

Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)

19 March 2023

Lord God, Creator of the waters above, receive our thanksgiving for Holy Baptism, whereby You have united Jew and Gentile in the death and resurrection of Your Son. Enliven our confidence in this gracious gift, that we may continue together in its comfort and power. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, after the holy example of Your Son, Jesus Christ, inspire all pastors to a devout care for their people and a continual desire to feed them with the bread of life. Awaken in the hearts of our congregations a mutual love for this faithful service in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You blessed barren Sarah with Isaac, the child of promise, and brought salvation to the world through Christ, born of the Virgin Mary. Watch over the families of Your Church and comfort those families yet without children, that all together may find joy in their heavenly inheritance. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, uphold in mercy all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation. Strengthen our homes, and keep families firm in the Christian faith. Preserve our nation from wickedness, and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, Your heavenly care extends to all Your children, especially those in depth of need. Let them find sustaining food for body and soul and such healing as Your gracious will provides. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son multiplied bread and fish for thousands, showing Himself to be the Creator and Giver of every good gift. Multiply the gifts of body and soul You provide from Your gracious hand, and cause us to receive Your benefits with thanksgiving; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**