

**Prayers of the People** (written by The Rev Lowell Grisham)

O God our Shepherd, you spread a table before us and reassure our hearts with your guiding care: Hear our prayers for all your people, as we say, the Lord is our shepherd; we shall not be in want.

You know your own and your own know you, good Shepherd of the sheep: Guide the Church in gentleness and peace, that we may obey your commandment to love one another and live out that love in truth and action.

The Lord is our shepherd; *we shall not be in want.*

The rejected stone has become the cornerstone for the whole world's salvation, the power and name for all healing: Be present, O God, among our leaders and with those who exercise authority for the nations of the world, that they may guide us along right pathways for your Name's sake.

The Lord is our shepherd; *we shall not be in want.*

You have given your life for the protection of your people: Open our eyes to see our brothers' and sisters' need throughout the world, and then empower us to respond with generous help.

The Lord is our shepherd; *we shall not be in want.*

The Spirit that you have given us is alive in this community: Revive our souls that we may abide in Christ, lay down our lives for one another, and lie down in green pastures beside the still waters of fellowship and reconciliation.

The Lord is our shepherd; *we shall not be in want.*

Hear us as we bring the prayers of hearts to you, O Gracious One, *remembering especially...*

We thank you that we abide in Christ and that Christ abides in us. Receive our prayers of gratefulness and thanksgiving, *especially for...*

Hear our prayers for those who have walked through the valley of the shadow of death: grant that they may dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *We remember especially...*

*Additional prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings...*

***Celebrant: Closing Collect at the Prayers***

Reassure our hearts, O God, with the comfort of your guiding presence, that we may know that you are with us, and we will fear no evil. Strengthen us to join in the Spirit's work of leading people into your divine abundant love, that goodness and mercy may follow us all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***