

Examples of the General Intercessions

A moment in your wedding liturgy that will need your attention will be the general intercessions, sometimes referred to as the “prayer of the faithful.” These prayers are an opportunity for the assembly to offer their prayers of petition and concern, and can be either sung or recited, with the assembly responding to each of the petitions with a phrase such as “Lord, Hear Our Prayer,” or “Hear Us, O God.” The general intercessions begin with an introduction by the presider, and then the reader or the cantor would begin. After the prayers are offered, the presider concludes the intercessions with a final prayer.

These prayers are not prayers of thanksgiving, but prayers of petition, and this distinction is important. This is the time we offer prayers for the church and its ministers, for leaders of government, for the local community, and for those who suffer from injustice and oppression. If one of you is not catholic, or if there are non-catholics present, one of the intercessions should focus on the need for unity among all Christians. If there are people present who are not Christian, then perhaps a prayer asking God to bless all people would be included as well. There should not be too many intercessions, and each individual intercessions should be concise. Offered here are some examples you may use to model your own intercessions.

Sample Intercessions

1. For the church of God throughout the world, and for all ministers of the gospel, we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For all government leaders, for justice and integrity in their leadership, we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For the poor and the hungry, the lost and the broken of our world, we pray to Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For ____ and ____, and for the blessing of God upon them this day, we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
5. For those relatives of ____ and ____ who have died, for ____ and for all who are one with God in the kingdom of heaven, we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
6. For all those who are suffering from illness, for all who are victims of oppression and violence, we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
7. For the needs of all of us gathered here, we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.