



Litany

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LEADER

As we come together in prayer, we stand as a united and faithful force in our nation's democracy, demanding better from all officials across our three branches of government. We, as citizens, hold the power to ensure that our government serves and protects all people. We are determined to demand accountability, to hold our leaders to the highest standards. In peace and hope, we invoke the names of those who have gone before us, who acted out of the common good and spoke truth to the power of their day.

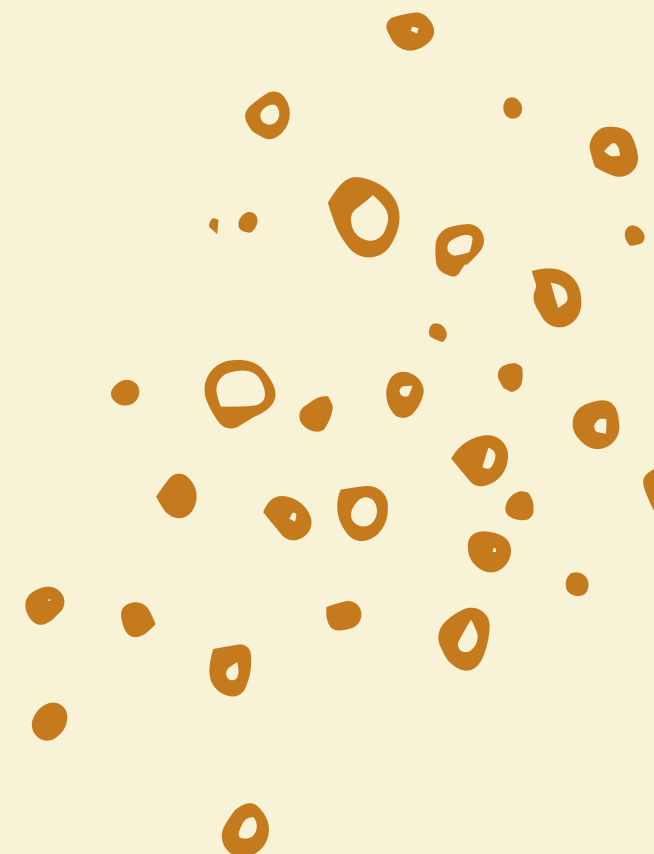


LEADER

We remember the Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah, our first examples of civil disobedience, who defied the Pharaoh's order to kill all male Hebrew infants,

ALL

May God give us the courage to challenge sinful laws that will harm another human being and our Earth.



LEADER

We remember the prophet Amos, who condemned the injustice of the wealthy elite and how they oppressed the poor and vulnerable,

ALL

May God give us the words to speak truth to power.



LEADER

We remember the prophet Micah, who stressed that true worship of God entailed doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God,

ALL

May God give us the humility to act out of love to all those you put in our path.

LEADER

We remember Esther, who risked her life to save her people,

ALL

May God show us how to peacefully counter corruption and respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our communities.

LEADER

We remember Deborah, who united the Israelites and led them to victory in war,

ALL

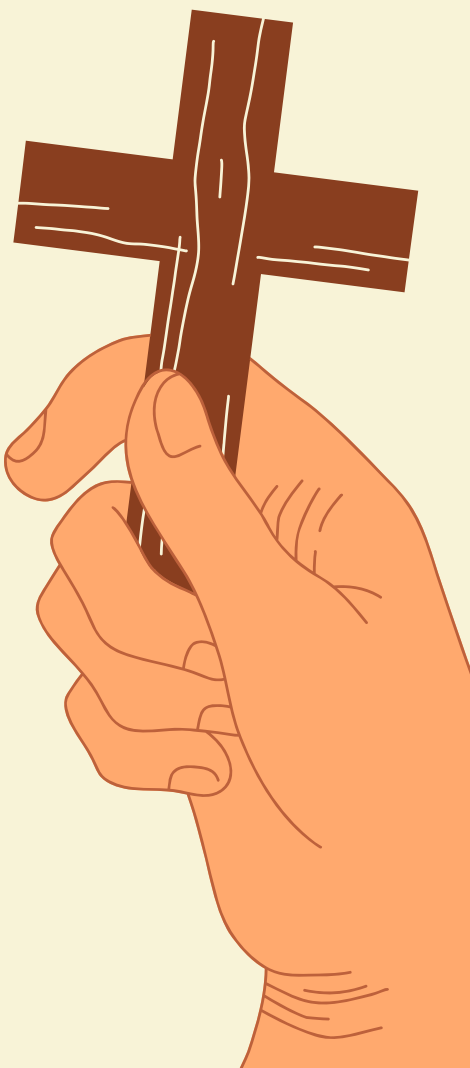
May God give us your sense of strength and authority

LEADER

We remember the persistent widow in the presence of an unjust judge,

ALL

May God give us her unwavering persistence to seek justice even in the darkest times.



LEADER

We remember Peter, who replied to his captors, the religious leaders of his day, "We must obey God rather than man" when jailed for speaking and acting out of his belief in God,

ALL

May God give us the courage always to do and say to what God calls us.

LEADER

We remember Mary of the Magnificat, who witnessed the suffering of Jesus and the unjust actions of the Roman authorities,

ALL

May God give us the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

LEADER

We remember Martin Luther King, Jr., who led the nonviolent struggle for racial equality and human rights in the United States, and was martyred for doing so,

ALL

May God guide all peacemakers, leaders who value peace, and everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict.



LEADER

We remember Rosa Parks, who took
nonviolent action to oppose the unjust and
racist Jim Crow laws of her day,



ALL

*May God give us the voice and power to help
reject racism and empower those who have
been discriminated against in our country
because of the color of their skin.*



LEADER

We remember Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, who advocated for social justice and nonviolence,



ALL

May God guide and empower all those who protest, speak truth to power, and work for justice and an end to the growing disparity between the rich and the poor.



LEADER

We remember Sister Theresa Kane, who fought for decades for the equality of women in the Catholic Church,



ALL

May God show us how to end the prejudice throughout our country, our Church, and our world so that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be removed from our hearts, our society, and our laws.



LEADER

We remember Blessed Stanley Francis Rother, who dedicated his life to serving and defending the rights of the indigenous people in Guatemala, which led to his assassination during the Guatemalan Civil War,



ALL

May God help us to be a sign of Christ's love among all people you put in front of us.



LEADER

We remember Sister Dorothy Stang, who was murdered while holding the Bible, for speaking out, defending the Amazon rainforest, and advocating for the rights of the poor,

ALL

May God give us courage and understanding on how to best stand up for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and to end the cycles of violence that threaten our future and that of our Earth



LEADER

We remember Bishop Oscar Romero who was murdered while celebrating Mass because of his outspoken support for the poor and vulnerable in El Salvador,



ALL

May God help us to have the strength to stand firm in our convictions and to speak



LEADER

**We remember Sister Margaret Smyth, a
fervent advocate for poor and migrant
communities,**

ALL

***May God guide us on how best to welcome
and care for immigrants, refugees, and
pilgrims worldwide, so they are treated with
fairness, dignity, and respect.***

LEADER

We remember Sr. Dianna Ortiz, who survived kidnapping and torture and used the experience to become a voice for torture victims everywhere,

ALL



May God give us the courage to be a voice for the abused and voiceless in our society.



LEADER

We remember Pope Francis, who tirelessly spoke out on behalf of migrants and our Earth,

ALL

May God help us to continue to advocate for and protect migrants and immigrants, and en flesh the principles outlined in Laudato Si.

LEADER

We now take a moment to remember all we know who would be with us today if they could, and we invoke their strength and passion for justice.

(PAUSE FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE.)

Holding all these holy people in our hearts, we pray:

ALL

AMEN

