

Prayer for Shelter

- Leader:** *Loving God, you made us in your image and blessed us with wisdom, creativity, skill, compassion and love.*
- People:** ***Give us sight to see your children in need, ability to hear your call to serve and willingness to be your hands and feet.***
- Leader:** *How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! Even the sparrow has found a home and the swallow a nest—a place near your altar, O Lord.*
- People:** ***Heaven is your throne and the earth your footstool. Empower us with your strength and wisdom to build safe dwellings.***
- Leader:** *You have called us to share our food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when we see the naked, to clothe him.*
- People:** ***Give us willing hearts, Lord, and inspire us to action.***
- Leader:** *When you call upon the Lord, spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed. The Lord will always guide you. He will satisfy your needs and strengthen you.*
- People:** ***Grant us safety and protect us as we build your kingdom through building homes and communities.***
- Leader:** *He has showed you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?*
- People:** ***To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.***
- Leader:** *Transform our world and transform our hearts and minds.*
- People:** ***Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.***
- ALL:** *Make us into one people—your people—like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*

*International Day of Prayer and Action
for Human Habitat*

Prayer for Community

Leader: Loving God, we make our homes in broken communities, in places of violence, in places scarred by extremes of wealth and poverty, in places divided by boundaries of race, gender, class and culture. Too many among us lack a safe and decent place to call their home. We know that we have created and sustained these divisions.

People: *We beg you, O Lord, for your forgiveness.*

Leader: Gracious God, we know that no matter how far we distance ourselves from our neighbor and from you, your love remains steadfast.

People: *We praise you, O Lord, for your faithfulness.*

Leader: Merciful God, amidst these divisions we have witnessed courageous individuals and churches cross boundaries to work side by side with their neighbors. Through their labors many have found shelter, and through their willingness to serve you and to open themselves to others we have seen possibilities for healing and reconciliation.

People: *We thank you, O Lord, for lives of faithfulness.*

Leader: Creator God, we have heard your call to serve one another, to give refuge to the stranger, to show hospitality to those in need. When we answer this call, we give witness to your will; bring healing to our communities and offer signs of hope to a world of despair.

People: *We ask you, O Lord, for courage and strength.*

Leader: Eternal God, we await the coming of your perfect kingdom, when all will find shelter, all will know the safety of home and all divisions will be reconciled; until that day, grant us the faith to endure the brokenness of this world, the hope to look beyond this brokenness and the love to work to transform this brokenness, according to your perfect will.

People: *Amen*

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7179/50M/CF/8-08

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Litany for Shelter

Leader: O Lord, by whose cross all enmity is brought to an end,

People: **Break down the walls that separate us.**

Leader: Help us understand how to tear down the former things.

People: **Show us how to bring renewal to your world.**

Leader: Awaken in us the passion to dream.

People: **Guide us as we take small steps toward great visions.**

Leader: We ask that you give us wisdom and strength,

People: **Patience and compassion.**

Leader: Lord, who can make all things new, open our eyes.

People: **Let us see in our own communities and around the globe those who are without shelter.**

Leader: Today we lift up to you those who yearn for a simple, decent and affordable place to call home.

People: **Give us courage to respond.**

Leader: As we give of ourselves, let us be grateful for those who give to us.

All: **By the power of your Spirit, make us one. Amen.**

*See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare
(Isaiah 42:9a).*

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Day of Prayer