

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**For several weeks, the Prayer of the Church is a collective prayer written by 8th grade students of Emanuel Lutheran School and focused on a different petition of the Lord's Prayer. This week's Prayer of the Church reflects the final and Seventh Petition: "Deliver us from evil."*

M: Lord, we are well aware of the evil that threatens both body and soul. We pray that you would guard our souls and would protect us, our neighbors, the Church, property, and reputation.

C: As we encounter evil may we put our trust in you, knowing we cannot deliver ourselves.

M: Through your gracious and loving name, deliver us from evil: Where there is darkness, let there be light. Let war turn into peace. Let hate turn into friendship.

C: As is it according to your will, spare us from every evil encounter.

M: Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions, especially thanking you for your protection.

Silent prayer.

M: May we see the evil that does come into our lives as opportunity to turn to your word and sacraments and so be strengthened in faith. May we encourage our Christian brothers and sisters to do the same.

C: When it is our time, please graciously take us from this world of sorrow to yourself in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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