2/18/18 (Jerry Nelson) Praise and Petition for nation

“Our God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we bow before you this morning because we are reminded of your greatness – and your right to rule in every heart AND we remember your mercy and your grace.

“All Hail the power of Jesus’ name.. crown him Lord of all.

Hail him who saves you by his grace.. crown him Lord of all.

To him all majesty ascribe.. and crown him Lord of all.

In your Word it is written, “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow…and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord…”

We bow … and we confess… Jesus is Lord and our Lord!

The life we live, the air we breathe, the energy we exert, the abilities we possess, the opportunities provided are all because of you – in you we live and move and have our being.

* It is by your providence we are here this morning,
* It is in your mercy that you condescend to meet with us sinners here and now,
* It is your grace that grants us forgiveness and imputes to us your righteousness.

You are worthy of all praise, OUR praise, our gratitude, our obedience.

* Spirit of God we need you to quicken our **minds** to know the truth of who you are and our dependence on you.
* We need you to enliven our **hearts** to love you as you deserve to be loved.
* We need you to energize our **wills** to live that love out in obedience to YOUR will.

Week to week we are busy Lord and we fall prey to our busyness; help us to awaken tomorrow with the same desire to worship you with our lives, which we now express to you in our prayer.

In this very moment, we reorient our thinking, our very lives – you are God and we are not our own, we are YOUR people.

What a privilege it is to come before you at your invitation, even at your bidding, and make our requests known.

God you know us individually, you know our sins (forgive us Lord), you know are needs (grant your grace), you know our fears (grant us peace), you know our doubts (grant us faith), you know our impatience (grant us perseverance).

What we pray for ourselves, we pray for other believers in our own city, country and around the world.

As your people gather in churches here in Lakewood/Denver this morning, grant that your Word will be proclaimed and the Lord Jesus honored.

As believers gather across this nation, God do a spiritual work in their minds and hearts that your church in this country may be strong, bold and effective in being the salt and light you commanded your people to be.

As your people in China end their day and face a new week, some of them persecuted for their faith, give them recall of the Word they have heard preached today and sustain their faith and protect them and increase their number.

Father in heaven, you grieve and we grieve over the evil that befell the high school in Florida this past week. As you have promised in your providence, bring good out of that evil. And God, comfort those families who belong to you and both comfort and challenge those who, yet, do not.

And O please, give wisdom to those who debate the causes of this kind of tragedy. Grant them to know that it is not gun laws alone that need to be changed but a whole culture that needs to be changed – a culture that needs to rediscover the benefit to ALL that comes from basing a society on the principles of your Word.

Not a theocracy but an ethical, moral and just society grounded even in natural law and consistent with and informed by truth from your Word.

God in heaven, save this nation from itself – save us from ourselves – grant us mercy and grace.

And now our Father, through the Word preached here today and through the Sacrament received by us, grant your grace that we may love you and serve you.

We recognize that our right to be in your presence and to make these requests is because of the person and merit of your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen