

30 Days of Prayer

Day 4

1 Samuel 16.1-7

16The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' ²Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD."³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem...

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.'^{*} ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.'

God of all nations,

I am blessed to live in a country where citizens have the responsibility and privilege to choose our own leaders. Remind me to take this responsibility seriously, and encourage others to do so as well. As I stand to make my voice heard, give me wisdom and discernment to choose wisely, with your Word, law and gospel, at the heart of my choices... *(take all the time you need to name the leaders you would like to have serve this country, naming their gifts, and asking for God's wisdom and guidance to be upon them).*

After the election, holy God, speak boldly and loudly to our elected leaders, guiding them in your ways. Grant them strength of character, wisdom, gifts for leadership, protection from illness or harm, and hearts filled with faith, trust and love toward you and toward the world. In the name of Christ,

Amen.

Today we elect a leader for our country for the next 4, perhaps 8 years. We also elect other leaders whose decisions help shape our lives and our future.

When Samuel was charged by God to anoint a new king, he was afraid that Saul might kill him. God commanded Samuel to make a sacrifice before the anointing. In our day, we might instead imagine God asking us to come to him in worship and prayer before casting our votes. Remember to place our country in God's hands, so that whatever the outcome of the elections, we are reminded that it is God who is truly in charge!