

PRAYERS FOR THE 2024

OFFERING of LETTERS



Bread for the World is a Christian organization, deeply committed to prayer and worship as vital aspects of our ministry of advocacy. We offer these liturgical resources and prayers for your use as you plan your Offering of Letters. Feel free to adapt and change them as you like. No need to credit Bread for the World for use.

Prayer over the Letters

One: God of Abundance and Grace, we give thanks for the resources you have entrusted to us in this world.

Many: We pray that you will use our offering in these letters to influence our elected leaders to do what they can to make ending hunger a priority, particularly for children near and far.

One: We ask your continued care and blessing on the children in our lives and the children we never come in contact with.

Many: We trust that you will multiply this offering and that your kingdom will continue to burst forth in the world.

All: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we pray, Amen. ▾

- OR -

God of grace,

As we follow your invitation to use our voices to witness to your vision of a world without hunger, we ask that you bless these letters. Use them to change the hearts and minds of our members of Congress. May they be a clear and bold call for justice and peace in our world.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. ▾

Prayer for Individual Writing a Letter on the Website

God,

I offer this letter to you O God, and in so doing join thousands of faithful seeking an end to hunger. I trust that you will use my letter with so many others' letters to inspire our elected leaders to do what they can to make ending hunger a priority, particularly for children near and far. Bless the children everywhere as Jesus blessed the children when he was here on earth. I trust that you will multiply this offering and that your kingdom will continue to burst forth in the world.

In Jesus' name,

Amen. ▾

Prayer for Children to Pray

Dear God,
Thank you for providing us with food each day.
We pray for children near and far
Who do not have enough to eat.
Teach us how to take care of one another.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen. ☺

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news. We can turn our backs on our neighbors; we can close our hearts to God; we can stay silent to injustice. Yet each time we turn ourselves toward God in repentance, God forgives us and like the prodigal son, we are welcomed back with open arms and joyful celebrations. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! ☺

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we trust that you will provide for us and our neighbors if we share the gifts of your creation. We know we have a responsibility to steward in loving and kind ways the resources endowed to us, whether that is voice or money or power or relationships or material things, so that we might seek the flourishing of all of your children and all of your creation.

Yet, we confess to seeking what is good for ourselves and our families instead of what is good for the whole community. And because of this, some go without. Forgive us, God. Help us to align ourselves with your vision of a world without hunger and give us energy to work toward that end believing that we can have a real impact on real people.

Amen. ☺

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God, you created the world,
giving of yourself abundantly,
providing all that we need
to sustain life.
You set a table for us and invited
us all to gather round.
But we in our rebellion
set our own tables and
invited our friends to join,
excluding those who could
not create their own tables.
Again and again, you invited us
to join you at the table of abundance.
And we continue to choose
tables of scarcity.
When we were slaves to scarcity
you freed us from that bondage.
And when we continued to set
our tables of scarcity,
you sent prophets
to call us back, reminding us
that you long to share a table
with us.

You sent your son Jesus
to walk among us—the one
who healed those who were sick,
who fed those who were hungry,
and restored people to wholeness
in community.
Yet, we rejected Jesus and
his vision for shalom.
We sent him to bear a shameful
death on a cross.
But love is more powerful than death.
Jesus rose from the dead and
invites us again and again to
join God's table—to share in
God's abundance,
to share God's gifts with
one another.
On the night that Jesus was betrayed,
he sat at table with his closest
companions.
And after supper, he took bread.
He blessed it and broke it, saying

This is my body, broken for you.
Take, eat, and be nourished.
And do this in remembrance of me.
In the same manner, he took the cup,
blessing and giving thanks for it.
As he poured the wine, he said,
this is my blood poured out for you
for the forgiveness of sins.
Drink of this in remembrance of me.
And whenever we eat of this bread
and drink of this cup,
gathered at this table,
we remember the great mystery
of our faith.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
Friends, these are the gifts of God
for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.
Amen. ☺

Prayer of the Day

God of love,
We gather this day to worship you;
to hear your word proclaimed,
to pray for our neighbors, near and far,
and to offer the gift of our voices and our words
so that children around the world
have enough nourishing food
that they will thrive.

Amen. ☺

Suggested Scriptures

Psalm 139:13–16 ESV

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.*

Mark 10:13–16 ESV

*And they were bringing children to him
that he might touch them, and the disciples
rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it,
he was indignant and said to them,
"Let the children come to me; do not
hinder them, for to such belongs the
kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you,
whoever does not receive the kingdom
of God like a child shall not enter it."
And he took them in his arms and
blessed them, laying his hands on them.*

Visit bread.org/ol to see the full suite of resources, including links to email your member of Congress and tools to coordinate an Offering of Letters.