

An Interfaith Prayer to End Hunger in the United States

This prayer was presented through a virtual event hosted by the Interfaith Campaign for Food and Nutrition Security during the National Day of Prayer on May 2.

Holy God — hear our prayer as we gather to seek your guidance and blessings.

Improving food access and affordability

We come to you with heavy hearts, witnessing the hunger and suffering of Your people and the groaning of this Earth. Hear our prayer as we seek to grow the food needed to improve food access and affordability for all our sacred relatives, recognizing that historically disenfranchised communities struggle the most to gain access to land and resources to grow and afford food. Grant us the wisdom and strength to advance economic security and reduce food waste, ensuring that no one goes hungry or struggles to afford nourishing meals. Remind us of the Earth's generous bounty, encouraging us to create systems that distribute its riches fairly and sustainably. Grant us the courage and the grace to build a peaceful and just world, where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and respect, ensuring fair treatment and dignity to all.

Integrating nutrition and health

Grant us wisdom to walk in beauty, treading lightly and leaving only blessings in our wake. May we learn from the wisdom of our ancestors and the teachings of the land, living in balance and respect for all. Help us enhance the nutrition expertise of healthcare professionals and strengthen and diversify the nutrition workforce, understanding the healing and life-giving power of nutritious food for all. Grant knowledge and connections which empower all people to make healthy choices for a flourishing life.

Guide us as we implement a vision for advancing nutrition, particularly on issues of equity and access. Guide us as we seek to adapt our healthcare systems to prioritize nutrition, disease prevention, and address the root causes of poor health. Guide us in our caretaking of the Earth, that we may honor this beautiful gift and protect her for future generations. Help us to live in harmony and release resources so that all people may be able to live healthfully and in connection to Your created world.

Empowering all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices

We pray for guidance in navigating the food choices set in front of us, that policymakers will make it easier to discern the options that will promote health versus those that will damage health. Empower us to build food systems that prioritize health and wellness. Challenge us to increase access to healthy foods in communities so that the healthy choice becomes the easy choice. Aid us in connecting communities to food grown locally. We pray for the healing of the Earth and all Your children, that all may find abundance. Inspire us to adopt sustainable practices that protect and regenerate our natural environment.

Closing

We pray for an end to hunger, that all may have access to the nourishment they need to thrive. May our hearts be filled with compassion and our hands with the strength to care for those in need. May our humble efforts reach more children, ease the burden on families, and provide needed sustenance so they may grow and thrive.

We acknowledge that entities, governments, institutions, and organizations cannot do this alone; we must rely on our interconnectedness as communities to address this great hunger. May we be guided by Your call for love and unity, working together to create a world where all are fed and cared for.

We offer this prayer with humble hearts. May our prayers be heard and our actions be guided by your divine light which overcomes all darkness. We pray with hearts full of gratitude and in great hope for a future where all our sacred relatives are nourished in body, mind, and spirit.

Amen and Amen.

The Interfaith Campaign for Food and Nutrition Security is a consortium of faith-based and secular organizations committed to advancing the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. We are part of the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities. This grassroots campaign by the Alliance to End Hunger, Bread for the World, Church World Service, Feeding America, Interfaith Public Health Network, Islamic Relief USA, and MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger engages civil society in the goal to “end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030, so that fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases like diabetes, obesity, and hypertension.”