*Readings: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124 or Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50*

King of all the earth,

Creator of the universe,

Holy Triune God,

From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord.

Your testimonies bring wisdom, and your law, O Lord, gives life to our souls;

*The Lord is my strength and my redeemer.*

Your statutes bring joy, and your commandments, O Lord, give light to our eyes;

*The Lord is my strength and my redeemer.*

Your judgments bring truth, and your word, O Lord, gives us holy fear;

*The Lord is my strength and my redeemer.*

Grow our desire for the priceless riches and sweet treasures of your word;

*The Lord is my strength and my redeemer.*

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;

*Teach us to rightly respond to the Spirit you have given us.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

Keep your people from speaking evil against each another;

*Help us to humbly serve and welcome all who belong to Christ.*

Let the words proclaimed by your church and the meditations of your people be acceptable in your sight, O Lord;

*Grant us grace to submit ourselves to you.*

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.

Lord Christ, you are a merciful and faithful high priest;

*In humility, we ask for your help.*

Lord Christ, you have hard words for the sin that besets us;

*In humility, we ask for your grace.*

We cannot know how often and how grievously we offend you;

*Cleanse us from our hidden faults and presumptuous sins.*

For the times we know the right thing to do and fail to do it, have mercy on us.

*Strengthen our wills to choose the good.*

For the times when we have chosen prayerlessness, have mercy on us.

*Save us from the sickness of our mind, body, and soul.*

For the times we have carried heavy burdens not our own and have been overwhelmed by our own wretchedness, have mercy on us.

*Increase our faith, that we might wholly believe your word.*

For the times we have spoken arrogantly, as though we know and can control what tomorrow will bring, have mercy on us.

*Help us to live in humility and gratitude.*

For the times we have indulged ourselves and lived in luxury while ignoring the needs of others, have mercy on us.

*Grant us true repentance for the poverty of our hearts.*

For the times we have caused one of your little ones to sin, have mercy on us.

*Come quickly to us, O Lord, and save us from ourselves.*

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.