

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.



This Thursday is the annual National Day of Prayer. Our devotions this week will reflect on the sovereignty of God and prayer and especially prayer for our nation. Let your confidence in God's sovereignty be your incentive to pray great prayers for our nation.

Reflections from Scripture on praying for our nation

Psalm 11:3-4 *If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

⁴ *The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven.*

Psalm 33:6-12 *By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.*

⁷ *He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.*

⁸ *Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!*

⁹ *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

¹⁰ *The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.*

¹¹ *The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.*

¹² *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!*

Psalm 47:1-9 *Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

² *For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.*

³ *He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.*

⁴ *He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah*

⁵ *God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.*

⁶ *Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!*

⁷ *For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!*

⁸ *God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.*

⁹ *The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.*

For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

Job 12:23 *He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away.*

Proverbs 21:1 *The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.*

Isaiah 33:22 *For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; he will save us.*

Jeremiah 29:7 *Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

Acts 17:26-27 *God made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place*

1 Timothy 2:1-3 *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.*

Song

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

Once to Ev'ry Man and Nation

Once to ev'ry man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth and falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, some great decision,
Off'ring each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever
'Twixt that darkness and that light.

Then to side with truth is noble,
When we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit,
And 'tis prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses
While the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied.

By the light of burning martyrs,
Christ, Thy bleeding feet we track,
Toiling up new Calv'ries ever
With the cross that turns not back;
New occasions teach new duties,
Ancient values test our youth;
They must upward still and onward,
Who would keep abreast of truth.

Tho' the cause of evil prosper,
Yet the truth alone is strong;
Tho' her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong:
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above His own.

("Once to Ev'ry Man and Nation", James Russell Lowell (1845), CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Billy Graham's Prayer for the Nation:

Our Father and Our God, we praise You for Your goodness to our nation, giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Yet we know all is not right with America. We deeply need a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face. Convict us of sin. Help us to turn to You in repentance and faith. Set our feet on the path of Your righteousness and peace. We pray today for our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. You have said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." May this be a new era for America, as we humble ourselves and acknowledge You alone as our Savior and Lord. This we pray in Your holy name, Amen.