

A Litany for Justice

Brothers and Sisters: God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another and those who would make themselves our enemies. In baptism, therefore, we promise to “accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” By the power of the Holy Spirit, let us now honor our vows as we pray:

We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on all who promote nonviolent solutions to conflict. God of peace and gentleness,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our neighbors throughout the world: for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future. God of generosity and compassion,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to all violence and warfare around the world, that all people may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give. God of liberty and freedom,

Hear our prayer.

O Holy Spirit, embrace those who are vulnerable in our society. We pray for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor, and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice. God of all gifts and blessings,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world, that we will understand all people as precious children of God. We pray that all forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws. God of fellowship, equality, and belonging,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for a reverence of creation, that we will use the tools and desire to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources responsibly for the good of all. We pray to become better stewards of all that you have entrusted to us. God of the universe,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, that they may be welcomed in our midst and be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. God of outcasts and wanderers,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, the aged, and for those with physical or mental disabilities: may all have access to proper health care, and may your loving embrace be felt by all who suffer. God of comfort and healing,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all prisoners and captives, that a spirit of forgiveness and renewal may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we – with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed – may be restored to the fullness of your grace. God of absolution and mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all children and families, particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease. Guide us to bring them relief and protection. God of children and families,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart. God of eternal life and resurrecting love,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of your Son. Watch over this country and our leaders; make your ways known among all people through the witness of your Church. In the passion of debate give us quiet spirits; as we face a complex and dying world, give us courageous hearts. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.