

- 2 May the God of justice lead us
through the tumultuous seas.
- May the Christ who came to dwell among us
renew the strength of our dreams.
- May the Holy Spirit guide us to still waters
where justice, solidarity, and peace reign. **Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR VARIOUS OCCASIONS

In Times of Disaster

God of compassion,
keep vigil with us this day.
We grieve for the dead
and pray for the wounded.
We watch and wait with those
who seek news about loved ones.
We remember those who serve others—
rescue workers and police officers,
nurses and physicians,
and volunteers of every kind.
Fill them with your breath of life
as they bind up the brokenhearted,
heal bodies, and bury the dead.
Enfold us all in your tender care
as we entrust our lives to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

During a National Crisis

God of ages,
in your sight nations rise and fall,
and pass through times of peril.
Now when our land is troubled,
be near to judge and save.
May leaders be led by your wisdom;
may they search your will and see it clearly.
If we have turned from your way,
help us to reverse our ways and repent.
Give us your light and your truth to guide us;
through Jesus Christ,
who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. **Amen.**

In a Time of International Crisis

Eternal God, our only hope,
our help in times of trouble:
show nations ways to work out differences.

Do not let threats multiply
or power be used without compassion.
May your will overrule human willfulness,
so that people may agree and settle claims peacefully.
Hold back those who are impulsive,
lest desire for vengeance overwhelm our common welfare.
Bring peace to earth, through Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace and Savior of us all. **Amen.**

For International Organizations

O God,
we pray for all international organizations of goodwill,
that their efforts may lead to a strengthening
of those influences which make for peace.
As great sacrifices have been made for war,
awaken in us and in all people, O God,
the willingness to make great sacrifices for peace,
so that the day may be hastened
when no nation shall draw the sword against another,
and people no longer shall learn to fight.
We ask in the name of him
who is the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

—From the Mainau Prayerbook

For Governments of the World

High God, holy God:
you rule the ways of peoples,
and govern every earthly government.
Work with those who work for peace.
Make every person in authority an agent of your reconciliation,
and every diplomat an ambassador of hope.
Bring peace and goodwill among all people,
fulfilling among us the promise made
in Jesus Christ, who was born to save the world. **Amen.**

For Peace among Nations

Almighty God,
guide all the nations of the world
into your ways of justice and truth.
Establish among us that peace
which is the fruit of righteousness,
that this world may become the kingdom
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

For World Unity

O God, you love justice
and you establish peace on earth.

We bring before you the disunity of today's world:
the absurd violence, and the many wars,
which are breaking the courage
of the peoples of the world;
militarism and the armaments race,
which are threatening life on the planet;
human greed and injustice,
which breed hatred and strife.
Send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth;
teach us to be compassionate
toward the whole human family;
strengthen the will of all those
who fight for justice and for peace;
lead all nations into the path of peace,
and give us that peace
which the world cannot give. **Amen.**

—A prayer from the Democratic Republic of Congo

For Government Leaders

O Lord, our governor,
your glory shines throughout the world.
We commend to your merciful care
our *nation, state, community*,
that we may live securely in peace
and may be guided by your providence.
Give all in authority the wisdom and strength
to know your will and to do it.
Help them remember that
they are called to serve the people
as lovers of truth and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For State and Local Governments

Almighty God,
bless those who hold office
in the government of this *state/city/town*,
that they may do their work
in a spirit of wisdom, kindness, and justice.
Help them use their authority to serve faithfully
and to promote the general welfare;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At the Time of an Election

Under your law we live, great God,
and by your will we govern ourselves.
Help us as good citizens
to respect neighbors whose views differ from ours,

so that without partisan anger,
we may work out issues that divide us,
and elect candidates to serve the common welfare;
through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

For Responsible Citizenship

Lord, keep this nation under your care.
Bless the leaders of our land,
that we may be a people at peace among ourselves
and a blessing to other nations of the earth.
Help us elect trustworthy leaders,
contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare,
and thus serve you faithfully in our generation,
to the honor of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

For the Courts of Justice

Almighty God,
you sit in judgment to declare what is just and right.
Bless the courts and the magistrates in our land.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
that they may perceive the truth
and administer the law impartially
as instruments of your divine will.
We pray in the name of him
who will come to be our judge,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Social Justice

- 1 Grant, O God,
that your holy and life-giving Spirit
may so move every human heart,
that the barriers which divide us may crumble,
suspicions disappear,
and hatreds cease,
and that, with our divisions healed,
we might live in justice and peace;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- 2 You give us prophets, holy God,
to cry out for justice and mercy.
Open our ears to hear them,
and to follow the truth they speak,
lest we support injustice
and seek to secure our own well-being.

Give prophets the fire of your word,
but give them love as well.
Though they are called to speak in your name,
help them never to forget
that they stand with us before you,
and have no Messiah other than your Son,
Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. **Amen.**

3 O God,
you have bound us together in a common life.
Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth,
to confront one another without hatred or bitterness,
and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Racial and Cultural Diversity

O God, you created all people in your image.
We thank you for the astonishing variety
of races and cultures in this world.
Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship,
and show us your presence
in those who differ most from us,
until our knowledge of your love is made perfect
in our love for all your children;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image
and redeemed us through Jesus your Son.
Look with compassion on the whole human family,
take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts,
break down the walls that separate us,
unite us in bonds of love,
and, through our struggle and confusion,
work to accomplish your purposes on earth;
that, in your good time,
all nations and peoples may live in harmony;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Refugees and Migrants

1 Lord God, you cross every border
between divinity and humanity
to make your home with us.
Help us to recognize your face
in the refugee family,
seeking safety and protection;

in the migrant worker,
bringing food to our tables;
in the asylum-seeker,
seeking security and compassion;
in the unaccompanied child,
traveling in a dangerous world.
By the gift of your Holy Spirit,
encourage and empower us
to cross borders of our own—
showing kindness, seeking justice,
offering welcome, giving shelter.
This we pray in the name of the one
who fled as a child to Egypt,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- 2 Holy God, as you have accompanied your people through times of captivity, wilderness, and exile, shelter and sustain all those who flee persecution, oppression, warfare, violence, hunger, and poverty. Open our hearts and homes, our gates and doors, so that they might find safety, peace, and welcome—a place to live in freedom and without fear; through Jesus Christ, the hope of the world. **Amen.**

For the Oppressed

Look with compassion, O God,
upon the people in this land
who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death
as their constant companions.
Have mercy upon us.
Help us to eliminate cruelty to these our neighbors.
Strengthen those who spend their lives
establishing equal protection of the law
and equal opportunities for all.
And grant that every person may enjoy
a fair portion of the abundance of this land;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Those Who Are Marginalized

God of grace,
no one is beyond the reach of your love,
or outside your limitless mercy.
Stand with those who are outcast, despised, and rejected;
strengthen them in peace;
encourage them by your presence;

and use them to build on the cornerstone of Christ,
until differences are honored and respected,
and all people together give you glory. **Amen.**

For Those Who Suffer for the Sake of Conscience

God of love and strength,
your Son forgave his enemies
while he was suffering shame and death.
Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience.
When they are accused, save them from speaking in hate;
when they are rejected, save them from bitterness;
when they are imprisoned, save them from despair.
To us, your servants,
give grace to respect their witness
and to discern the truth,
that our society may be cleansed and strengthened.
This we ask for the sake
of our merciful and righteous judge,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Enemies

O God of all,
as Christ commanded us to love our enemies,
lead them and us from prejudice to truth;
deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge;
and in your good time enable us all
to stand reconciled before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Just Work

God, who labored creation into being,
we give thanks for this day
and the opportunity to work in your world.
Grant us the strength to labor
for what is right, just, and fair.
Grant us the wisdom to speak out
for those who are enslaved, oppressed, and exploited.
Grant us the ability to break the chains of injustice
and hear the voices of people long silenced.
As we seek to work in your world this day,
help us make it a better place for all.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**