

**Prayer of the Church— Fourth Sunday in Advent (C), 19 December 2021**

O Lord, mighty God, there is none like You in holiness, faithfulness and might; yet, You exercise Your power for the salvation of sinners. As we draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill our hearts with gratitude that Your Son humbled Himself and became flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, mighty God, Bethlehem was too small to be among the clans of Judah, yet from it came forth the King of kings. Remember the congregations of Your people where numbers are small and resources are scarce. Provide for their needs, and remind them that the Lord of lords dwells among them through his Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, mighty God, You make poor and You make rich. Receive our thanks for Your gifts of daily bread. Give us contentment with what You provide, preserve us from coveting what You do not give, and grant that we would be wise stewards of Your blessings. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, mighty God, You sent Your Son to shepherd His flock in strength and to be great to the ends of the earth. Grant wisdom to our leaders and peace among the nations, that we may dwell secure. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, mighty God, whose mercy endures forever. Look upon those brought low by illness, injury, grief or other affliction [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Have mercy upon them, grant them healing and strength, and a sure and certain hope. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*O Lord, mighty God, You have sanctified us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, once for all, on the cross. Prepare the hearts of all who commune this day with penitence and trust in Your promises, and so make us holy with Your Son's body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

O Lord, mighty God, You have done great things for us, most of all delivering us from death to life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Mercifully hear our prayers and answer them according to Your will for the sake of Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**