*Readings: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 and Psalm 127 or 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44*

King of all the earth,

Creator of the universe,

Holy Triune God,

From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord.

You give justice to the oppressed and food to those who hunger;

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

You set the prisoners free and open the eyes of the blind;

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

You lift up those who are bowed down;

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

You care for the stranger, the orphan, and the widow;

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

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;

*Save us, Lord Christ, as we eagerly wait for you.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

You know the areas of our abundance and the areas of our poverty;

*Teach us to humbly offer you all that we are.*

I invite you to add your own prayers for the worldwide church, remembering especially our brothers and sisters who suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

***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 the hope of every generation;

*We look to you alone for our salvation.*

You put away sin for all time by the sacrifice of yourself;

*How glorious you are, Lord Jesus, God of our redemption.*

Teach us to live in daily dependence on your presence,

*That your love might be evidenced in our lives.*

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 remember the widows, orphans, and family members of pastors, evangelists and other martyrs. Grant them your grace to forgive and to continue to serve you in faithful obedience.

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.