

A Litany for Transformation: Welcoming the Refugee

Reader 1: Let us pray with hearts that are open and willing to be changed by our Lord.

Reader 2: *God created humankind in His image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. (Gen. 1:27)*

Reader 1: We pray for the eyes to see the image of God
in each one of our refugee sisters and brothers,
who mirror, with us, God's amazing creative diversity.

All: Lord, through your mercy and grace, help us to see others as you see them.

Reader 1: We pray for our hearts to break for refugees who have become homeless -
because of war and violence,
because of oppression and misused power,
and all the forces that prevent them from flourishing as bearers of God's image.

All: Lord, through your mercy and grace, break our hearts for the suffering that breaks your heart.

Reader 2: *For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. "He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing." So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. (Deut. 10:17-19)*

Reader 1: We pray for the empathy to see ourselves -
as spouses, parents, labourers and professionals,
as poor and rich who have been forced to flee all we know
because we opposed injustice
or because we were victims of greed, famine or conflict.

All: Lord, through your mercy and grace, open our minds to know your commands and desires for our lives.

Reader 1: We pray for forgiveness
for the times that we have not offered acceptance and hospitality
to our refugee brothers and sisters,
for times that we have been suspicious
or have thought of someone as less valuable than us
because they wear the label of "refugee"

All: Lord, through your mercy and grace, motivate us and refine us to welcome the stranger.

Reader 2: *Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers...Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Rom. 12:13, 15)*

Reader 1: We pray for the strength and compassion
to stand with those who suffer,
for the energy and commitment
to show hospitality to our refugee neighbours.

All: Lord, through your mercy and grace, may all who know us experience your loving welcome and acceptance.