

September 30 Intercessions

*As Jesus prepares for the necessary suffering of the cross,
he is tempted, through well-meaning friendship, to avoid it.*

As followers of Jesus Christ, let us pray to our loving Father in heaven.

The congregational response is:

We look to the cross: **and see your love for us.**

Father, help us all in your Church to understand what it really means to love and serve you. At the times of testing, strengthen us, at unexpected or undeserved suffering, support us, at the end of our energy, revive us and teach us through it all the inexplicable peace and joy that comes from doing your will. (pause)

We look to the cross: **and see your love for us.**

Father, have mercy on us for the misdirected use of time, money and resources in this world. In the struggle against evil and sin, empower us, so that justice and righteousness are established, upheld and celebrated, as hearts rejoice in the freedom of all that is good. (pause)

We look to the cross: **and see your love for us.**

Father, renew our commitment to your loving in all our relationships, our work and our prayer. In the hard choices, give us wisdom, in the painful decisions, affirm us, and may our words speak your truth, whether that is to encourage, to comfort or to challenge. (pause)

We look to the cross: **and see your love for us.**

Father, bring healing and wholeness to those who suffer, in body, mind or spirit. In the sleepless nights and endless days of pain, give the grace to persevere with patience, and turn these dark times into places of spiritual growth. (pause)

We look to the cross: **and see your love for us.**

Father, may those who have died rest in the eternal peace of your presence, their burdens laid down and their suffering ended. (pause)

We look to the cross: **and see your love for us.**

Father, the full extent of your love for us is so much greater than we can ever imagine, and in our love and thankfulness we offer the praise of our lives.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**