

30 Days of Prayer

Day 19

Amos 5.24

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Psalm 146

³Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to the
earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

The Psalmist proclaims that God has the power to set prisoners free and heal the blind. God created the earth and executes justice to the oppressed. In God there is justice and mercy.

Jesus takes this one step further when he reveals that we, as followers, are his hands and feet in this world. Justice is executed when we live and work for justice. Food is shared when we open our hands and hearts to share it. Today we pray for the wisdom and ability to serve God in these ways, helping us see need and respond in a way that honors Jesus Christ.

God of justice and mercy,

In our world people are hungry, but I would rather eat my bread than give it away. People are thirsty, but I pour my cold coffee on the ground, never thinking of those who carry their water for miles. When strangers come near, I shrink back and hide, afraid of looking foolish or offending them by what I say or don't say. People are naked, but I only give away the clothes that don't fit, the ones with holes or missing buttons, the ones with stains or are faded. When people are sick I stay away for fear of catching something. When people are in prison I ignore them, believing they deserve what they get.

But you have asked me to feed the hungry, to give water to the thirsty, to welcome the stranger, to give clothing to the naked, and to visit those who are sick or in prison. Take away my apathy, my anxiety, my ignorance, and my greed so that I am free to see, hear, respond, and love people with generosity and without fear. Guide me to give homes to the homeless, a listening ear to the lonely, a ride to those who cannot drive, books and school supplies to children who cannot afford them, blankets to those who are cold, and advocacy to those who cannot stand up for themselves. Bring your kingdom onto the earth, so that we might live in your will and walk in your ways. In the name of Christ,

Amen.