

# NAMIBIA

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## WORSHIP AIDS



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### Collects

Almighty God, you have called us to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly in your presence; grant us the gift of your Spirit to follow in the steps of your Son, who came to break the yoke of oppression, set captives at liberty and mercifully heal the brokenness of those who suffer, that your way may be known on earth, your saving health among all nations. Amen.

As we lift our hearts in thanksgiving to you, Almighty God, for the freedom which is ours, we offer our intercessions for people who are denied their rights to life and liberty, equality and justice, and pray that you would enable us to be instruments of your power and mercy to relieve their oppression and heal their brokenness for the sake of Him who called us to follow in His steps, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

See also Collects 136, 137, 143 and 144 from Contemporary Worship 6.

## A GENERAL PRAYER

Almighty God, Creator of all, we are thankful for your Church throughout the world which unites people into one body. We praise your Name for leaders who call upon their people to obtain their rights in peaceful ways, and who bid others to support them in such peaceful pursuit.

We are conscious of many who suffer in this world because of oppression by others. Where we have contributed to such oppression, we ask your forgiveness and your power to reform our ways. Teach us to root out evil and to do good.

Especially do we pray for all the people of Namibia, that they may live together in peace and harmony. Rescue those who suffer and bring justice to their land. In your mercy chasten and renew those who oppress their neighbors that, as in days of old, they may amend their ways and restore what they have gained wrongfully.

We ask your blessing upon the leaders of our nation as they relate to other nations in your world that each may regard the other as members of your family. Protect us, that our value as the crown of your creation may never be diminished by greed for possessing the things of this earth, but that we may respect our common heritage in your world.

Look in mercy on those who are imprisoned for the sake of their conscience, and on their families who suffer want. Spare them from the temptation to turn their anger into hatred and their suffering into despair. Give us courage to express our solidarity with them and provide for their families' needs and for their defense, that their rights may be restored and their freedom won.

Hear us, O Father, for the sake of Him Who came to break the rod of oppression and to set at liberty the captives, your Son, our Brother, Jesus Christ.

Amen

APPROPRIATE BIBLICAL READINGS

Old Testament

Habakkuk 1:1-2:4	Psalms: 33
Micah 6:6-8	34
Lamentations 3:1-41	46
Isaiah 59:12-21	69:1-18

New Testament

*Gospels:*

Matthew 12:15-21  
 Matthew 25:31-46  
 Luke 1:46-55  
 Luke 4:16-21  
 Luke 16:19-31  
 Luke 19:1-10

*Epistles:*

Romans 8:18-39  
 Colossians 1:15-20  
 1 Timothy 2:1-8a

HYMNS

*These are hymns which speak of justice and courage.*

O God of Earth and Altar	SBH 344	WS 784
Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor	SBH 343	TLH 576
Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life	SBH 351	
Son of God, Eternal Savior	SBH 542	
O God of Mercy, God of Might	SBH 316	TLH 439
O Brother Man	SBH 539	
Once to Every Man and Nation	SBH 547	
O Bless the Lord, My Soul	TLH 27	
O God of God, O Light of Light	TLH 132	
The Voice of God is Calling	WS 776	
God of Grace and God of Glory	WS 778	CW 3
Lord of All Nations, Grant me Grace	WS 779	
God made all mankind brothers	CW 4	
Father eternal, Ruler of creation	CW 8	
O God of every nation	CW 9	
In Adam we have all been one	CW 12	

SBH = Service Book and Hymnal (LCA-ALC)

TLH = Lutheran Hymnal (LCMS)

WS = Worship Supplement (LCMS)

CW = Contemporary Worship 1 (Inter-Lutheran)

A DRAMATIC LITANY

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ, whom to know is to love and to love is to serve, teach us to know and love and serve you when you approach us as one in need. Open our eyes so that we may see you in the suffering people of our world today, and especially as we have learned to know our brothers and sisters in Namibia.

WE HAVE EYES TO SEE, LET US SEE.

*Leader* Unstop our ears that we may hear their pleas for justice, their cries for mercy and their invitations to fellowship.

WE HAVE EARS TO HEAR, LET US HEAR.

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ, who multiplied the loaves and fish to feed a multitude, you have said, "I was hungry...."

WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY, LORD?

*Voice of Jesus* In the desert of temptation and in other deserts called unemployment or underemployment amid lands which are rich and where others live in luxury, there I am hungry still.

LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US!

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ, who said that whoever drinks of water that you give will never thirst, are we to believe that you also said "I was thirsty"?

WHEN DID WE SEE YOU THIRSTY, LORD?

*Voice of Jesus* On the cross in the hour of death and in many lands where the wells are few, the rivers far away and the pools polluted, there I am thirsty still.

LORD HAVE MERCY ON US!

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ, your name is known throughout your world and yet you say "I was a stranger...."

LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER?

*Voice of Jesus* Once, in a manger in Bethlehem, but now in more hostile surroundings, such as white-only areas, immigration offices and refugee camps, there I am a stranger, alien, foreigner still.

LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US!

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ, we remember some who accompanied you to the mountain describing the beauty of your robes which glistened and shone as light, and yet you say "I was naked...."

LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU NAKED?

Voice of Jesus On the cross, lest you forget,  
and at the whim of the military in police states,  
this kind of shame continues still -- not to mention my brothers and sisters  
in poverty who may even die of exposure.  
I am naked still.

LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US!

Leader You heal the sick, even raised the dead, and yet you say "I was sick...."

LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU SICK?

Voice of Jesus Blood streamed down from the cross  
and there was no one to wrap those wounds,  
and today I'm among the hundreds who hobble miles to a monthly clinic  
hoping a doctor will come to help.

LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US!

Leader You taught us, Lord, that you will come as judge...and yet you say  
"I was in prison...."

LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU IN PRISON?

Voice of Jesus When I was tortured by Pilate's soldiers.  
The names of the rulers change, but cells and dungeons still hold many  
whose only crime is that they oppose the ideas of those in power.  
I am tortured, ridiculed, imprisoned still.

LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US!

*(A moment of silent meditation and reflection)*

Leader Gracious Lord, you have blessed us beyond measure with food and drink,  
clothing and shoes, shelter and medical care, freedom and justice.  
For all these blessings, we praise and bless your holy name!

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Leader Grant that these blessings may never shield us from those without  
them, but rather will open the way and provide the means whereby they  
may be served.

GIVE US STRENGTH TO DO YOUR WILL.

Leader Come, O Lord, rule us with the power of your love. Cleanse our  
institutions here and abroad, churches, courts, governments, business  
corporations, and all who exercise control over the lives of others  
that they might learn from you that greatness grows out of service and  
that you require much from those who have been given much.

FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER.

Leader O Christ, start your reformation with us. Cleanse our lives from  
indifference. Raise us from apathy. Move us toward actions which  
will seek justice and extend mercy while we remain conscious of  
your constant presence before us to guide us, beneath us to sustain  
us and above us to protect us. In your most gracious name we pray,

AND TO YOUR NAME BE GLORY FOREVER, AMEN.