

PRAYERS for July 23, 2023 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Assistant: On this eighth 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: Almighty God, author of all life, we know that You are always near, You are always wise, and You are always good. Hear us this morning as we turn our hearts to You in prayer. We come to You with joy in our hearts, praise on our lips, and reverence in our actions. Thank You for building Your kingdom in the midst of such a chaotic world. Thank You for building this congregation into a nurturing and growing family. We thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ who is always interceding for us.

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

Worship Assistant: Holy Spirit, ever present among Your people, draw us close to You. Your Word reminds us that for those who love God all things work together for good. Help us remember that through the chaos, the struggles, and the confusion in our world today, that if God is for us, who can be against us. We pray that in place of conflict there may be cooperation; in place of loneliness there may be compassion; in place of aimlessness there may be direction; and in place of lies there may be truth.

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

Worship Assistant: Gracious Father, fill the people of Word of God with wisdom and humility. We know that we can sometimes be selfish, oblivious, irresponsible, and even unwise. Through Your Word, teach us responsibility, accountability, and self-sacrifice. Help us remember that everything we do is for You, O Lord, and not for ourselves. Make us faithful, generous, kind, and holy, and use us to draw many people into Your Fatherly arms. We thank You that You have given us Your Son, Jesus Christ so that we might have an eternal inheritance and the promise of everlasting life. We ask You to give us strength to confess Christ without hesitating; to trust Christ without doubting; and to rejoice in Christ without ceasing.

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

Worship Assistant: Healing God, You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to be the great physician of our souls and our bodies. Grant peace to all who are ill. Grant rest to those who wait for healing. We pray for all people who are in need: the poor, the homeless, the lonely, the unloved, the innocent sufferers of violence and abuse, the victims of terrorism, the persecuted Christians around the world, and our military and police personnel. We especially ask you to be with those on our prayer list and the friends and family members 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: All-Knowing God, You are wiser than the wisdom of the world. We pray for justice, peace, and safety to flourish in this land. We pray for wrongdoers to be held accountable for their deeds and to repent of them. We pray for wise words from our leaders. We pray for constructive decisions, not rash actions or empty gestures, from those entrusted with authority. We pray for those who risk their lives on behalf of others, that even in difficult circumstances they show integrity and valor. With so much for which we pray, we ask that in all circumstances, Your will be done.

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**