A DAY OF PRAYER ON ELECTION DAY

Suggested time of prayer: at waking
O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. *(ELW, p. 76; ELW Prayer Book for the Armed Services, p. 30)*

Suggested time of prayer: As you begin your day
God of all people, your ways are higher than any earthly ruler and your righteousness is truer than any worldly judge. Align our hearts with your justice, that in this upcoming election we would commit to making decisions based on the needs of the poor and oppressed in our midst and our stewardship of all that you have made. Open the minds of our leaders, that they too will show concern for the needy and compassion towards those in distress. Unite us all around the cross, pledging our utmost allegiance to the slaughtered lamb, your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Suggested time of prayer: Mid-morning (as polling sites begin to open)
Everlasting God, source of all liberty,
before whom every earthly ruler must bow and bend the knee, we lay our nation before you as we prepare for an election. Breathe upon us your Spirit of wisdom and discernment.
Grant all who seek public office the mind of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for the freedom of the oppressed. Hold before us those who face uncertain futures, or who have no voice in our political process.

Uphold and safeguard poll workers and election officials in their work. Spare us from the crushing weight of cynicism. Give us grace to speak courageously, but with love, without which our words are noise and we are nothing. Gather us together under the cross, where, in all of our difference, we can stand as one people, redeemed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Suggested time of prayer: 12:00pm
Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Empower us to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable in our midst, and respect for the common life we share, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. *(All Creation Sings, p. 50)*

Suggested time of prayer: Afternoon
Lord God, when we are assaulted by the troubles of life, and the deep waters of anger threaten to overwhelm us, do not let us sink. In your great compassion, hear us and help

us. Deliver us from anger's power over us. Lead us out of bitter silence and hurtful words so that we may speak the truth in love. Heal every heart set on vengeance, and show us the way to honesty and reconciliation; through the one who has shown us both impassioned zeal and forgiving love, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. *(ELW Prayer Book for the Armed Service, p. 29)*

Suggested time of prayer: Dinner time

O God, you crafted the universe as a divine tapestry in which the well-being of the entire cosmos is forever intertwined. In this election season, give us hearts and minds focused on nurturing all that you have made. Forgive us when we are unjust or accept unjust behavior in our leaders. Remind us of your call to not withdraw from the world, but to be in the world as your very own broken and beloved people. Ignite in us a passion for the welfare of those who are most vulnerable,and empower us to lead with a love that reflects your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Suggested time of prayer: Late evening

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. *(ELW, p. 86)*

Suggested time of prayer: before you go to sleep

Holy God,
out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us
and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit
that we might live as one new humanity in Christ, dismantling the walls that divide,
ending the hostility between us, and proclaiming peace those who are near
and to those who are far away; through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access,
in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever. Amen.
(Holden Prayer around the Cross, p. 132-33)

Selected Readings for Reflection

Psalm 46
Psalm 90
Isaiah 41:9b-10
Isaiah 58:6-10
Micah 6:1-8
Matthew 5:1-12
Matthew 20:23-28
Matthew 25:34-40
Luke 1:50-55
Luke 4:16-21
Luke 6:27-36
Romans 8:37-39
Ephesians 2:[1-10] 13-22
Ephesians 4:31-32
Philippians 2:1-13
Revelation 21:22-26