

PRAY FOR AMERICA

Today marks the 71st National Day of Prayer. The theme verse is "*Exalt the Lord who has established us*" (Colossians 2:6-7). You may wish to pray the 2022 National Prayer, by Kathy Branzell, president of the National Day of Prayer Task Force (www.nationaldayofprayer.org):

WORSHIP GOD - "Lord, we exalt You. We are filled with awe and wonder as our praise joins the heavenly hosts saying, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.' You have established Your throne in heaven and the foundations of the earth. You alone are the Creator; the earth is Yours and all it contains is for Your glory. You created and established all of us as Your image bearers. May our lips and lives continually praise You, reflecting and magnifying You in all our words and ways. You are the author of our days, You have established Your plans and purpose for us.

PRAISE GOD - "We respond to your glory and authority in obedience to Your Word and will. You have established prayer that we, Your children, can communicate with our Heavenly Father, directing, strengthening, and discipling us in Your everlasting love. We join heaven's activities as we lift up our prayers And pour out our praise, repentance, thanks, intercession and supplication. You have established America through the hearts of our founding fathers and the documents they penned, declaring our dependence on Your sovereignty and supremacy. We overflow with gratitude, having been firmly rooted and built up in our faith in You.

TRUST GOD - "Let our reputation be of our faith in Christ alone, our love for all people, and fruitful lives bearing the attitude, affections, and actions of Your Spirit, Who dwells and works within us and through us. United in Your love, we exalt the Lord who has established us. In Jesus' name we always pray, Amen!" Additionally, the Task Force suggests these prayers:

GOVERNMENT - Pray for your federal, state, county and local leaders and judges, for wisdom and to act with integrity. Pray also for police and fire chiefs, law enforcement, first responders. (1Kings 3:28, 1Tim 2:1-2, Ex 18:21, Prov 11:3, Rom 13:1-2, 2Chronicles 7:14).

MILITARY - "*He appointed military officers and encouraged them: 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged...with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.'*" (2 Chronicles 32:6-8). Pray for perseverance, for wise leaders who inspire respect, and protection and support for families left behind. (Isa 43:2, Deut 31:6, Rom 13:1, 1:8-10).

MEDIA - "*Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.*" (Philippians 4:8). Pray that media will produce uplifting projects kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Prov 2:1-15, 8:10-11).

BUSINESS - "*I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working.*" (Exodus 31:3-4). Pray for ideas, resources and workers for principled businesses (Psalm 132:15, Phil 2:3).

EDUCATION - "*If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding*" (Proverbs 2:3-6). Pray for safe learning atmospheres, excellent educators, and opportunities for every student to achieve full potential (Ex 18:20-21, Phil 1:9).

CHURCH - "*Just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ*" (Colossians 2:6-8). Pray for zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37), unity with and among churches to reveal God's love to the world (John 17:23), and integrity, as God's people look and act differently from the world (1Peter 2:11; 1Cor 13:6).

FAMILY - "*If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand*" (Mark 3:25). Pray for unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13), and for healthy relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6). Pray! □