

Prayer of the Church
Fifth Sunday after Trinity
9 July 2023

Lord God of hosts, sustain those called to be fishers of men in Christ's Church, that they would not be discouraged when they toil all night and take nothing, but continue to let down their nets at His Word according to that calling. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God of hosts, make Your servants jealous for Your name, especially Matthew, our Synod president; Brian our district president; John our circuit visitor; and Justin our pastor, whom Your Son has called to be fishers of men in our midst. Give them courage faithfully to proclaim Your Word alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God of hosts, in every generation You preserve a remnant who have not bowed their knees to the false gods of this world. By Your Spirit, keep us faithful to You, and grant repentance to those who have fallen away. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God of hosts, grant zeal among our members to make a defense for the hope that is in us. May our homes be welcoming places where visitors are drawn to the Word of life as it is proclaimed and lived out among us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God of hosts, keep us from trusting the wisdom of the worldly wise and the debaters of this age above the truth of Your Word, that we would not perish with those who reject the word of the cross. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God of hosts, by Your Spirit help us to bless others, not repaying evil for evil or reviling for reviling, that as Your children we may seek peace and pursue it with all people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God of hosts, bless all who suffer in body or mind in our midst. Since Christ is at their right hand, they cannot be shaken. Make their flesh dwell securely, and give them peace in the promise that You will not abandon their souls to Sheol. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God of hosts, Your Son is our chosen portion and our cup, forgiving and nourishing us with His body and blood. Grant that we may receive Him humbly and in faith, that You may hold our lot secure in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O living God, Lord of hosts, You have given us Your Holy Word and provided bountifully for all our needs. We confess that we are unworthy of all these mercies and have rather deserved punishment. Yet we implore You, forgive our sins and bless us in our various callings, that by Your strength we may be sustained and defended now and forever, and so praise You eternally; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**