

September 8 Intercessions Pentecost 13

When we fix our eyes on Jesus our lives will reflect his nature.

God is close to us as we pray. He is attentive to us now.

The congregational response, as printed in today's bulletin is:

Lead us, Lord: **to walk in your ways.**

Lord, whenever you weep over our harshness, make your tears melt our hearts of stone. Whenever you grieve over our double standards, shock us into honesty again. Make us receptive to your teaching, willing to take your risks and eager to run with our eyes fixed on Jesus. (pause)

Lead us, Lord: **to walk in your ways.**

Whenever the news overwhelms us, nudge us to fervent prayer. Wherever leaders meet to negotiate peace, be present at the conference table. Breathe your values into our thinking, tear down the divisive barriers and renew us to lead the world into loving. (pause)

Lead us, Lord: **to walk in your ways.**

Whenever tempers are frayed and patience is wearing thin, give us space to collect ourselves and try again. Whenever the demands of family and friends remind us of our limitations, minister graciously through our weakness and teach us the humility of apologizing. (pause)

Lead us, Lord: **to walk in your ways.**

Whenever people are enveloped by pain or desolate grief or total exhaustion, bring refreshment and peace, tranquility and hope. Wherever the grip of the past prevents free movement into the future, bring release and healing. (pause)

Lead us, Lord: **to walk in your ways.**

Whenever the dying are fearful and distressed, give comfort and reassurance on that last journey. Bless those who care for them and those who mourn their going. In mercy receive the dead into the life of your heaven, and prepare us, through our lives now, for eternity. (pause)

Lead us, Lord: **to walk in your ways.**

Holy God, we love the beauty and goodness of your nature, and thank you for the gift of your Spirit to guide us to walk in your ways.

We ask for the acceptance of these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**