

Prayers of the Faithful

God of Life, you created a world rich in resources, able to provide an abundant source of food and life for all people. We ask for the wisdom to be faithful stewards of your creation.

We pray to you, our God.

All: Hear Us and Guide Us

God of Justice, you created a world in which all people are equal. We ask for the openness to allow others to take their rightful place as full members of society.

We pray to you, our God.

All: Hear Us and Guide Us

God of Compassion, you love each and every one of us unconditionally. We ask for the grace to be merciful and caring in all of our relationships.

We pray to you, our God.

All: Hear Us and Guide Us

—source unknown



Closing Prayer: from Prayer of Solidarity and Justice

Dear God

Your will is that we may be one.

We thank you that you call us into communion with you and each other.

Your generosity and mercy are always taking us by surprise.

We bless you for the vision of inclusion, solidarity, and compassion which breaks us open, widens our sympathies, and enlarges our hearts.

We recommend into your gracious care all those whom it would be easy for us to forget—the homeless and the hungry, the addicted and the lost, abandoned souls and hurting children.

We thank you for the imagination and generosity of those who minister in the name of love and compassion to those who are most in need.

Let us together, seek to serve the needy, the rejected, and the forgotten.

Confront our indifference,
challenge our boundaries,
surprise us with joy.

Dear Christ, be with us in this suffering and glorious world. Amen

—Anonymous

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Acting Justly



Call to Worship

Hear these words: “And God saw everything that God had made, and behold, it was very good.”

All: *Behold, our God is good*

Hear these words: “You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God. For I, your God love justice, I hate robbery and wrong.”

All: *Behold, our God is a God of justice*

Hear these words: “God has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners.”

All: *Behold, our God is a God of compassion and liberation*

Hear these words: “And taking the five loaves and two fish he looked up to heaven, blessed, and broke the loaves... and they all ate and were satisfied.”

All: *Behold, our God is a God who inspires generosity*

Hear the words of Jesus: “Blessed are those who hear God’s word and keep it!”

All: *Let us hear God’s wisdom. AMEN*
—CCODP



Scripture Reading: *Isaiah 61:1-9*



A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God... you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

The word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God*

Prayer for Our Broken World

Leader: God of peace, compassion, and faithful love, you created all peoples in your own image and likeness, we beseech your blessing upon our torn, broken, and fragile world.

All: Grant us the grace to contend with all evil and to make no concession to oppression.

Leader: O God, the hope of the powerless, you have chosen as your witnesses those whom the world ignores.

All: Empower us to be transformed by your Holy Spirit to seek creative, life-giving ways to eliminate injustice in our world.

Leader: O God of power, ruler of the universe, your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, became human to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty for captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of your favour.

All: Bless the people of this tiny planet that we might live in the peace you intended for all creation.

Leader: *Hear us, we pray as we bring our prayers to you.*