

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

In today's worship, we learn that, through the parables of Jesus, the mysteries of the Kingdom of God are revealed to all those who are willing to listen.

O God, patient and forgiving,
you alone know the goodness of what you have made. With a love that is both powerful and patient,
you sustain the growth of the good seed your Son has planted.

Strengthen our spirit when we are too cautious
and temper our zeal when we are rash,
that in your own good time
you may produce in us a rich harvest
from the seed you have sown and tended.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

You sow the good seed of the kingdom
and patiently wait for it to bear fruit, you are good and forgiving,
full of hope to all who call on you: *Lord, have mercy.*

You do not *'pull up the weeds'*,
but give opportunities to people to repent and return to you, you are merciful and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in kindness: *Christ, have mercy.*

You instruct the disciples to be patient with others
as you are patient with sinners, you turn toward us and have compassion on us:
Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Lord, your word, is like a seed,
meant to bear rich fruit within us,
and produce its effects throughout the whole church.

You promise hope
that a new humanity will blossom and grow
to shine like the sun in your kingdom
when the Lord of the harvest returns
at the end of the age. You promise forgiveness of sin and life everlasting. For this
we give you thanks, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We do not know how to pray properly, so we ask the Spirit to intercede for us – for
the good of the Church and of the world.

1. That we Christians accept the truth that the Church of Jesus Christ, however
holy, is also a community of sinners. May we resist the temptation to sit in
judgment on one another. Lord in your mercy:
2. May evil-doers, criminals, and those considered by others as “weeds” of
society and church, realize that God continually gives them chances to reform
their lives. Lord in your mercy:
3. In our congregation, may we recognize, affirm and rejoice in the goodness of
one another. Lord in your mercy:
4. For ourselves: that we will be patient with the slowness of our own growth,
and the apparent slowness of God’s justice. Lord in your mercy:
5. For those who suffer injustice, illness, or infirmity of any kind, that they may
recognize the growth God gives even in the midst of suffering. Lord in your
mercy:

God of the universe! You are great and you perform wonderful deeds. Hear our
prayers in the name of the love that you bear for your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Lord. AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

God the Father is abounding in kindness to all who call upon Him.
May he grant you forgiveness. AMEN.

Jesus calls all people to his Father's kingdom.
May he give you the grace to trust in his promises. AMEN.

The Holy Spirit comes to help us in our weakness.
May he strengthen you with the power of his presence. AMEN.

And may our loving God bless you,
+ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. AMEN.