

Micah Institute

Educating for Justice

at New York Theological Seminary

Scriptural Prayers for Justice

Sarum Primer Prayer

God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and in my departing. Amen.

PSALM 146

1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! 2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. 4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; 8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

9 The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. 10 The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Micah 6:8: 8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. NIV

Matthew 25:42-45: 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes

or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.' NIV

PRAYER: For the Courage to Do Justice (World Council of Churches)

O Lord, Open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that they need not be without help (succor);
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
And use me to bring them to those places.
And so open my eyes and my ears That I may this coming day be Able to do some work of peace for thee.
Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: You have shown us O God what is good. You have shown us O Lord what you require. You have heard all our songs and how we long to worship you.

All: You taught us the offering you desire. To do justly, to love mercy to walk humbly with you God.

Leader: You have shown the riches of your love. You have shown us your hope for those in need.

All: You have opened our eyes to the cries of the working poor. You have called us to be your hands and feet. To do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with you God.

Leader: Let the river of your justice flow through us to the oppressed and the broken. Let the river of your justice flow through us to the widow and the orphan.

All: Let the river of your justice flow through us. Let the river of your justice flow through us as we live as you have shown us. You said to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with you God.

(based on Micah 6:8 and the Micah Challenge song;
www.micahchallenge.us)

A Litany to Serve

For such a time as this
we have been called from the streets and the churches to
this place to love and serve.

In such a time as this
we have heard the cries of the hungry, the working poor
and the homeless.
There are many who need God's love. There are many who
need our love.

In every place the powers and principalities are at work.
We affirm that God is in the midst healing, challenging,
comforting, supporting, sustaining and loving.

In such time at this God has blessed us with gifts and talents
to serve those in need.
God works with us. God works through us.

Creation

A Prayer of Awareness

Hildegard of Bingen

God is the foundation for everything
This God undertakes, God gives.
Such that nothing that is necessary for life is lacking.
Now humankind needs a body that at all times honors and
praises God.
This body is supported in every way through the earth.
Thus the earth glorifies the power of God.

*This prayer was used for Earth Day, 1990
From: Interfaith Declarations and Worship Observance
Resources; The North American Conference on Religion and
Ecology; 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005*

Psalm of the Cosmos

Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we, and so do we.

Loving God,
all your creation calls you blessed.
Your spirit imprints the whole universe with life and
mystery.
Yes, all creation proclaims your love.
We now join this chorus of praise.

Loving God,
all of nature calls you blessed,
and so do we.

For you have woven an intimate tapestry
and call it life
and called it good.

In love you have formed a universe
so diverse yet so related,
and into its web you call us forth
to walk the land and swim the sea
with all our natural brothers and sisters.

To the stars
we seem no more than blades of grass.
Yet to you, each of us,
as each blade of grass and each star,
is an irreplaceable treasure,
an essential companion on this journey of love.

Loving God, as you lure the whole world into salvation,
guide us with your Spirit
that we might not be only pilgrims on the earth,
but pilgrims with the earth,
journeying home to you.

Open our hearts to understand
the intimate relationship that you have with all creation.
Only with this faith can we hope
for tomorrow's children.
Amen. Alleluia!

Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we, and so do we.

Source unknown

Leviticus 25:3-5 Six years you shall sow your field, and six
years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield;
but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete
rest for the land, a sabbath for the LORD: you shall not sow
your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the
after growth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your
unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the
land.

Revelation 22:1-2 Then the angel showed me the river of the
water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of
God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the
city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its
twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the
leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

