

A Prayer for the United States of America in Honor of Her 250th Anniversary

Our Father in Heaven, we recognize that You are the God and Father of all. We bow our hearts before You as the Father of all fathers. As we celebrate 250 years of our nationhood, we recognize You as the one who sits above the heavens, who is eternal. We understand that, as You spoke through Your prophet Isaiah, our little nation is like a tiny grain of sand, amounting to nothing compared to You. At the same time, we gladly recognize that our nation and its frail unity have lasted this long because You ordained it to be so. We are nothing compared to You, yet we owe all that we are and have to You and Your Sovereign power.

Father, we pray that Your name would be hallowed. May it be sanctified among us. We thank You for allowing our nation to preserve, rather than oppress, the freedom to recognize You as the holy God above every God, because no other God is truly a god at all. You are, even as the angels sing perpetually around Your throne, holy, holy, holy.

We pray that Your kingdom would come. We know that Your kingdom is not the same as our government. Even as we are grateful for our nation, we recognize that it will not last forever. Our union as a nation hangs by the thread of Your sovereign providence. Here in this place we recognize Christ as King even as we honor and submit to our governing authorities. Christ is the one to whom You have given a name that is above every name, and to whom one day every knee will bow, including every citizen of this nation.

Father, may Your will be done among us. Make us a people who seek to discern what is pleasing to You. Do not let us be a people marked by immorality, selfishness, or idolatry, as we know we are now. Rather, may we be a people marked by recognition of and glad submission to all that You have revealed to us in Your Word and in the general revelation of creation. We know that Your will is carried out perfectly in heaven. Make us a people, we pray, marked by a desire to discern what is pleasing to You. Let us not say, "Our will be done," but may our prayer as a nation rather be, "Your will be done."

Thank You for the bountiful provision You have given to us. You have sustained our nation through times of deprivation, famine, depression, and war. We thank You for causing our seeds to sprout and grow and for food to be plentiful. More than that, You have made our nation a hub of innovation and invention, producing goods and accomplishments beyond the imagination of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. May we never forget that every bite in our mouths comes from Your hand.

We know that, as a nation, Your name has not been uniformly hallowed, treated as holy. Our sins are many. We thank You that we can count as fellow citizens many who belong to You, who were chosen and called, and whose lives were devoted to Christ over the past two and a half centuries. But we also recognize that we need You to forgive our sins. And we know that, for You to forgive sins, individuals must call upon the Lord. We desire that our nation, from the greatest to the least, would repent of the murder of our children in the womb, of our suppression of the truth in unrighteousness, of our pride, of our selfishness, hard-heartedness, and idolatry. Convict us by Your Spirit through the

faithful preaching of and submission to Your Word. Against You, and You only, have we sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight. May we not use our freedom as a cover-up for evil. Instead, let us honor everyone, love the brotherhood, fear You, and honor the governing authorities. May we be as quick and ready to forgive others as You have been to forgive us. Do not let us embrace bitterness, or cultivate malice, or wallow in anger. Help us to remember that our anger does not produce Your righteousness. At the same time, make us a people who seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before You.

O Father, do not lead us into temptation. We are too apt to fall. Rather deliver us from evil and do not let us run to it. Where our nation has run to evil, cause us to confess and repent. Make us a generation that, like the Ninevites of old, repent, from the greatest to the least. Where there are Jonahs who would rather us be destroyed, we pray that in Your mercy You would make us an object of Your compassion rather than wrath, even if others fume. Do not destroy us, rather transform us. May we be a people marked by virtue rather than vice, by honor rather than shame, by justice rather than corruption. But we know that if we would be a people marked by these qualities, then we must be people marked by these qualities. Father, make us faithful followers of Your Son so that, by our participation as citizens of this nation, we rather strengthen than weaken it.

We thank You, Father, for preserving this nation for 250 years since the Declaration of Independence. 250 years is as nothing to You, Lord, yet they constitute our nation's entire life and history. Sustain us, we pray. Convict us, guide us, and get glory for Yourself through us for however long You ordain that this people in this land be called The United States of America. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.