

A PRAYER FOR THE NATION
GIVEN AT ELMBROOK CHURCH, BROOKFIELD, WI
JULY 4, 2005

SOVEREIGN LORD GOD...

On this day in which our nation celebrates its liberties we come before you with thanksgiving. Ours is a nation of great opportunity, in its peoples and its resources. We live in a land of unimaginable beauty and unprecedented freedom. You have graced us with blessings beyond our deserving. They have not come without a cost, and we thank you for those who have gone before us and sacrificed much for the good we now enjoy.

We recognize that, like all people everywhere, we are deeply flawed; we desperately need your mercy. We do not honor you as we ought; we are too much filled with pride in our own accomplishments. We have not always sought righteousness and justice. Too frequently we have ignored the weak, neglected the poor, despised the oppressed. We have forgotten that no nation is saved by the size and strength of its military might, that economic power is no true measure of wealth. Forgive us Lord God; teach us true humility.

Heavenly Father, may we remember that it is you alone who have given us life and breath and everything we need for our happiness and hope. You have determined that there be governments for the well-being of men and women, duly ordained authorities to promote good and punish evil. You have established the nations, including our own. You have determined their times and places, including this time and place in which we live. As a nation we exist only at your pleasure and by your will. Deliver us from arrogance.

You have commanded that those of us who comprise your people – the church of the firstborn, the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is found all authority in heaven and earth – to pray for all those in positions of divinely appointed authority. Your desire is that we live peaceful, quiet lives, in godliness and holiness. We pray this day for our nation. May we seek righteousness and justice. May we resist evil wherever it is found, and seek goodness in all our endeavors. We pray for our nation's leaders. May they be men and women of honor and truth. Endow them with compassion and mercy. We pray for the men and women of our Armed Forces who guard our nation and secure the freedoms of other peoples. May they be filled with courage, and be encouraged by our support and prayers. We pray also for their families; may they be surrounded by peace.

We lift our eyes and hearts towards heaven, where you Lord God dwell in unapproachable light, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords; you alone are immortal. To you alone be honor and might and glory and power forever. We pray all this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom all things in heaven and on earth were created. **AMEN**

