

Knowing we cannot pray for everything – today we pray for courage.

In the reading from Genesis

we heard that the hands of God brought streams up from the earth

And so we pray...

God of the Great Lakes, of the rivers and canal that run through our community

Bless us with your mercy.

God of the Falls, of mist and might,

drench us with your Grace.

God of the vineyards, of grape and honeybee

Sprinkle us with calm and rest.

God of our created world

We embrace your radical and boundless love.

But sometimes things go wrong

Sometimes we are afraid

Sometimes we are prodded by dissension and discord

And struggle to find answers and solutions

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Knowing we cannot pray for everything –

(Congregation) **today we pray for courage.**

Courage to support the greater Church,

our missions around the world, and

our own parish of

St Matthews and First Lutheran

Courage to live our faith

Stir us beyond complacency.

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Knowing we cannot pray for everything –

(Congregation) **today we pray for courage.**

Courage to listen to the disenfranchised in our community

Those in poverty – the unhoused – the oppressed – the sick –

the grieving – the lonely – the lost

Those who live with violence

Those who identify as LGBTQ2S+

Courage not only to listen but to do

Giving care and compassion to Rose City Kids,

Beyond the Streets,

the Hope Centre.

Stir us beyond complacency.

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Knowing we cannot pray for everything –

(Congregation) **today we pray for courage.**

Courage to help protect our fragile earth

You gave us clean water and clear skies.

Our failure to honour your gift has brought us

Debris-filled waterways and oceans

Smoke-filled skies

Decimated forests

Displaced peoples

Give us courage to find ways to repair the damage we have done.

To listen to the whispers of Creation

Whispers that now are shouts.

Stir us beyond complacency.

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Creator God

We know we have work to do

Know that we are grateful for your gifts – our Church – our community – our world.

Open our hearts to the movement of Spirit in our choices.

Stir us beyond complacency.

Amen.