

## A SERVICE OF LAMENT

*This liturgy includes*

*The Great Litany,  
Scripture Readings,  
The Prayers of the People,  
The Confession of Sin,  
The Lord's Prayer, and  
The Supplication.*

*Anthems of lament may be used where appropriate.*

*The Prayers of the People were written from the collects suggested by Archbishop Foley Beach regarding the racial unrest and pandemic during the summer of 2020.*

*The collects referenced include numbers 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, and 51, found on pages 658-661 in the Anglican 2019 Book of Common Prayer.*

*The Prayers of the People and the Scripture readings can be adjusted as necessary to reflect the heart of the lament.*

*May this liturgy be useful to us in our season of grief, as we confess and cry out to God.*

# A SERVICE OF LAMENT

## THE GREAT LITANY

*To be said or sung, kneeling, standing, or in procession.*

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Remember not, Lord Jesus, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forebears; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your most precious blood, and by your mercy preserve us forever.

**Spare us, good Lord.**

From all evil and wickedness; from sin, from the works and assaults of the devil; from your wrath and everlasting condemnation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all disordered and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word and commandments,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your holy nativity and submission to the Law; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and bloody sweat; by your Cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your glorious resurrection and ascension; by the sending of the Holy Spirit; by your heavenly intercession; and by your coming again in power and great glory,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of tribulation; in all times of prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

We sinners beseech you to hear us, O Lord God: That it may please you to rule and govern your holy Church universal in the right way,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To illumine all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of your Word; and that, both by their preaching and living, they may show it accordingly,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To send forth laborers into your harvest; to prosper their work by your Holy Spirit; to make your saving health known unto all nations; and to hasten the coming of your kingdom,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give all your people increase of grace to hear your Word with humility, to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give us a heart to love and fear you, and diligently to keep your commandments,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bless and keep all your people,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to rule the hearts of your servant *N*, the *President/Sovereign/Prime Minister*, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and show mercy, and walk humbly before you,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bless and guide all judges, giving them grace to execute justice, and to maintain truth,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bless and keep our armed forces by sea, and land, and air, and to shield them in all dangers and adversities,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bless and protect all who serve their communities by their labor and learning,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give and preserve for us and for others the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that at the harvest we all may enjoy them,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To make wars to cease in all the world, and to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to show mercy on all prisoners and captives; refugees, the homeless, and the hungry; and all those who are desolate and oppressed,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To preserve all who are in danger by reason of their work or travel,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To strengthen the bonds of those in Holy Matrimony; to uphold the widowed and abandoned; and to comfort all whose homes are torn by strife,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To protect the unborn and their parents, and to preserve all women in childbirth;

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To care for those who have lost children or face infertility, and to provide for young children and orphans,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To visit the lonely and those who grieve; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit; and to comfort with your presence those who are failing and infirm,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To support, help, and deliver all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To have mercy upon all people,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sin, negligence, and ignorance; and to endue us with the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy Word,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To strengthen those who stand; to encourage the faint-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To grant that, in the fellowship of [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all the saints, we may attain to your heavenly kingdom,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Son of God, we beseech you to hear us.

**Son of God, we beseech you to hear us.**

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**Grant us your peace.**

O Christ, hear us.

**O Christ, hear us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*The people sit. One or more of the following, or some other suitable passage of Scripture, is read*

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

GENESIS 1:26

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

PSALM 139:23-24

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

MATTHEW 11:28-30

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O Lord, my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

PSALM 13:1-5

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

EPHESIANS 4:25

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:1-10

*At the end of the reading is said*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence may follow. A suitable hymn may be sung.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The people kneel.*

*The Deacon or other person appointed says these prayers, or the Prayers of the People in the Anglican Standard Text. The reader pauses after each bidding, and the people may add petitions, either silently or aloud.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer."

We confess we have not done our part to be peacemakers. We pray to you now for the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not done our part to renew the bonds of charity that uphold our civic life. We pray to you now to behold and visit the community of \_\_\_\_\_. Make us honest and able leaders.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not united our human families. We pray to you now to look with compassion upon us; 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.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not contended fearlessly against evil, renounced oppression, and repented of racism. We pray to you now for those who have been oppressed, and ask forgiveness for any way we have participated in that oppression, or condoned it through our silence.

Specifically, we lift up to you the names of those who have suffered injustice or oppression, especially: Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tamir Rice, Tayvon Martin, Oscar Grant, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland, George Floyd, and those who came before, and those within our own communities who suffer due to our silence and fear. We lift up them to you.

We ask for your help in using our freedom rightly in the establishment of justice in our communities and among the nations.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not served others as Christ served us. We pray to you now for those who give themselves to the service of others [especially \_\_\_\_\_]; endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not completed our work as unto you. We pray to you now for the commerce and industries of this land, and give to all who labor: pride in their work, a just reward, and joy both in supplying need and in serving you.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not prioritized those in our community in need. We pray to you now for those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not sought your wisdom earnestly and consistently. We pray to you for those who teach and those who learn; and grant that in humility of heart they may ever look to you, the fountain of all wisdom.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not put our whole trust in you, our Healer. We pray to you to console and heal the sick; grant to the physicians, nurses, and assisting staff wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; and prosper their work.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not sought to discern your voice among the many in all circumstances. We pray to you to direct those who speak where many listen, and write what many read; that they may speak your truth to make the heart of this people wise, its mind discerning, and its will righteous.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We confess we have not loved one another as Christ loves us. We pray to you for an increase in the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Additional petitions may be added. Thanksgivings may also be invited.*

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

*The Deacon or other person appointed says the following*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*Silence*

*The Deacon and People kneel as able and pray*

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Bishop or Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*The Officiant and People say or sing together*

**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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

O Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
**For we have put our trust in you.**

*The Officiant says the following*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in the Name of your Son: Mercifully incline your ear to us who have made our prayers and supplications to you; and grant that what we have asked faithfully, according to your will, we may obtain effectually, for the relief of our necessities and the setting forth of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Officiant may add other prayers, and may end the Litany, saying*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

## THE SUPPLICATION

*The Supplication is especially appropriate in times of war, or of great anxiety, or of disaster.*

O Lord, arise and help us;  
**And deliver us for your Name's sake.**

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our forebears have declared to us, the noble works that you did in their days, and in the time before them.

O Lord, arise and help us;  
**And deliver us for your Name's sake.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

O Lord, arise and help us;  
**And deliver us for your Name's sake.**

From our enemies defend us, O Christ;  
**Graciously behold our afflictions.**

With pity behold the sorrows of our hearts;  
**Mercifully forgive the sins of your people.**

With favor hear our prayers;  
**O Son of David, have mercy upon us.**

Be pleased to hear us, O Christ;  
**Graciously hear us, O Christ; graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.**

*The Officiant prays*

Let us pray.

Look mercifully, O Father, on our infirmities; and, for the glory of your Name, rescue us from all those evils we now endure; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in your mercy, serving you in holiness and purity of life, to your honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Supplication may end here, or may conclude with the prayer of St. John Chrysostom and the Grace.*



A PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to the preceding versicle and response.*

*The Officiant says one of these concluding sentences (and the People may be invited to join)*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14<sup>T</sup>

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ROMANS 15:13<sup>T</sup>

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EPHESIANS 3:20-21<sup>T</sup>