

The Bidding Prayer

¶ *By ancient usage this Prayer was specially appointed for Good Friday.*

¶ *It may also be used on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent.*

BRETHREN, let us pray for the whole *Christian Church*, that our Lord God would vouchsafe to defend it against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary, and to keep it perpetually upon the true foundation, Jesus Christ.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, Who hast revealed Thy glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and the word of His truth: Keep, we beseech Thee, in safety the works of Thy mercy, that so Thy Church, spread throughout all nations, may serve Thee in true faith, and persevere in the confession of Thy Name; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the *Ministers of the Word*, for all *estates of men* in the Church, and for all the *people of God*.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, by Whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before Thee for all estates of men in Thy holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may truly, and godly serve Thee; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our *Catechumens*, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy, that having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their baptismal covenant, and evermore be found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, Who dost always multiply Thy Church, and with Thy light and grace dost strengthen the hearts of those whom Thou hast regenerated, confirming unto them Thy covenant and faithfulness: Grant unto our Catechumens increase both of faith and knowledge, that they may rejoice in their Baptism and really and heartily renew their covenant with Thee; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**¹

Let us pray for *all in authority*, and especially for the *Government of the United States*, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

O MERCIFUL Father in heaven, Who holdest in Thy hand all the might of man, and Who hast ordained the powers that be for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well, and of Whom is all rule and authority in the kingdoms of the world: We humbly beseech Thee, graciously regard Thy servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this Commonwealth, our Judges and Magistrates, and all the Rulers of the earth; that all who receive

¹ This version of the Bidding Prayer's bid and petition for *Catechumens* has the strange emphasis of Confirmation as a renewal of the baptismal covenant. Baptism is God's covenant that needs no renewal. This same bid and petition were also in *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941). An alternative bid and petition are offered in the contemporary language version of this bidding prayer.

the sword, as Thy ministers, may bear it according to Thy commandment; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all *error*, take away *disease*, ward off *famine*, open the *prisons*, set free *those in bondage*, grant a safe return to the *wayfarers*, health to the *sick*, and to our *mariners* a harbor of security.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, the Consolation of the sorrowful, and the Strength of the weak: May the prayers of them that in any tribulation or distress cry unto Thee graciously come before Thee, so that in all their necessities they may mark and receive Thy manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *Here may be said Collects 45, 56 and 51 (Collects and Prayers, p. 207).*

Let us pray for *peace*, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word, and walk before Him as becometh Christians.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by Whose Spirit all things are governed, by Whose providence all things are ordered. Who art the God of peace, and the Author of all concord: Grant us, we beseech Thee. Thy heavenly peace and concord, that we may serve Thee in true fear, to the praise and glory of Thy Name; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our *enemies*, that God would remember them in mercy, and graciously vouchsafe unto them such things as are both needful for them and profitable unto their salvation.

O ALMIGHTY, Everlasting God. Who, through Thine Only Son, our blessed Lord, hast commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to them that hate us, and to pray for them that persecute us: We earnestly beseech Thee, that by Thy gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance, and may have the same love, and be of one accord and of one mind and heart, with us and with Thy whole Christian Church; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the *fruits of the earth*, that God would send down His blessing upon them, and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them in submission to His holy will.

OL ORD, Father Almighty, Who by Thy Word hast created and dost bless and uphold all things: We pray Thee so to reveal unto us Thy Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, that He dwelling in our hearts, we may by Thy grace be made meet to receive Thy blessing on all the fruits of the earth, and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.