



# NOVENA FOR THE ELECTION

St. Peter's Chelsea

October 28 to November 5, 2024



## **Novena for the Election**

A *novena* is a form of worship consisting of special prayers on nine successive days prayed with intention. As we approach Election Day on November 5, our hearts and minds are likely full of campaign news, political pundits and talking points, social media postings, and all the churn and emotion, fear and uncertainty in this election. The stakes feel especially high in the midst of painful concurrent global, national and personal crises, and the highest level of government being decided in just a few days time.

As Christians, we seek to be good citizens, actively engaged in making our country a more compassionate, more just, more equitable place for all to live and flourish. And as citizens of another Kingdom, we recognize that our highest call is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In so doing, we devote ourselves to the work of prayer as Christians of all generations have done. Every Sunday, we say the Lord's Prayer as Jesus taught us to pray. N. T. Wright writes in his book *The Lord and His Prayer*,

“Jesus’ message summons us to focus our thoughts on the coming kingdom of God... We live, as Jesus lived, in a world all too full of injustice, hunger, malice and evil. This prayer cries out for justice, bread, forgiveness and deliverance. If anyone thinks those are irrelevant in today's world, let them read the newspaper and think again. This prayer... serves as a lens through which to see Jesus himself, and to discover something of what he was about. When Jesus gave his disciples this prayer, he was giving them part of his own breath, his own life, his own prayer. The prayer is actually a distillation of his own sense of vocation, his own understanding of his Father's purposes.”

In this time of anxiety, fear, and exhaustion, let us enter into the prayer of Our Lord. Let us allow Jesus's own breath, life, and prayer to shape these next nine days leading up to the election. Let us remember that no matter who is elected, we worship Jesus the King, who is seated on the throne of the universe, and holds Our lives, our loved ones, and our country in his hands.

*Let us pray.*

**Monday, October 28:**

***Our Father Who Art in Heaven***

**Call to Worship**

Kneel in prayer to the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth  
takes its name;  
that out of the treasures of glory  
God may grant us strength and power  
through the Spirit in our inmost being;  
that Christ, through faith,  
may dwell in our hearts in love.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Psalm 68:1-10**

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate him flee before him.  
As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
as wax melts before the fire,  
let the wicked perish before God.  
But let the righteous be joyful;  
let them exult before God;  
let them be jubilant with joy.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—  
his name is the Lord—  
be exultant before him.

Father of orphans and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.  
God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

O God, when you went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness, Selah  
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.  
Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
you restored your heritage when it languished;  
your flock found a dwelling in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

**Intercessions and Thanksgiving**

- Take a moment and imagine God looking upon every person, every family, communities of all kinds, irrespective of political persuasion, red state or blue state, and loving them, “as a father has compassion for his children” (Psalm 103:13). Are there any groups in the human family that you have difficulty imagining God’s fatherly love for? Talk to God about this.
- Gandhi said, “The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.” Pray for “orphans, widows, the desolate, the prisoners,” those who are vulnerable in our society.
- Pray that we would be the kind of nation whose policies reflect care and honoring of them.

## **Closing Prayer**

*For the Human Family*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Book of Common Prayer*

## Tuesday, October 20: *Hallowed Be Thy Name*

### Call to Worship

We have come to the holy mountain  
and to the city of the living God,  
the heavenly Jerusalem;  
before myriads of angels,  
before the full assembly of the first-born citizens of heaven.

We have come to God who is the judge of all,  
and the spirits of the good, made perfect;  
we have come to Jesus, mediator of the new covenant.

Let us give thanks,  
and worship God with reverence and awe,  
for our God is a consuming fire.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

### Psalm 99

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!  
The Lord is great in Zion;  
he is exalted over all the peoples.  
Let them praise your great and awesome name.  
Holy is he!  
Mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity;

you have executed justice  
and righteousness in Jacob.  
Extol the Lord our God;  
worship at his footstool.  
Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,  
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.  
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.  
He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;  
they kept his decrees,  
and the statutes that he gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them;  
you were a forgiving God to them,  
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.  
Extol the Lord our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain;  
for the Lord our God is holy.

### Intercessions and Thanksgiving

A person's name is their identity. In scripture, God's name means God's character, who God is, what God is about. As you settle in, prayerfully reflect on this reading by N. T. Wright.

“If, as people of the living Creator God, we respond to the call to be his sons and daughters; if we take the risk of calling him Father; then we are called to be the people through whom the pain of the world is held in the healing light of the love of God. And we then discover that we want to pray, and need to pray, this prayer.

Father; Our Father; Our Father in Heaven; Our Father in Heaven, *may your name be honored*. That is, may you be worshipped by your whole creation; May the whole cosmos resound with your praise; May the whole world be freed from injustice, disfigurement, sin, and death, and may your name be hallowed. And as we stand in the presence of the Living God, with the darkness and pain of the world on our hearts, praying that he will fulfill his ancient promises, and implement the victory of Calvary and Easter for the whole cosmos, then we may discover that our own pain, our own darkness, is somehow being dealt with as well.”

*The Lord and His Prayer*

- Read the second half of Wright’s reflection again and this time, read it as a prayer, especially over our country in this season.
- Add your own prayers that God’s name may be honored in this election, in your life and in the people and situations that are on your heart this morning.

## **Closing Prayer**

*For the Nation*

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Book of Common Prayer*

# Wednesday, October 30:

## *Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is in Heaven*

### Call to Worship: Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;  
for he has founded it on the seas,  
and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,  
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,  
and do not swear deceitfully.  
They will receive blessing from the Lord,  
and vindication from the God of their salvation.  
Such is the company of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory. *Selah*

### Intercessions and Thanksgiving

Prayerfully reflect on this reading by N. T. Wright:

“What then might it mean to pray this Kingdom prayer today? It means, for a start, that as we look up into the face of our Father in heaven, and commit ourselves to the hallowing of his name, that we look immediately out upon the world that he has made, and we see it as he sees it. Thy Kingdom Come: to pray this means seeing the world in binocular vision. See it with the love of the creator for his spectacularly beautiful creation; and see it with the deep grief of the creator for the battered and battle-scarred state in which the world now finds itself. Put those two together, and bring the binocular picture into focus: the love and the grief join into the Jesus-shape, the kingdom-shape, the shape of the cross - never was Love, dear King, never was Grief like thine! And, with this Jesus before your eyes, pray again, *Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven!* We are praying, as Jesus was praying and acting, for the redemption of the world; for the radical defeat and uprooting of evil; and for heaven and earth to be married at last, for God to be all in all. And if we pray this way, we must of course be prepared to live this way.”

*The Lord and His Prayer*

- Take a few moments and sit with this reading.
- Allow yourself to enter into the love and grief of Jesus as he looks out on the world he has given his life for as our King. Enter into the love and grief of Jesus as he looks out on our country.

- Allow the prayers that emerge from this to flow out in intercession and thanksgiving.
- Pray that God would help you to bring God's Kingdom, to be faithful where you are in loving fidelity to the King, into the spheres of your own life. Pray this for the larger Church, that we might be a witness to this Kingdom during this election season and beyond.

### **Closing Prayer**

Ruler of the everlasting kingdom,  
prince of peace, champion of the despised:  
you are the king;  
you make a cross your throne;  
you wear a crown of thorns;  
you call your subjects friends.  
Help us to take up our cross,  
to hunger and thirst for all that is good;  
then will your kingdom come on earth as in heaven.

God,  
grant us the serenity  
to accept the things we cannot change,  
the courage to change the things we can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Amen.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*



## Thursday, October 31:

### *Give us this day our daily bread.*

#### Call to Worship

Jesus, you are the bread of life;  
those who come to you will never be hungry;  
those who believe in you will never thirst.  
You are the living bread from heaven;  
the bread you give is your own flesh,  
and you give it for the life of the world.

All who eat your flesh and drink your blood  
live in you and you in them;  
for your flesh is the food we need,  
your blood is our salvation;  
all who eat your flesh and drink your blood have eternal life.

Look to Jesus in the wilderness,  
breaking bread and feeding the multitude.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

#### Intercessions and Thanksgiving

Prayerfully reflect on this reading by N. T. Wright:

“The whole point of the Kingdom... is that it isn't about shifting our wants and desires onto a non-physical level, moving away from the earthly to the supposedly ‘spiritual.’ It is about God's dimension coming to birth within ours, which is after all what Advent and Christmas are anticipating and celebrating. The Kingdom is to come *in earth as it is in heaven*. Daily needs and desires point

beyond themselves, to God's promise of the kingdom in which death and sorrow will be no more. But that means, too, that the promise of the kingdom includes those needs, and doesn't look down on them sneeringly as somehow second-rate.

‘Give us this day our daily bread’; this clause in the Lord's Prayer, then, reminds us that are natural longings, for bread and all that it symbolizes, are not to be shunned as though they were of themselves evil... God knows our desires in order that we may turn them into prayer; in order that they may be sorted out, straightened out, entangled and reaffirmed. If we truly pray this prayer, with due weight to each clause, we are taking the first steps from the chaos of our normal interior life towards an order and clarity which will let the joy come through to the surface.”

- What comes to mind when you think about “daily bread” for your own life? Bring your own daily needs and desires to God in this prayer.
- Who are the people in our communities and country in need of “our daily bread”? Bring them into prayer. Ask God how you might be part of his answer to that prayer.

#### Closing Prayer

God of seed and growth and harvest,  
creator of need, creator of satisfaction;  
give us, we pray, our daily bread,  
sufficient and assured for all.

Give us also, we pray, the bread of life,  
and we shall have a care to feed the hungry,  
and to seek for peace and justice in the world.

Help us, then, to remember and to know  
that you are our life today and every day;  
you are the food we need, now and for ever.

God,  
give us work till our life shall end,  
and life till our work is done.

Look kindly on our world, our God,  
as we suffer and struggle with one another.  
Look kindly on your Church,  
driven by the same necessity;  
and may the light we have seen in Jesus  
illuminate and brighten all the world.  
Amen.

## Friday, November 1: *Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

### Call to Worship: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

## Intercessions and Thanksgiving

Prayerfully reflect on this reading by N. T. Wright:

“To pray this prayer is therefore, in its largest meaning, to pray for the world. ‘Forgive us our trespasses’: lift up your eyes for a moment, away from your own sins and those of your immediate neighbour, and see the world as a whole, groaning in travail, longing for peace and justice; see the endless tangles in which politicians and power-brokers get themselves, and the endless human misery which results; put yourself in the shoes of the peasant who has lost husband and home and faces a winter in the snow, or of the politician who discovers that he’s in too deep and that all the options open are evil ones; of the men of violence who have forgotten that there was a different way to live.

Collect all these images and roll them into one, that of a young Jewish boy off in the far country feeding the pigs; and then, with your courage in both hands, say ‘Forgive us our trespasses’: ‘I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, Father, I have sinned.’ But, as you say it in your prayer, with the whole world of pain in view, allow your praying heart to see the next scene, with the Father doing the unthinkable, the disgraceful thing, and running down the road to meet his muddled and muddy son. As we pray this prayer for the world, let us be alert to new visions of what the living God wants us to aim at in our society. Could it be that we could work and pray for a Jubilee, for the cancellation of the debts which are crippling half the world and keeping the other half in clover?”

*The Lord and His Prayer*

- What do you need forgiveness for? Where do you hold hatred, bitterness or resentment in your heart? Confess those things to the Lord.
- Where do you need God's help in forgiving others? Ask him for that help.
- As you think about our country, the hatred, evil, division and violence, whether you personally have committed it or not, hold it before God and ask for his forgiveness.

## **Closing Prayer**

Saviour, hanging on the cross, declaring God's love to us,  
you are forgiveness.

Beside you hangs a thief,  
beneath you waits Mary the forgiven,  
and all around watch those many people  
to whom you give new life and hope.

To us you give new life and hope.

Forgiven sinners become your body and your Church;  
may the reconciliation we share  
bring your gospel to all the world.

Eternal God,

by your power we are created  
and by your love we are redeemed;  
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to your service  
and live this day in love to one another and to you.

Amen.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

## Saturday, November 2

### *Lead Us Not Into Temptation*

Let us be at peace within ourselves.

*Silence*

Let us accept that we are profoundly loved  
and need never be afraid.

*Silence*

Let us be aware of the source of being  
that is common to us all  
and to all living creatures.

*Silence*

Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion  
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

*Silence*

Realising that we are all nourished  
from the same source of life,  
may we so live that others be not deprived  
of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

*Silence*

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be  
a cause of suffering to one another.

*Silence*

With humility let us pray for the establishment  
of peace in our hearts and on earth.

*Silence*

May God kindle in us  
the fire of love  
to bring us alive  
and give warmth to the world.

Lead me from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth;  
lead me from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust;  
lead me from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our heart,  
our world, our universe.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

## Sunday, November 3: *Deliver Us From Evil*

### Call to Worship: Psalm 37:1-9

Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.  
For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

### Intercessions and Thanksgiving

Prayerfully reflect on this reading by N. T. Wright:

“Gethsemane suggests the deepest meanings of the prayer: ‘Do not let us be led into the Testing, but deliver us from Evil’ ... in his own moment of agony he fears, with good reason, that the whirlpool of evil which is to engulf him will suck down his own followers as well. Jesus knows that he must go, solo and unaided, into the whirlpool, so that it may exhaust its force on him and let the rest of the world go free.

And his followers must therefore pray, let us not be brought into the Testing, into the great Tribulation; Deliver us from Evil. We therefore have to come to grips with the fact that Jesus gave this prayer to his disciples, but that when he prayed it himself *the answer was ‘No.’* He put it together with an earlier part of the Lord’s Prayer (“Thy will be done”). When he held the two side by side, he found that God’s will involved him in a unique vocation. He would be the one who was led to the Testing, who was *not* delivered from Evil.”

*The Lord and His Prayer*

- How are you grappling with your own testing and temptation?
- Where are you burdened by the evil in our country?
- Write them down. Be specific and ask for God’s deliverance.

### Closing Prayer

Our Father,  
save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

Giver of the present, hope for the future:  
save us from the time of trial.

When prophets warn us of doom,  
of catastrophe and of suffering beyond belief,  
then, God, free us from our helplessness,  
and deliver us from evil.

Save us from our arrogance and folly,  
for you are God who created the world;  
you have redeemed us and you are our salvation.

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves  
to help ourselves;  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies  
and inwardly in our souls,  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts  
which may assault and hurt the soul.

God of opportunity and change,  
praise to you for giving us life at this critical time.  
As our horizons extend, keep us loyal to our past;  
as our dangers increase, help us to prepare the future;  
keep us trusting and hopeful,  
ready to recognise your kingdom as it comes.  
Amen.

## Monday November 4:

### *For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, For Ever and Ever*

#### Call to Worship: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

#### Intercessions and Thanksgiving

Prayerfully reflect on this reading by N. T. Wright:

“The prayer thus encapsulates, once more, the whole life and work of Jesus. John sums it up in his own way: the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. That, please note, is a careful redefinition of ‘glory.’ When you look at the Word become flesh, you don’t see the sort of glory that Augustus Caesar and his like work for. You see the glory that is the family likeness of God himself. Caesar’s glory is full of brute force and deep ambiguity. God’s glory - Jesus’ glory - is full of grace and truth. The royal babe in the cowshed overturns all that human empire stands for.”

*The Lord and His Prayer*

- Prayer of Mission and Commission: Pray that this Kingdom, this power and the glory may be seen in all the world. Pray for strength and courage to live and work for this vision to come in reality.
- Prayer of Incarnation and Empowerment: Pray that the church would be active within the world as the people of God, as the Christ-people, and invoke the power of the Spirit of Jesus as we work for the glory of God.
- Prayer of Confidence and Commitment: Because God is King, and has become king in Jesus, we can pray the rest of this prayer with confidence. Pray in the name of Jesus and by doing so, we invoke the name of the Stronger than the Strong.



Creator of the universe, infinite and glorious,  
you give us laws to save us from our folly;  
give us eyes to see your plan unfolding,  
your purpose emerging as the world is made;  
give us courage to follow the truth,  
courage to go wherever you lead;  
then we shall know blessings beyond our dreams;  
then will your will be done.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

\*Join us for Election Evening Prayer on Zoom at 8 pm. RSVP to  
[rsvp@stpeterschelsea.org](mailto:rsvp@stpeterschelsea.org) for the Zoom link by 7:30 pm.

# Election Day, November 5: *Amen*

## Call to Worship

There is nothing in death or life,  
in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers,  
in the world as it is or the world as it shall be,  
in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths-  
nothing in all creation  
which can separate us from the love of God  
which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Love never comes to an end.

## Psalm 131

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.  
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.  
O Israel, hope in the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore.

## Intercessions and Thanksgiving

2 Corinthians 1:20-22, “For in him every one of God’s promises is a ‘Yes.’ For this reason it is through him that we say the ‘Amen,’ to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.”

“Amen” means “it is true.” It is our affirmation of the prayer that Jesus himself prayed. so as we go into this momentous election day in our country let us pray in the words that our savior Christ has taught us to pray saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## Blessing

All shall be Amen and Alleluia.  
We shall rest and we shall see, we shall see and we shall know.  
We shall know and we shall love.  
We shall love and we shall praise.  
Behold our end which is no end.

- St. Augustine, from *An African Prayer Book*

\*Join us for Election Day Compline on Zoom at 9 pm. RSVP to [rsvp@stpeterschelsea.org](mailto:rsvp@stpeterschelsea.org) for the Zoom link by 8:30 pm.

## **Additional prayers from *The Book of Common Prayer***

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For Peace*

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### *For Peace Among the Nations*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### *For our Enemies*

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For Sound Government*

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

*For Social Justice*

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*In Times of Conflict*

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For Cities*

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For Towns and Rural Areas*

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the kingdom of God in villages, towns, and lonely places: Grant that your presence and power may be known throughout this

land. Have mercy upon all of us who live and work in rural areas; and grant that all the people of our nation may give thanks to you for food and drink and all other bodily necessities of life, respect those who labor to produce them, and honor the land and the water from which these good things come. All this we ask in your holy Name. Amen.

*For the Poor and the Neglected*

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For the Oppressed*

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For Prisons and Correctional Institutions*

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them

release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. Amen.

*For the Nation*

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*For Peace*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*For Social Justice*

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*For Vocation in Daily Work*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Of the Reign of Christ*

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Ignatian Examen: Election Edition**  
**(adapted from the Ignatian Solidarity Network)**

As Christians, we believe that our hope is ultimately in God, not politics. Behind all the complexity and troubling realities of our present day, God is very much alive and on the throne.

We invite you to use this prayer of Examen as a way to connect with God and allow Him to shape your life in this season:

1. Consider current realities of our country – for what and for whom are you most grateful?
2. Enlightened by the Spirit, prayerfully review our nation at this point in history:

What energizes you or brings you closer to God as you reflect on our country?

What discourages you or makes you feel farther from God as you reflect on our country?

What is the current situation of your brothers and sisters, particularly those who are most vulnerable and often marginalized by poverty and injustice?

What are the ways that your identity and privileges shape your perspective and vision for our country?

Allow your honest reactions, emotions, and desires to surface.

3. In this election season, how will you promote the common good? Ask God for the assistance you need to enact the greater, more lasting good for all God's people. Is there a specific attitude you want to cultivate or an action you want to take?

4. Entrust your desires and intentions for our country and communities to God's grace.