Prayer of the Church Quinquagesima 11 February 2024

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

Gracious Father, remember Your promise to be a rock of refuge for Your baptized children. Create in us humble and contrite hearts, that we would always cry out to You. Fill us with Your love, and grant us grace to follow Christ, our Savior, with joy. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You have opened the eyes of the blind to see and the ears of the deaf to hear. As we prepare for Lent, open our eyes and ears anew through the preaching of Law and Gospel to see and hear Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, preserve the family and all godly Christian homes. Give parents diligence and persistence in their duties to teach the faith in word and example. Keep adults and children alike in the promise You made to them in their Baptism. Let the patience, kindness and endurance of Christian love have no end among us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, You are our strength and our shield. Protect those who serve in law enforcement and in our armed forces. Give courage to all who serve in hazardous situations, and bestow wisdom on our leaders, that we may live in peace according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful One, You gave Your Son to bear our grief and carry our sorrows. Remember the sick and the dying. Ease their pain, remove their anxiety and comfort them with Your forgiving love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You claimed us as Your children in the waters of Baptism and offer us this day the blessing of Your Word and Holy Supper. Grant us eagerness to receive these gifts with thanksgiving, that through them we would joyously obtain the forgiveness of sins and behold Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, what You foretold through the holy prophets has been fulfilled and accomplished in the suffering, death and resurrection of Your Son. You have set forth His Passion and resurrection as the firm foundation and content for our faith. Have mercy on us, and fix our eyes on the Son of David at all times. Give us courage to follow Him through all adversity and every assault of the devil and to view His Passion with repentant hearts and delight, for by it You have redeemed us from all sin and evil. Comfort us with the certainty of Christ's resurrection, by which we have the confidence of eternal life; 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.**