

Prayer of the Church
First Sunday in Advent (Ad Te Levavi)
28 November 2021

To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls and in You we put our trust. Do not let us be ashamed of our hope, but come quickly. Sustain us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with Your whole Church, Lord, that as we wait for the coming of Christ, our King, our hearts may be filled with His joy and our lips with His praise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look favorably on our parish and especially our catechumens, that we may live sober lives, casting off the deeds of darkness as we wait for the revealing of our Savior from heaven. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, guard the schools of the Church, *especially Valley Lutheran School*, that in them Your Word may be taught in its truth and purity, and that Christ may dwell in the hearts of both teachers and students by faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, behold our nation and its leaders and protect our armed forces, taking them under Your care and blessing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show compassion to the sick, the suffering and those in need [*especially* _____]. Give relief to their pain, increase their faith, and grant healing and peace in accordance with Your wisdom and will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort those who mourn with Your promises in Christ, [*especially* _____,] and fill their hearts with the peace that passes understanding. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord, and blessed is Your Son, Jesus Christ, who came in Your name to save us from sin and death. As He visits us this day with His body and blood under the bread and wine, give us penitent hearts that worthily welcome His coming and rejoice in His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, You declared that the days were coming when You would accomplish our salvation, and in Your time You caused Your Son, the righteous Branch, to spring up for David. By Your grace, keep us joined as branches to Christ, that we might bear fruit until the day He returns in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**