

I.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Let us call to mind that **God is sovereign** over all things, including even the most powerful of rulers, and he has promised never to leave nor forsake his people (the Bride of Christ):

"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will" (Proverbs 21:1).

"Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Therefore, let us pray that we not live in fear of men, nor of political turmoil, but rather that we might live in a reverent fear of the Lord:

O GOD, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth; We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD, who never failest to help and govern those whom thou dost bring up in thy steadfast fear and love; Keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II.

GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY

Let us call to mind that **God has called us to put our trust in him, and warned us against the temptation of trusting "princes"** (earthly rulers) for our salvation (in this case "salvation" refers not only to spiritual redemption, but also to all earthly comforts, helps, and security):

"Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is not salvation" (Psalm 146:3).

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

Therefore, let us pray for trustfulness:

O MOST loving Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our care on thee, who carest for us; Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which thou hast manifested unto us in thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

III.

GOD IS KING of kings & LORD of lords

Let us call to mind that **God is our reigning King** to whom all earthly rulers must give an account:

“He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. There he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 'As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill... Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him" (Psalm 2:4-6).

“Fight the good fight of the faith ... keep the commandments unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ ... who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.” (1 Timothy 6:12a, 14-16).

Therefore, let us pray for our rulers to act in accordance with God's Word, and for Christ's Kingdom to come quickly:

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts

with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast set up on earth a kingdom of holiness, to measure its strength against all others: Make faith to prevail over fear, and righteousness over force, and truth over the lie, and love and concord over all things; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who has willed to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King and Lord of all: Mercifully grant that all peoples and nations, divided and wounded by sin, may be brought under the gentle yoke of his most loving rule, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.* (Sarum Beviary, *Parish Prayers*).

IV.

GOD'S WILL *will* be DONE

Let us call to mind that **the good purposes of God will ultimately prevail, and that in Jesus we have been given an example of patient steadfastness:**

"Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'... I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it" (Isaiah 46:8-11).

“Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted (...) For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift up your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:3, 11-14a).

Therefore, let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

V.

THE CHURCH'S CALLING & DUTY

Let us call to mind that **God calls the Church the “the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth”** (1 Timothy 3:15), calling upon us to live as salt and light in this world, contending against evil and boldly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ:

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received

mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:9-12).

Therefore, let us pray for the Church and our witness:

O LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably upon thy whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; and by the tranquil operation of thy perpetual providence carry out the work of man’s salvation; that things which were cast down may be raised up, and that all things may return into unity through him by whom all things were made, even thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O ETERNAL GOD, who hast set ministers and pastors in thy Church, by whom thou wouldest plant holiness in the world and reign in the hearts of men: Pour upon them the flame of thy Holy Spirit, that contending against evil and faithfully premonishing thy people, they may lift up the everlasting light of the Gospel, and feed with the living bread the flock of thy dear Son; by whom alone mankind shall be healed and glorify thy Name, now and ever. *Amen.*