

A LORD'S PRAYER FOR JUSTICE



God always stands on the side of the weak and it is there, among the weak, that we find God. Given the truth of that, let us pray the Lord's Prayer for Justice:

Our Father who art in heaven ... you always stand with the weak, the powerless, the poor, the abandoned, the sick, the aged, the very young, the unborn, and those who suffer.

Hallowed by thy name ... May the reverence we give your name pull us out of selfishness that prevents us from seeing the pain of our neighbour.

Your kingdom come, your will be done ... help us to create a world where, we will act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you and each other.

On earth as in heaven ... may the work of our hands, your glory so that the joy, graciousness, tenderness, and justice of heaven will show forth on earth.

Give us this day our daily bread ... so that each person in the world may have enough food, enough clean water, enough clean air, adequate health care, and sufficient access to education so as to have the sustenance for a healthy life. Teach us to give from our sustenance and not just from our surplus.

And forgive us our trespasses ... forgive us our blindness towards our neighbour, our obsessive self-preoccupation, our racism, our sexism, and our incurable propensity to worry only about ourselves and our own. Forgive us our capacity to watch the evening news and do nothing about it.

As we forgive those who trespass against us ... help us to forgive those who victimize us. Help us to mellow out in spirit, to not grow bitter with age, to forgive the imperfect parents and systems that wounded and ignored us.

And do not put us to the test but deliver us from evil ... do not judge us only by whether we have fed the hungry, given clothing to the naked, visited the sick, or tried to mend the systems that victimized the poor. Spare us this test for none of us can stand before this gospel scrutiny. Give us, instead, more days to mend our ways, our selfishness, and our systems.

Amen.