General Prayer

1st Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, we thank and praise You for the coming of Your Son Jesus Christ, the Light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

As Your servants in Old Testament times looked with fervent longing for the coming of the Messiah, grant that we may eagerly and joyfully welcome Him, Jesus our Lord, into our hearts by faith. Deliver us by His power and grace from sin, death, and the devil.

Dear God, lead us by Your Spirit to understand our great sinfulness and our need of repentance. Help us to hate what is evil and to love what is good. Strengthen us against the temptations of all our enemies. Move our hearts to seek righteousness and holiness, so that we may serve and glorify You in every way.

Send out Your light to all corners of the earth, that people everywhere may know Your love in the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ, and join the multitude of Your people who say, "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest!"

Bless all who are gathered here in Your house this day and sanctify them by Your Word. Give strength, comfort, understanding, and patience to those among us who are afflicted in any way, to those who are in sorrow, to those who are enduring trials, to those who may be in any trouble of body or spirit. Let them feel the warmth of Your love, and give them peace and joy in the abiding promise of grace through Christ.

All these things we ask in the Name of Jesus our Lord, who came for our deliverance, died for our salvation, rose again for our justification, and who always lives to plead for us before Your Majesty on High. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.