

## **Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

Father in Heaven, we start our prayers today asking to be reminded that our lives are never completely our own. We are made for community – for communion. To help us understand these words, we now listen to the wisdom of Pope Francis who recently put his own twist on an old adage, “Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself; and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...

Life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you...

We have so many chances, God, to make our lives speak. Open our ears to hear the cry for help from angry voices. Give us your presence and your comfort so that we may stand firm with confidence. In these days where all are worn thin by multiple crises, and rising tensions, frustrations, fears, and loss – give us strength and flexibility and resilience; give us hope when we despair. When we meet others in this life whose own pain or anxiety has shut down their abilities for compassion, or made them “hard and cold,” give us patience and grace to see them as you do.

Make these common, every day things – bread and cup – a sharing for us today of the real presence of Christ, so that somehow in this simple meal we might be one, bringing our lives together as one holy community.

We seal these prayers with the one your Son taught us saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and power and the glory, Amen.