

# **A VIGIL of PRAYER**

## **preceding the Inauguration of a President of the United States of America**

*This devotion is designed to be placed on a Prayer Desk in Church for people to come as they are able. You may choose any or all of the offerings, by subject, and as your time allows. A Hymnal is placed on the Prayer Desk as well for your convenience.*

### **AN OPENING DEVOTION**

In the name of God:

✙ Creator of the Universe,  
Redeemer of the World,  
Sanctifier of the Faithful.      Amen.

**PSALM 8**      *Domine, Dominus noster*

- 1 O Lord our Governor, \*  
    how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children \*  
    your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, \*  
    to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, \*  
    the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? \*  
    the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; \*  
    you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; \*  
    you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, \*  
    even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, \*  
    and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our Governor, \*  
    how exalted is your Name in all the world!

*Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

*(One or more sets of Scripture may be read and interspersed with Prayers and Thanksgivings, as time allows. It is encouraged that time for quiet reflection be included following a reading.)*

### FOR THE NATION

Isaiah 26: 1-8

On that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; he sets up victory like walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, so that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace-- in peace because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for in the LORD GOD you have an everlasting rock. For he has brought low the inhabitants of the height; the lofty city he lays low. He lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust. The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy.

The way of the righteous is level; O Just One, you make smooth the path of the righteous. In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you; your name and your renown are the soul's desire.

Psalms 47

*Omnes gentes, plaudite*

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, \*  
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; \*  
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits upon his holy throne.

- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.  
10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.

#### Romans 13: 1-10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them-- taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

#### Mark 12: 13-17

Then they sent to Jesus some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They

answered, "The emperor's." Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.

### *FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE*

Isaiah 42: 1-7

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Psalm 72

*Deus, iudicium*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
     there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
 8 He shall rule from sea to sea, \*  
     and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
 9 His foes shall bow down before him, \*  
     and his enemies lick the dust.  
 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
     and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.  
 11 All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
     and all the nations do him service.  
 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
     and the oppressed who has no helper.  
 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
     he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
     and dear shall their blood be in his sight.  
 15 Long may he live! and may there be given to him gold from Arabia; \*  
     may prayer be made for him always,  
     and may they bless him all the day long.  
 16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth,  
 growing thick even on the hilltops;\*  
     may its fruit flourish like Lebanon,  
     and its grain like grass upon the earth.  
 17 May his Name remain for ever  
 and be established as long as the sun endures; \*  
     may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed.  
 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*  
     who alone does wondrous deeds!  
 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
     and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
     Amen. Amen

James 2: 5-9, 12-17

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen  
 the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the  
 kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have  
 dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not  
 they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the  
 excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really

fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

#### Matthew 10: 32-42

*Jesus said:* "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

*FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY*

Deuteronomy 10: 17-21

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

Psalm 145

*Exaltabo te, Deus*

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, \*  
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you \*  
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another \*  
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty \*  
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, \*  
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; \*  
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The Lord is loving to everyone \*  
and his compassion is over all his works.
- 10 All your works praise you, O Lord, \*  
and your faithful servants bless you.
- 11 They make known the glory of your kingdom \*  
and speak of your power;
- 12 That the peoples may know of your power \*  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; \*  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
- 14 The Lord is faithful in all his words \*  
and merciful in all his deeds.
- 15 The Lord upholds all those who fall; \*  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.
- 16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, \*  
and you give them their food in due season.
- 17 You open wide your hand \*  
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
- 18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways \*  
and loving in all his works.
- 19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him, \*  
to all who call upon him faithfully.
- 20 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; \*  
he hears their cry and helps them.
- 21 The Lord preserves all those who love him, \*  
but he destroys all the wicked.
- 22 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; \*  
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.

#### Hebrews 11: 8-16

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they

would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Matthew 5: 43-48

*Jesus said;* "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

## PRAYERS

### *For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 820

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State (or Commonwealth), and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

### *For the Nation*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 258

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### *Independence Day July 4*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 242

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### *For Peace*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 258

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who

lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*or*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 815

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*For Social Service*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 260

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 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.

*For Social Justice*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 260

Almighty God, who created us in your own 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.

*or*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 823

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.

*For our Country*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 820

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail; all this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For Sound Government*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 821

O Lord our Governor, 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.

*Lord, keep this nation under your care.*

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

*Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

*Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

*Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

*For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.  
Amen.*

## HYMNS WHICH MIGHT BE SUNG

*from the Hymnal 1982*

for the nation

718	God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
599	Lift every voice and sing
716	God bless our native land
607	O God of every nation
680	O God, our help in ages past
597	O day of peace that dimly shines
719	O beautiful for spacious skies
717	My country, 'tis of thee

for social service & justice

582/583	O holy city seen of John
609	Where cross the crowded ways of life
573	Father eternal, Ruler of creation
593	Lord, make us servants of your peace
610	Lord, whose love through humble service
602	Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love