

Prayers in a Time of Pandemic and Protest

Opening Prayer

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 which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Psalm 141 *Domine, clamavi*

- 1 O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly; *
hear my voice when I cry to you.
- 2 Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
- 3 Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door of my lips; *
let not my heart incline to any evil thing.
- 8 But my eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD; *
in you I take refuge; do not strip me of my life.

OR

Psalm 143 *Domine, exaudi*

- 1 LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; *
answer me in your righteousness.
- 4 My spirit faints within me; *
my heart within me is desolate.
- 5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; *
I consider the works of your hands.
- 6 I spread out my hands to you; *
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.
- 7 O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; *
do not hide your face from me or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for I put my trust in you; *
show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you.

A Reading

O God, you will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on you; for in returning and rest we shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be our strength.

Isaiah 26:3; 30:15

OR

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Prayers

Silence is observed after each bidding for individuals to name those they know or remember groups of people. The Taizé chant: "Oh Lord, hear my prayer" may be sung softly while people offer their intercessions.

Let us pray for those who are ill

Silence

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve all those who suffer from the Coronavirus and other illnesses, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness, may be made whole and sound again and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Let us pray for those who serve

Silence

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the sick, the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the world

Silence

Holy Jesus, at your command the sick were healed and you sent your disciples into the world to heal every disease and illness. Have mercy on us and protect us from the coronavirus that rages across the world. Heal the sick, give strength to those who care for them and inspiration to those seeking a cure or vaccine. Give peace to those who have died and comfort to those who mourn. Give wise judgement and compassion to our civic leaders that they may work together for the common good both now and in the future. Calm our fears and anxieties. Inspire and embolden us to love and serve one another. And above all, stay with us this day and evermore. *Amen.*

Let us pray for social justice

Silence

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Let us for the protesters and police

Silence

Lord Jesus, you have called many to protest the injustices in the world and demand that we take action. Give them the strength to protest peacefully and grace to speak with clarity and power. Give them the courage to withstand the assaults of those who disagree with them. Be with the police and those who are charged with ensuring the safety of all citizens. Help them be calm in the face of chaos, insults and assaults. Help them be compassionate and respectful in carrying out their duties. Help them see this as a time to serve their fellow citizens. Protect the police, the protesters and all of your children from harm; empower them to lay aside any instrument of destruction and work together in the new creation you are building in our midst. All this we pray in your holy name, *Amen.*

For reconciliation

Silence

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love all people, including our enemies: Lead us from prejudice to truth: deliver us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge. Empower us to reach out to one another, to build bridges and to seek the common good. And in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OR

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Closing Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*