

➤ ***Don't be afraid***

Call to Worship

We seek to draw wisdom and courage from the One whose life, death and resurrection give us hope. In this time of worship, we draw apart from life's busyness to wrestle God in prayer, as Jesus taught.

Prayer

Holy One, we step boldly – humbly – into your presence, praying with Jesus as he taught:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Creator God of many names, the beginning and the end of all there is, who created sacred ground out of chaos and birthed the earth: blessed be your name.

Great Spirit whose home is anywhere and everywhere, beyond stars and moon, who lives in Afghanistan, Cuba and Eritrea, with the hungry and dying children in Somalia, Bosnia, and Iraq: hallowed be your name.

Our Parent God in heaven, who works in schools, farms, and faraway places, who doctors the sick and ministers to the poor and unwanted: holy *is* your name.

Our God in heaven, holy *is* your name.

We confess, O God, that we are a broken-hearted people, resistant to change. We do not hallow your name in your children, made in your image, who go to school hungry or not at all, in the emotionally and mentally fragile who walk the streets alone.

We confess that we are a broken-hearted people.

We do not hallow your name in children sent to war, in the elderly left homeless, in our inability to forgive. We do not hallow your name or each other – the ones who sit or walk beside us without hope.

We are a broken people.

We bring our broken lives to you, the One who hallows life. Encircle us with your healing, won through sacrifice, with your many-coloured cord of grace. Extend to us this cord of life, assure us of your forgiveness, and give us the courage to honor the holiness of your hallowed name.

Holy is your name! We are threads bound together in that name – friends, brothers, sisters of Christ. A hundred hands – a thousand hearts – held together and washed by your mercy.

As parents feel for their children, so we know you have compassion for us O God. You know how we were made – and remember that we are dust. But your steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting. Thanks be to God. **Amen**

➤ *Now the green blade rises*

256

Scripture **Acts 2: 14a, 22-24**

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them...

You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

John 12: 23-28

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — *"Father, save me from this hour?"* No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

Matthew 6: 9-13

Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from evil.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

➤ *O Lord, hear my prayer*

446

† Prayer

Holy One, at the dawn and at the dusk, at high noon and at midnight, you are our God – the One who loves us utterly.

Through our thoughts and our dreams, through our hopes and our regrets, you are our God – for our comfort and our rebuke, for our loss and for our gain, you are our God – the One who loves us completely.

In our labour and in our leisure, in our successes and defeats, you are our God – to our delight and our dismay, to our surprise and joy, you are our God – the One who loves us unreservedly.

With our secrets and our public face, with our questions and our answers, you are our God – beneath our folly and our faith, beneath our laughter and tears, you are our God – the One who loves us absolutely.

From our growing to our declining, from our birth to our dying, you are our God and we give you thanks for loving us and teaching us to love.

The world is beset with many more problems than we can handle – even the needs of our families at times exhaust the resources of our wisdom patience and strength. We give thanks that you are never uncaring, outwitted or exhausted.

Use us we pray and all those other servants of yours who attempt, to the best of their ability, to share your grace in this tumultuous world. Bless your contemporary prophets and reformers, pastors and peacemakers, evangelists and healers, comforters and encouragers.

May your light shine in the darkest places, O God – your reconciling love break down all barriers, your compassion enfold all the broken and abused, your patience persist with the impetuous and impatient, and your mercy overcome the most unyielding hearts.

Help us to care for one another – to truly be the body of Christ – gladly loving those around us, without counting the cost or seeking reward. Let no one grieve without consolation – sin without mercy – suffer without loving care – live without respect – hunger without food – or die without being tended with love and surrounded by prayer.

Holy One, bless our gifts – use our skills – overcome our inhibitions – and when it suits you, use even our weaknesses to your greater glory. **Amen**

➤ ***This is the threefold truth*** (verses 1,3,4)

365

Blessing

Go into the coming week with faith, hope, and love – knowing that God hears us in our need. Let us recommit ourselves daily to hallowing God's name. And may the grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the nurturing community of the Spirit embrace us all.

➤ ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow***

306