

Prayer of the Church – *Palm Sunday*

Father, we pray for the church, that we may humbly bear our cross and follow Jesus as our King and Lord. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for pastors entrusted with your holy word, like the chosen disciples. May they preserve the truth of your word and teach and live according to it. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have sinned, like Peter. Teach us to be sorry for our sins, and forgive us all for Jesus' sake. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for prisoners and criminals like Barrabas. May they find true freedom from lawlessness, violence, and despair. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all in government, like Caesar and Pilate. May they use their power properly, and serve truth and justice. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are dying, like the thieves crucified with Jesus. May they die with Jesus by their side, and be received into your kingdom. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for parents like Mary who have lost a child. May they bear their suffering and know the comfort of your love. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for peace in areas where there is unrest and conflict. Protect our brothers and sisters in Christ in these places. May their neighbours see your Son in them. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the whole human race, that all will come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour, pray for those who hurt them, and forgive them. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

And we pray for those with special needs including Jeff Silcock, Evan Koch, and those who are known to us personally, and whom we now name silently in our hearts... (*brief silence*) Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father, may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all who suffer. Lead us in the way of the cross, that as we suffer with Jesus, so we may rise to life in his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**