

A Litany (Based on Psalm 85)

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

We long to see your love, O Lord, in our world today. We look at places of brokenness and suffering and cry out for your salvation—save us, O Lord. In places where children duck from bullets, show your steadfast love. In places where droughts and fires destroy homes and habitats, show your steadfast love. In places where mothers carry children over miles to seek safety, show your steadfast love. In places where jobs are scarce and handcuffs are plentiful, show your steadfast love. In places where pregnancies are lamented instead of celebrated, show your steadfast love.

**Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

Speak peace to us, Lord. Not just peace in our own hearts, but peace in our world. Let us hear when you call us to be makers of that peace. Empower us to forge foundations of justice. Where systems discard and prey upon the vulnerable, may your Spirit discomfort us. Help us wisely raise our voices to be agents of that promised renewal for which we hope.

**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

We want to see your glory right here, Lord. In this town, in this nation, in this world. We lift in prayer our leaders—may their votes and policies reflect your glory. We lift in prayer our communities—may our businesses and watersheds and jail cells and classrooms reflect your glory. We lift in prayer the people we are quick to forget—may our eyes be renewed to see your glory in those we have overlooked so that we might better honor your image in them.

**Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

God, may we be marked by a faith that seeks not to escape your world but to engage it. May we engage with curiosity—loving people enough to explore the “why” behind their suffering. May we engage with vulnerability—seeking to hear voices we have previously ignored because they are different, threatening, or make us uncomfortable. May we engage sacrificially—with the courage to consider the ways that we comply with, and benefit from, that which that brings suffering to others. Inspire us with new ways to live together so that all people may flourish.

**The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

God, you have given us so much—may we be good stewards of those good gifts. May we steward our time, our talents, and our treasure. And may we, too, steward our power. May we take seriously our responsibility to influence systems and structures for your kingdom. May we respond to your call to know and bear the burdens of those around the world who suffer, and may we have the wisdom to advocate for their good. In true justice and righteousness, may we follow the path you walk, O Lord.