

✓ **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

God's Word says, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

As we wait before him in humble prayer and sincere worship, may our spiritual strength be renewed by His power and presence.

✓ **INVOCATION: ("LET US PRAY")**

Upon our worship service this day, O Lord, we ask Thee to give thy blessing. Renew a right spirit within us, our Father, and create in us a clean heart. Unto thee we dedicate our prayers, our hymns, our very thoughts. Be so near unto us that Thy presence will help all of us and each of us according to our needs, we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

O Lord, may this gift we bring to thine altar truly represent our consecration to thy service. Help us that we may not give of "necessity nor grudgingly," but that we may know and understand that God loves a "cheerful giver." Increase our love to thy cause, that our gifts may be equal to our blessings; we ask for Jesus' sake. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER:

O God, whose love we cannot measure, and whose gifts we cannot number, we praise thee for the many blessings you have given to us. Above all, we thank thee for thyself, for thy love which nothing can weaken or change, for thy faithfulness new every morning; for thy care and guidance throughout our lives, and for all these treasures made evident and convincing in the life and teaching, the death and resurrection, the Spirit and grace of our Savior.

Bless us thy children who are members of the Body of Christ. Save us who are within the household of Christ from self-righteousness and self satisfaction.

Save us and thy church universal from pride of race or class, lest we dishonor thee and hinder Christ's work in our world.

O God of all righteousness, make us a righteous nation, we humbly pray. [From prejudice of race, color, class, religion, from party spirit and from slavery to the opinions of others, cleanse us, O Lord. From national pride and greed, from indifference to the needs and rights of others, and from failure to judge our own nation by the standards of thy Kingdom, cleanse us, O Lord.]

Bless all Christian rulers; especially bless our own President and all our leaders with wisdom, courage, and integrity. Strengthen every agency for the making of peace, that all rulers and peoples may with one mind serve thee, our God and King.

Now we ask thee to bless all those who are in sickness, in weakness and in pain. In particular we ask thy healing and thy courage for those shocked by sudden bereavement, accident, or illness; for those who are so nervous that they cannot cope with life; for those who worry about everything; for those who feel different from others and are ashamed of their difference. Give hope of a brighter tomorrow to any who find today darkened by sorrow and the memory of a dear one gone from their sight. Fill our heart with the peace that passes all understanding when we are right with thee through true repentance from our sins and personal faith in thy Son Jesus Christ as our Savior. Bring us all home at last to thyself, not one missing, ready for new adventures as we continue to serve thee throughout all eternity. And to Thee we give all the praise, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us when we pray to say... "OUR FATHER..."

For thy care and guidance throughout our lives and for all these treasures made evident and convincing in the life and teaching of our Savior, the Spirit and grace of our Father, bless us thy children who are members of the body of Christ. Save us who are within the household of Christ from self-righteousness and self-reliance.

We bring before Thee all who must lie down hungry and cold, all who suffer pain, all who are kept awake in the nighttime by anxiety or suspense; all who must work or keep watch while others rest; all who are afraid that they cannot gain control of their minds; all who feel that they cannot live normal lives; for whom health of body and mind seems always to elude them.

Give to all of these Thy children, O gracious Father, such a sense of Thy presence as may turn their loneliness into comfort, their trouble into peace, their sorrow into quiet assurance of a brighter tomorrow. And grant to each of us, O loving God, the joy of a life committed to Christ's service and the peace of sin forgiven. We pray in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior & Redeemer, (who taught us when we pray to say: ~~AMEN~~ "Our Father...")

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

O Lord, who hast given thy only begotten Son that we might not perish but have everlasting life, receive our offerings, and persuade us by thy love to offer ourselves completely to Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERMON:

From the ancient words to our present words, speak Thy living Word, that we may hear, receive, and do Thy truth as it is in Christ. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER THE SERMON:

Eternal God, we thank thee for the unmerited righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ with which Thou hast clothed and warmed our shivering souls. With untiring love thou hast watch over thy children yesterday, and today, and forever. Even before we call upon thee thou dost answer. Wherever we look thou art there. We would trust in thy steadfast love, and greet the tomorrows with joy, and confidence, and hope. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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