

# The Prayer of the Faithful

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The Prayer of the Faithful, which concludes the Liturgy of the Word, is composed of a series of petitions (from the Latin for “request”). First, the priest celebrant invites us to pray. Then a deacon, reader, or cantor proclaims each petition. Through the petitions, we pray for the Church, for public authorities, for the salvation of the whole world, for those burdened by any kind of difficulty, for the dead, and for the unique needs of our local community. We pray that the whole world may be transformed in accord with God’s will, that God’s kingdom may come. Part of what it means to be baptized priests, prophets, and kings (see 1 Peter 2:5, 9) is to pray to the high priest, Jesus Christ, on behalf of the whole world. It is a privilege of the baptized, which is why, when there are catechumens preparing for Baptism, they are dismissed before the Prayer of the Faithful begins. Through this prayer together, we embrace the whole world, and ask God to be present in our contemporary world.

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