*Readings: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 and Psalm 20 or Ezekiel 17:22-24 and Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14; 2 Cor 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34*

King of all the earth,

Creator of the universe,

Holy Triune God,

From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord.

You have planted us in your house, O Lord;

*We sing praises to your Name, O Most High.*

You have shown us your loving-kindness and faithfulness;

*We will bless you in the morning and in the evening.*

You have made us glad by your acts, O Lord;

*We shout for joy because of the works of your hands.*

You have caused us to bear fruit and flourish in your presence;

*We will show forth your uprightness in all the land.*

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;

*Lord Christ, may your love control us.*

We pray for your church, planted by your own hand;

*Grow us into a large and fruitful tree for your glory.*

Grant that every member of the church may truly and humbly serve you;

*That your name may be glorified by all people.*

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,

*We make it our aim to please you in all things.*

Help us to be of good courage as we wait in hope for the resurrection;

*We want to walk by faith and not by sight.*

Deliver us from hardness of heart;

*Enable us to hear and understand your Word.*

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.