

Sunday 26 February 2023, PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – LENT 1A

Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights in the desert. Let us pray for all who hunger in body or soul, that our Father in heaven would satisfy their needs.

Dear Father in Heaven: we pray for all those who are faced with temptations or trials that seem too great for them. Keep all your people strong in the face of temptation, teach us all to rely on you at dark times of attack, and let your Word be our only strength. Bless those in positions of leadership so that they can lead wisely and with justice, and so that they may resist all temptation to abuse your power.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for young Christians and those whose faith is fragile, that they may be strengthened against the temptation of unbelief. Help us to support each other at moments of weakness and give us the strength to stand strong for others. Support all believers, and don't let them ever be put to shame for their beliefs. We pray for all those who are preparing for baptism or confirmation at this time and we ask that you would use this time of preparation to strengthen and grow their faith in you.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Stand by all those who are hungry or homeless, that they may not be tempted to despair. Keep those who are struggling with illness strong in their faith, so that they can lean on you through the tough times ahead. We especially pray for your healing hand over *(insert name(s) here)*.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

(other petitions may be inserted here)

Father in heaven, receive the prayers of your sons and daughters who seek your favour. Free us from all evil, so that we may serve you in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**