

Prayer of the Church
Third Sunday of Easter (Misericordias Domini)
1 May 2022

Shepherd of Israel, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sought out Your sheep and gathered us into Your flock. Keep us always in Your fold, and guard us from every wolf and snare. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bestow the gift of Christ's own wisdom and tenderness upon all who are called to shepherd the souls of Your people. Teach believers everywhere to receive their pastors as a gift from You, that they might confidently receive Your life-giving gifts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, give peace, Lord, to our homes and enliven them by Christ's resurrected life. Let the forgiveness of sins reign among husband and wives, parents and children. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by Your right hand. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Lord, through the Paschal Lamb You have wrought peace between man and God. By Your gift of good government, grant peace and good days also to our citizens and between the nations of the world, that we and all our neighbors may lead quiet lives in godly contentment. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Lord, You know the needs of Your people before we ask. Yet You call upon us to make known the petitions of our hearts and to trust You to supply grace sufficient for all our needs. Give to the sick healing, to the suffering relief, to the troubled peace and to the grieving comfort. Deliver the dying to Your rest. We pray especially for [_____ and] those we name in our hearts before You. [*Brief silence.*] Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our Shepherd, You calm all fears in this valley of the shadow of death, and You prepare the holy table of Your Son's testament for us in the presence of our enemies. Grant us repentant and faithful hearts. In every tribulation or besetting sin, lead us to find comfort and strength in Your overflowing mercy given to us here in this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, out of Your fatherly goodness You have remembered us poor, miserable sinners and given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd — not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death and the devil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that even as this Shepherd knows us and helps in every affliction, we also may know Him, trust Him, seek help and comfort in Him, heartily obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**