

## **Litany for All of God's Children**

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

**All: But there are those who do want, and they are all around us.**

While we lie down in green pastures.

**All: Others lie down because they have no energy.**

While we are led to still waters, and our souls are restored.

**All: Others know no stillness in their worry about having enough for their children.**

Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
and fear no evil.

**All: Do we not all fear the forces of injustice and of change?**

But You, O God, are with us and we are comforted.

**All: We trust that you are with us as we seek to join with those who do not have enough.**

We have a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies and our cups overflow.

**All: It should be such for all God's children.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives; and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**All: And with us will dwell all God's children. This is our vision and our call.**

An adaptation of the 23rd Psalm by Steve Nunn-Miller, Hunger Action Director for the United Church of Christ, from Causes of Source: Hunger: A User's Guide for Christian Congregations, Bread for the World.

## **Litany of Support for the Poor and the Oppressed**

We pray that we may be truly sensitive to the poverty and oppression around us, of the marginalized of our society - the poor peasants, the poor estate and city workers, shanty-dwellers, unemployed youth, exploited women and children, depressed classes, ethnic minorities, those repressed, imprisoned and put to death in the struggle for democratic and human rights.

**Lord hear us.**

We call on you to comfort them and to show us how we may participate in their struggle for justice, as co-workers together with Jesus, the servant Lord.

**Lord hear us.**

We pray for true spiritual resources necessary for these tasks. We pray for a true awareness of the corruptible forces and influences in our society and in ourselves, and for trust in your grace and strength in building a new spirituality for our times.

### **Lord hear us.**

Prayers for Asia Sunday; the Christian Conference of Asia

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## **Litany for Seeing the World Differently**

Boundless God,  
Help us to see the world differently.  
Not with our own limited vision but with the gaze of love and justice.  
Give us the foolishness to believe that we can change what the world says is impossible and when we lose sight of the power of love to change the world, increase our faith.  
Amen.

Source: <http://foodgrainsbank.ca>

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## **Litany to Call Us to Action**

Engaging God: you call us to action.

**For you are not a God of distance, but a God who comes close to us in the humanity of Christ.**

You are not a God of inactivity.

**But a God who is constantly engaged with the needs of the world and the sufferings of your people.**

Call us from complacency to action.

**As we engage with you in the building of your Kingdom.**

Help us to heed your call.

**Stir us from idleness to activity, as we work with others to create practical expressions of newness.**

Help us to be responsive to your stirrings.

**Lift us from tiredness to renewed energy, as we offer our time, talents and money where they are most needed.**

Help us to be renewed by your everlasting arms.

**Raise us from hopelessness to a belief in new possibilities, as we follow the example of the ever giving and self-denying Christ. Help us to rise in Him to fullness of life. Amen.**

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**Move my hands that they may feed the hungry.**

Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing.

**Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers.**

Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked.

**Give me the care that strengthens the sick.**

Make me share in the quest to set the prisoners free.

**In sharing our anxiety and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we partake of your divine presence. Amen.**

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You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose.

**I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.**

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.

**I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.**

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

**I closed them, for I did not want to see.**

You asked for my life that you might work through me.

**I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.**

**Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.**

Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of men and women.

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## **Sermon on the Mount Litany**

We are the first generation that can eradicate poverty.

**We are those who are called and equipped to make a difference.**

We are called to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

**Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.**

We are called to achieve universal primary education.

**Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.**

We are called to promote gender equality and empower women.

**Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.**

We are called to reduce child mortality.

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

We are called to improve maternal health.

**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

We are called to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

**Blessed are those- who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

We are called to ensure environmental sustainability.

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

We are called to develop a global partnership for development.

**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

We are called...

**And yes, we hear.**

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## **Litany for Water for All**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord  
For he has refreshed the parched earth.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

Leader: Rejoice for the rain that falls by night, and soaks at once into the dry ground, causing half-dried-up roots to swell, and the deep cracks in the earth to close.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

Leader: Rejoice for the great drops that fall at midday; rejoice in the small streams, singing on their way from the hills down into the valleys, to make the rivers swell and fill the reservoirs and supply the cities and irrigation channels with water.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

Leader: For the ground, for rain, for seeds and tools, for strength in arms and backs, for the will to work and for creative minds.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

## Blessing of Water

Leader (pouring water from a pitcher into a bowl):

*Holy Spirit, Life-giver, who moved over the waters in the creation, who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea to liberation, and who comforted your exiled people by the waters of Babylon, draw us together as we gather in your name.*

**All: Creator God, we thank you for your love in all creation, especially for your gift of water to sustain, refresh, and cleanse all life. We ask your blessing on this gathering. As we come together from many places and mingle the waters of our experience and faith, may we find sustenance, insight, and refreshment for the task of repairing our world.**

**Amen.**

Leader: Gracious God, hear our prayers. Hear the cries of all who thirst this day — for safe water, for safe haven, for health, for justice, for peace. Give us the courage to respond to your call.

**All: Too many have died of starvation, too many are distressed for lack of pure water. We should work together, nation and nation, to ensure that each individual and every family have enough food to sustain health, have access to pure water to ensure wholesome living. There is a right to health and life, since God created the world with the capacity to meet human needs.**

**May we work together with God's guidance that the hungry may be fed and all people celebrate abundant life. Amen.**

John Johansen-Berg, Great Britain