

## Prayers for the Marginalized in Society

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; of 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*

Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

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

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

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

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

*Matthew 5:2-9*

Keep us, Sovereign Lord from panic when crisis and panics arise. Help us to know that though you do not always remove troubles from us you always accompany us through them.

*A prayer from Uganda*

Almighty God,

Always you have wished for the unity of all humanity.

Distrust and division are none of your doing!

Grant to all humanity, and especially the people here, unity in diversity, and peace in mutual respect.

Grant us the joy of living together in your friendship, and of working for the good of our nation under your watchful care.

This we ask of you through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect unity for ever and ever.

Amen.

*Part of a prayer, to Hindus and Buddhist as well as to Christians, which is used on the feast day of blessed Fr. Jacques' Disiri Inval.*

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Almighty God,

As your Son our Savior was born of a Hebrew mother, but rejoiced in the faith of a Syrian woman and of a Roman soldier, welcomed the Greeks who sought him, and suffered a man from Africa to carry his cross; teach us to regard the members of all races as fellow heirs of the kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer from Botswana*

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O God of all youth, we pray to you:

We are young people, and we want to celebrate life!

We cry out against all that kills life: hunger, poverty, unemployment, sickness, repression, individualism, injustice.

We want to announce fullness of life: work, education, health, housing, bread for all.

We want communion, a world renewed.

With the Lord of history we want to make all things new.

*A group of Brazilian young people with a visiting peace and justice volunteer.*

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## **Prayers for the Hungry**

O God, to those who have hunger give bread, and to us who have bread give the hunger for justice.

*Prayer from Latin America*

Lord, we know that you'll be coming through the line today,

So Lord, help us to treat you well,

help us to treat you well.

Amen.

I saw a child today, Lord, who will not die tonight hurried into hunger's grave.

She was bright and full of life because her parents have a job and feed her,

But somewhere, everywhere, 10,000 life-lamps will go out and not be lit again tomorrow.

Lord, teach us the way.

Amen.

*Prayer of an African Christian*

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You have come from afar and waited long and are wearied,

Let us sit side by side

Sharing the same bread, drawn from the same source to quiet the same hunger

Then standing together

let us share the same spirit,

the same thought

that once again draw us together

in friendship and unity and peace.

*Prieru d' Ozawamick; Canadian Indian Liturgy*

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Make us worthy Lord,  
to serve our brothers and sisters throughout the world,  
who live and die in poverty and pain. Give them today, through our hands - and through our walk -  
their daily bread; and through our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.

*Adapted from a common prayer*

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For food in a world where many walk in hunger,  
For friends in a world where many walk alone,  
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,  
We give you thanks, O God.  
Amen

*Anglican Church of Canada*

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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*

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I pray for the ones who help me. I pray that the word of God will spread and live long. I pray for rain and food, because there are so many people who have neither. I pray for more justice and peace in this world.

*Prayer from Great Britain*

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## Prayers of Compassion

The call to compassion is universal:

Buddhism: Hurt not others with that which pains yourself. *Udana-Varga*

Christianity: In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you- this is the law and the prophets. *Gospel of Matthew*

Hinduism: This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to you would cause you pain. *The Mahabharata*

Islam: No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires himself. *Hadith*

Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. That's the entire law, the rest is commentary. *The Talmud*

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## Prayers for Water

Good of life,  
God of all those who walk miles for water,  
God of those whose only supply is contaminated, bringing death, not life.  
May water, clean and life-giving, be available to every living creature.  
May that vision move forward.  
May your will be done.

*Great Britain*

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You who turn storms into gentle winds, and troubled seas into tranquil waters  
You who make yams grow and bananas blossom  
Wash our people with justice; teach us with righteousness  
Speak to us daily; strengthen us to serve you.

*Papua New Guinea*

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The poor of the world are thirsty for justice and for peace;  
Their journey is unending till hate and oppression cease.  
The Lord of Heaven is thirsty for justice and for peace;  
His battle is unending till hate and oppression cease.

*Pastoral Team of Bambamarca, Peru*

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O God, pour out on us the water of life that we may quench our thirst and draw strength from you.

Help us to stand alongside those who struggle daily for clean water so that all may be refreshed and renewed by your love.

*A Prayer from Great Britain*

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When the poor and needy seek water,  
I will open rivers on the bare heights and fountains in the midst of the valleys  
I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water.

*Isaiah 41:17-18*