

Luther Crest Bible Camp
PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS
Service of Intercessory Prayer

Song: Create In Me

Leader: This morning's worship is a simple service of intercessory prayer. For most of the liturgy, we invite silence and stillness, as we immerse ourselves in scripture, song and prayer.

During intercessory prayer we offer ourselves physically, mentally and spiritually on behalf of those for which we pray. We pray for ourselves and for others, for relationships, and for our world. And when we do not know how to pray, the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words to express.

Throughout the worship, there will be three invitations, interspersed throughout the readings, to pray at the cross. At these invitations, you may kneel or sit around the trays forming the shape of the cross, and pray as the community around you joins in your silent prayer. Each invitation will have a different theme: during the first invitation, we will pray for our friends, our families, and ourselves. The second will focus on the challenges and struggles of our world. And the final invitation will focus on thankful servanthood.

We are a community that supports one another in prayer. When someone comes to pray, we invite at least one other person to come with them, and we invite you to lay your hands on their shoulder or back as a sign of support and care.

When you have finished praying or when the next reading begins, light a candle and place it in the sand. The candles are visible signs of your silent prayers to God, glowing in the darkness.

Song: Sanctuary

Leader: There are those among us who are troubled and afraid; others of us are joyfully celebrating and some of us don't know the words to begin our prayers. For all of us gathered, the Spirit of God breathes prayer into and through us.

We invite you now to remain seated, but name aloud friend or strangers, situations or places in our world that need a reminder of God's peacefully and loving presence. After each name, please say, "**You are held by God,**" and we will respond with, "**We support you in prayer.**"

When this has come to a natural ending...

Leader: Hold near, O God, all for whom we pray, and lead us into Your Peace.

Today we will pray for families, communities, churches, relationships, and ourselves.

You are invited to come to the cross, to kneel and pray. During this first section we will pray for our personal and family concerns. Think about your own life and how God has acted in it. When you have finished praying or you hear the next reading begin, light a candle as a symbol of your prayer and return to your seat. If you choose not to come forward, please remain seated to pray.

Come. Come to the Cross and *pray for yourselves and your relationships*.

“Music begins, either guitar picking or other selection. When there is a natural ending in the campers’ movement to the Cross, begin the second selection of readings.

Leader: Jesus said, “I have said these things to you while I am with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom God will send in my name, will teach you everything. And will remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you my friends, my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid. “

Song: Father Grant

Leader: Amazing God, thank you for breaking into our world and living among us. Thank you for showing yourself to us in both quiet and boisterous ways. Today, we remember our neighbors in all parts of the world. Help us to look for you near and far, to keep watch for your signs of love here and abroad, and to know that you are always working in our lives and others. Help us to be your hands and feet to seek your justice in the world. Be glorified by our worship and by the lives we lead, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Come. Come to the Cross and *pray for the world*.

“Music begins, either guitar picking or other selection. When there is a natural ending in the campers’ movement to the Cross, begin the third selection of readings.

Leader: God comforts our world and us in times of struggle. Let our prayers be recognized by God as we move to our final time of prayer. Let us now join in saying, “*Thank you Christ Jesus*” after each phrase. For loving families and friends, **Thank you Christ Jesus**. For music that inspires and calms, **Thank you Christ Jesus**. For your creation: mountains, valleys, forests and all plants, lakes, rivers and all water, all animals large and small. **Thank you Christ Jesus**. For community, faith and love. **Thank you Christ Jesus**. For people who have forgiven us, **Thank you Christ Jesus**. For people who have taught us. **Thank you Christ Jesus**. When we call to you, God, hear our prayer. Amen.

Song: Step by Step

Leader: In this moment, draw me to yourself, Lord, and make me aware not so much of what I’ve given, as of all I received and have yet to share. Send me forth in power and gladness and with great courage to live out in the world what I pray and profess. That, in sharing, I may do justice, make peace, and grow in love. Amen. (prayer from Guerillas of Grace)

Come. Come to the Cross and *pray in thanksgiving for all that you have been given*.

“Music begins, either guitar picking or other selection. When there is a natural ending in the campers’ movement to the Cross, begin the final reading.

Leader: God’s mercies are new every morning, and never fail. May you feel the peace of Christ and be renewed in your faith and in the great mercies of our living and loving God. Depart today wrapped in the warmth of God’s love, renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Live in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.