

Prayer of the Church Sunday 22nd August 2021 Year B

heavenly Father: thank you that Jesus speaks to us the words of eternal life, and that he is your holy one. We pray for your people whose faith is weak or faltering. Strengthen us all to stand firm when we are under attack from the powers of evil and from our own sinful nature. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Thank you for the gift of children, and for adopting us as your children in holy baptism. Help all Christian parents bring their children to you each day in prayer and conversation, and by the example of a faith-filled life. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Thank you for your presence in holy worship, and for the freedom to assemble today in your name. Give your Spirit of encouragement and patience to those who are unable to meet together due to covid and the lockdowns across our country and world. Let your word do its work so that people may be drawn to your Son in faith. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

We pray for community and government leaders, that you would direct them to stand firm against all that devalues human life. Equip Christians in public office to live out their faith, and bless our Bishop John and District Bishop David. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Have mercy Lord on those who have no work, on those who have no rest, and on those who have no home. Protect all refugees and provide them with a safe home and a new life. Please give your gifts of order and peace to the people of Afghanistan, and protect those who are powerless and vulnerable. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

[At 11 am and 7 pm] *Heavenly Father, we thank you that you have called us by your Spirit into the communion of saints, and have joined us with Julie Adams in the body of your Son: Keep us in the unity that the Spirit gives, so that we may stand firm in faith, giving ourselves to your work. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Please bless the work of the Gideons as they distribute your word around the world. Give them your Spirit of perseverance, and assure them that what is done in your name is never done in vain. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Comfort all who suffer loss with your presence and your love, and meet the needs of Ross Christiansen, Dave Hermann, Janet Schmidt, Sara Klein, and all those we know personally to be in want and whom we now name silently in our hearts... *(brief silence)* *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Loving God, to whom can we go? Your Son as the words of eternal life. Hear our prayers and grant them according to your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**