**Prayer of the Church – *Proper 21B***

*The Lord says through James, 'Pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.' So let us pray for the church, the world, and those in need, knowing that God will answer our prayers according to his love and promise in Christ*.

Heavenly Father: thank you for including us in the body of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive us for causing others to stumble in the faith, turn us around to pray for one another instead, and to build each other up with songs of praise to you.

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

Watch over our children, dear Father, and over all who are young in the faith. Protect them from being misled by others, and provide them with parents and mentors to build them up in true faith and godly living.

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

Thank you for using churches throughout the world to build your kingdom of forgiving grace in Christ. Bless our brothers and sisters in other churches with the pure word of your law and gospel, and with the sacraments properly taught and administered.

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

Have mercy on the people of every land - on those with inadequate water and food, clothing and shelter, income and security. Have mercy too on those who are impoverished socially, and those who suffer from the sins of others. Supply their needs and give them peace.

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

Merciful Father, give courage to those who suffer long term illness or discomfort. Release those caught up in habitual sin, and comfort those who are lonely, distressed or broken hearted.

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

Bless each person in this congregation, dear Father - our brothers and sisters here at home. Turn us to each other with warm love and generous support, ready to give the simplicity of a cup of water where it is needed. And supply the needs of all we know personally to be in want and whom we name silently in our hearts... (brief silence)

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

Merciful God, you are the great healer and you provide all that we need for healing, and have given your own Son. Hear our prayer, and help all Christians to work together in your name to bring healing to their neighbours. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**