**Prayer of the Church – Proper 11C**

*We are worried and distracted by our own needs and the needs of the world. Let us stop and turn to God, and place all our cares into his hands.*

Dear heavenly Father, thank you that Jesus has visited us, first in our baptism and then many times since through your holy word and meal. Continue to speak to us from the pages of the bible, from the preaching of our pastors, and from the mouths of Christian family and friends.

*Lord, in your mercy:* **hear our prayer.**

Forgive our distracted busyness and misplaced priorities. Forgive our excuses and lack of attention to your word. Bring us to sit at your feet each day in quiet and receptive listening, and make our service true and holy as a result.

*Lord, in your mercy:* **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your body, the Church. Help all your people listen carefully to others and then to speak your word appropriately. Especially make all pastors, lay workers and church servants careful in their study, right in their understanding, and true and loving in their application.

*Lord, in your mercy:* **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christian families and households, that they may spend time together in prayer and devotion. Protect us all from selfish agendas and wrongful judgements. And when we grow angry with others, direct us to examine ourselves first in the light of your truth.

*Lord, in your mercy:* **hear our prayer.**

Guide all people in their daily vocations, and take our work and make it a blessing to others. Stir up our governments and people to generous hospitality, particularly to refugees and others needing a home. Give work where it is needed, and prosper all rightful enterprise for the good of all.

*Lord, in your mercy:* **hear our prayer.**

As you have blessed us with much, make us generous in giving to others: to those without enough essential food, to those whose lives have been devastated by natural disaster and to those who spread your gospel in our country and abroad.

*Lord, in your mercy:* **hear our prayer.**

Give your comfort and peace to those who are suffering in mind, body and spirit, including those we know personally to be in want and whom we now name silently in our hearts*...(brief silence)*

*Lord, in your mercy:* **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we and the world have many needs and we are often worried and distracted by them. We place them all in your loving hands, and pray for confident trust that you will always provide what is needed. We pray all this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**