

## *A Prayer for our Nation from Psalm 46*

O God,

We praise You for You are our refuge and strength. A very present help in trouble. God, we run to You. We will not fear, though the earth seems to give way. Though we are living through a global pandemic. Though we see injustice and oppression. Though we see senseless murders and racism, and riots, and lootings, and chaos. Though the nations rage and kingdoms totter, You, the Lord of Hosts, are with us. You, the God of Jacob, are our fortress.

We praise You, for You have the power to bring desolation to the earth, You have the power to make wars cease. In the midst of destruction and war, Lord, we are still. We are still, and we know You are God. You will be exalted among the nations! You will be exalted in the earth! We praise You for You are with us and You are our fortress.

O Merciful Father, we confess our sins to You. We confess our indifferences to injustice. We confess to turning a blind eye to oppression. We confess any prejudice, racism or bigotry in our sinful hearts. We also confess hatred and rage. We confess trying to avenge wrongdoing and not waiting, for Your perfect justice, for vengeance is Yours. You will repay. We confess thinking that we have all the answers, or that the world's problems would be fixed if everyone were just like us. O, Lord, have mercy on us prideful, arrogant sinners. Forgive us for not being slow to speak and quick to listen. Forgive us for not loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us. Forgive us for not considering one another better than ourselves. Forgive us for not acting justly and loving mercy and walking humbly with You God. Forgive us for all these sins, and many more, by the precious blood of Jesus that was spilt on our behalf.

Gracious Father, we thank You for the forgiveness that is found at the cross. We thank You that through the cross, Jesus tore down the dividing wall between You, a holy God, and us, sinful humanity. We thank You that through the cross Jesus tore down every dividing wall of hostility between mankind. He tore down the wall between Jew and Gentile, and between every ethnic divide that exists today. Through the cross, we can have unity between every tribe, tongue, and nation. Only through the cross can we have true racial reconciliation. Only through the cross can true unity and harmony be achieved.

So Lord, that is what we boldly ask of You. That the cross would be proclaimed and the message of the cross be received by faith. We pray specifically for comfort for the families of those who have died as the result of injustice. We pray that they would know, trust and put their hope in Jesus Christ. We pray specifically for the predators of injustice. That they would repent of their sins, and turn to Christ for their only hope of forgiveness, because even the worst of sinners are welcome at the cross. We pray specifically for peace in our country. We pray for the rioters and protestors, and the police officers, and people of all ethnicities and political persuasions and socio-economic statuses. Lord, we pray that You would bring peace. That many people would hear and believe the gospel. That many people would go from death to life by the powerful name of Jesus Christ. Only You can do that, Lord. Make us one. Give us a love for one another. Let the gospel be on our lips at all times and in all places. Your gospel will go forth. You will be exalted among the nations.

We love You, Lord. We ask all of this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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