

Pastoral Prayer
August 24, 2025

O God of liberty,

How can we set your people free?

Some are trapped by the horrors of war near their homes, or just outside their doors. Help us bring the peace to set them free. Some are bound by poverty. Help us bring the food, shelter, clothing, and health care to set them free. Some are bound by prejudice. Help us bring the justice to set them free. Some are bound by illness. Help us bring the treatment and the prayers to set them free. And some are bound by casual disregard for their needs which are different from the majority. Help us bring down the barriers that restrict your beloved children, in the world, O God. Help us set them free.

Free us from the bonds of our assumptions, of our pre-judgements, of our most-effective education that, despite the best efforts of our teachers, was wrong. Guide us to the heart of our faith, which is your heart, and free us from the ill-conceived desires, the self-aggrandizing plans, and the self-serving acts we would commit.

Free us so that we may welcome you joyfully into our hearts and spirits. Free us so that we may stand straight in soul if not necessarily in body. Free us so that whatever our eyes may see, our hearts may perceive your grace in each human being of the planet, and know that you love each and every one of us. Yes, each and every one.

Free us, O God. Free all your children.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.