*Readings: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125 or Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146; James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37*

King of all the earth,

Creator of the universe,

Holy Triune God,

From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord.

You made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

*Blessed are we whose hope is in the Lord.*

You give justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger;

*Blessed are we whose hope is in the Lord.*

You set the prisoners free; you open the eyes of the blind and lift up those who are bowed down;

*Blessed are we whose hope is in the Lord.*

You care for strangers and sustain the orphan and the widow;

*Blessed are we whose hope is in the Lord.*

You love the righteous and frustrate the way of the wicked;

*Blessed are we whose hope is in the Lord.*

This is our God. Praise him, all you people, for he is our help and our salvation.

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;

*Strengthen our anxious hearts.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

You are the Lord our God, the one who keeps his promise forever;

*You come with vengeance and salvation.*

Quicken our ears to listen to you, and open our mouths to proclaim the good news of your kingdom;

*For you have done all things well.*

You, O Lord, shall reign forever and ever;

*Come and restore all things.*

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:

*Teach us how to show forth our faith by our works.*

Our hearts are bent toward partiality and we often judge others according to appearances;

*Grow in us a deep and impartial love for the people you have placed in our lives.*

Cultivate our faith that we might bear much fruit for your glory;

*May our actions demonstrate your love.*

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.