

## **Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

## **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## **Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when

these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

## **Prayers of Intercession**

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for all people, the church, and all of creation.

### ***A brief silence.***

God of our salvation, we pray for peace in the world. Send your Holy Spirit to leaders of all the nations. Inspire them to end wars, oppression, and evil-doing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the eyes of all people to see the signs of salvation. Give wisdom to the church to proclaim your good news, and give witness to your love and faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the children and youth of this world, that they would live in hope and confidence, knowing and trusting in your love for them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the spiritually hungry. Fill them with your Holy Spirit, that that will know that you are near. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the physically hungry. Provide them with generous people to bring them food and nourishment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send your healing grace to all the sick. Let your healing flow through caregivers and medicines. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Plant the promise of eternal life into our hearts, and into the hearts of all people, especially those who grieve. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confident in your constant and abiding presence, we bring you these prayers, and our unspoken prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.