

Prayer of the Church
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
20 August 2023

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

Be merciful to us, heavenly Father, for daily we are tempted by Satan, and daily we sin and transgress Your will. For the sake of Christ Jesus and His bitter suffering and death upon the cross, forgive us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to Your Church here and in every place. Defend our pastors from arrogance and pride, and strengthen them in the faithful preaching of Your Word, that both Your holy Law and Your precious Gospel would be proclaimed and Your children be united in saving faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to all in need, especially children who lack food, clothing and shelter, and all orphans in need of parents to care for them. Heavenly Father, provide earthly fathers, mothers, friends and neighbors to care for them. Give us generosity to serve as agents of Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to our land, that those with any authority would exercise it with wisdom and righteousness, and that we would have peaceful days. Be merciful to the nations of the world, that wars would cease and harmony be restored. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to the sick and the sorrowing, that as they are burdened by the difficulties and hardships of life in this fallen world, they would receive not only temporal relief but know the forgiveness of their sins and have the constant hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to our neighbors, especially those who have sinned against us and done us harm. Give us patience and strength to deal with them gently and humbly, readily forgiving as we have been forgiven. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, if we trust in ourselves for righteousness, we are lost and dead in our sins. Yet You mercifully draw us to Yourself in repentance and hear the cries of those who trust in Your Son. Grant us humility, that we may not exalt ourselves or treat our brothers and sisters with contempt. Rescue us from every evil, and bring us into Your kingdom as Your beloved children. To You alone be all glory, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**