

Prayer During Food Drives

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and open our hearts to the reality of hunger in the world today. Take a moment to reflect on your own experience of hunger. When was the last time you knew hunger? How did it feel? Recall this feeling and let it unite you with all those who are hungry in the world at this moment. In your prayer bring your loving attention to human beings who are living at the edge of survival due to lack of bread, rice or even a simple meal.

Side One: God of Abundance, use our gifts, our creativity to eliminate the harvest of hunger that poverty has sown. Root out the seeds of greed and gluttony within the human heart that choke off the ability to recognize and respond to those who are suffering.

Side Two: Through Your grace, provide the nutrients we need to plough and plant, to tend and train the budding vines of compassion and care. May we hear and respond to the cries of millions of men, women, and children who hunger for life itself and are desperate for survival for just one more day.

Side One: Wean us from our normal diet of disregard and empty distraction. Help us to push back from the crowded table of self-preoccupation. Draw us instead to a common table where there is room and welcome for all, where all are fed.

Side Two: Help us to work to ensure that empty bowls be replaced by nourishing bonds of community so that no one is forced to beg at the edge of the road of life.

Side One: In places where war and violence are the cause of widespread hunger, call us to the inclusive table of peace and replace all fear and destruction with just ways to reconstruct security, home, and hope.

Side Two: May our actions and advocacy sow seeds of solidarity so that we might work as one body in Christ to eliminate the scandal of hunger, the politics of food assistance and the death of too many children as a result of starvation.

Side One: Bless the land and all those who work the land. Preserve us from drought and flood, from blight and disease. Grant all farmers increased yields, abundant harvests, sustainable production, and fair prices in the marketplace for these farmers, their families, and their futures.

All: Gracious God, nourish our world with hope and call your people to the table of cooperation. Bless our efforts to work for food security and eliminate hunger so that all might know a harvest of justice. May our attempts to end hunger not be politicized or prophesied, but realized in the sharing of our daily bread. We ask this in Christ's name. *Amen*



**Hunger feels like pincers,
like the bite of crabs,
it burns, burns and has no fire.**

Hunger is a cold fire.

**Let us sit down soon to eat
with all those who haven't eaten;
let us spread great tablecloths,
put salt in the lakes of the world,
set up planetary bakeries,
tables with strawberries in snow,
and a plate like the moon itself
from which we can all eat.**

**For now I ask no more
than the justice of eating.**

-Excerpt from "The Great Tablecloth" by Pablo Neruda
Chilean Poet, Nobel Prize Winner

