

Prayer for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Opening Reading

It is not from your own possessions that you are bestowing alms on the poor, you are but restoring to them what is theirs by right. For what was given to everyone for the use of all, you have taken for your exclusive use. The Earth belongs not to the rich, but to everyone. Thus, far from giving lavishly, you are but paying part of your debt.

St Ambrose

Litany on the Millennium Development Goals

Leader: Let us pray for those who are poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, that their cries for daily bread may inspire works of compassion and mercy among those to whom much has been given. Loving God, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.



Leader: Let us pray for schools and centers of learning throughout the world, for those who lack access to basic education, and for the light of knowledge to blossom and shine in the lives of all God's people. Loving God, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.



Leader: Let us pray for an end to the divisions and inequalities that scar God's creation, particularly the barriers to freedom faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender; that all who have been formed in God's image might have equality in pursuit of the blessings of creation. Loving God, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.



Leader: Let us pray for the health of women, children and families around the world, especially for an end to maternal and child mortality, that in building healthy families, all God's people may be empowered to strengthen their communities and repair the breaches which divide nations and peoples. Loving God, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.



Leader: Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease throughout the world, particularly the scourges of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; that plagues of death may no longer fuel poverty, destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world. Loving God, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.





Leader: Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God’s creation, for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people, and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us. Loving God, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for all nations and people who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity, that their hearts may be lifted up to the needs of the poor and afflicted, and partnerships between rich and poor for the reconciliation of the world may flourish and grow. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

(MDGs Prayer From Episcopal Office of Government Relations, United States)



CONCLUDING PRAYER

Reading

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and raised high the lowly. He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty.

Luke 1:52-53

All: Response

- We dare to imagine a world where poverty has no chance to show its face.
- We dare to dream of a world where war and terror are afraid to leave their mark.
- We dare to share in the creation of a world where all people’s rights are respected.

Leader: Let us pray...

God of the impossible,
we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation.
And when the challenges seem too many,
remind us of your resurrection power and the miracles of your love that happen whenever injustice is dismantled and rebuilt with peace. Help us to hope that the impossible can happen and live as if it might do so today.

All: Amen

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