

Our Good and Sovereign Father,

We thank you for choosing us and making us royal priests. We praise you for giving us citizenship in your holy nation, calling us out of the domain of darkness into your kingdom of light—all through the mercy granted through the blood of Christ.

We long for the day that we will be raised from the dead to live and reign with you in new heaven and earth where righteousness dwells.

Until then, we live as exiles, aliens, displaced people. We walk in fallen flesh, as sojourners in a world that is hostile to our faith.

Give us grace to abstain from the passions of our flesh, which wage war against our souls. Give us humility and courage to live honorable lives amongst people who condemn us without cause. May they see our good deeds and give you glory.

We thank you for the good gift of human government, for those you have sent to punish evildoers and to commend those who do good. We pray for President Donald Trump and the US Congress, Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Legislature, and Mayor John Haila and the Ames City Council. We intercede for all the departments, advisors, and administrations with whom they work. Grant them all remarkable humility and wisdom, thorough righteousness and integrity, complete patience and love for their people—particularly as they consider how to lead and protect us in these days.

Teach us to honor them and be subject to them in ways that honor you and silence the ignorance of foolish people. Teach us to live as people who are free—but to never use our freedom as an excuse to do evil. In both our subjection and our freedom cause us to live as your servants. Conform us to the image of the Chief Servant, who did not count freedom, power, or wealth as a reason to please himself, but laid aside his rights and preferences, becoming a slave to serve the interests of others. May such humility be ours as we honor our leaders and love our brothers and sisters.

Teach us to be subject to our rulers with respect—even when they are unjust. Teach us to endure sorrows while suffering by being mindful of you. You have called us to suffer while doing good because this is how the Messiah served us and the example he left for us to follow. Teach us to live, not with threats but with faith, entrusting ourselves to your Son—the One who judges justly.

Our healing does not come through liberty or restriction but through the wounds of Jesus. We were straying like sheep, but you have brought us to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. Let us be content with him.

In Christ's name,

Amen.