  
V. Day by day we bless you;  
R. We praise your name for ever.  
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.  
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R. For we put our trust in you.  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

*The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects*

*The Collect of the Day*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Sundays*

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. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Guidance*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then, this prayers for mission is added*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to

those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for all churches in our diocese, for their mission and ministry, and for their proclamation of the Good News in cities and towns across the state; in our parish, we pray for those requesting prayer including Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Suzanne, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Melt, Belinda, Wendy, David, Tracy, Linda, Terry, Leaona, Connie, Tracy, Mark, Diana F., Jim, Bid, Lisa, and Ada.

We also pray for doctors, nurses, aides, and all other health care professionals and service employees entrusted with the health and wellness of our community; and for our elected officials and those given the public's trust to make prudent decisions for the care of this city, state, and nation. We also pray for the men and women of the armed services, for those serving in other areas of national service, for those who are traveling or homebound or recovering from illness, surgery, or some other affliction. For all of these and for prayers spoken and for prayers left unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

*The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means



of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of  
your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we  
may show forth your praise, not only with our  
lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to  
your service, and by walking before you in  
holiness and righteousness all our days; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and  
the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout  
all ages. *Amen.*

*Then may be said*

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### **Closing Hymn**

*The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the  
love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*  
*2 Corinthians 13:14*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and  
peace in believing through the power of the  
Holy Spirit. *Amen.*  
*Romans 15:13*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can  
do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to him from generation to generation in  
the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and  
ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*