**Prayer of the Church – *Proper 7C***

*As those whom God has called by name in our baptism, clothing us with Christ and making us his much-loved children, let us come to our heavenly Father in prayer.*

Heavenly Father, thank you for calling us by name in our baptism so that we are now clothed with Christ and do not come under judgement but rather under your loving grace for Jesus' sake. Have mercy on people who still stand naked before you. Address them personally too, and clothe them with the righteousness and holiness of Christ.

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

We pray for our Bishop *(insert name)* and District Bishop *(insert name)* and other leaders of the church, that they will continually be cleansed by Christ and work to clothe the church with his truth and love.

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

We pray for Christian parents, that they will bring up their children in the full heritage of their baptismal clothing. And we pray for Christian young people, that you willcast out all wrongful influences and give them strength to boldly live the life of Christ in full view of the world.

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

We pray for our country and nation. Protect it from natural disasters and extremes of weather. Give success to all proper work. And bless all marriages, families and homes.

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

We pray for our neighbours and local communities. Give our mayors and local councilors wisdom in their administration. And preserve good order and open-heartedness in our streets.

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

We pray for those tormented by spiritual sickness and plagued by evil. Cast out all uncleanness, set them free from their bonds, and let them find peace at the feet of Jesus.

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

We pray for all who suffer, including *(insert names).* And meet the needs of others 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.**

Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ we are all your children through faith. In his name, hear the prayers we offer, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**