

El Salvador's Archbishop Oscar Romero said, "I have frequently been threatened with death. I must say that, as a Christian, I do not believe in death but in the resurrection. If they kill me, I shall rise again in the Salvadoran people. Martyrdom is a great gift from God that I do not believe I have earned. But if God accepts the sacrifice of my life, then my blood will be like the seed of liberty, and a sign of the hope that will soon become a reality."

Prayers for Others

Our Father

Lord, as humans we are always moving closer to death. Each morning is a reminder that our lives are fleeting gifts. But as your children, we are also always moving toward life. May this morning remind us that we are one day closer to the life that lasts forever. Amen.

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.**



January 17

Anthony of Egypt (251 – 356)

Anthony was born in Egypt in the middle of the third century and lost his parents at a young age, inheriting a fair amount of land and wealth. Soon after, when he heard a gospel reading in church prompting him to "go sell what you possess and give to the poor," he did just that, vowing to dedicate his life thereafter to God. Anthony lived for a time in his native home, pursuing prayerful asceticism. After fifteen years, at the age of thirty-five, he withdrew to the solitude of the desert and began his monastic life of prayer, study, and work. After many years of living in the desert, Anthony remained whole and healthy, and he radiated compassion and joy. He lived to the age of 105 and is remembered as the father of the church's first monastic movement.

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you
as the day rises to meet the sun.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee : let us kneel before the LORD our
Maker.

Song "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Keep our frailty before us, Lord : that we might set our hearts on you.

Psalm 89:47–52

Remember, LORD, how short life is : **how frail you have made all flesh.**
Who can live and not see death? : **who can save himself from the power of
the grave?**

Where, Lord, are your loving-kindnesses of old : **which you promised David
in your faithfulness?**

Remember, Lord, how your servant is mocked : **how I carry in my bosom
the taunts of many peoples,**
the taunts your enemies have hurled, O LORD : **which they hurled at the
heels of your anointed.**

Blessed be the LORD for evermore! : **Amen, I say, Amen.**

Keep our frailty before us, Lord : that we might set our hearts on you.

Genesis 11:1–9 Galatians 5:16–24

Keep our frailty before us, Lord : that we might set our hearts on you.

Abba Anthony wrote, “From our neighbors is life and death. If we gain our brother, we gain God, but if we cause our brother to stumble, we sin against Christ.”

Prayers for Others

Our Father

Lord, we know that to live by the flesh is death, but to live by the Spirit is life. Still, you have redeemed the flesh of the world through your incarnation. Teach us how to be in the world but not of it. Amen.

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.**

January 18

In 1893 Lorrin Thurston, the grandson of Christian missionaries, convinced US President Benjamin Harrison of the urgent need to annex Hawaii in order to protect American lives and property. When US troops arrived on Hawaiian soil, Queen Liliuokalani surrendered her throne to prevent bloodshed. One hundred years later, US President Bill Clinton apologized to Native Hawaiians, calling the overthrow of Hawaii’s monarchy an illegal act.

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you
as the day rises to meet the sun.