

The Prayer of the Church

(prayed responsively)

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: We give You praise and hearty thanks for all Your goodness and tender mercies. We bless You for the love which has created us and sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, through whom You have made known to us Your will and grace. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and godly men, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord Jesus has done for us; and enable us to show our thankfulness by lives that are given wholly to Your service;

We ask You to hear us, Sovereign Lord.

Save and defend Your Church Universal, purchased with the precious Blood of Christ. Give it pastors and ministers according to Your Spirit, and strengthen it through the Word and the sacraments. Make it perfect in love and in good works, and establish it in the faith once delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite Your people in all the world, that one holy Church may bear witness to You, the God and Father of all;

We ask You to hear us, our Heavenly Father.

Send forth Your light and Your truth into all the earth, O Lord. Raise up, we pray, faithful servants of Christ to labor in the Gospel at home and in distant lands. Grant strength and perseverance to all of our missionaries. Grant that they may rejoice in a rich harvest of souls for Your kingdom. Support them in times of trial and weakness, and make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord;

We ask You to hear us, Lord of the nations.

Preserve our Nation in righteousness and honor, and continue Your blessings to us as a people, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the President and Congress, the Governor and Legislators of Missouri, and help them to acknowledge and obey Your holy law;

We ask You to hear us, King of Kings.

God of mercies, we pray that You would comfort with the grace of Your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy upon those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a message of Your love, taking them into Your tender care;

We ask You to hear us, Merciful God.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your church on earth, who now rest from their labors (especially those most dear to us, whom we name in our hearts before You). Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at length to the joy of Your heavenly kingdom;

We ask You to hear us, good Lord.

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O Father, for his sake who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, age after age.

Amen.

My Help

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes unto the hills,
From whence shall come my help.
My help is from the LORD God,
Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not give to the moving of your foot,
Nor shall slumber he who keeps thee.
Behold he'll not slumber
Nor will he sleep,
He who keeps Israel.

The LORD is thy keeper, the shade at thy right hand.
The sun it shall not smite thee by day, nor moon by night.
From evil he'll keep thee, thy soul shall he preserve,
Guard your going out and in now and ever.

Text: Psalm 121 (KJV),
setting by Michael Card and Richard Hiers (stanza 3)
Music: Michael Card, 1990

Richard Hiers, tenor

This modern rendition draws upon the Hebrew Psalm chant tradition, and allows the entire psalm text to be sung with little modification.