

###### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – MLC Sunday #1

Dear Father in heaven,

In your living Word, you have given us powerful promises that uplift our hearts and bring courage to our hands as we labor in your name. Your Son promises that *with God all things are possible.* Your Son encourages us to be bold in prayer, for he says: *The Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.* Holy God, You are infinite in love, in power, in wisdom. Knowing your promises cannot be broken, we are resolute to pray in Jesus’ name.

Lord God, as the *Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross* strategic plan begins in earnest, hear and answer our prayers.

Pour out the Spirit to raise up more people willing to prayerfully consider gospel ministry. In the years ahead, fill this campus with students excited to share the healing gospel with lives that are broken and hurt. Raise up students with an eagerness to seize the day and flood the world with the unconditional gospel of grace.

We are bold to pray that you also bless MLC so that we reach goals to increase financial aid and to enhance our campus with needed facilities. We join the apostle to proclaim that you are *able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to your power that is at work within us.* Fill us with such confidence.

Lord, we place these requests before you. As sinners, we confess our unworthiness to ask for such abundant blessings, but we ask in the Name of your Son. He cannot lie, so we know that you will hear and answer. We know that you will answer not according to our human plans and goals, but according to your perfect knowledge, according to your perfect timing, and according to your perfect love for this ministry.

Therefore, we embark with joy and enthusiasm upon the *Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross* strategic plan, convinced that you will bless us as is best for us. In Jesus, we pray confidently, for he says: *Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.* Amen.

