**Prayer of the Church – *Proper 25C***

*Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs, praying like the tax collector for God's mercy on the basis of the sacrifice he has provided for our sin.*

Loving Father, thank you for the rest and peace of this moment in which we remember all your benefits, especially the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ so that we are justified by faith in him and not by anything we do. Do not look on the sins of the world or the sins of your people, but look on Jesus and forgive us for his sake.

*Lord, we sinners cry to you:* **be merciful and hear our prayer.**

Let your words of law and gospel go out to all who live in darkness, that they may work miracles of faith and love. Turn us away from comparing ourselves to others, from despising those you love, and turn us instead to the One who gave himself for us.

*Lord, we sinners cry to you:* **be merciful and hear our prayer.**

Thank you for all the signs of your goodness in our homes and families, and in the church. Take our loved ones and our congregation and grow them strong, under Christ our head. Bless every gathering with forgiveness, respect and compassion. Remove all self-justification and blame from people's lives, and heal damaged relationships.

*Lord, we sinners cry to you:* **be merciful and hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the blessings we receive through our pastors, teachers, and mentors in the faith. Take our Bishop *(insert name)*, our District Bishop *(insert name)*, and all the congregations and pastors of your church, and keep us in the truth and love of Christ. Take the committees and auxiliaries of our own congregation and guide our work to your glory.

*Lord, we sinners cry to you:* **be merciful and hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the goodness that continually greets and blesses us in the gifts of your creation. Protect this earth from fire and flood, from drought and disease, and from every evil. Guide all governments and authorities, give success to all proper work, and bind up the world's wounds. Give strength to students undergoing exams in the weeks ahead, that they may give a true account of what they have learnt.

*Lord, we sinners cry to you:* **be merciful and hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the certain hope we have in Christ. Give dignity to those who rely on charity, and courage to those who are without hope. Where bodies are weak or spirits are broken, heal and comfort with the peace of Christ. And we ask this blessing particularly on those we know personally to be in need and whom we now name silently in our prayers*...(brief silence).*

*Lord, we sinners cry to you:* **be merciful and hear our prayer.**

Lord, we stand in your presence by your grace alone, and present these prayers only through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**