

# PRAYER OF LAMENT & REPENTANCE



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**Lord hear our prayer.**

God of all Creation, of all Eternity, and of each of us,  
You hear the cries of your people and today we come before you.

Listen to our prayers, incline your ear as we raise our voices  
Hear our wails of lament for the ways we have oppressed and been complicit  
in oppression through the sins of Christian Nationalism, patriarchy, and  
racism borne out through White supremacy.

We come to you now grieving these triple sins that have interwoven  
themselves in the beautiful bride of your church, specifically the White  
Evangelical church in America. They have cloaked her with a soiled garment  
that masks as a gorgeous and worthy gown. We grieve this sin from the  
depths of our souls.

Some of us have carried this grief since our earliest days, some of us are just  
seeing it for the first time. Let us not look away from what we have seen and  
heard. In our lament, we choose to not forget what has stirred within our  
hearts, minds and souls that draws us into this prayer of lament.

We weep, O God, for the sin of Christian Nationalism that has wrought the  
worldly power of domination within the life of the White Evangelical church  
and has blinded her to the beauty, joy, peace and hope of Kingdom power  
that is fueled by your Divine love. We weep for the ways it distorts and  
destroys. We weep for the ways it malforms identity, for the ways it reveals  
itself in ideology, and for the ways it beckons us to idolatry that all set  
themselves up against you.

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.**



We weep, O God, for the sin of White Supremacy and the effects of racism in our nation's history, and especially for the ways it has been present and baptized in the white evangelical church. We grieve, Father, for the sins of native genocide and displacement, we lament the presence Jim Crow laws in our nation's history and for the ways we allowed them to exist then and for the ways we don't stand against their newly emerged presence in our midst today. We grieve the school to prison pipeline, we grieve predatory lending, we grieve our complicity in the systems that perpetuate racism. We grieve our unwillingness to tell the truth, to instead make ourselves the victims. We grieve our failure to work towards justice, peace, and repair.

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.**



We weep, O God, for the sin of Patriarchy. We weep for the leers our daughters have experienced and will experience. We weep because their God-given beauty is reduced to a consumable object and a fault for which they must pay. We weep because our daughters are not seen as whole people, but are reduced, held down, held back, and overlooked because of the crippling presence of patriarchy. We weep for the asymmetrical silence and submission that is demanded of our daughters because of patriarchy. We weep for our sons who are whisked into this maelstrom of destruction, that warps their perspectives before they even come of age. We weep for the ways their masculinity is malformed by this destructive force and sin. We weep even for benevolent patriarchal contexts that masquerade as equitable when they are equally opposed to your ways of justice and shalom. We weep for the toxicity of patriarchy that has created an exodus from the pews and pulpits of the church. We grieve the ways patriarchy stands against your blueprint for humanity.

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.**



**We repent of these, our sins.**

From Psalm 51 we pray like our forefather and brother King David

*Have mercy on us O God, according to your unfailing love;  
According to your great compassion blot out our transgressions.  
Wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins.*

*For we know our transgressions, and our sin always before us.  
Against you have we sinned, and done what is evil in your sight  
So you are right in your verdict, and justified when you judge.*

*Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.  
Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us.  
Restore to us the joy of your salvation and grant us a willing spirit to sustain us.*

*Then we will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you  
You do not delight in sacrifice or we would bring it;  
You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*

*Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart  
You, God, will not despise*

In our lament and repentance, we open ourselves to transformation.  
We stand in the shadow of the cross of Christ that brings forgiveness and liberation.

**It is in the power and name of Jesus, through the love of God the Father, by the presence and advocacy of the Holy Spirit that we implore you to bring beauty from the ashes of Christian Nationalism, White Supremacy, and Patriarchy.**

**You are able, God of Creation, God of Eternity, and God of all of us. To you be the glory, honor, and power forevermore.**

**Amen.**