

Prayer of the Church
Ash Wednesday
14 February 2024

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

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. In Your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. Preserve the proclamation of His cross among us, and guard Your Church from every false teaching that might delight our desires but leave us lost in our iniquity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look graciously on Your Church, and preserve the Gospel among us. Renew us in this penitential season to strive against the desires of the flesh, to grow in the joy of Your salvation, and to look in love and service toward our neighbors, especially those of the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look graciously on the families of our congregation. Defend Your holy estate of marriage against every enemy that would divide. Strengthen parents for their duties, especially bringing up their children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and preserve us all faithful to the end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember in mercy all who bear office in our land. Give them wisdom, protect them from danger and help them serve our people according to Your gracious will. Help us to become a people that guards the rights of the weakest and most vulnerable, especially the unborn. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Behold in mercy all who are sick, who suffer and who rejoice. Be with all expectant mothers, all whose work is dangerous, the unemployed, those near death and those who mourn. Comfort us who are dust and must return to dust with the promise that a broken and contrite heart You will not despise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us repentance at the Lord's table. Let us recognize the enormity of our sins by the measure of Your abundant pardon by the sacrifice of Christ, our Savior. Grant us faith to eat and drink His true body and blood worthily and to learn from Him to love our neighbor. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless us, heavenly Father, on this holy day of repentance. As we enter the season of Lent, let us hold fast to Your Word. Teach us to die to self and serve You faithfully throughout this mortal life, until at last You bring us with the blessed saints into Your presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**