

Prayer of the Church
Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete)
17 December 2023

O Lord, You have been favorable to Your people and restored the fortunes of Your Church by the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill us with rejoicing at all times and give reasonableness to our words and deeds, that all may recognize our Christian confidence in Your advent. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve Your Son's Bride, the Church. Make it her constant joy and delight to proclaim the Good News of forgiveness in her Savior to poor sinners. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, lead all pastors to regard themselves as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. May they be found trustworthy as they carry out their duties. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation. Preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by Your Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, bless Congress and the justices of our nation; Joseph, our president; Kim, our governor; and all others in positions of civil authority. Lead them to administer their duties diligently in all godly wisdom, justice, compassion and contentment for the well-being of our nation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, remember the hungry, homeless, less fortunate and unemployed. Bring them the good news of Christ, and guide us in our stations to come to their aid. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son gave sight to the blind, healed the lame, cleansed the lepers, gave hearing to the deaf, raised the dead and preached Good News to the poor. Sustain now the sick and suffering in their trials. By Christ's compassion, grant them healing in accord with Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who come to Zion's feast today, that they would rejoice in the gracious visitation of their Savior at the holy altar. By His true body and blood, forgive their sins and strengthen their faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You gave Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to become man that He might enter this world and destroy the works of the devil. Deliver us from sin and death, and give us everlasting life. We implore You to rule and govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we would seek no refuge but His Word, that we would avoid the sin to which our sinful flesh is inclined, and that we would remain among the faithful followers of Christ, in whom we obtain eternal salvation; 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.**