

# AN OFFICE of LAMENT *in a TIME of SOCIAL STRIFE*

*Adapted from A Book of Prayer and Order, Morning Prayer and the Great Litany*

## OPENING SENTENCES

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *Ps. 119:14*

Let us pray

### *98. For the Acceptance of Prayer*

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CALL to CONFESSION of SIN

¶ *Then the Officiant says to the people,*

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture commands us, in many places, to acknowledge and confess our many sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor conceal them before the face of Almighty God, our heavenly Father; but confess them with a humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy.

And although we ought, at all times, to humbly acknowledge our sins before God; yet we ought to do so, especially when we assemble and meet together to give thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask for those things which are needed and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Therefore, I pray and plead with you, to all who are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying—

## A GENERAL CONFESSION

¶ *To be said by the whole Congregation, with the Officiant, all kneeling.*

**Almighty and most merciful Father;**  
**We have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**  
**We have followed too much the devices and desires**  
**of our own hearts.**  
**We have offended against your holy laws.**

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;  
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done;  
And there is no health in us.  
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, [miserable offenders].  
Spare all those, O God, who confess their faults.  
Restore all those who are contrite; According to your promises declared  
unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;  
That we may this day forward live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
To the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

### DECLARATION of ABSOLUTION and REMISSION of SINS

Grant, we implore you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Proper 21*

### THE LESSONS

*Reader* Here begins the readings from Deuteronomy, Job, and Psalms, chapter 31, verse 6 of each.

#### *Deuteronomy 31 (ESV)*

6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

#### *Job 31 (ESV)*

6 (Let me be weighed in a just balance, and let God know my integrity!)

#### *Psalms 31 (ESV)*

6 I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the Lord.

¶ *¶ After each lesson the Reader may say,*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### THE COLLECT of the DAY

#### *The Collect for Pentecost*

Almighty God, on this day, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, you revealed the way of eternal life to every race and nation: Pour out this gift anew, that by the preaching of the Gospel your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** *2019*

## THE COLLECTS *in* TIME of STRIFE

### *27. For the Peace of the World*

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; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *28. For the Peace of the World*

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: Kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all people the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *29. For Courts of Justice*

Almighty God, you sit on your throne giving righteous judgment: We humbly ask you to bless all courts of justice and all magistrates in this land; give them a spirit of wisdom and understanding, that fearing no power but yours alone, they may discern the truth and impartially administer the law; through him who shall come to be our Judge, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### *30. For Civil Authorities*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, send down on those who hold public office [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_] the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *33. For Our Enemies*

O God, the Creator of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you in Jesus Christ; in whose Name we pray. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

*Reader*            Here begins the readings from Isaiah and Jeremiah, chapter 31, verse 6 of each.

### *Isaiah 31 (ESV)*

6 Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel. 7 For in that day everyone shall cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which your hands have sinfully made for you.

*Jeremiah 31 (ESV)*

6 For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.’”

¶ *After each lesson the Reader may say,*

Reader        The Word of the Lord.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

THE COLLECTS *in* TIME OF STRIFE

*51. For Those Who Inform Public Opinion*

Almighty God, your truth endures from age to age: Direct in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may speak your truth to make the heart of this people wise, its mind discerning, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*39. For Our nation*

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure conduct. 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 thy Name, we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy 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 thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*42. For the Human Family*

O God, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

*43. For Social Justice*

Almighty God, you created us in your own image: Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and help us to use our freedom rightly in the establishment 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.**

## THE GREAT LITANY

*or General Supplication*

¶ *To be used after the Third Collect at Morning or Evening Prayer; or before the Holy Communion; or separately.*

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God;

**Have mercy upon us.**

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take vengeance upon our sins: Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your most precious blood, and do not be angry with us for ever.

**Spare us, good Lord.**

From all evil and mischief; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; from your wrath, and from everlasting damnation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all blindness of heart; from pride, arrogance, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all immoderate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine; from battle and murder, and from sudden death,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all sedition, secret conspiracy, and rebellion; from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word and Commandment,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy Incarnation; by your holy birth and circumcision; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and bloody sweat; by your Cross and Passion; by your precious death and burial; by your glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of tribulation; in all times of prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

We sinners plead with you to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please you to rule and govern your holy Church universal in the right way;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you so to rule the heart of your servant, The President of the United States, that *he* may above all things seek your honor and glory;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to bless and preserve all Christian rulers and judges, giving them grace to execute justice, and to maintain truth;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to illuminate all Bishops, Presbyters, and Deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of your Word; and that both by their preaching and living they may set it forth, and show it accordingly;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to send forth laborers into your harvest;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to bless and keep all your people;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give to all nations unity, peace, and goodwill;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give us a heart to love and fear you, and diligently to live after your commandments;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give to all your people increase of grace to humbly hear your Word, and to receive it with a sincere heart, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to bring into the way of truth all who have sinned, and are deceived;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to strengthen those who make a stand; and to comfort and help the weak hearted; and to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give relief, help, and comfort, all who are in danger, in need, and in tribulation;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to preserve all who travel by land, by water, or by air, all women in childbirth, all sick persons, and young children; and to show you pity upon all prisoners and captives;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to defend, and provide for, the fatherless children, and widows, and all who are desolate and oppressed;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to have mercy upon all men;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give and preserve to our use the natural fruits of the earth, so that in due time we may enjoy them;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to provide us with the grace of your Holy Spirit to conform our lives according to your holy Word;

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world;

**Grant us your peace.**

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, hear us.

**O Christ, hear us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Christ, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

¶ *Then the Officiant and the People say the Lord's Prayer.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

¶ *Officiant*

O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.  
**Neither reward us according to our iniquities.**

Let us pray.

O God, merciful Father, who does not despise the lamentation of a contrite heart, nor the desire of those who are sorrowful; Mercifully assist our prayers which we make before you in all our troubles and adversities, whenever they oppress us; and graciously hear us, that those evils which the craft and subtilty of the devil or man worketh against us, may, by your good providence, be brought to nothing; that we your servants, being hurt by no persecutions, may evermore give thanks unto you in your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *Officiant and People*

**O Lord, arise, help us, and deliver us for your Name's sake.**

Let us pray.

We humbly beseech you, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of your Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant, that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in your mercy, and evermore serve you in holiness and pureness of living, to your honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *The Officiant may end the Litany here, or at his discretion add other prayers from this Book.*

## THE BENEDICTION

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Eph. 3:20-21<sup>r</sup>*