

# International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – 17<sup>th</sup> October

**Psalm 34: The cry of the poor** (read aloud or sung)

**Refrain: The Lord hears the cry of the poor, blessed be the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all time, with praise ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor. R/
2. Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;  
and to hearts broken God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor. R/
3. Every spirit crushed God will save; will be ransom for their lives;  
will be safe shelter for their fears, and will hear the cry of the poor. R/
4. We proclaim your greatness, O God, your praise is ever in our mouth;  
face brightened in your light, for you hear the cry of the poor. R/



**Call to prayer:** Maker and Savior of humanity, as we gather to pray about poverty in our countries and in the world, grant us discernment and will to follow you in your love for those in poverty.

**Reader:** “The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Christ. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.” Luke 4: 17-18 (Pause)

**All:** Lord, fill us with your spirit, and give us grace to follow you in every way. Amen. (Silence)

## **GOD’S WORD ABOUT THE POOR**

**Reader:** Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. (Psalm 82:3)

**All:** We pray for the marginalized, the forgotten, those without power. Not mercy alone, but justice also, demands that we defend the least among us.

**Reader:** He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. (Proverbs 14:31)

**All:** We praise you for creating all humans, rich and poor, in your own holy image. Teach us to heal the structural injustices which rob your children of dignity and life.

**Reader:** “Every person will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.” (Micah 4/4)

**All:** God, give us wisdom and will to work out your vision for the world, in which all people have enough for their daily needs.

**Reader:** “A poor person’s field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.” (Proverbs 13:23)

**All:** We pray for those who, because of economic oppression, face hunger and destitution despite their hard labor.

## Hymn: Here I am Lord

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I, who made the stars and night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**Refrain:** Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them whom shall I send?
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

## Sermon on the Mount Litany:

We are the first generation that can eradicate poverty.

**We are those who are called and equipped to make a difference.**

We are called to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

**Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.**

We are called to achieve universal primary education.

**Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.**

We are called to promote gender equality and empower women.

**Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.**

We are called to reduce child mortality.

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

We are called to improve maternal health.

**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

We are called to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**



We are called to ensure environmental sustainability.

**Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God.**

We are called to develop a global partnership for development.

**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

We are called...

**And yes, we hear.**



**Hymn: "Take Lord, Receive" (Recited or sung)**

1. Take, Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, understanding, my entire will.

Antiphon: Give me only your love and your grace: that's enough for me. Your love and your grace are enough for me.

2. Take, Lord, receive all I have and possess. You have given all to me; now I return it.
3. Take, Lord, receive, all is yours now; dispose of it wholly according to your will.

**Closing prayer:**

All: Creator God, we thank you and praise you for giving us the ability and the responsibility to seek justice and do rightly in our world. Give us also the will to seek justice with all our hearts, minds, and abilities. Then our light will break forth like the dawn, and our healing will quickly appear; then righteousness will go before us, we will be near to the glory of God. Amen.

**Final Hymn: Christ has no Body... by John Michael Talbot, (Recited or sung)**

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours  
Yours are the eyes through which He looks Compassion on this world

Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,  
yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet  
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.

Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours  
Yours are the eyes through which He looks Compassion on this world,  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



*Submitted by Sr. Gratia Fernando*