



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PRAYER RESOURCE

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH



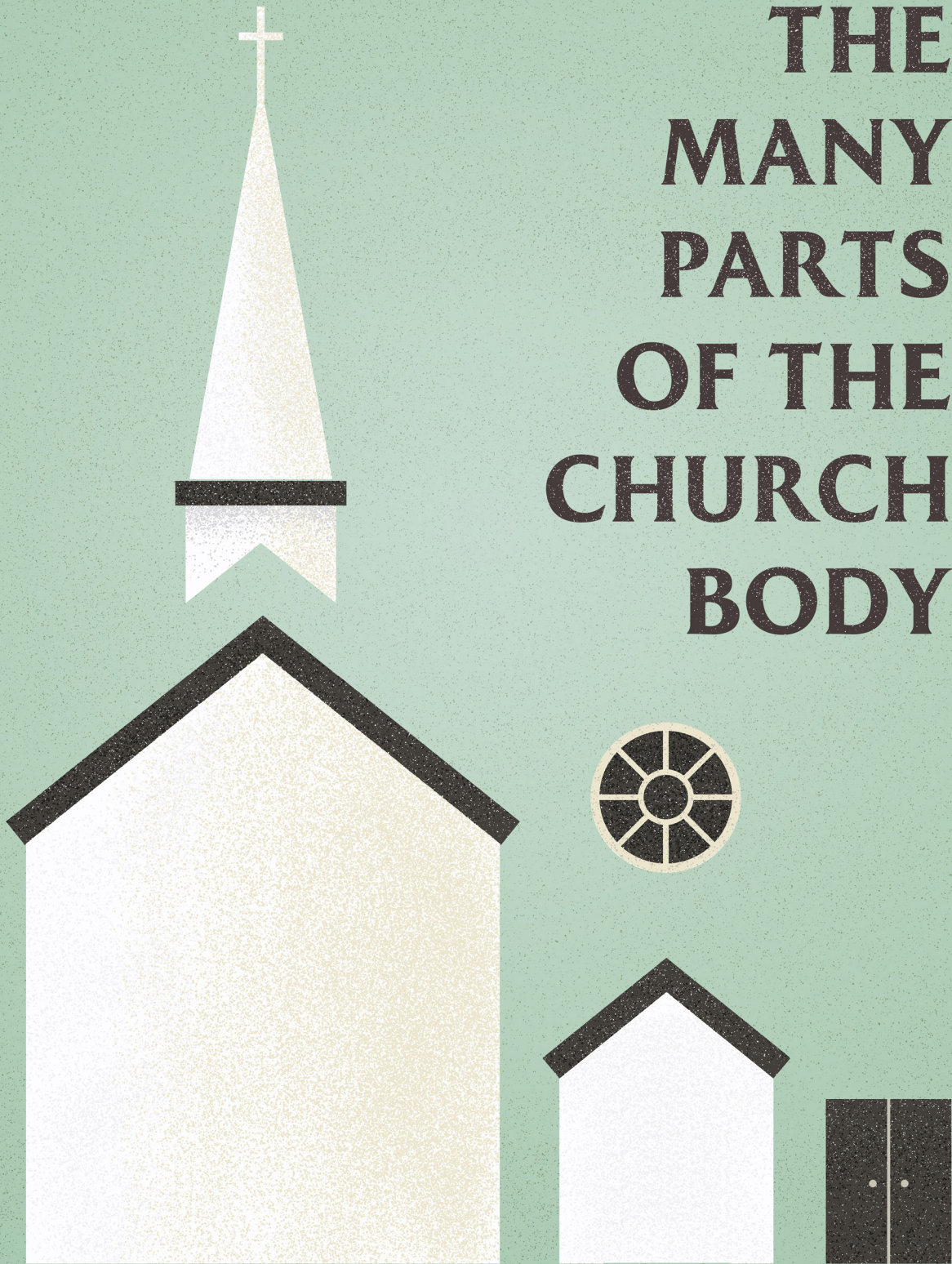


PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH



O Christ, our sure foundation, we praise you as the head of your bride, the church universal, for whom you suffered and died. We know, but we so often fail to remember and celebrate, that there is no bride more beloved or cherished than your church. Forgive us for our lack of gratitude and increase our commitment to serving your body, the church. Increase, too, Lord, our fervency in prayer for the church. Our own individual concerns are ever-present in our prayers and thoughts, and the needs of the church too often take second, third, or last place in our petitions. Bring us to your throne of grace again and again with bold and earnest prayers for your whole church—that great throng of saints who are called from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Give us hearts that yearn to see your church grow and flourish so that your name might be praised around this world. Until that great day when we join in the shouts of hallelujah around your throne in heaven, keep us promoting and loving and serving and praying for your church, the bride you have chosen as your means for advancing your Kingdom on earth, the bride that you will present pure, bright, and spotless in heaven. With thanksgiving for what lies ahead, we pray in your matchless name. Amen.

**THE
MANY
PARTS
OF THE
CHURCH
BODY**

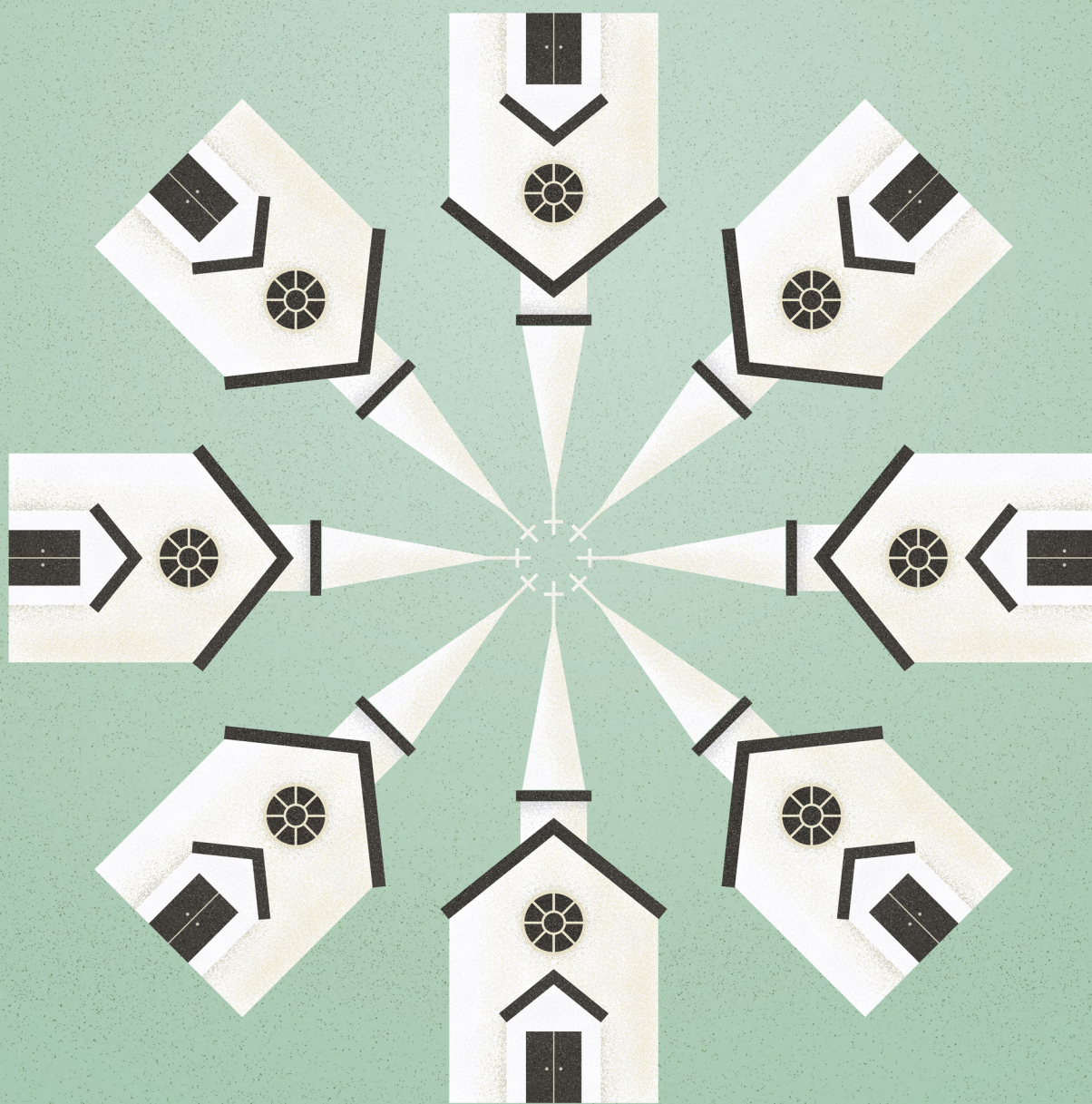


“Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.” 1 Cor. 12:14

**“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
1 Cor. 12:27**

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks this day for the myriad and wonderfully different parts that make up the church body—the gifted teachers and the patient nursery workers, the pot scrubbers and the gardeners, the leaders and the followers, the musicians and the preachers, the caretakers and those who fervently pray, the imaginative people who create beauty and the willing servants who clean up mess. We know we need every member and the gifts that each person brings. May we never fail to appreciate the blessings that you pour out on your church by enabling individuals to contribute in so many different ways. Strengthen your people so that they may serve with joy. Supply patience and energy, wisdom and compassion. Prevent us from prizing certain gifts over others; keep us fully aware that we need the head, the heart, the eyes and ears, the arms and legs—every single part. Make us ever mindful that if one part suffers, every part suffers with it, and if one part is honored, we all rejoice. Most of all, help us to serve in whatever capacity you enable us to serve, like our Savior Jesus, who washed his disciples’ feet and did not regard equality with you as something to be grasped. (Phil. 2:6) Whatever you call us to do in the church, help us to do it humbly and obediently for your glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH



“All the believers were one in heart and mind.” Acts 4:32a

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.” 1 Cor. 1:10

Almighty God, we acknowledge to our shame that your church has more often been marked by contentiousness and discord than by agreement, unity, and love. We are prone to argue and to want our own way. Forgive us when we demand the floor, refuse to listen, or grow angry over any issue. Keep us from nursing grievances and nurturing pride. When our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ is no more than lukewarm, rekindle our hearts and remind us anew of the deep, deep love of Jesus, love that not a single one of us deserves. Increase our patience, and make us people who overflow with compassion and sympathy. When truth must be defended, may our words be ever-gracious. If we must take a stand, may we always do so humbly and only after spending time in earnest prayer and careful study of your Word. Bless us with a unity that flows from our common bond in Christ, and knit us together with strands that cannot be broken. In the name of our Savior, Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit, knows the eternal delight of perfect unity and love. Amen.

**THE
MINISTRY
OF THE
WORD OF GOD**



“So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God. . . .’” Acts 6:2

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. . . .” Eph. 4:11-12

Gracious Father, we lift up to you today the preaching and teaching of your Word. In the relative safety of our part of the world, we know that we too often take it for granted, and we ask you to forgive us for not prizing the great blessing it is to be taught week after week by those whom you have gifted and equipped to open your Word. Give those who preach and teach the time and energy that they need to prepare diligently and prayerfully. Empower them with your Spirit and fill them with your wisdom so that they may preach and teach boldly and faithfully. As we hear the Word preached and taught, give us an eagerness to learn and an ever-increasing love for the treasure that it offers. Convict us, change us, and embed your Word deep into our hearts so that we may live and serve in glad accordance with your Word. In the name of our Savior Jesus, who is the Word of Life and the Light of the World. Amen.

**THE
MINISTRY
OF SERVING
OTHERS**



**“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”
1 Pet. 4:10**

**“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”
Rom. 12:13**

Lord Jesus, you made yourself nothing and took on the very nature of a servant when you came to earth (Phil. 2:7), and yet we, your followers, spend so much of our time trying to increase our comforts. We are often hoping to be served in ways that will meet our felt needs and generally expand our enjoyment of life, instead of delighting in finding ways to serve others. We know that everything we have comes from you, and yet we regularly cling to our possessions, gifts, and abilities instead of being eager to offer them to you and your church. O Lord, forgive us for not serving the way that Jesus served. Transform us into administrators of your abundant grace. Shape us into a people who are merciful, kind, and giving. As your children, Father, we ask that you make clear to us the ways in which you would have us serve others. May your church be known as a haven for those who are struggling and a place of refuge and rescue for those in despair. Give us wisdom and discernment so that we can best meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Show us how we can serve friends and strangers, and spur us on to practice hospitality. Make all of us in your church into servants like our Savior Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**PRAYER
FOR THE
PERSECUTED
CHURCH**



“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews 13:3

“When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly.” 1 Corinthians 4:12b, 13a

Loving and merciful Father, we pray for all in your church who face persecution. For those who are imprisoned, we pray that they would know more deeply and fully the freedom they have in Christ. For those whose situations seem hopeless, we pray that they would know the hope to which you have called every believer, the riches of your glorious inheritance in the saints and your incomparably great power for all who believe. (Eph. 1:18-19) For those who have been forbidden to speak the name of Christ, we pray that you would enable them to speak boldly and powerfully, the way that you enabled Stephen to speak before the mob in Jerusalem. We trust that you will supply the right words to every believer who is arrested on your account, that they will be given exactly what they should say at the very hour they are brought before rulers and officials. (Matt. 10:19) Fill the hearts of the persecuted with love for those who revile them. We ask humbly for protection and peace, but we also hold fast to the promise that those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake will have a great reward in heaven. (Matt. 5:11-12) May persecution always have the result of bringing more people into your Kingdom. We ask all this in the name of our faithful Savior, Jesus. Amen.