

PRAYERS for July 16, 2023 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Assistant: On this seventh Sunday after Pentecost, let us praise the name of the Lord and pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: Gracious Abba Father, You are great and greatly to be praised. As we give You praise this morning, we also give You our sincere thanks for who You are and for all that You do for us. As we worship You this morning, remind us that worship is not about us but is about us giving You the glory that You deserve. Thank You for sending Your Son's strong, wise words to stand up against a culture that seeks to destroy and uproot You from our world.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Merciful God, You have promised to sustain us if we trust in You, and we are at our best and strongest when we lean on You. We are safest when we know that underneath us are Your everlasting arms. Give us a sense of Your nearness and make us Your children to eternity. Keep the church strong in Your Word, forgive us, deal mercifully with us, and by the grace of Your Spirit help us to bear one another's faults with patience and gentleness. Let us not wander from the path that You have set before us: to grow in faith, to build disciples, and to serve in Christ's name.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Protecting God, we ask You to be with our nation during these times of stress, tension, and unrest. Lead our citizens to prayer and humbleness even though many opinions often separate us from our brothers and sisters. Take away the unkind words, the evil thoughts, and the insults that we throw at each other and replace them with kind-heartedness, civility, patience, and love. Search us and know our hearts so that You might lead us in the way of everlasting life. Help us follow Your Words and know that when we are weak, then we are strong in You.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Loving God, comfort Your people who are hurting today: those who are ill, those who are in emotional or physical pain, those who are hungry or cold, those who live in sadness and despair, and those whose loved ones have gone to be with You. Help them to securely rest in Your love. Guide us to walk alongside just one other person who struggles with doubt, grief, or despair. Lead us to speak words that are clear, faithful, truthful, loving, and that enrich their faith in You. We especially ask You to be with those on our prayer list and the families and friends whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 15 seconds for names.) **Lord, in Your mercy.....** *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: God our Father, bless each family that took part in the Fish Stix VBS this past week, from the volunteers who made snacks and crafts to the attendees and their family members. Help them all to share Your message with everyone they meet. Be with the missionaries who are sent out into the world to plant the Good News within the hearts of those who do not yet know You. Help us all to be missionaries and be courageous and unashamed when we share our testimonies with others. Let us spread the Gospel through our words and our deeds.

Lord, in Your mercy...hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**