



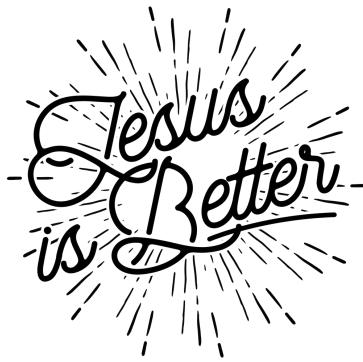
## BROTHER

### A PRAYER FOR UNITY

Father in Heaven,  
We acknowledge that by virtue of your creative hand,  
We ought to have more in common than not common.  
We all inhabit your world,  
We all bear your image,  
All adopted into your family,  
We all ought to share in the bond of brotherhood.  
Yet, we confess that we live  
More by what divides us than what unites us.

Today, these divisions abound,  
And, more than ever, they polarize us.  
Male and Female,  
Married and Single,  
Republican and Democrat,  
Mask and No Mask,  
Black and White.

O Lord, these divisions have only deepened.  
They feel less like rivers and more like canyons,  
Less like gashes and more like amputations.  
We see our brothers on the other side,  
But we smugly turn away,  
Fingernails filled with dust,  
From the chasm we've dug with our own hands.



## BROTHER

The tragedy is we do this not to mere strangers,  
But to our brothers.  
Not to acquaintances,  
But to family.

We have all committed the sin of Cain,  
And the blood of Abel cries out against us.  
We have murdered with our words,  
Slaughtered brothers with mere thoughts.

Forgive us, we pray, O Lord,  
For villainizing rather than praising,  
For cursing rather than blessing,  
For resenting rather than rejoicing.  
We have not merely shed blood;  
We have denied the blood shed for us.

Impress upon us the costliness of unity,  
The last prayers of the dying Savior,  
Who begged that we may be one,  
Who died to make one people, not two.  
Teach us to hold loosely our differences,  
But tightly to this shared confession,  
That Christ died for sinners, me and you.



## BROTHER

May the world look on and see,  
Curious eyes linger on this sight:  
That enemies share the same table.  
In seeing us, may they see you,  
The King who dines with rebels,  
The Father who receives back prodigals,  
The God who reclines with sinners.

As division tempts us,  
May we cling to this thought:  
That there is neither Jew nor Greek,  
Male nor Female,  
Single nor Married,  
Republican nor Democrat,  
Mask nor No Mask,  
Black nor White,  
But we are all one in Christ Jesus.