

Prayer of the Church
Third Sunday of Easter (Misericordias Domini)
23 April 2023

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

Loving Father, Your Son is the great Shepherd of the sheep, who faithfully gathers His flock to Himself in the pastures of the Church. Grant us steadfast faith to hear His voice and follow Him, even through the valley of the shadow of death, that we may receive our portion in His abundant life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You provide shepherds in Your Church. Inspire the service of all pastors to feed Your flock with Your Word. Seek the scattered and bind up the injured, that we may abide forever in Your rich pasture. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, You have called us to be Your people through Baptism and faith. Bless all the schools and seminaries of our Synod, that our pastors may be well trained for Your service and our young well prepared for their occupations, serving as Your children. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O gracious King, You have ordered the nations of the world so that men might seek security in You and not in earthly powers. Give servant-hearts to our leaders and grant peace through their labors, that many may find You in the sanctuary of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Great Physician, by the wounds of Your Son on the cross You bring healing to the world. Extend Your healing to all who suffer in this life, and instill in them the hope of resurrection and perfect healing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You gathered Your people of old to the Temple Mount. Gather us now to Your altar and feed us with Your Son, that we may never be scattered from You, but dwell forever in the rich pasture of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son promises to gather His sheep into one flock. Join us with the faithful departed from all times and places to share in the feast that has no end. 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.**