

October 14 Intercessions Pentecost 21

*It is our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another in living by the standard of real love.*

In our need and human weakness, let us come to Almighty God with our prayers.

The congregational response, as printed in to-day's bulletin, is:

Lord, take us by the hand: **and lead us.**

Unchanging God, change us from the heart until the whole Church awakens to your love that reaches out, nurtures and celebrates, neither holding back from what is difficult, nor rushing where angels fear to tread. We pray for sensitivity and courage. (pause) Lord, take us by the hand: **and lead us.**

Almighty God, give us such love for the world that we may pray with longing and desire, 'Your kingdom come.' Give our leaders the grace to see their work as service and their role as stewards; and sharpen both the recognition of needs and the commitment to just provision. (pause)

Lord, take us by the hand: **and lead us.**

Merciful God, break all habits of destructive behavior in our homes and families, our friendships and in all the homes of this parish. Develop our ability to celebrate what is good and face what is not with honesty. (pause)

Lord, take us by the hand: **and lead us.**

Healing God, lay your hands on those who suffer, so that they may know the support of your presence and find wholeness and peace in your love. We pray especially for those who are locked into the conviction that they are beyond your forgiveness. May they quickly discover the freedom of your acceptance. (pause)

Lord, take us by the hand: **and lead us.**

Eternal God, in your unchanging love receive all those who have died in faith, that they may rejoice in you forever. (pause)

Lord, take us by the hand: **and lead us.**

Gracious God, we thank you for providing us with a sure hope in which we can face the worst and not be overwhelmed. (pause)

Lord, take us by the hand: **and lead us.**

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