

Prayer of the Church
Seventh Sunday after Trinity
23 July 2023

Lord God, our King over all the earth, reigning over the nations, sitting on Your holy throne, graciously receive our prayers and praises. Subdue the devil, the world and our sinful flesh under the feet of Your people, that we may share in the victory Christ has won for us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the earth, our Savior multiplied bread and fish and fed over 4,000 people in Gentile territory, thereby showing Your kingdom is open to all nations. Bless and protect the work of our missionaries in this country and around the world, that all people would receive the bread of everlasting life given in the Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, pour out the blessing of Your Holy Spirit on the delegates who will assemble in convention this week. Give wisdom to those who propose, deliberate and decide for the work and welfare of our Synod. Guard all who speak and all who listen. Give us courage to do with integrity what we promise. Bless our plans and actions, and grant success. Only let our manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator and Preserver of all things, You govern and sustain the earth for our good and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Bless the labor of those who produce food and shelter, safety and peace. Lead us to recognize Your gracious hand in all things and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord and Giver of life, You formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us Your own breath of life. All people are made in Your image and have dignity and worth in Your sight. Defend Your gift of earthly life at every age, from natural conception to natural death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Father, for those in every need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, as Your Son miraculously fed thousands in the wilderness, feed Your people gathered here today with the true bread from heaven, the body and blood of Christ, our Savior, that even in the wilderness of this world we may share in the eternal life of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism You claimed us as Your own holy people in Your Son. Strengthen and preserve us in this holiness, that we might not give ourselves over again to the slavery of sin and lawlessness leading to death, but instead to the slavery of righteousness that leads to eternal life; 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.