
Prayers of the People Petitions for Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

Form I [works well just before “For all who have died in the hope of resurrection...”]

For the work of Episcopal Relief & Development, for compassionate response to human suffering in the world, and for global collaboration to bring about lasting and life-giving change, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Form II [works well between the 3rd & 4th petitions]

I ask your prayers for Episcopal Relief & Development in their mission to be the compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world.

Pray for their work to manifest lasting and life-giving change.

Form III [works well between 6th & 7th petitions]

Sustain and fortify the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development in their call to ease human suffering and embody the compassionate teachings of Jesus.

That we may work together for lasting change.

Form IV [works well between the 5th & 6th petitions]

Sustain and fortify the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development in their call to ease human suffering and embody the compassionate teachings of Jesus; join us to them in their mission that we may work together for lasting and life-giving change in the world.

Form V [no specific suggestion; blank on page 391 is sufficient]

For the work of Episcopal Relief & Development, for compassionate response to human suffering in the world, and for global collaboration to bring about lasting and life-giving change, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Form VI [works well between the 4th and 5th petitions or after the 6th]

For the compassionate response to human suffering in the world through the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development;

For global partnerships and all those who work for lasting, life-giving change.

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## Prayers of the People for Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

*Leader:* Dear People of God: Jesus taught his disciples that what we do for the least of God's children we do for Christ. Let us pray, therefore, that as we walk *The Way of Love* with compassion, mercy, justice and reconciliation in our hearts, we may inspire the Church and the world to serve Christ in the other.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for the staff and partners of Episcopal Relief & Development as they facilitate healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. We pray that their programs truly change the lives of those they work with for the better and that you guide them as your servants in the world.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for the poor and the hungry throughout the world, that poverty and hunger in all its forms may end and that all peoples, especially the children in countries both rich and poor, may realize improved nutrition and food security.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for the good health and well-being of all people, building on the progress that has been made and working to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from pollution-related diseases as we continue our efforts to reduce the spread of all infectious disease.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for schools and centers of learning throughout the world, to ensure free, inclusive and equitable high-quality education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all of God's people.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for an end to the divisions and inequalities that scar God's creation, especially the barriers to freedom faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender; providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, a living wage, and equal political and economic representation; so that all who have been formed in God's image, both male and female, might know equality in the pursuit of the blessings of creation.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for this fragile earth, our island home, that we may be emboldened to act on behalf of all of God's creation on land, in the seas and oceans, and in the air; protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of the land God commanded us to till and keep so that it will continue to bring forth the fruits of the earth in abundance; conserving and sustainably using the marine resources we have been given; and acting to combat climate change and its impact on creation, promoting the development of renewable energy.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for justice and peace throughout the earth, following the way of Jesus and learning from his example, seeking to serve him in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves and respecting the dignity of every human being.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for the departed, particularly those who have died as a result of poverty, hunger, disease, violence, or hardness of the human heart and for those you wish to name at this time . . .

*Silence*

*Leader:* God of grace and love,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

Eternal God, continue to grace your people with the will to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you as we discern your presence in all challenges we face, for we have been redeemed by your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**