

Prayer of the Church
Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
22 October 2023

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

Receive, O Lord, our praise and thanks for every good gift of Your grace. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we might walk wisely and redeem the time You give us on this earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, preserve the invitation of Your saving Gospel among us, that many may come into Your Son's eternal wedding feast. Protect and vindicate Your servants who preach and teach Your Word. Guard their families from those who oppose their ministry and way of life. Open our ears to listen diligently to Your living and life-giving Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we give You thanks for the institution of holy marriage and the myriad blessings of family. Grant that these gifts would be cherished and honored in our society and especially in the Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, graciously preserve our nation and cause our leaders to serve faithfully and wisely, making God-pleasing decisions and walking in integrity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, give us bread that satisfies and everything needful — not for our sakes, but graciously on account of Christ. Provide, we pray, for every need of body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, clothe all who appear before Your altar this day with the wedding garment of Your righteousness, that they may be worthy guests. Nourish them with Your Son's body and blood, that their faith may be strengthened through the forgiveness, life and salvation You so freely bestow. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You received the praise of harp and psaltery in Your temple of old. Bless the efforts of sacred musicians today to lead the praises of the ascended Lord among us to the edification of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giver of every good and perfect gift, we confess that no one living is righteous before You. Mercifully grant us grace, that we may stand before You on the Day of Judgment, clothed completely in the righteousness of Christ and giving You endless thanks and praise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**