

**Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form**  
**Fourth Sunday in Advent (B)**  
**20 December 2020**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

O Most High, You have favored us in the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. In everything, let it be to us according to Your Word. Give us faith to believe that nothing is impossible with You, and so to pray boldly in childlike confidence. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, You have revealed in Christ Jesus the mystery kept secret for long ages, now made known to all nations through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. According to Your eternal command, give us faithful preachers of Your Gospel to put this promise in our ears. Bless Tim, our Synod president; David, our regional pastor; Brad, our circuit counsellor; the man You will call to serve us as pastor, yes, and all pastors in Christ. Strengthen Your Holy Church in every place. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, hear our prayers on behalf of our nation, and those in authority over us. Preserve their lives and guide their actions for the good of our people. Give peace among the nations of the earth, and preserve us from pestilence and famine, war and bloodshed, sedition, rebellion and every evil. End the plague among us in Your good timing, and let what You would have us learn from it not be wasted on us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, our celebration of Your Son's birth will be different this year, much more like that first Christmas where Mary and Joseph were far from home, alone in silence and darkness. Impress upon us the great humility of Christ's coming, that He purposefully left His comforts in heaven so He could draw near to us, and that He is with us specifically in all that we are missing and lacking this year. Grant that He might visit us anew in our homes and hearts, and so be our Immanuel. Lord, in Your mercy

O Most High, grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick, and give peace to the anxious and dying [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Comfort all who mourn that they may be comforted by the certainty of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Key of David and the scepter of the house of Israel. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**