

## Guidelines for Congregational Prayer

The worship leader leads general prayers and then invites individual worshippers to add these petition(s) in the form of a litany. They are **SHORT** (one *brief* sentence; a *dozen* words or so max), *to-the-point*, requests or praise/thanksgivings which are ended with the petitioner saying: "Lord, in Your mercy." To which the whole congregation replies: "Hear our prayer." This continues for as long as the worship leader senses we've lifted up all desired petitions (forgive him if he cuts you off!).

If you don't want to do this publicly, request the pastor to include your petition in his altar prayer; just speak to him BEFORE the worship service and so request.

**In offering such petitions, please keep the following in mind:**

- + ***Speak up*** so that everyone (even those in the very back) can clearly hear and pray with you.
- + Beware of revealing things about another which that person may feel is private (Sometimes, just leaving out the name helps a lot).
- + Please do not use last names.
- + Beware of information-giving; litany petitions are not information but requests or praise.
- + Beware of making them too long (they are **short** – one brief sentence, likely less than a dozen words).
- + You may offer more than one petition, but please keep them separate.
- + Be sure to end your petition with "Lord, in Your mercy" (loud enough for all to hear)

**Good examples:**

- + "Strengthen and heal my neighbor; Lord, in Your mercy"
- + "Bless my search for employment; Lord, in Your mercy"
- + "Thank You for all Your blessings; Lord, in Your mercy"
- + "Give me focus and insight for my studies; Lord, in Your mercy"
- + "Grant healing to my foot; Lord, in Your mercy"
- + "Comfort my coworker in his grief; Lord, in Your mercy"
- + "Thank You, Lord, for healing; Lord in Your mercy"
- + "Strengthen my faith and commitment that I may do Your will; Lord, in Your mercy"
- + "Make my life more reflective of Your love and will; Lord, in Your mercy"

**NEED HELP?** Ask the pastor before the service; he'll help you!

We'd love to include this prayer in our daily prayers, just email [aalatal@gmail.com](mailto:aalatal@gmail.com) and we'll include it.