

Prayer to open the assembly of the deacons



Merciful God and Father, You not only told us that there would always be poor among us, but also commanded us to care for them. For this purpose, You instituted the office of the deacon to offer them aid.

Since we who have been called to serve as deacons in this church gather here in Your Name in matters of this service, we pray in all humility, for Jesus Christ's sake, for Your presence through the Spirit of discernment. Enable us to discern in all wisdom who is truly in need and who is not.

We pray that we may distribute in all gladness and faithfulness the collections we have made to each according to their need and not leave the needful members of Your beloved Son without comfort. We also pray that we may not share these gifts with any who are not in true need.

Light the hearts of the members of the church with love for those in need with Your fiery love that they generously share the earthly blessings You entrusted to them as stewards.

Grant that we who have been entrusted with the means to care for the needy will faithfully fulfil our duty, with a generous heart and without complaint. Grant us furthermore the grace to comfort the suffering not only with such material means, but also with Your holy Word.

Since man does not live on bread alone, but on every word from Your mouth, also bless us in this endeavour. Have the bread of the poor so increase that they and we may have reason to praise and worship You, as we look toward the glorious coming of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ – He who for our sake became poor to make us rich in all eternity. Amen.