**Prayer of the Church- *Pentecost 3, Year A***

Heavenly Father, bless your church and the work you have called it to do. Take away our fear of those who can only kill the body, and help us to fear, love and trust you above all things. Send us your Holy Spirit so that what we hear whispered may be proclaimed from the housetops. *Lord in your mercy:* ***hear our prayer***

We pray for Christians around the world who are severely persecuted for acknowledging you. Thank you that even the very hairs of their head are all numbered, and please strengthen and encourage them as they remain faithful even unto death. *Lord in your mercy:* ***hear our prayer***

We pray for all schools and other places of learning, especially schools in our city. Bless the work of teachers and other staff members and strengthen them in their special calling. Use them to prepare our young people to face the world with wisdom and confidence. *Lord in your mercy:* ***hear our prayer***

We ask you to bless our agriculture, fishing, forestry and all other primary industries. When times are difficult, we place our trust in you and ask you to hear our prayers and answer our need. We thank you for rain and sunshine, and we pray that you would continue to send rain when and where it's needed.

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

Protect all those who are starving, malnourished and in poverty, both overseas and in this country. Give us hearts to share compassionately from our abundance to help provide for our brothers and sisters in need. *Lord in your mercy:* ***hear our prayer***

Bless our government and all in authority. Use our elected leaders to promote goodness, justice and truth. As you have appointed us to be stewards of the earth, help our nation to wisely manage the environment and prevent the degradation of land and water ways. *Lord in your mercy:* ***hear our prayer***

Be with all we know who have particular needs, especially *(insert names).* We pray for those who are entering hospital or recovering from treatment – help them to acknowledge your fatherly will and rejoice in your saving help. *Lord in your mercy:* ***hear our prayer***

We trust in your mercy, Lord, and put all our concerns into your hands. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**