General Intercessions •  World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly

Presider: Eternal Father,

in Jesus, your Son, *you fed the multitude*.

Look now with compassion upon your people,

who gather in his name, around his table.

Hear our prayer, give your little ones, our daily bread.

Lector

1. *“The eyes of all creatures look to you…” (Pause)* For the gift of time: for the grace of making time, and giving time to those who are precious to us, of taking time to listen and to love, and for the grace of giving time to God*.* *Lord, hear us.*
2. “*There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism*,” says St Paul. (*Pause*) For the wisdom that would show us the path to oneness and communion, and the maturity and patience that would permit us to take it, again and again. *Lord, hear us.*
3. *“Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching…,”* (*Pause*) For eyes to see the true needs of younger generations, behind the bravado, and beyond the confusion. *Lord, hear us*.
4. “*Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching…”* (*Pause*) In thanksgiving for the compassion and tenderness that advanced years bring: that the world of the strong may discover the strength of the gentle. *Lord, hear us.*
5. “*You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live*,” prays the Psalmist. (*Pause*) That the deep desire of grandparents for their children and grandchildren would be realised. To You, who know our hearts, we pray. *Lord, hear us.*
6. “*There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish…”* (*Pause*) For the simplicity to discover anew what is truly needed in life: for generous hearts, that, even in our poverty and weakness, we may be able to give. *Lord, hear us*.
7. For the old and the vulnerable who are victims of war, for older people driven from the homes and the places they have known all their lives: (*Pause*) *Open wide your hand,* Lord*,* grant them protection, keep them safe. *Lord, hear us.*
8. “*The Lord is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts*,” says the Psalmist. (*Pause*) For the elderly who are bereaved: for those who have lost a spouse or companion, their true and *faithful friend*, their *safe shelter*, for parents who have suffered the loss of a child: that they may know your consolation and peace. *Lord, hear us.*

*Presider* For our faithful departed, especially those who have left an emptiness in our lives: (*Pause*) That our closeness to them in this life may be but the foretaste of our closeness to each other in the next. Lord, *open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live*. *Lord, hear us.*

Loving Father, Eternal Lord,

come to shine in our hearts,

so that the glory which shines in the face of your Son

may be recognised by all,

and light up the world.

Hear us, Father, blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

*Alternative Concluding Prayers*

Eternal Father, Lord of Love,

you open wide your hand,

and give us food in due season.

Out of your never-failing abundance,

satisfy the hungers of body and soul

and lead all peoples of the earth

to the feast of the world to come.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God for ever and ever.

Lord our God,

strengthen the light of faith within us and among us,

that we may recognise the face of your Son,

embrace him in his poverty,

and contemplate him in his glory.

We make our prayer through Him

who humbled himself to raise us up to you,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

Lord, for ever and ever. Amen

*Additional (Presider’s) Prayer for Peace in Gaza and Ukraine (for the)*

In pain, sorrow, and dismay we continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Gaza, Ukraine, and beyond. That people of violence may come to see the futility of the cruelty and hardship they inflict. *Lord, hear us*.