

Prayers of the People: 21 April 2024

Bidding: Good Shepherd, in your mercy,

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, we pray for your people of every land.

We pray for those in countries torn by war and conflict – especially in the Middle East and in Ukraine;

for those who continue to suffer the effects of past wars;

for all aid and relief workers.

Do not let us forget those of this and other lands who have paid with their lives the shocking cost of war, and strengthen us, that we may be ready to make the sacrifices required for peace.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Loving Shepherd, we pray for your church and for all who follow you.

We pray for all leaders of your churches;

for those who are pastors to your people;

for all who serve you in places of loneliness and hardship.

Help us to work for the time when all your followers will be able to eat together at the table you prepare for us, and together proclaim your love to the world.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Loving Shepherd, we pray for all those you entrust to our care.

We pray for our families and friends;

for those who must depend on others for their welfare;

for those with constant responsibility of care for others.

Help us to make a community where all are known by name, where all know the experience of being accepted and valued as individuals.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving Shepherd, we pray for all in need of your comfort and balm.

We pray for all who are lost, lonely or confused;
for the sick and for the dying;
for all who provide medical care, for social workers and pastoral care workers.

Help us to bring consolation to all who suffer, and the assurance that in sorrow
and in pain you will not abandon them.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving Shepherd, you laid down your life for your sheep: we remember all who
are in your eternal care.

We give you thanks for the courage and selflessness of those who in peace or
in war have given their lives that others might live. May we, like them, offer
our lives in love for others.

Lead us through the green pastures and deep valleys of life until we come, with
all who have gone before us, to dwell for ever in your presence.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Amen

Adapted from:
Janet Nelson, *Let Us Pray: Intercessions following the Revised Common Lectionary*,
Sydney: HarperCollins, 1999, pp.148-149.