

Labor Day Blessings

O God, we rejoice as we worship and give Thee thanks for rest from our labors.

As saints in Caesar's house, we bear witness to Thee as shining lights.

LORD, we remember Thy command to work and realize that our ability to work is a gift from Thee.

LORD, we acknowledge the role of African Americans in building this country—their sweat, sacrifice and struggle.

We realize that not all slaves were relegated to the fields and “the big house,” but some were skilled tradesmen, blacksmiths, carpenters, brick masons and iron workers, while others worked in copper and gold mines, tobacco factories and textile mills.

Father, we pray for all who are employed, that they might give good and honest work, and for all employers, that they may carry out their responsibilities with justice and integrity.

Yea, Father, we pray for the unemployed and those who cannot work.

We pray for those whose work is dull, monotonous or dangerous, for those whose work presents them with great temptation or for those whose work separates them for long periods from their families.

O God, as we continue to work toward building a future for ourselves and our children, make us ever mindful of Thy importance in our lives. May we seek above all to please Thee in our work.

Father, we pray for the labor union movement with gratitude for the better working conditions and fairer wages which it has achieved.

With admiration, we remember A. Philip Randolph who founded the first union of black workers and pray that all union workers use their powers wisely and responsibly.

LORD, as we labor, may we remember those who have special needs: those who are denied employment opportunities because of ethnicity, religious affiliations, physical disabilities or gender; those who are self-employed and small business owners; those who are retired.

Heavenly Father, may African Americans prosper in blue collar trades, service industries, business, and professions so that they may achieve self-determination and reach their personal and professional goals.

Finally, O LORD our God, help us to model the life of Thy Son before our co-workers and employers that we may bear witness as shining lights to Thee in our work. Make us a blessing in our very labors! May the work that we do speak for Thee! Amen.

**Adapted from the African American Hymnal
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