**Prayer of the Church - First Sunday in Lent - 22 February 2026**

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

O Lord, in the midst of this life we are beset by many temptations. Fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus, who bore temptation for us and resisted to the point of death, and bring us through the evils of this fallen world to dwell with You forever. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give all Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, preserve all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home from the assaults of the evil one. As Your Son overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, so also give us the victory through Christ and His Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have established earthly authorities to punish evil and praise those who do good. Grant our rulers humble hearts to resist the allure of power and to worship You alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, though we deserve nothing of Your kindness, You have shown Yourself to be the strength of the weak, the healer of the sick and the hope of those who mourn. Hear us on behalf of those who are troubled in mind or body, the dying and those who grieve. Sustain them through their afflictions and pain, heal them according to Your gracious will and deliver them at the last to everlasting life in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You covered the shame of our first parents with animal skin and thereby foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of Your Son's blood by which we are cleansed and clothed. Give us the garments of repentance and faith, that we may receive Your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, though You gave us stewardship of Your good creation, we love the gifts more than the giver. Save us from trusting in our possessions more than in Your Son. Teach us to use what You have provided to help those in need and to relieve the poor, the unemployed and the oppressed. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us a refuge from the world in the Body of Christ. Protect us from all evils of body and soul, that we would find rest in this life and eternal rest in Your heavenly embrace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. And God's people said: **Amen.**