

PRAYERS

O Lord our God, great, eternal, wonderful, utterly to be trusted,
you welcome all who come to you.

Forgive our sins, secret and open,
and cleanse us of every thought which is foreign to your love;
that our hearts and minds may be at peace,
and we may bring our prayers to you confidently and without fear.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The gifts of God

Gracious God and Father, creator of all that is good,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the wonder of the world in which you have placed us,
and for all the blessings you so freely lavish upon us your children.
Forgive us that too often we take your gifts for granted
and think so little of the Giver.

Help us to recognise your hand in the ordinary things of life,
and never to be ungrateful for food and clothing,
work and recreation, health and home, family and friends.

So may we live from day to day in the knowledge
of your love and goodness, giving thanks always for all things.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Those whose work sustains our nation

We thank you Father, for those whose work sustains our nation,
and this country in which we live;
for all who create the wealth by which we trade,
for those who grow and provide our food,
or who in industry, commerce and transport bring it to our homes.

We thank you for those who,
day and night,
maintain the public services;

for the police, for those who respond to emergencies,

and for all whose work is in health or healing or social care.

Teach us to remember

that all our lives depend upon the work of many minds and hands;

and we pray that we may live thankfully

and in unity as members of one human family.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The leaders of our nations

Lord of the nations and friend of the poor, strengthen in the leaders of today's world

- a belief in human dignity and in basic human rights;
- a belief in the values of justice, freedom and peace, in love and generosity, in reason rather than force.

That the nations may grow in mutual respect and understanding, and recognise that the problem of world poverty is the concern and responsibility of us all.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Unity within our society

O God, we pray that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and grant that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Ministers of justice

Lord God, the judge of all mankind,

we pray for those who are called to minister justice between people's, to clear the innocent, and to convict and punish the guilty.

Give them prudence and discernment,

that without fear or favour

they may justly and mercifully fulfil their duties as in your sight,

to the good of our nation and the glory of your name.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Those with authority

We remember before you, O God,
those who exercise authority among us
and influence public opinion in Church and State,
in industry and commerce;
all who speak to the nation through broadcasting and the press;
and all who have power over the lives of others.
Grant them the humility to seek your guidance
and the courage to do your will,
so that more people may be led to the knowledge of you
and to the service of your kingdom

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Leaders of local and national government

Almighty God, we pray for those engaged in the political life of our nation
as Members of Parliament and local councils.
Help them to put loyalty to what is right above loyalty to party or class,
above popularity or the praise of men; and may their only motive be to
serve their country and community, and promote the welfare of their fellow
people.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The Armed forces

To your care and protection, O Lord of hosts, we commend the men and
women of our armed forces at home and overseas.
Defend them in time of danger; strengthen them in the fulfilment of their
duty; and enable them to serve their country with loyalty, courage and
honour;

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The handicapped

O God, the Father of the helpless,
we pray for handicapped people
and all who suffer from any kind of disability.
Give them fresh courage to face each day,
and the comfort of the knowledge that you love and care for them.
Open our eyes and touch our hearts
that we may be sensitive to their needs
and do all that we can to help.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The sick

O God of love and power, we commend to you all those who are ill in body,
mind, or spirit and those who are cast down, sad or distressed in mind.
Tell them in the midst of all their pain and anxiety that your name is Love;
and since you have ordained that your own will needs our co-operation,
use these our prayers.
Turn our caring into their courage, our solicitude into their succour, our faith
into their will to get well.