

# A WEEKLY DEVOTION



INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 12, 2021

## **Reading**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. -*Romans 8:26-27*

## **For Reflection**

Sometimes we just don't have the words. Or, we have words, but they just aren't quite right. Sometimes what we are experiencing is too big, too painful, too confusing for us to articulate what we are thinking and feeling. It is in such moments that today's scripture offers us a word of hope. We are promised that the Spirit takes our garbled prayers and our half-formed thoughts and makes sense of them. We are promised that God sees and understands, and then answers what we meant and not what we said.

If only we had that capability with one another! How might this world be different if we could hear one another so clearly? Perhaps what we need is a movement of holy listening, where we listen deeply to one another, hearing both what is said and unsaid. If we could set aside our own agenda, forget about formulating our own response, lower our walls of defensiveness and our need to be right, perhaps then we might actually hear one another. How are you engaging your faith through prayer this week? How are you engaging others? How might holy listening change how you hear both God and one another?

## **Prayer**

Loving God, we give you thanks that you hear the prayers of our hearts, those spoken and those left unspoken. Open our ears so that we might hear your response and create in us a fertile soil for your will. Soften our hearts to our neighbors and intercede in our conversations, so that together we might work for peace, justice, and compassion in this world. Amen.