*Readings: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 & Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10 or Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 & Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

King of all the earth,

Creator of the universe,

Holy Triune God,

From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord.

Blessed are you, O Lord, for you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

*The Lord is near to those who call upon him.*

You always speak the truth and do what is right.

*The Lord is near to those who call upon him.*

Your life-giving commands bring praise from every nation;

*The Lord is near to those who call upon him.*

Keep our souls diligently that we might always remember the good things you have done;

*The Lord is near to those who call upon him.*

I invite you to add your own praises to the Lord.

***Silence****.*

You are worthy, Holy God, to receive all our praise. We worship you in the glory of your perfect Trinity and ask for grace to steadfastly believe and proclaim your unity.

We pray for your holy catholic church;

*Cleanse us deep within that we might bear good fruit.*

Keep us from adding or taking away from your word, which is our wisdom and understanding;

*Teach us to do what is right.*

Grant your church discernment to distinguish between the commandment of God and the tradition of men;

*We long to be a community that is holy and without blemish before you.*

We have received your grace and live daily in the gift of your salvation;

*May we testify of your goodness to every generation.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

I invite you to add your own prayers for the worldwide church.

***Silence.***

Creator of the earth, you spoke the world into existence and sustain all things by your life giving word. Consider the toil and sorrow of the people of the earth and, in your compassion, have mercy on the world.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

We pray for the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer;

For the refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger;

*Relieve and protect them, O Lord, and grant them eternal hope in you.*

Teach us how to rightly steward the gift of your creation,

*That the resources of the world would be used to your honor and glory.*

I invite your prayers for the needs of the world.

***Silence.***

God of all love and peace, we come to you in faith, offering you access into every area of our lives.

We pray for this congregation:

Every good and every perfect gift comes from you, the Father of Lights;

*Thank you for your saving and transforming word.*

Plant your word deep in our hearts, and help us to hear and receive your word;

*Help us to be mindful doers of your word.*

Teach us to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger;

*Teach us to do what is right.*

We look to you, Lord of all, mindful of our helplessness;

*Glorify your name in the midst of our need.*

I invite you to cast all your cares and concerns on the Lord, remembering that He cares for you.

***Silence***.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

We believe in you, Lord Christ.

We cry out to you, Father God.

We receive your witness, Holy Spirit.

Abide with us as we abide in you this week and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.