



FROM MANY  
PRAYERS FOR AN ELECTION

 ONE

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

# A WORD FROM BISHOP DEON

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In baptism we are united with Christ and one another to be heralds of the Good News of Jesus Christ and bearers of God’s undimmed love. The deep bonds we share through the waters of baptism transcend party affiliations, partisan platforms, or political policies. The communion we share in baptism is an undissolvable bond that transcends every division of ideology, nationality, or ethnicity. Our faith binds us one to another in an economy of hope and a common destiny of mutuality.

In this moment, our nation feels divided, disconnected, and disjointed. We find ourselves at a crossroads of conscience with the voices of vitriol and extremism resounding ever more loudly around us. As people of faith, we know that God is in the business of redemption and resurrection. It is often the courageous peacemakers and the resilient wisdom seekers who lead the people of God to a new day. That was true in the past and it is true for us now.

As we approach the November 2024 election in November, remember that voting is not merely a political exercise, but also a deeply spiritual act. It is an opportunity to live out our Baptismal Covenant as we make choices that reflect not just personal interests, but the greater good, unity, and compassion for all. Each vote cast is a powerful prayer for the world we wish to see and the aspirations we hope to achieve. “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” are not simply the words of the Lord’s Prayer but the dream of God’s reign in, through, and among us.

As you prepare to cast your ballots, I encourage you to be immersed in the holy action of prayer. Pray for our nation. Pray for those standing for elected office. Pray that we may not see each other as enemies to be vanquished but as siblings, neighbors, and friends whom we love even in our disagreement.

Pray fervently. **Vote faithfully.**



The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson  
XI Bishop of Missouri





# LET US PRAY

## PRAYERS FOR AN ELECTION

“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

-Ephesians 4:31-32

Prayer matters! Prayer changes things. Prayer changes us.

Beginning on Sunday, October 20, 2024 and concluding on Sunday, November 10, 2024, communities of faith within the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri are invited to pray with intention for our nation as we the people prepare to vote faithfully in the November election. As followers of Jesus, we believe that prayer is the lens through which we dream with God and build a beloved community.

This season of prayer in our common life is an opportunity to walk in love as Christ loved us and to unify in common purpose despite our differences. While we may have contrasting dreams, hopes, and aspirations, we are united in the thread of prayer which draws us closer to the heart of God.

Prayers are provided for each Sunday and the days surrounding the election during this season to be used in both public worship and private devotion.

**O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**



# LET US PRAY

PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

Most loving God, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (p. 216)

Almighty God, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (p. 261)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

Almighty God, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (p. 255)

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us for the sake of your love: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. In your most holy name we pray and give thanks. Amen. (p. 815)





# LET US PRAY

PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (p. 822)

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. (p. 258)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2024

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in shadows for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (p. 832)

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (p. 832)





# LET US PRAY

PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

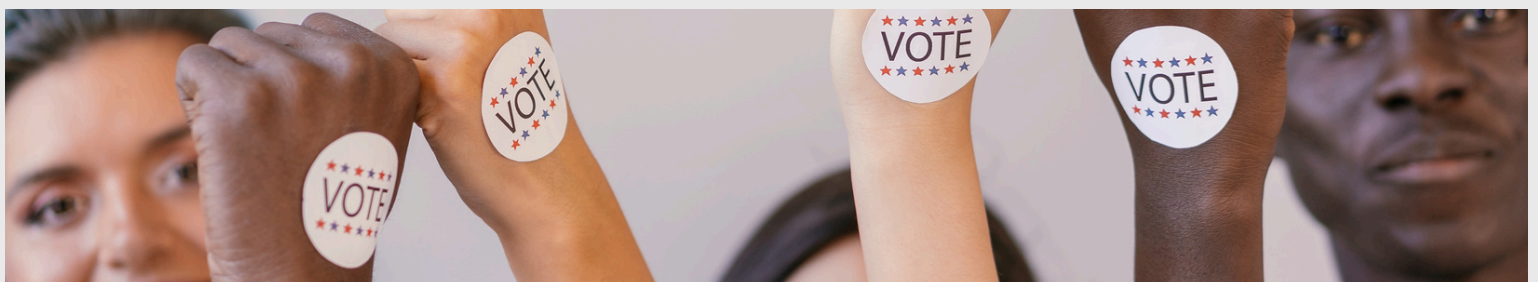
O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (p. 824)

O God: Give me strength to live another day; Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties; Let me not lose faith in other people; Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness; Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them; Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity; Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things; Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth; Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness; and make me the cup of salvation to suffering souls; in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024

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. (p. 823)

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly pray 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 hither 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, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (p. 820)





# LET US PRAY

PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

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. (p. 815)

Most loving God, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (p. 216)

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (p. 231)

Almighty God, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (p. 261)

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (p. 827)

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 tranquility 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. (p. 258)



# LET US PRAY

PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

## A LITANY FOR AN ELECTION

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.** (p. 821)

Almighty God, the source of all wisdom,  
give grace to all those who will vote in the election,  
and bless with your spirit of humility and charity  
all who will be elected to public office.

Make your kingdom of love visible among us,  
and make all things subject to your just and gentle rule,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





# LET US PRAY

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE I

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. God of love, we pray for your church: For Michael/Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Deon, our bishop; for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world. God of love,

**Hear our prayers for the church.**

*Silence – Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts.*

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love. God of freedom,

**Hear our prayers for the world.**

*Silence – Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts.*

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us. God of justice,

**Hear our prayers for the earth.**

*Silence – Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts.*

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home. God of peace,

**Hear our prayers for this community.**

*Silence – Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts.*



# LET US PRAY

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE I

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons. God of mercy, **Hear our prayers for all who are in need.**

*Silence – Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light. God of grace, **Hear our prayers for those who have died.**

*Silence – Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

### *Concluding Collect*

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*or*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (p. 815)



# LET US PRAY

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE II

Holy and Eternal God, source of all wisdom and understanding, so guide and direct us in your truth, so order our steps in your paths of peace, that as we discern your will for our common good we may be faithful to your call, loving our neighbors as ourselves. God, our creator,

**Guide us in wisdom and love.**

Loving God, creator of this world who is the source of our wisdom and understanding, watch over this nation during this time of election. Help us to see how our faith informs our principles and actions. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

We give thanks for the right to vote. Help us to hold this privilege and responsibility with the care and awareness it merits, realizing that our vote matters and that it is an act of faith. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

Guide us through this election as a nation, state, and community as we elect persons to serve on our behalf and on the behalf of our communities. Help us to vote for people and ballot initiatives that will better our community and our world so it may reflect the values Christ taught us. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

We pray for all those whose voices are not heard; those who have been disenfranchised, whose voice and vote have been silenced, those not afforded the right to vote. Help us to be mindful that we vote not only for ourselves alone, but for the common good. God our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

Help us create communities that will build your kingdom here on earth - communities that will protect the poor, stand up for the vulnerable, advocate for those who are not seen and heard, and listen to everyone's voice. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

We pray for this nation that is deeply divided. May we come together for the common good and do as you have called us to do - to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you through creation. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

Help us act out of love, mercy and justice rather than out of arrogance or fear. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**



# LET US PRAY

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE II

Lord, continue to guide us as we work for the welfare of this world. We pray for places that are torn by violence, that they may know peace. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

We pray for communities who are struggling with inequality, unrest, and fear. May we all work toward reconciliation with one another and with God. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

Help us to listen in love, work together in peace, and collaborate with one another as we seek the betterment of our community and world. God, our creator,

**Guide us in truth and love.**

*Other prayers or petitions may be added silently or aloud.*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.** (p. 833)



# LET US PRAY

## CONFESSIO

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

**Almighty God,  
Source of all that is,  
Giver of every good gift:**

**You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.  
We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family.  
We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others.  
We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are,  
while making judgements of others based on the color of skin,  
or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.  
We have tried to love our neighbors individually  
while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.**

**Forgive us, Holy God.  
Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.  
Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.  
Restore us in your image, to be Beloved Community,  
united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ  
and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

*The Presider offers absolution and assurance of God's love.*

May Almighty God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day. Amen.



# LET US PRAY

## PRAYERS OF LAMENT

Elections inevitably produce grief. Our faith reminds us that in the midst of delight stands disappointment. No matter the outcome of our elections we know that our neighbors and loved ones who had hoped for a different outcome will know the real pain of loss and grief. Our call is to walk together in the consolation of the Holy Spirit to bring healing and wholeness. These prayers of lament seek to give voice to the grief of dashed hopes and fractured dreams.

Let us pray.

The weight of loss and grief bears heavily upon us but it is a load we need not bear alone. Let us offer our burden to Jesus, Lord of life and of death, of the present and of the future. We bring before you, Lord, our confusion in the face of shock, our despair in the face of tragedy, our helplessness in the face of death.

Lift from us our burden,

**and in your power, renew us.**

We bring before you, God, the tears of sorrow, the cries for help, the vulnerability of pain.

Lift from us our burden,

**and in your power, renew us.**

We bring before you, O God, our sense of frustration, our feeling of powerlessness, our fears for the future.

Lift from us our burden,

**and in your power, renew us.**

We bring before you, O God, our frustrated hopes, our unfulfilled desires, our unfettered sadness.

Lift from us our burden,

**and in your power, renew us.**

We bring before you, O God, our....[here free intercession may be offered.](#)

Lift from us our burden,

**and in your power, renew us.**

God of the desolate and despairing, your Son Jesus Christ was forced to carry the instrument of his own death –the cross that became for us the source of life and healing. Transform us in our suffering that in the pain we bear you might be for us a fount of life and a spring of hope; though him who died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.



# LET US PRAY

## BLESSINGS

Go out into the world in peace;  
have courage;  
hold on to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak, and help the suffering;  
honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And the blessing of God almighty...

Beloved in the Lord,  
God has shown you what is good.  
What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.  
And the blessing of God almighty...

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty...

May God whom Jesus called Abba embrace you in love for ever;  
May God the Servant bear your burdens with you;  
May God the Paraclete grant you life in one another;  
so may the blessing of God almighty...



PRAY FERVENTLY.  
VOTE FAITHFULLY.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI