

Mission Prayers

From St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich, RI

General

GOD, you call us to follow your son. You call us to feed your lambs and take care of your sheep, and we feel hopelessly unqualified. You ask us again and again, and we make the promise and still let you down. God, your son stretched out his arms and died so that we might know your love. We desperately want to please you. Like Peter we have failed you, and you have every right to call our sincerity into question. But our mistakes make us stronger, God. We learn hard lessons, and we grow more determined. Your lambs are hungry, they are cold, and they are lost. We will find them, feed them, and shelter them. We will do all of these things because you asked us to, God. We are your servants. *Amen.*

GOD your children are hungry. They're lonely. They're cold. Don't let us walk by them on the other side of the road, God. We get so caught up in our own lives and our own so-called "problems" that we forget there are people who sleep in the streets. Open our eyes. Light a fire under us so that we can do all Jesus told us we should do. Help us give a hand up and not a hand out. Help us show the world we are your children. Help us show the world that the church is more than a building with brick and stained glass. Church is a warm blanket, a hot meal, a listening ear. When we offer ourselves to those in need, Lord, we offer ourselves to you. *Amen.*

Mission Week Prayers

Day One

LORD, we are ready. We are here in this place to be your servants. We all desperately want to please you, both those of us who've done this before and those of us who're brand new at it. We enter this week looking to receive nothing in return. We expect nothing from those we'll serve. Your son taught us to love with condition. We will show the world that kind of love this week, Lord. We will work with each other side by side. We will put away our differences and do your will. We are energized, Lord! We can't wait to begin! Pace us, though, Father. Help us keep this feeling the entire week. Keep our hearts and minds on the work before us. We know we are the only "Jesus" that some of these people will ever see. Help us to show them the true Christ, The Son of God. Help us to show the unconditional love of our Savior. With your help we can. *Amen.*

Midweek

WE ARE GROWING WEARY, LORD. Our hands hurt. Our feet ache. More than once we've asked ourselves, "Why are we doing this?" Then, we remember. We see the faces of those we serve. We see our accomplishments. We see the roads we've begun to journey down, and we remember why we do this. Give us strength, Lord. Our hearts are willing—but our bodies need help! But we want you to strengthen our resolve—not just our bodies. Strengthen our hearts...and our hands will follow. Let us feel your love, and the rest will be easy. Your servants will not fail you. We are of one mind and heart. We are here to do your work. We are here to spread your love and your word. Give us rest and peace of mind. Let us put away those things that distract us from the job at hand. Help us remember that we are here in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

End of the Week

GOD, we're still here! We survived. We are your servants. We have accomplished so much with our hands and hearts. We have shown the world that you are who you say you are, the giver of everlasting love. We take pride in what we've done. And we have done well. Now it's time for us to go home and rest—a well-deserved rest. But as we go home to "real" lives, help us to remember that our "real" lives are alien to the people we've served here. Help us to better appreciate what we have at home. Help us to remember the faces of your children who don't have the good things we have. Help us to walk in your love for the rest of our lives as we have walked in your love this week. *Amen.*