



Prayers

Simple Prayers

Dear Lord,
 Thank You for this meal.
 There are so many people who are hungry across
 the world,
 But we are so blessed to be able to eat when we
 want
 And to be able to chose what we want to eat.
 Let us not forget how fortunate we are
 And let us not forget the less fortunate.
Amen
 D. Alsup

Our Father
 We thank you,
 For never a hungry day.
 Give continuous special blessings to those who
 lovingly prepared this meal
 And may we all enjoy it,
 Always remembering where our blessings come from.
Amen
 D. Alsup

Dear Lord,
 We take a few quiet moments to give thanks and
 to pray for our neighbours who will not eat
 enough this day... that they may be filled.
 We pray for our nation and those who shape its
 policies, that the elimination of hunger may truly
 become a national priority.
 And we pray for ourselves, that we may be filled
 with such love for those who hunger that we com-
 mit ourselves to unaccustomed actions that will
 send a strong, determined signal to world leaders
 to work for an end to hunger on our bountiful
 earth.
 Let us really learn how to love our neighbours,
 near and far.
Amen
 Adapted from Augustinian Secretariat for Justice and Peace, Used with
 permission

*Most gracious God, who gives the fruits of the earth
 for the benefit of all your creatures, we give
 thanks to you for abundant harvests and plentiful
 food.
 We pray for those in our land who are denied these
 gifts, and we seek your forgiveness for our complicity
 in their want.*



*We pray for those whose voices are not heard and for
 those who do not hear.
 Forgive us when our choices are selfish ones, and
 forgive us especially when we do not choose to raise
 our own voice poverty and hunger.
 Most of all, God, we give you thanks for the revelation
 of your love in Jesus Christ, who came that everyone
 might have abundant life.
 We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.
 Augustinian Secretariat for Justice and Peace, Used with permission*

**Gracious God, we thank you for making the earth
 fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed
 for life.
 Bless those who work in the fields;
 give us seasonable weather; and grant that we
 may all share the fruits for the earth,
 rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ
 our Lord.
Amen.
 Prayer for Agriculture (adapted from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer)**



Prayers

Not Just About Food

Dear Lord,
 We thank you for the blessings of food, water, shelter, family and well-being.
 As we enjoy healthy food, we will think of those who struggle to feed their families every day. You taught us to pray.
 As we say "Give us today our daily bread" we make that prayer also for the million who go hungry every day.
 You fed the hungry.
 Inspire in us the commitment to follow your example, showing compassion in action and sharing what we have with those who have less. You cared for all.
 Help us to remember your command to love one another.
 Help us to see you in each of our brothers and sisters—especially those who are in need. You are the Bread of Life.
 Strengthen us as we work for justice in the world. Help us to stand in solidarity with the poorest of the poor.
 You came so that we could have life and have it to the full.
 Our prayer is that this might be true for all. We pray that communities and governments recognise our shared responsibility to be more just in sharing the world's resources.
 Help us to care more deeply, live more simply and share more fully.
Amen

Simply Sharing Week 2009

Watchful God, we confess that we have yet more to learn about the economy of food – how it is grown, who harvests it, who transports it, how it is distributed. We eat what we are served. We select from the shelves at the store. An enormous system has developed around what was once a simple act... you grew the food you ate. You bartered for the food you ate. You knew the cost.
Help us to recognise the hidden costs of our food. We want to see injustice clearly, the way Jesus did. We want to be awakened from our apathy and enraged by injustice, as Jesus was. Through Your grace we will learn, act, reflect, and change.



God of justice and mercy, we thank you for the abundance in our lives. We confess that it is easy for us to forget the blessings you have bestowed upon us. We pretend not to hear your children crying out for food. We sometimes choose not to see our homeless neighbours. Forgive us for ignoring those who struggle to stay warm in winter, or who are left orphaned because of disease or war, or who are persecuted because of race or ethnicity. Guide us to reach out to the most vulnerable, sharing the gifts of your creation and wrapping them in Your protective love. God be with us, we pray, Amen.

**The one who is
 nourished on the
 Bread of Christ
 cannot remain
 indifferent before
 the one who, even in
 our day, is deprived
 of daily bread.**

Pope Benedict XVI

God our creator, you have ordered seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain. Give to all who work the land fair compensation for the work of their hands. Grant that the people of this and every nation may give thanks to you for food, drink, and all that sustains life; may use with care the land and water from which these good things come; and may honour the labourers who produce them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The gifts of agriculture, Evangelical Lutheran Worship



**Australian
 Lutheran
 World Service**

For further information contact
 Email: alws@alws.org.au
 Ph: 1300 763 407
 Web: www.alws.org.au

**Australian Lutheran World Service
 Awareness Week
 Food Matters
 Focus on food in the developing world**

**Dare to
 Dream a
 Different World**



Prayers

Abundant God, we give you thanks for the fruitful earth, which produces what is needed for life. Bless those who work in the fields; grant favourable weather to all engaged in agriculture; and help us to ensure that all people share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for agriculture from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Blessed are You, O Lord God, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace at Meals (adapted from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer)

**Sharing the loaves and fishes,
You gave us an image of
solidarity with the hungry.
Sharing yourself in the bread and wine,
You called all to the table.
Give me the hunger to be a part of the feeding
And the healing of this world.
Nourish me with your grace,
So I may work with joy to serve your children.
Open my eyes and my heart
To recognise those in poverty
And increase my awareness
Of the structures and systems
That need to be changed
So we may all break bread
together.
In your name we pray for the end of hunger.
Amen.**

*God of life,
God of those who will go hungry today
God of those who will eat well today
We praise you and thank you for our daily food.
We thank you for the many blessings you have showered upon us.
We pray for the men, women and children in our world who suffer.
We pray that they will have the opportunities to live their lives with dignity and without need.
God, we know that you do not cause poverty and we pray that from our abundance we may be willing to share what we have with those who are poor and hungry.
God of life, you are the bread of everlasting life. We pray these things through Christ Jesus our Lord,
Amen*

We pray today for God's world. We pray for a world divided unequally between the prosperous and the desperate, between the privileged and the powerless, between the wealthy and the poor.

God of life, into this divided human community you come. You sit amongst the poor, you walk with the lonely and the abandoned, you stand among the hungry crowds, you live among the powerless, the frightened and the weak.

**Grant us the energy to serve others in your name.
Grant us the love to heal despair.
Grant us the strength to continue in your service.**

**Grant us the power to overcome evil.
Help us to walk humbly where you walk so that in your name, we become the answer to the prayers of the silent, suffering, struggling ones.**

Amen.

(From a Micah Challenge service for the meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers in Melbourne)

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war so that we may reach out hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

(A Franciscan Benediction)



For further information contact
Email: alws@alws.org.au
Ph: 1300 763 407
Web: www.alws.org.au

**Australian Lutheran World Service
Awareness Week
Food Matters
Focus on food in the developing world**

**Dare to
Dream a
Different World**



Prayers

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

A Prayer of Hope

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)





Prayers

Prayer for those in need, because of drought and famine

Almighty and everlasting God, our Creator and Sustainer, who provides for all our needs, and promises us life in all its fullness; our Good Shepherd, who leads us to good pasture even in the desert; we come before you now in our need.

Forgive us for the way we have treated the good earth which you created; forgive us for the way in which we have shared out the resources you have provided, so that some have so much and others so little; forgive us for the times when we have been indifferent to the needs of those on the edge of our world

We cry to you for those who lack food and water for their families, their children, themselves; we cry to you for those desperately searching for water and pasture for their animals; we cry to you for those whose fields are parched and whose crops have withered; we cry to you for those who grieve for their loved ones after the latest cattle raid has brought death and destruction

Have mercy, O Lord, on us; have mercy on this dry and dusty land; pour out the rains that people long for. Provide for those in need, especially in those parts of East Africa suffering from drought, and move the hearts of your people that we might give of ourselves and out of the riches which you have given us, so that others might eat and drink and sleep this night in peace and know that their future is safe in your hands. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

By the Right Reverend Robert Martin, the Anglican Bishop of Marsabit, in northern Kenya



Prayer for East Africa

Holy One,

We come together in prayer today with the concerns of East Africa on our hearts and minds.

We come to express our sorrow – to question our privilege – to strengthen our resolve – to lighten our despair.

The people affected by this famine are not our closest family and friends – they don't live in our community – we have different languages and customs, yet we are profoundly aware of their suffering and loss. As we are connected within the whole web of creation by your divine spirit, O God, we seek your wisdom and blessing and healing as the world struggles to care for these hungry people.

Help us to be generous with our gifts of money to provide relief – compassionate in our efforts to care for those in immediate need – creative in moving toward longer term solutions.

May those at the heart of this food crisis feel your comforting presence with them and may they know hope because of your holy embrace. May we continue to work for food security in all parts of the world even as this emergency dominates our concern today. We know that you hear our prayers in the name of Jesus who lives in us as we participate in your loving care for all creation.

Amen.

Written by The Rev. Laura Kavanagh, PWS&D Committee Member



Prayers

Prayer of Intercession for the Famine in Eastern Africa

Let us pray for the men, women and children of Eastern Africa whose faces and stories fill our newspapers, televisions and computer screens. For the millions who are facing starvation, who are ill or malnourished, and have no access to medical care, God of love and justice, hear our prayer.

For the hundreds of thousands who have fled their homes, travelling long distances in search of food and better conditions, God of love and justice, hear our prayer. For the mothers and fathers who are watching their children die of starvation, for those who have lost all hope, God of love and justice, hear our prayer.

Let's also pray for those who are already at work responding to the famine in Eastern Africa. For local, national and international agencies raising awareness and collecting donations, God of love and justice, grant them strength and wisdom. For world governments—and our government, as they decide how best to respond to the crisis, God of love and justice, grant them strength and wisdom.

For those on the ground in Africa, working with the hungry, the sick, and the dying, those negotiating with local governments, and arranging shipments of food and other supplies, God of love and justice, grant them strength and wisdom.

Let's also pray for ourselves, and our own response. For those of us who have far more food than we need, and money and resources that we could share, God of love and justice, open our hearts and prompt us to action.

For those of us who can speak out against injustice and inaction,



and encourage our government's quick and generous response, God of love and justice, open our hearts and prompt us to action. For those who can find creative ways to raise funds, for those who are willing to continue praying, God of love and justice, open our hearts and prompt us to action.

In Your mercy, Lord, open our eyes and our hearts to the plight of our brothers and sisters in Africa. Inspire us to greater compassion, love and generosity—the same compassion, love and generosity that You have shown toward us.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who came to bring abundant life for all. Amen.

Adapted from Christine Longhurst <http://re-worship.blogspot.com/>

Prayer for Children of Eastern Africa

Dear God,
We pray for the children in East Africa who do not have enough to eat, and who are too weak to run and play. Help us to share what we have so that they can have enough food to eat, and get strong again.
Amen



Prayers

Dear God,

Thank you for your creation, and for giving us humans the privilege of caring for it. We have not cared for the earth with the self-sacrificing and nurturing love that you required of us, and we now see the hurt and pain this has caused. Help us all to realise that you never give up on your creation, and show us how you want us to be part of the solution.

Thank you that there is enough food for everyone on the planet, and for giving people so many blessings.

Be with those people who do not have enough food. Sustain them. Comfort them, and help them find ways to be able to grow or gather enough food for their families to survive.

Help us in wealthy countries to find ways to share our food, and to find ways to distribute the food to everyone around the world.

Loving God, help us to turn our lives around to be people of restoration.

Help us build just relationships among human beings and with the rest of creation.

Help us to live sustainably, rejecting consumerism and the exploitation of creation.

God of justice, give us courage and persistence to work for justice for those most affected by environmental degradation and climate change.

God of all wisdom, give wisdom to the leaders of all the world's nations. Give them the determination to find a just solution that protects the people who are most vulnerable in our world, and protect our creation.

Creator God, give us your Spirit to work together to restore your creation so that food can be abundant for all people.

Let our care for other people be our act of worship and obedience to you.

In your name we pray,
Amen.



Give us this day our daily bread.

All good gifts of the earth come from your generous hands, God.

Yet, this abundance is not shared equally among us.

While some are satisfied, others are starving.

Women often become the victims of exploitation because they are desperate to feed and care for their children.

If only we would be mindful that each and every one of us must pray:

Give us this day our daily bread.

World Day of Prayer Committee, Myanmar

O Lord, father of all children,

Watch over your little ones

Who are poor and abandoned...

They cry, for they hunger for food,

For the cold chills their bones,

For their bodies suffer with disease,

For they never know the tenderness of love.

Lord, grant that these little ones come to you!

Warm their tender hearts,

Gather them under your wings,

That they may feel the care of your heart

And ever enjoy your kindness as their Father.

A prayer for orphans, Xaverian Missionary Society, Burundi

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, injustice. We want to

announce fullness of life: work, education, health,

bread for all. We hope against hope. With the Lord

of history we want to make all things new.

A group of Brazilian youth