

# Practical Aids

## A City Solemn Assembly

*Praying the Prayer Jesus Taught us over our City/County*

### Call to Prayer – Invocation

#### Suggested Hymns/Songs:

- ✚ *God of Our Fathers*, Daniel C. Roberts, 1876; Public Domain (1 Chronicles 20:6; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).
- ✚ *Battle Hymn*, Julia W. Howe, 1861; Public Domain (Joel 2:1; Jer. 25:30; Rev. 19:15). Singalong video versions - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5mmFPyDK\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5mmFPyDK_8); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFtNVEbasOo>;
- ✚ *My Country 'tis of Thee*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0ywDLpfBHg>
- ✚ *America the Beautiful*, Katharine Lee Bates, lyrics; Samuel A. Ward, music. Singalong version at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LINsNCaxZ5U>; Ray Charles version at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7Wt4XIXUrc&index=25&list=RDQ65KZIqay4E>
- ✚ *God Bless the USA*, Lee Greenwood, at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q65KZIqay4E&list=RDQ65KZIqay4E#t=38>

#### Scripture:

Old Testament: Psalm 24:1-6

New Testament: Acts 4:18-20; 29-31

#### Prayer:

**Leader:** May we all pray together -

**ALL:** *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:9-13)*

Video Version – George Beverly Shea, Billy Graham Crusade, 1961 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouWsJrONEIU>; Jackie Evancho - The Lord's Prayer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSj31u3urvs>

## **The Preamble**

**Leader:** Jesus gave us this prayer and the early church prayed it three times daily. Here is a call to honor the *name* of God, submit to the *rule* of the God and do the *will* of God.

The prayer is divided into three broad sections – the preamble, the heart of the prayer and the doxology.

In the preamble, our attention is called to the name of God, the rule of God and the will of God.

### **PRAYER:**

**ALL:** *“Our Father in Heaven”*

**RESPONDENT:** ‘Heavenly Father,’ it is a privilege to know you, as Father. In creation, we were the sons of Adam, made in your image; but through the redemptive work of Christ, we have become children of God. You love us and welcome our fellowship and communion. You desire intimate time with us.

### **Free Prayers of Repentance**

(Issues):

1. Ignoring God; Failing to cultivate the relationship.
2. Someone has said, ‘Sin is the lie we tell about God, having been created in his image, by the way we live!’ We repent for our failure to live as we were created to live.
3. Failure to live as a family, together, in harmony; failing to invite others consistently, intentionally, into a relationship with God, the Father.
4. Failure to understand the loving, fatherly (parental) nature of God.

**SONG:** To be selected.

**ALL:** *“Hallowed be your name”*

**RESPONDENT:** Your very name, your nature, is holy. Help us live in accord with your character and carry your name with dignity. In a world that disregards, even denigrates and uses your name in vain, may we hallow it, reverence and honor you. You have disclosed to us your name – an act of covenant, a disclosure of your nature, a promise to assist us. You are a Holy Father, by nature, who understands how destructive sin, disobedience and rebellion are to us. You will correct us, for our own good, when necessary.

Only as we live in a way that glorifies and exalts your name will the lost see your value. Help us to make exalting Jesus the priority of our lives; to embrace holiness, and in doing so, reveal through us the nature of God's goodness.

### **Free Prayers of Repentance**

(Issues):

1. The war against the name, specifically, against Jesus.
2. The failure of Christians to revere the name and lived hallowed, holy lives, to carry the name with dignity and honor.
3. The disclosure of the name, prayer in the name, as a form of covenant – the covenantal importance and implication of invoking God's name in prayer.

### **Resolve**

**Leader:** We glorify your name today, we declare that there is no other name.

**ALL:** We thank you that we are called by your name! Family. Sons and daughters of God.

**Leader:** Your name is indeed holy. We repent that we have sullied the name by the way we have lived.

**ALL:** We pray that our lives might be marked, by grace, with evidence of your likeness. Change us. Make us holy. May we be more reverent toward you by the way we live.

**Leader:** We glorify your name today, reveal yourself in our community. Through us, your church. May there be no one who does not know you, know one

who has not heard the story of your love, no one who has not been extended the invitation into your family.

**ALL:** Forgive us for being so exclusive, for not telling the story of your grace and love, for not extending the invitation.

**Leader:** We glorify your name today!

### **Small groups of prayer**

**Song:** To be determined

**ALL:** *“Thy Kingdom come”*

**RESPONDENT:** God, I pray that you would give me grace to come under your reign, to know Jesus, not only as Savior, but also as Lord. I tend to act as my own king, nurturing self-centeredness in my heart – I now repent. I surrender. Let your kingdom, you reign be established in my heart, my home, my church and my city. Jesus, be Lord.

We pray that your kingdom, your reign, will be established in the earth. We welcome your kingly intervention. We pray that we, and the earth itself, will not only reverence you, but submit to you.

### **Free Prayers**

**ALL:** *“Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”*

**RESPONDENT:** Let your will be done – in my life. Forgive me for trying to get you to do my will. By grace, help me to discern your will, and the boldness to obey. We pray, as Jesus prayed, ‘Not my will, your will be done,’ and in doing so, we bind our will to God’s will.

**Song/Drama:** Theme – Doing the will of God

## **The Social Sphere**

**LEADER:** In the second movement of the prayer, we find the social, horizontal dimension. Jesus is teaching more than a prayer, he is teaching us how to live.

This may be an opportunity to share community needs as a focus for prayer.

**Song:** Jackie Evancho, *To Believe*. Video version -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foUrBztgzZA>

## **PRAYER**

**ALL:** *“Give us this day our daily bread”*

**RESPONDENT:** God we thank you for your love and the promise of your provision, through the cross, for our daily needs. You provided daily manna for your people in the wilderness, and so in this world, we pray ‘for daily bread.’ It is ‘our’ bread – and so help me to share with others. Feed us today, not only our bodies, but nurture our souls and our spirits. We pray for financial needs. We pray for shelter – for those without a home. We pray for healing for bodies racked with pain, without the promise of medical help. We pray for raiment that keeps one warm. You promised to care for the birds of the air, so may we live in faith and trust, free of anxiety. We rest in Philippians 4:19, *“But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

**ALL:** *“Forgive us our debts ...”*

**RESPONDENT:** God, you have forgiven me – us! What a gift. We were trespassers, with a debt we could not pay, with a disease we could not cure, slaves, under a power that we could not break free of – and you saved us. Nothing anyone has done to any of us compares to our offense to you – nothing. The debts of others are minor compared to the debt of sin we have accumulated with you. We were at war with you – without even being aware of it. At odds with your nature, engaged in actions that were offensive to you and deadly to us – and you rescued us from ourselves.

Now, you ask, that we give away such grace to others.

We examine our hearts. We take inventory of relationships. We pray for a healthy soul, for inner peace. We pray for joy, for love for our enemies, especially for our enemies.

**ALL:** *“...as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*

**RESPONDENT:** We are reminded of what Jesus bluntly declared, “*But if you forgive not men their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses*” (Matthew 6:15).

Reconciled to you and others, our prayers are effective. Holding on to unforgiveness, our prayers are hindered and bitterness grows in our hearts. We give place to strife and rob ourselves of being blessed, and being a blessing. Lord, the wrongs others have done to us are dismissed when we forgive – they are still wrong; just as the sins that we have committed are still sins, still destructive actions, but only in forgiveness are we freed, and do we free others, from the crippling effects of injustice and invite reconciliation and healing. Give me grace, give us grace, not only to be humble enough to ask you and others for forgiveness, but also to become a forgiving person.

### **PRAYER**

*“Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil”*

Lord, we pray for direction. We can never know what awaits us in any day. So, we submit ourselves to your care. And we are reminded, how, like sheep, we frighten so easily, we follow so blindly. Help us today to be led by You, Lord, and to be aware that others may be following – so help us take the noble path. I pray that you will hide my eyes from temptations; and that you will deliver me not only from evil but also from the Evil One, and in that deliverance, rescue those under my care and influence.

**LEADER:** In the final movement, we go vertical again, touching the Kingdom, the power, and praying that God be glorified. This turns our faces away from the pulsating needs, back to the only one who can meet such needs.

### *The Spiritual Sphere – The Final Gaze Upward and Onward*

**LEADER:** The prayer we often pray is not only a prayer, it is a template for how we should live. It is a call to transformation - to give away bread, to forgive, as a reconciled, peace-making force; to avoid evil and set an example of godliness, to practice holiness.

After touching the spheres of our physical, emotional and spiritual needs, we are called to turn our eyes upward and onward, to see God, “his kingdom, his power

and his glory.” This is the great doxology. The prayer begins and ends with God, with the Kingdom – not with us or our needs. This perspective is to lift us beyond limited sight.

## **PRAYER**

**ALL:** *“For thine is the Kingdom, glory and power forever.”*

**RESPONDENT:** Lord I pray that I, and those around me, will be an instrument of advancing the kingdom of God, of living in a way that glorifies You and reveals your power. We *“seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness”* believing that *“all these things shall be added...”* (KJV Matthew 6:33). We pray that You will be glorified. That your power will be manifest. Advance, through us, your Kingdom. Be glorified, through us. Around the good news of the kingdom, reveal your glory, manifest your power.

May we share more than physical bread, may we share the bread of life. Show us the hungry around us, hungry for hope and salvation, for your love. Show us those who need the assurance of forgiveness, of grace and mercy, to whom we can be the agents of reconciliation. Show us the power of our own godly example. Show us the gap into which you are calling us.

**ALL:** Amen – allow us to be the answer!

*Note: The author of this wonderful resource is unknown. To them, we are grateful, we pray a special prayer of thanks, and a request for God’s blessing on them as this resource is used to bless communities across the nation. Our apologies for the absence of credit being given.*