

Prayer of the Church, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 19 July 2020

Almighty and eternal God,

We thank you for the many blessings of body and soul which you have given us, although we have not deserved them. Above all, we thank you for preserving your saving word and the holy sacraments. Keep the teaching of the gospel pure in your church throughout the world, and give us faithful pastors to preach your word with boldness and power. Help all who hear the word to understand and believe. Send out labourers into your harvest and bring to faith those who do not yet know you. Have mercy on the enemies of your church, so that they may repent and live. Protect your church in all trouble, and defend it against all danger.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show your mercy to all the nations of the world. Bless our land and the people who live in it. Help those in government and positions of responsibility to maintain honesty and truth, justice and peace. Direct all schools and places of learning, so that students everywhere may learn truth and wisdom.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously protect us from fire and flood, from war and disease, from famine and strife and from every kind of disaster. Support all people in their proper vocation, and help all those who are unemployed. Bless our arts and culture, our science and technology. Be with all widows and widowers, and provide for all children who have lost their parents. Comfort those who are lonely and in trouble. Help those who are sick and in need.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, help us by true faith and a godly life to prepare for the world to come, doing the work you have given us to do while it is day, before the night comes and no one can work. And when our last hour comes, support us by your power and take us home to your heavenly kingdom. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**