

# Let Us Pray for Our Nation

November 4, 2024, Bethlehem Parma at Noon

***If you cannot join us, please pray when and where you can!***

*Some parts are numbered to easily include other participants.*

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## Opening Prayer

**After Each Petition: C: Hear our prayer.**

1. Almighty and most merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks for all Your goodness and tender mercies, especially for ✦the gift of Your dear Son, ✦the revelation of Your will, and ✦Your daily supply of what we need for us, our families, and our congregation. Implant Your Word in us that, with good and honest hearts, we may keep it and bring forth the fruits of our faith. *LORD, in Your mercy.*
2. We humbly implore You to rule and govern Your Church throughout the world. Bless all those who proclaim Your truth that we may be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving Word and that ✦faith in You may be strengthened, ✦love toward others increased, and ✦Your kingdom extended. *LORD, in Your mercy.*
3. Grant repentance and wisdom to all who are in authority in our nation, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws, that they may ✦maintain all that is good, ✦quickly turn from all that is wicked, and ✦swiftly punish all who do wrong, so that ✦Your truth is known and loved, ✦You are honored by many, ✦Your undeserved blessing rests upon our nation, and ✦law-abiding citizens lead quiet and peaceful lives. *LORD, in Your mercy.*
4. According to Your good pleasure, turn the hearts of our enemies and adversaries, that they may cease their hostilities and walk with us in meekness and in peace. *LORD, in Your mercy.*

5. Comfort, O God, with Your Holy Spirit all who are in trouble, want, adversity, sickness, or peril of death. Grant courage and steadfastness, *especially to those who suffer for Your name's sake*, that they may accept their afflictions in the confidence that You are with them, will help them, and, one day, will welcome them into paradise. *LORD, in Your mercy.*
  6. Although we have deserved Your righteous wrath and punishment, we thank You for Your great forgiveness through Jesus and pray for Your continual deliverance from all harm and danger to body and soul, from false doctrine, from war and bloodshed, from serious illness, from calamity by fire and water, from famine, from discouragement, and from all who seek to harm us. *LORD, in Your mercy.*
  7. May You cause all needed fruits of the earth to prosper, that we may enjoy them in due season. Give success to the Christian training of the young and to all lawful occupations, that we may live and serve unto Your glory. *LORD, in Your mercy.*
  8. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**

## Isaiah Chapter 1 – Let's Read, Think, and Pray

1. **Isaiah 1:1-3** The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem, which he saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. <sup>2</sup> Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the LORD speaks, "Sons I have reared and brought up, But they have revolted against Me. <sup>3</sup> An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, *But Israel does not know, My people do not understand."*

### **Prayer by Pastor...**

2. **4-6:** Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, Offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the LORD, They have despised the Holy One of

Israel, They have turned away from Him. <sup>5</sup> Where will you be stricken again, As you continue in *your* rebellion? The whole head is sick And the whole heart is faint. <sup>6</sup> From the sole of the foot even to the head There is nothing sound in it, *Only* bruises, welts and raw wounds, Not pressed out or bandaged, Nor softened with oil.

**Prayer by Pastor...**

3. **7-9:** <sup>7</sup> Your land is desolate, Your cities are burned with fire, Your fields-- strangers are devouring them in your presence; It is desolation, as overthrown by strangers. <sup>8</sup> The daughter of Zion is left like a shelter in a vineyard, Like a watchman's hut in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. <sup>9</sup> Unless the LORD of hosts Had left us a few survivors, We would be like Sodom, We would be like Gomorrah.

**Prayer by Pastor...**

4. **10-15:** Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah. <sup>11</sup> "What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle; And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats. <sup>12</sup> When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts? <sup>13</sup> Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies-- I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. <sup>14</sup> I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing *them*. <sup>15</sup> So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood."

**Prayer by Pastor...**

5. **16-17:** "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup> Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow." **Prayer by Pastor...**

6. **18-20:** “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. <sup>19</sup> If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; <sup>20</sup> But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword. Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

**Prayer by Pastor...**

7. **21-26:** “How the faithful city has become a harlot, She *who* was full of justice! Righteousness once lodged in her, But now murderers. <sup>22</sup> Your silver has become dross, Your drink diluted with water. <sup>23</sup> Your rulers are rebels And companions of thieves; Everyone loves a bribe And chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, Nor does the widow's plea come before them. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts, The Mighty One of Israel, declares, ‘Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries And avenge Myself on My foes. <sup>25</sup> I will also turn My hand against you, And will smelt away your dross as with lye And will remove all your alloy. <sup>26</sup> Then I will restore your judges as at the first, And your counselors as at the beginning; After that you will be called the city of righteousness, A faithful city.’”

**Prayer by Pastor...**

8. **27-31:** “Zion will be redeemed with justice And her repentant ones with righteousness. <sup>28</sup> But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together, And those who forsake the LORD will come to an end. <sup>29</sup> Surely you will be ashamed of the oaks which you have desired, And you will be embarrassed at the gardens which you have chosen. <sup>30</sup> For you will be like an oak whose leaf fades away Or as a garden that has no water. <sup>31</sup> The strong man will become tinder, His work also a spark. Thus they shall both burn together And there will be none to quench *them*.”

**Prayer by Pastor...**

## Daniel's Prayer for His People – Daniel 9:4-10, 17-19

1. <sup>4</sup> ...“Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, <sup>5</sup> we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. <sup>6</sup> Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.”
2. <sup>7</sup> “Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day..., because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You. <sup>8</sup> Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. <sup>9</sup> To the Lord our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; <sup>10</sup> nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets...”
3. <sup>17</sup> “So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. <sup>18</sup> O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. <sup>19</sup> O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

**C: Amen!**

## Passages for Reading, Thinking, Praying

- 1. Psalm 33:6-12** By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. <sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. <sup>9</sup> For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. <sup>10</sup> The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. <sup>11</sup> The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.
- 2. Acts 17:26-28, 30-31** “[God] made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and exist... <sup>30</sup> Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”
- 3. Psalm 22:28** For the kingdom is the LORD'S And He rules over the nations.
- 4. Proverbs 14:34** Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to *any* people.
- 5. 2 Chronicles 7:14** [If] My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
- 6. Psalm 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

## Closing Prayer By Pastor

- ➔ **For Responsible Leaders:** O merciful Father in heaven, from You comes all rule and authority over the nations of the world for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well. Graciously regard Your servants, those who make, administer, and judge the laws of this nation, and look in mercy upon all the rulers of the earth. Grant them wisdom and understanding that Your people may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness, and unity.
- ➔ **For Repentance:** Dear LORD, please work powerfully in every needful way to turn us:
- ✓ from sinning to repenting,
  - ✓ from deceiving to truth telling,
  - ✓ from foolishness to wisdom,
  - ✓ from weakness to strength,
  - ✓ from division to unity, and
  - ✓ from self-centeredness to compassion!
- ➔ **For Undeserved Blessings:** Almighty God, Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life.
- ✓ Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action.
  - ✓ Support us in defending our liberties and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom that there may be justice and peace in our land.
  - ✓ When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail.

**C: Amen!**

**Thanks for Attending!**

***LORD, please have mercy on the USA!***

The Scripture Readings are from the NASB 1995 version of the Holy Bible.