

Prayer of the Church Sunday 8th August 2021 Year B

Heavenly Father: thank you for giving your Son Jesus Christ as our life-giving bread from heaven. Thank you for the uniqueness of his identity as both true God and true man, and for his matchless work of salvation. Ground your church firmly in this saving truth, and preserve us from damaging error. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Guard our speech Lord, so that our words and actions may be helpful to others. Watch over the public discourse of our nation, and keep our media, governments, and public institutions open and honest. Bring success to our daily work, and keep our workplaces free from malice and hatred. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

We pray for those lost in confusion of belief and behaviour, and for those who are trapped in idolatry. Stem the tide of hatred and violence between peoples, and ease the pain of victims of terror. Have mercy Lord, and send people to proclaim the message of your kingdom. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

We pray for those infected with COVID-19. Have mercy on countries devastated by this disease, relieve those who carry the burden of care, and bring a cure. In the midst of suffering, draw people to your saving grace, and help those who are struggling with grief and loss to seek refuge in you. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Watch over the children of our church and grow them strong in health and faith. Preserve the life of children yet unborn, and their mothers. Bless all the activities we undertake in your name here in our congregation, and give us joy in our life together. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Father, please give you gifts of healing, of patience, and of peace to all those who are suffering, including Ross Christiansen, and those we name now in our hearts. Please also give your comfort and consolation to Janet Schmidt, and all those mourning the death of her father, Ray. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Life-giving God, continue to give life to the world through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the bread of life from heaven, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**