

Prayers

A Prayer of Hope

Let us pray:

We pray today for God's world. We pray that it might discover its human face. We pray for a world divided.

Divided unequally between the prosperous and the desperate.

Between those born into privilege and power and those born into poverty and pain.

Divided unequally between the wealthy and the poor.

The power-filled and the poor.

The greedy and the poor.

The corrupt and the poor.

The poor who always get more than their fair-share of poverty.

God of life, into your world you come. Into this divided human community you arrive.

You sit amongst the poor but the wealthy do not see you.

You walk with the lonely and the abandoned but those with power cannot hear your footsteps.

You stand among the hungry crowds waiting for food but the greedy will not share their food with you.

You live among the powerless, the frightened and the weak but the corrupt fail to notice you and continue to exploit you.

God of hope, deliver us all from self-righteousness so that whilst we may call the world towards a different way, we might also, in your name, become the answer to the prayers of the silent, suffering, struggling ones.

God of justice, not just us, grant us the courage to live as well as proclaim your gospel.

God of life, grant us the energy to serve others in your name.

God of love, enable and allow us, with all our weaknesses and fears, to continue this walk of faith, for faith and in faith.

Amen.

(Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, Commission for Mission, Uniting Church in Australia)

A Prayer for the Hungry

O God, we pray now for the hungry— not the spiritually hungry

not the emotionally hungry

not the psychologically hungry

(though they surely need our prayers)—

we pray now simply for the hungry hungry.

We know in the realm that Jesus showed us no one goes hungry,

no one lacks daily bread.

In Your Realm,

those with food remember the hungry,

those with food share their food with the hungry,

those with food work on behalf of the hungry,

those with food weep for the hungry,

even if it makes them feel guilty.

God, we are grateful you never forget about the hungry—

that you long for the hungry to be fed.

God, we are grateful you never forget about those who aren't hungry—

that you long for them to feed the hungry.

God, the hungry and unhungry stand as one before you;

loved with the same love,

both in need of you and each other.

God of the Hungry, so many are hungry.

Rescue your hungry children,

fill their stomachs with food

and their hearts with gladness,

so that they, too, might experience the luxury of dealing only with their spiritual hunger,

their emotional hunger,

their psychological hunger.

Send your Spirit to the hungry hungry,

and to the unhungry,

until all feast with Jesus in the new age.

In the name of Jesus and the hungry hungry we pray.

Amen.



By Steve Hammond

Lutherans reaching out in love for justice!