Prayers of the People (Year C: Epiphany 7, 2-23-2025)

Lector: Start here!

Sustaining God, we turn to you, lifting our prayers of hope, need and thanksgiving, saying: God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the clergy and people of St. Alban's, El Cajon, and for all the presenters and participants in Leadership Academy at St. Dunstan's. In the Military Cycle of Prayer, we pray for USS John P. Murtha. God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you break the cycle of hatred and recriminations, set your Church as an instrument of your peace, that we sow love, pardon and faith. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, you bring dignity to the abused and rejected, give to governments and rulers mercy and strength to prevent unbridled retribution. God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you are the fountain of hope in distress, be with all those who are facing life-altering challenges due to war and civil conflict. Today we name those affected in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gaza, Haiti, Lake Chad Basin, Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen. God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you call us to rise above selfishness, pettiness and revenge, let not our anger consume us, lead us to forgiveness of those who have caused us pain and hurt. God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you know the gifts and the shortcomings of this community, show us how to be better disciples and help us to sow the seeds of your kingdom in our daily interactions here at St. Mark's, at home, and beyond. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, your compassion encompasses all. Open wide our hearts to the needs of the hungry, the unhoused and all without sufficient means to sustain themselves. Give dignity to all your people. God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, giver of all that we have and all that we are. We take delight in you and give thanks for this land we inhabit and for feeding on its riches. We give thanks for your blessings of this past week, which we now call to mind... (PAUSE). God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you hear the cries of the distressed, be with those who live in pain, sickness, fear or dread, sustain them with your grace that they may bear their suffering. Grant us an awareness and a willingness to be their companions and caregivers. We pray especially for those we now name either silently or aloud...(10 seconds of sustained silence)... God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Celebrant:

Creator God,
who formed humanity of the dust of the earth,
transform us into the likeness of Christ,
that growing in love and mercy
we may be the seeds of your salvation.
Help us to see ourselves as one with those we accuse
and so know the joy of forgiveness given and received,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.