

Prayer of the Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)
10 March 2024

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Blessed Lord, You give sight to the blind, You open the ears of the deaf and You make the lame to walk. In the darkness of sin, we cry to You, O Lord. Open our ears by Your Word, our minds by Your Spirit and our hearts by Your grace, that we may know You and give You thanks for all Your benefits to us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your Church You nourish and sustain our faith. Give peace to Your Church during the turmoil and warfare of this world, and cause us to rejoice in Your goodness despite every cross and trial. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, restore to all Christian hearts the joy of Your salvation by the blood of Christ, and make us eager to hear the voice of the Gospel in the forgiveness of sins. So, in turn, lead every Christian household — husbands, wives and children — to speak the truth with our neighbors and to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit and sustain our hope while in this world, that though we cannot see the heavenly Jerusalem, yet we may know her to be our true mother and come at last to dwell in that eternal city. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, our Shepherd, protect, comfort and guide all who call upon You in need. Grant healing and peace, that they may continue to serve You with joy in this life and finally come to that good land in Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your Son You fed 5,000 men in the wilderness with five loaves and two fish. Graciously abide with us also in the fullness of Your blessing. Preserve us from greed and the cares of this life. Grant that we would seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness and perceive Your fatherly goodness in all things; 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.**