



# BREAD FOR THE WORLD SUNDAY 2018

## O God, Help Us to Follow Your Will: A Responsive Prayer

By Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow

GOD KNOWS WHAT WE NEED before we can even think it and despite our human foolishness, gives us every good thing. Yet, we underestimate God's bounty by failing to provide for the most vulnerable among us. Knowing that we can and must do better, let us turn to God in prayer.

That the Church, its leaders and people, will exercise religious authority with Christian justice, mercy, and grace. Let us teach right, preach right, and live right in service to your commandments of love.

**O God, help us to do whatever you ask of us.  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

That governments, businesses, and local communities will cooperate to restore the nation's infrastructure, rebuild our cities, and advocate for the health, welfare, and safety of children, elders, and all people.

**O God, help us to do whatever you ask of us.  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

That seeing ourselves as children of one God and co-habitants of a richly-endowed planet in crisis, we might use our voice, resources, and agency to help our sisters and brothers in our neighborhoods, country, and abroad move out of poverty.

**O God, help us to do whatever you ask of us.  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

That as disciples of Christ, we will recognize God as the source of all power and perceive ourselves — no matter our age, situation or station in life — as empowered by God to work for righteousness and join with others to uphold the common good.

**O God, help us to do whatever you ask of us.  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

As followers of Christ, we embrace Christ's example of servanthood and not the historic ideas of slavery and servitude that have disproportionately oppressed and abused people of African descent. We choose to renew our commitment to serve God by ending hunger in our time.

**O God, help us to do whatever you ask of us.  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

We offer these prayers in the name of Christ Jesus, who through this Sunday worship is forming us to accomplish God's plan to serve the world's needy, feed all the hungry, and bring about salvation right here and now.  
*Amen.*

*Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow is a Roman Catholic theologian, past convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium, and contributor to Bread for the World's Pan-African Devotional.*



**Dr. Kathleen Dorsey  
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**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.