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PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW TERM



LEADER:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER:

We begin our new term with hope in our hearts. Praying together in silence, let us ask the Lord to guide our endeavors.

All pray in silence.

READER OR LEADER:

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

DEUTERONOMY 11:8-12

Keep, then, this entire commandment that I am commanding you today, so that you may have strength to go in and occupy the land that you are crossing over to occupy, and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. For the land that you are about to enter to occupy is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sow your seed and irrigate by foot like a vegetable garden. But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, a land that the LORD your God looks after. The eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER (after a brief silence):

With the spirit of hope, let us bring our petitions before God,
either aloud or in our hearts.

A period of shared prayer follows. At the conclusion:

LEADER:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

we do not choose you, rather, you choose us.

You guide us through life's challenges, providing strength and
unlimited blessings.

Like travelers who enter a new city filled with hope and intrigue,
direct us in this new term of office so that our work will be
pleasing to you.

May we always cherish our faith and serve your people
with integrity.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER:

May the Lord bless and protect us all the days of our lives.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



LEADER:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER:

Let us spend a moment in silence and thank the good Lord for our many blessings.

All pray in silence.

READER OR LEADER:

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

DEUTERONOMY 11:11-15

The land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, a land that the LORD your God looks after. The eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the LORD your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul—then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER (after a brief silence):

Our God watches over us and grants our every need. Let us bring our petitions before God, either aloud or in our hearts.

A period of shared prayer follows. At the conclusion:

LEADER:

Let us pray.

O God,
your magnificent creation sustains our existence.
You are the source of the food and water we eat and drink,
the air we breathe, and the love we share with one another.
We thank you for your countless gifts,
for the people we love, for the Church that blesses us,
for our country, and for the diversity in our world.
Help us to appreciate your goodness always
and to follow your commandments.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER:

Let us pray together in the words our Savior gave us.

ALL: Our Father . . .