**ALTAR PRAYERS FOR SUN. Mar. 3rd**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs.

Transforming Love, living on our own terms, our lives have become unmanageable. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit we continually be transformed, trusting in Jesus who was transfigured in the sight of Peter, James, and John. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Lector: Transforming Love, the people, systems, and institutions of this world are crying out under the weight of feeling unloved. Jesus has come that all people come to know and believe how much You love all of us—from the least to the greatest. Grant that our elected and appointed officials be persuaded by Your love to govern wisely that all people on earth dwell in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Lector: Transforming Love, Your people are torn to pieces by many dangers, toils, and snares. Our attentions are divided and our words and actions are motivated by the cares, griefs, and pains of our lives. We cause one another much pain and so get in the way of Your love for all people in Christ Jesus flowing through us to all people in our communities and societies. Grant that we turn to You, living the promises of our Baptism, embracing our identity as vessels of Your mercy in a way that overflows to the people around us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Transforming Love, there are many who are weak and sick among us and in our circles of family and friends. Remember for good all people who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, **[*especially* . . .].** Grant them both inward and outward healing according to Your will, helping them to trust Your goodness in all things. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Lector: Transforming Love, the embodiment of Your love comes among us in the Meal of Jesus’ true body and blood. Grant us hearts that entrust our wills and our lives to Your gracious care as we receive this life-giving food. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Lector: Transforming Love, through the cares of our everyday lives, we look forward to the day when You will call us and all people to rise according to Your gracious promise. Grant that we faithfully journey from this day to that day when we will join Your saints of every time and place at the marriage supper of the Lamb in His reign that endures forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**