

First Reading: The book of the Prophet Ezekiel 34:11-16a NIV

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. {pause} Word of

God, Word of Life.

TBTG

Psalms 98:7-9

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Prayers of Intercession

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

1. God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal. Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

2. God of life, you love the world you have made, and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters (*especially*). Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
3. God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
4. God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, fear, despair, or pain (*especially*). Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
5. God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God. YMIG

Here other intercessions may be offered.

6. God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again (*Hank Biere & Marge Bohlken*). Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
7. According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.