

Daily Prayer

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Today's prayer is based on two prayers entitled "For Guidance" and "For Our Country" from The Book of Common Worship, 1946.

O God our Father,

Thank you that your judgment guides the humble
and that, when all is dark for those who try to follow you,
light seems to come when we most need it.

When we are filled with doubt and uncertainty
give us the grace to ask what you would have us do.

Spirit of Wisdom, save us from false choices.

In your light let us see light.

In your path keep us from stumbling.

What a heritage you have given us who were born here
in a land which has done so much in the name of freedom.

Remind us as a nation what it means to walk in your favor
and to be *glad* to do your will.

Return us to honorable ways of doing business.

Restore sound learning.

Renew our love and regard for our fellow citizens in our speech
and in our treatment of each other.

Lord have mercy.

Lord, deliver us from violence, unending disagreements and bottomless confusion.

Save us from our pride and arrogance.

Remove our evil ways.

Lord, help us maintain our liberties despite our abuse of them.

So many people have come here with so many confused notions.

For that matter, so many born, raised and educated here are mightily confused.

So many different races and languages, we are practically a modern Babel*.

Can you create one happy people out of such a multitude?

Lord have mercy.

Lord, give us the grace to admit we have made a mess of things.

May Jesus, the Son of Man, be lifted up in our day
and many drawn to Him and His ways.

Please give a spirit of wisdom to those to whom, in your name,
we have entrusted the authority of government.

Please give us common notions of what is just, and what peace is worth having.

Help us, by our obedience to your ways, to demonstrate
to the peoples of the earth that your ways are best.

When we prosper fill our hearts with gratitude.

When we suffer, do not let our trust in you fail.

For Jesus and His kingdom's sake. Amen.

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In human affairs we accomplish everything through prayer. What has been properly arranged we keep in order, what has gone amiss we change and improve, what cannot be changed and improved we bear, overcoming all the trouble and sustaining all the good by prayer. Against force there is no help but prayer alone.

- Martin Luther