Prayer of the Church, Proper 5A

*God shows his great love to us in his Son Jesus Christ. So let us pray to our Father with confidence.*

Gracious Father, we thank you for all the blessings you have given us, although we have not deserved them. Above all, we thank you for your word and sacraments. Keep the gospel pure in your church. Give us faithful pastors to preach your word, and help us to understand and believe. Bring to faith those who do not yet know you. Protect your church, and have mercy on its enemies.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we pray for the nations of the world and their rulers, that God's will may be done in all places. Give wisdom to all leaders, so that they act with justice and mercy towards their people. Bring peaceful resolution to all conflicts. We ask your merciful help in the situation of….[name particular current conflicts].

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, bless all those who work for peace and care for the vulnerable around the world. We give you thanks for the work of the United Nations, the Red Cross, Amnesty International and other international care organisations. We pray especially for the work of our Lutheran agencies, Australian Lutheran World Service and International Mission. Protect their workers and strengthen them in their service. Move us to offer our prayers and support for their efforts.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for the homeless, children in desperate situations, and young people in trouble. In difficult financial times, help us to respond to suffering and need with generosity and compassion. Open our eyes to the hungry and lonely in our communities, and help us to share your blessings with them.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring your comfort to all who struggle with ill health, especially [names of local people]. Comfort the grieving, especially [names of local people who have lost loved one].

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you love us and have promised to hear us. Answer our prayers according to your wisdom and love, and bring us closer to you. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**