

**Intercessions**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter—May 7, 2023**

**Cantor: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer...**

- For the Church and for all Christians, who are entrusted with spreading the good news to the world, especially in risky situations. *We pray,*
- For those places where religion is dangerous to people, holding them hostage and depriving them of their human rights. *We pray,*
- For those who use religious differences as a barrier to mutual understanding, cooperation, progress or peace. *We pray,*
- For those who misunderstand the meaning of discipleship—practicing it as entitlement or status, rather than service to others. *We pray,*
- For a solution to the growing number of mass shootings in this country and to America’s obsession with weapons. *We pray,*
- For all in this community who are suffering in any way; for those who find religion a challenge to their faith; and for those unknown to us who need our help and ministries. *We pray,*
- We pray now for our own needs, and for the ability to discern what discipleship demands of us (*pause*). *For all these things, we pray,*