

Prayer of the Church
Second Sunday in Advent (Populus Zion)
10 December 2023

Lord of hosts, You have given all judgment over to the Son of Man, our incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ. Make us ever mindful of His coming, and keep us steadfast in the Word of Christ, that in accord with Him, we may live in harmony with one another and together glorify You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of Your Christ will not. Give to our congregation the strength to endure whatever trials You see fit to send us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, send pastors and missionaries to proclaim Your saving Gospel, especially to those who have not heard it, that Your Holy Spirit would cause them to abound in hope. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, preserve the schools of the Church and our baptized children, that our people may constantly be nurtured in the hope of our redemption at Christ's appearing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, You warn us against preoccupation with the cares of this life while setting tasks before us in which to love You and serve our neighbor. Grant us joy and skill in our various vocations, that we may faithfully serve You with cleansed minds, awaiting the day of our Lord's return. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, be near to our nation and its armed forces, and guide all nations of the world, that those entrusted with positions of public service might serve honorably and well for the protection of others. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, give ear to the cries of Your children. In Your gracious goodness, restore the ill, the lonely, the homebound, the depressed, those near death, those in any need and all those we name before You in our hearts. *[Pause]* Shine Your face upon all those who call upon You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing. Grant repentance and firm trust to all who commune this day, that receiving Your true body and blood, they may be forgiven and abound in hope, able to stand with a clean conscience before Your judgment throne. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, Your anger at our sin is just, and yet Your mercy abounds to us for redemption. Grant us repentant hearts, that we would not continue in sin or wander away from the faith, but rather recognize our sin, turn from it and receive Your forgiveness. Grant us a clear conscience for Christ's sake, that we may live joyfully and without fear; 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.**