

**Prayer of the Church**  
**First Sunday in Lent (Invocabit)**  
**26 February 2023**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, You sought Adam and Eve in the garden and called them to repentance. Seek us when we wander from Your Holy Word, and give us contrite hearts to confess our sins and receive the forgiveness and restoration You promise us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father in heaven, Your Son trampled the serpent underfoot and freed us from sin and death by His own death on the cross. Protect and preserve all called to preach Christ and Him crucified. Command Your angels to guard them in all their ways and bear them up for the sake of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You created the home as the place where we are brought up in the ways of truth, goodness and mercy. Sustain parents in their sacred charge, and grant that our homes would be places of confession and forgiveness of sins. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have established earthly authorities to punish evil and praise those who do good. Grant our rulers humble hearts to resist the allure of power and to worship You alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, Your Son was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to suffer temptation for our sake. Strengthen us when we are tempted, and teach us to rely upon Your Word as our defense against the evil one. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, send Your holy angels to protect and keep us in Your ways, that no evil may befall us. Graciously behold the needy, the sick and the troubled. Satisfy us with long life, and show us Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You covered the shame of our first parents with animal skin and thereby foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of the shedding of Your Son's blood by which we are cleansed and clothed. Give us the garments of repentance and faith, that we may receive Your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us a refuge from the world in the Body of Christ. Protect us from all evils of body and soul, that we would find rest in this life and eternal rest in Your heavenly embrace; 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.**