

Prayer of the Church
Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi)
3 March 2024

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

Merciful God, You do not change and are always ready to hear our prayer. May our eyes be ever fixed on You, that we would always be ready to receive Your forgiveness and help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church, preserve and bless Your Church on earth, and do not let us fall into the sin of pride and self-confidence. Grant boldness to Your ministers as they preach Your Word to all, especially to those in need of repentance. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You seek not the death but the life of all. Hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You or who have wandered from Your truth. Free them from all error and, for the glory of Your name, mercifully bring them into the fellowship of Your Holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, no kingdom divided against itself can stand and a house divided must fall. Graciously preserve our nation with its government. Frustrate the work of Satan and the seeds of destruction he would sow in every place were he not stayed by Your gracious hand. Unite our leaders and our people for the common good, while leading us to hope in that eternal kingdom which is not of this world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, You have given us Your own Spirit in our Baptism into Christ. Defend us from all spiritual attacks. Guard us in body and soul. Help those afflicted by any adversity, and lead them to renewed strength and peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take up our flesh, that He might overcome the devil and defend us poor sinners against the adversary. We thank You for Your merciful aid and implore You to attend us with Your grace in every temptation. Preserve us from carnal security and, by Your Spirit, keep us in Your Word and fear, that we may be delivered from the enemy and obtain eternal salvation; 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.**