

# Prayers of the People for ECS Sunday

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Friends, we who are many are one body in Christ. From the common work of people, God shapes the way of justice, peace and hope for a world broken by systems that reinforce poverty in heart, body, and mind.

Our call in Christ is to proclaim the Gospel with works of mercy and service. As we mark this ECS Sunday celebrating our common mission in the Diocese of New Jersey let us lift up our common witness to justice and peace.

Let us pray to our God, saying, "Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless, *O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.*"

*The leader may include intercessions appropriate to the section, or invite the congregation to include their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*



Your Church, O God, strives for hope and light in a world broken and overshadowed by need and want. Make us mindful of those around us whose needs are hidden, whose hearts are broken by stress and worry.

*Silence*

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

***O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.***

You are the rock, the shield of our mothers and fathers. Deliverer and guide to those who wander, make of your Church a shelter and sanctuary for all who are homeless. Help us to see in the displaced the face of Christ, who with his parents fled their homeland to find shelter among strangers.

*Silence*

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

***O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.***

Redeemer, you are the lover of justice. Give us strength to reach out to the imprisoned and their families. As your apostles languished in prison, they sang songs of praise to your Holy Name. Help us to love those who have lost their freedom and help them to find their song to praise your Name.

*Silence*

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

***O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.***

Provider of harvests and the One who provides, help us to plant, to nurture, to feed and to sustain all who are hungry. Sustain us as we labor to change systems that deprive the hungry of good food, of hope. Plant in us a bountiful harvest to sustain the hungry and the poor.

*Silence*

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

***O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.***

Restorer of life and health, your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. Give us a full measure of that same spirit to heal the broken places in our local communities. Empower us as advocates of hope and reconciliation.

*Silence*

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

***O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.***

Redeemer of the world, your apostle Peter proclaimed to the household of Cornelius that you show no partiality. We have failed again and again to transform the inequity of our human institutions into a realm more reflective of your will that we love one another as you have loved us. Give us strength to confront inequity and racism in our society and resolve to allow your gracious will to transform our own assumptions and prejudices regarding our neighbors.

*Silence*

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

***O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.***

To the One who receives and blesses the stranger, the halt, the broken as brother or sister. Allow us a full portion of your grace that even as our own hearts are transformed by works of service, and care in community, that the world will heal under your touch and through our shared labors in the name of Jesus.

*Silence*

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

***O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.***

In your name we pray today, O God; may the life of your resurrected child Jesus shine brightly in us and as we gather in your presence alongside the saints in light, teach us to remember and honor the dead who rest in your loving embrace. Sometimes, dear Lord, the gift of memory is all we have to offer up in honor of family and neighbors who we love but see no longer. As the beloved disciple took the Blessed Mother of our Lord into his home, help us to care for all who know loss or are lost in their grief.

*Silence*

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

*O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.*

*A Collect at the conclusion of the Prayers of the People on ECS Sunday:*

Gracious and loving God, on this Sunday we bless your Holy Name and lift up the ministrations of Episcopal Community Services. What we have asked for on this day, grant with effect and advantages as we serve and by your grace heal the world in the name of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*