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###### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – ECW Sunday #2

O God our Father, eternal Lord and King, whose scepter rules over all the earth, whose love embraces all your creatures, we come before you to offer our prayers. Grant our requests according to your wisdom and love. Father, we thank you for the Church, and for the fellowship and wisdom that we enjoy by faith. Give to all your people faithfulness as we wait for the coming of our Lord.

Particularly we pray for our dear synod. Keep its teachings pure, its ways true, and its witness clear. Give us grace to love your Word and your people. Father, we thank you for those who proclaim the gospel of peace and for all that we have learned from the preaching and teaching of your Word. We ask your blessing on all the ministers of our church. Guard those who serve you here and throughout the world. We ask you to let your Word triumph in us and through us. We thank you that you have given your Son to be our Savior and Lord. Lead us every day to confess our sins and to find in him the peace of forgiveness. As we hear your Word, remember our baptism, and receive his body and blood in Holy Communion, give us strength to serve you and our neighbors.

Today we offer a special prayer for the faculty, staff, and students at Martin Luther College. Father, we are humbled by the grace you extend to us as you use our College of Ministry to assist in preparing ministers of the gospel who will proclaim your Word throughout the world. Give them joy in their work and make their labors fruitful.

Father, we thank you for the kindnesses and mercies of ordinary life, for your care of us and all humankind. Make us willing to serve each other in love and to live in harmony. Hear us also as we remember neighbors, friends, or members of our families who are in special need.

 *Silent prayer*

All these prayers and requests we present to you, O Father, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

