

# PRAYERS AND LITANY FOR AN OFFERING OF LETTERS

## Commit Your Efforts to God

BREAD FOR THE WORLD'S 2018

OFFERING OF LETTERS:  
FOR SUCH A  
TIME AS THIS

### Prayer Over Letters

Dear God, full of mercy and grace,

Today, we have gathered to worship and serve you by advocating for, and with, those who are struggling with hunger and poverty.

We present before you these letters asking our lawmakers to protect vital domestic and international programs that help move people out of hunger and poverty, and also that our lawmakers make budget decisions that will call forth the reign of God here on earth.

We ask your blessing upon these letters to persuade the hearts and minds of Congress to fulfill the sacred trust given to them, by you, to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, to advance the goal of ending hunger in our nation and around the world by 2030.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus, our righteousness. Amen.

### Prayer Over Letters

God of the Hungry. God of Abundance. God of Grace.

Time and time again, you have called your people to care for those who are hungry and living in the margins. You have given us a world of abundance and we confess that we have not been good stewards and shared justly.

We give thanks for the freedom and power you give us to resist this injustice. By writing these letters to Congress today, we use that power in a small way so that we might answer your call to feed those who are struggling with hunger.

We present these letters as a humble offering and ask your blessing upon them. Bless those who carry and deliver these letters. Bless the readers and decision makers they reach; that they may hear your call to allocate our shared resources so that people who hunger are fed. Amen.

*The prayers and litany were written by staff of the church relations department at Bread for the World. Prayers were written by Bishop Jose Garcia and Justice H. Randolph. The litany was written by Genevieve Mougey.*

### Litany or Responsive Prayer

**Leader:** Our hearts desire to be in right relationship with God and one another. Therefore, we advocate to our lawmakers to support a budget that invests in programs that move people out of hunger and poverty. Let us act with a mind and heart for justice, love, and mercy.

**People:** *Lord, teach us to respond with your justice, love, and mercy in our endeavors.*

**Leader:** God, source of life, give us courage to care for all creation with mercy, to treat your people with kindness, and sustain our efforts with your love so all people thrive.

**People:** *Lord, teach us to respond with your justice, love, and mercy in our endeavors.*

**Leader:** God, source of light, we pray for the wisdom to thoughtfully engage with our lawmakers, so they might pass a budget that supports an end to hunger in our world.

**People:** *Lord, teach us to respond with your justice, love, and mercy in our endeavors.*

**Leader:** God, source of wisdom, ensure in each of us gathered, the desire to speak with authenticity, compassion, and directness to change structures in place that keep people hungry.

**People:** *Lord, teach us to respond with your justice, love, and mercy in our endeavors.*

**Leader:** God, source of abundance, we pray for those who today will not have enough food to sustain themselves, their families, their neighbors. Challenge us to live in the spirit of your abundance to sustain and provide for all.

**People:** *Lord, teach us to respond with your justice, love, and mercy in our endeavors.*

**Leader:** God, source of life, may our call to stewardship be a worthy testament to what is most important in your heart: the care and protection of your most vulnerable people.

**People:** *Lord, teach us to respond with your justice, love, and mercy in our endeavors. Amen.*

To access the full toolkit, visit [bread.org/ol](http://bread.org/ol)



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HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

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