

Prayer of the Church - Sunday 20 February 2022

Loving Father, thank you that you have adopted us into your family through holy baptism, and that you speak your Spirit-filled word to us in Christ Jesus. Give us the freedom always to listen to his word, so that the fruit of your Spirit may be evident in our life together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your Church courageous in exposing sin, humble in confessing it, and generous in showing mercy. Do not let your church re-brand sin as virtue, nor reject those who stumble. Make it wise in exhortation and counsel, and make it gracious in welcoming all who turn to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Please give your Spirit of sound judgment, holiness, and reverence to Paul Smith as he is installed as bishop here today. Equip him with all that he will need to receive and hand on your word faithfully, for his own joy in life, and for the good of the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless counsellors, pastors, and others who help repair relationships and restore community. Equip them to listen deeply and speak wisely. Let them seek your will and model your love as they serve others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embrace the people of this congregation with your holy and forgiving love. Make us eager to seek out those estranged from us, and patient in the work of reconciliation. Let all we say and do shine with love for Jesus, and with Jesus' love for everyone we meet. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give rulers of nations, and all in positions of authority, a love for justice tempered with mercy. Please grant peace in our time, and give your protection to all who are powerless or vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore the faith and the health of all who are burdened by suffering of body, mind, or spirit – especially Dave Hermann, Valerie Naguib, and those we name in our hearts. Give them the joy of your saving help; and restore them to fellowship with all who love them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all these things, dear Father, and for whatever else you desire for us in your wisdom and compassion, we pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour, Lord, and King. **Amen.**