

In Such A World As This

An Ancient-Modern Psalm and Prayer

with sung response

(TUNE: ST MICHAEL - Short Meter – e.g. United Methodist Hymnal 372)

Introduction –

Our prayers today take the form of an Ancient-Modern Psalm and Prayer. A quotation from a Biblical Psalm is followed by a cry to God from today's world, after which we all sing a short response [Practice the response?]

The ancient Psalmist cries –

“Why, O God, do you stand far off?

Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor —

those greedy for gain curse and renounce the Living God.”

[Psalm 10: 1-2]

And today we also cry to God –

“Why are countries ravaged by drought?

Why must women, men and children walk for miles in scorching heat,
day after day, in search of food and shelter?”

And so today we pray

for all who are ravaged by hunger and thirst –

Living God, Hear our prayer!

All sing -

1. In such a world as this,
where pain and cruelty grow,
you are our God: in pain or bliss
we will not let you go.

The ancient Psalmist cries –

In the pride of their countenance the wicked say, “God will not seek it out”;
all their thoughts are, “There is no God.”

They sit in ambush in the villages;

in hiding places they murder the innocent.

they lurk in secret like a lion in its covert;

They lurk that they may seize the poor;

they seize the poor and drag them off in their net.

Psalm 10:4 ,7,8-9

And today we also cry to God –

Why do people make war?

Why are people torn apart by bombs,
or felled by a sniper's bullet?

Why must people flee for their lives

from the violence of their own government?
 Why do teenagers kill each other
 on the streets of our cities and towns? –

And so today we pray
 for all who are ravaged by violence and war –
 Living God, Hear our prayer! [All echo: **Living God, Hear our prayer!**]

All sing -

2. We'll wrestle with your will
 like Jacob in the night,
 and will not let you go until
 you bring the dawning light.

The ancient Psalmist cries –

“How long, O God? Will you forget me forever?
 How long will you hide your face from me?
 How long must I bear pain in my soul,
 and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
 How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?”
 Psalm 13:1-2

And today we also cry to God –

Why does a parent hurt a child,
 by neglect, anger and abuse?
 Why do families have such power to do harm
 as well as power to do good?

And so today we pray –
 for people hurt and abused
 in their closest relationships,
 and for all who hurt and abuse them.

All sing -

3. We cling to you in Christ
 through sorrow, pain and bliss
 and claim your blessing and your power
 in such a world as this.

The Lord's Prayer