

PASTORAL PRAYER: January 31, 1999

O THOU WHO ART the light of the minds that know Thee,
the joy of the hearts that love Thee,
the strength of the wills that serve Thee.

HEAR OUR THOUGHTS...as we enter into these quiet moments of prayer. Here remind us that "more things are wrought by prayer than this world has ever dreamed."

STEADY US AND SUSTAIN US, O God and Father of us all, with that "blessed assurance" that our many problems can be met and mastered with Your help, Your wisdom, Your grace and guidance.

PURGE from our lives all that which prevents us from coming in touch with Your Spirit. Help us to overcome the tendency to always think of ourselves first. Enable us to fully concentrate on You "in spirit and in truth" that we may find that inner peace, that inner power and poise that makes a difference!

THANKFUL WE ARE, O GOD, that you have brought us safely through this week that has been demanding, that has also been difficult and discouraging for many gathered in worship.

RENEW our perspective.

HELP us to see life from higher ground in this hour.

Where there is personal disorder, bring peace.

Where there is lingering illness, bring healing.

Where there is disturbing doubt, bring faith.

Where there are broken hearts...broken dreams, bring reassurance and new courage, fresh hope.

LORD, WE PRAY not only for ourselves, but also for others - especially for the person sitting next to us in the pew...the person to our left...the person to our right.

We pray for those with whom we work - in the office, in the class room, in the hospital. We hold in our hearts our loved ones from whom we are separated by distance, but from whom we are not separated by love and concern.

REMIND US THAT WE cannot fellowship with You, Lord, if in our hearts we reject or neglect our brother in need. Therefore, take us and use us to carve Thy will in the world where we live and work.

All this we ask in the spirit of Jesus Christ, in whom we find life's highest hope and life's deepest meaning. In His name and in His spirit, we pray.

LAY READER: LORI GALE

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 1995

BEFORE

"The Scripture Reading for today is taken from THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF ISAIAH, CHAPTER 2, VERSES 1 - 4 (found on page 587) and the LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS, CHAPTER 13, VERSES 11 - 14 and FOUND ON PAGE 987 IN THE BIBLE THAT IS IN THE PEWS...

(READER: Take note...after announcing where the reading is found, PAUSE for about 10 seconds before beginning to read. Enough people turn to the Bible to follow along...give them time to find the passage. Then start in...project... Keep your voice "up")

AFTER (Sign off with.....)

"Thus endeth the reading taken from the Holy Scripture.
May God add His blessing to the reading of His Word and
to our understanding of it.
Thanks be to God! Amen!"

(Careful walking up...and careful walking down. We don't want any accidents...walk slowly.)