

LITURGY for CHAPLAINCY SUNDAY

LEADER: God has agents of His mercy and grace in different forms in different places. In the church He uses pastors in situations of church outreach to others He uses Evangelists and Missionaries. In the military and in hospitals, in prisons and institutions, and in arenas of crisis or dislocation, He has Chaplains.

People: May God strengthen the hearts and encourage the lives of all those who take on these special ministries of grace, but especially today the men and women who serve as Chaplains.

LEADER: Chaplaincy happens in places of joy, but more often in places of fear and anxiety in the face of change and brokenness.

People: Lord, speak through Chaplains to give comfort and hope.

LEADER: Chaplaincy happens in situations of abundant life, but often addresses the reality of death.

People: Lord, give through Chaplains the message of eternal life.

LEADER: Chaplaincy happens in the context of community, but often addresses those in positions of isolation.

People: Lord, express through Chaplains the embrace of fellowship.

LEADER: Chaplaincy occurs in situations of light, but often ministers in places of darkness.

People: Lord, shine through the presence of Chaplains the light of Your life in Christ.

LEADER: Chaplains are often called upon to deliver or to address the reality of bad news.

People: Lord, announce through Chaplains the good news of the gospel.

LEADER: Chaplains deal daily with grief and loss.

People: Allow them, Father, to represent the joy of abundant life through the Lord of Life.

LEADER: Chaplains are often called upon to be where others, and even lesser angels, may fear to tread.

People: Lord, put your guardian angels around those who serve as Chaplains to protect, to comfort, and to encourage them in their work.



PRAYER FOR CHAPLAINS

Father,

We all have a calling and we all need your grace in special and particular ways, but today we pray especially for Chaplains. We thank you for their willingness to be with the vulnerable, the isolated, the institutionalized, the “at risk” and the dying.

May you continue to raise up men and women who are willing to leave the confines of the established church, or developing church, to be the church to the un-churched. May your light continue to shine in the dark places of our society through the presence of Chaplains. And may those who serve in such capacities receive a rich reward through the response of those to whom they minister, as well as through the crown that you have promised in eternity.

In the name of Your Son, who also went into the highways and byways of life to touch the lost,

AMEN.

