A Pan-African Litany

Leader: God, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit, together you are the source of all life and the giver of all gifts. Oh, that we would come to our collective senses to know that in you, there is plenty enough to feed the world. Oh, that we would love enough to care for the most vulnerable. Could we ever have courage enough to dismantle the powerful structures that destroy the lives of both the have and the have-nots? Graciously hear us as we advocate for better nutrition, a better tomorrow for all.

All: Gracious God, hear us.

Leader: Creator God, help us to grow in respect for the sacredness of your world. Heighten our awareness of our own misbehaviors—our greed, wastefulness, hopelessness and lack of attention to global issues. Create in us the will to change that, by our renewed example, attitude and conversations, others will mobilize to end poverty and malnutrition.

All: Gracious God, hear us.

Leader: Jesus, Redeemer God, you know the suffering of those who regularly struggle to feed themselves and their families to stay well, to work and study, to contribute to community life. Strengthen your disciples and churches around the world in righteousness that we may steadfastly address the sinful structures, economic policies and market strategies that sustain poverty, famine and hunger. Help us to resist social injustice and oppression everywhere we encounter it.

All: Gracious God, hear us.

Leader: Holy Spirit of God, breathe in us power to transform the current unsustainable state of the world. Farmers, policymakers, students, analysts, leaders, parents, citizens, lobbyists, and power brokers, we all need your spiritual wisdom and courage to collaborate for viable solutions. Instill in us the audacity of our ancestors to advocate for right—the retooling of harmful systems and the rebuilding of wholesome and healthy communities worldwide.

All: Gracious God, hear us.

This litany was written by Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana.