

To be used in the Entrance Rite, immediately following the Opening Acclamation

## A Litany for Independence Day Weekend

*Celebrant*

Let us pray for grace to love our country rightly:  
not with pride that blinds,  
but with gratitude, truth, repentance, and hope.

*All kneel.*

*Silence may be kept.*

*Intercessor*

God of every nation and people,  
you made from one blood all the peoples of the earth,  
and sent your Son to proclaim good news of peace and liberty:  
Receive now our prayers for this land,  
and for all the nations of the world.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the gifts of ordered liberty and common law;  
for the ancient witness of chartered rights and accountable rulers;  
for the hope kindled through the inheritance of the English-speaking peoples—  
through parliament and petition,  
through the restraint of tyranny,  
through the long labour toward constitutional government:  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For all in every generation who sought justice and mercy;  
for those who defended conscience against coercion;  
for those who taught that rulers stand beneath your judgment  
and that every person bears your image:  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For the courage of those who declared that all are created equal,  
and endowed with dignity that no earthly power may rightly erase;  
for aspirations toward liberty and justice for all;  
for the freedoms of speech, worship, assembly, and conscience:  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For the peaceful transfer of power,  
for representative government,  
for courts that seek justice,  
for citizens who labour for the common good,  
for all who have preserved democratic institutions in times of peril:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For movements that enlarged the promise of liberty—  
for the abolition of slavery,  
for the struggle for civil rights,  
for the extension of voting rights,  
for the witness of women and men  
who marched, prayed, preached, organized, and sacrificed  
so that the nation might more fully reflect your righteousness:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who served among the nations of the world  
to resist tyranny and cruelty;  
for cooperation among peoples after times of war;  
for efforts toward peace, relief, healing, and shared human dignity;  
for all who labour internationally for health, justice, and the protection of life:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For scientists and teachers, labourers and artists,  
farmers and builders, immigrants and refugees,  
for Indigenous wisdom and endurance,  
for the varied peoples who together form this nation:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Yet, O God, before the brightness of your holiness,  
we confess the shadows of our history and our present.

**Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

For the violent seizure of lands,  
for broken treaties and contempt toward Indigenous peoples;  
for cultures dishonoured, communities destroyed,  
and children taken from their families:

**Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

For slavery and the buying and selling of human lives;  
for racism enshrined in law and custom;  
for lynching, segregation, exclusion, and inequity;

for the persistence of prejudice in our hearts and systems:  
**Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

For wealth pursued without compassion,  
for freedoms denied to the poor,  
for indifference to the suffering of strangers,  
for violence in our streets and cruelty in our speech:  
**Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

For times when this nation has acted arrogantly among the nations;  
for interventions marked more by domination than justice;  
for policies that sowed fear, exploitation, or resentment;  
for every betrayal of the dignity of other peoples and cultures:  
**Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

For the worship of power,  
for nationalism that forgets our neighbours,  
for cynicism and falsehood,  
for despair of the common good,  
and for every refusal to seek reconciliation and truth:  
**Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Teach us to cherish our country without making it an idol.  
Give us gratitude without triumphalism,  
patriotism without bitterness,  
and repentance without despair.  
**Renew us in righteousness and peace.**

Make us a people who welcome the stranger,  
defend the vulnerable,  
speak truth with humility,  
and strive for justice with perseverance.  
**Renew us in righteousness and peace.**

Grant that the liberty we celebrate  
may be joined to responsibility,  
the rights we claim to compassion,  
and the power we possess to service.  
**Renew us in righteousness and peace.**

Inspire the Church in this land  
to be not the servant of any earthly power,

but a faithful witness to the kingdom of Christ:  
proclaiming mercy, defending dignity,  
and calling all people to repentance and hope.

**Renew us in righteousness and peace.**

*The Celebrant standing, concludes*

O God, whose blessed Son was called the Prince of Peace:  
Grant that all the peoples of the earth,  
divided and enslaved by sin,  
may be freed and brought together under his gracious rule;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

*All then stand and join in the Gloria in excelsis.*

*This Litany takes the place of the Prayers of the People and Confession of Sin, which are otherwise omitted in this service.*