

A Responsive Prayer for the Day of Repentance (L=Leader P=People)

L: Gracious God, we bow our hearts and lives before you today. Together we pray:

ALL: I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:6).

L: As we confess our sin, we also trust your promise:

P: A Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression (Isaiah. 59:20).

L: You tell us of your true heart and character as we lift our prayers to you:

P: "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone," declares the Lord, "so turn and live" (Ezekiel 18:32).

L: Your Son, our Savior Jesus, began His ministry by calling all people to repentance:

P: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

L: Jesus promised that He came for us in our fallenness, brokenness and sin:

P: "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32).

L: Our Savior made it clear that God delights in us when we return to Him:

P: "I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

L: We have often failed to share the Good News of your love with others even though you made your will very clear:

P: "Repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in [Christ's] name to all nations" (Luke 24:47).

L: As we recognize our helpless condition, you provide the pathway of your grace:

P: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself" (Acts 2:38-39).

L: So, forgive us and renew us, O Lord. Draw us to you through Jesus Christ our Savior. Rekindle our trust in you and our love for one another. Heal our relationships. Revitalize our Gospel outreach. Lead us to:

P: "Repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with [our] repentance" (Acts 26:20).

L: Today we admit our sin, our arrogance, our laziness, our lack of love, and our disregard for your Word. Hungry and thirsty for your mercy and grace, we hold to your promise:

P: "The Lord is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

L: By your grace and Spirit, O Lord, let us live as ones who have been crucified with Christ—so that it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Romans 2:10). Wake us up. Lead us to remember what we have received and heard. Strengthen us to observe what you have given us to do and to repent (Revelation 3:2-3). In the name of Jesus we pray.

ALL: Amen.