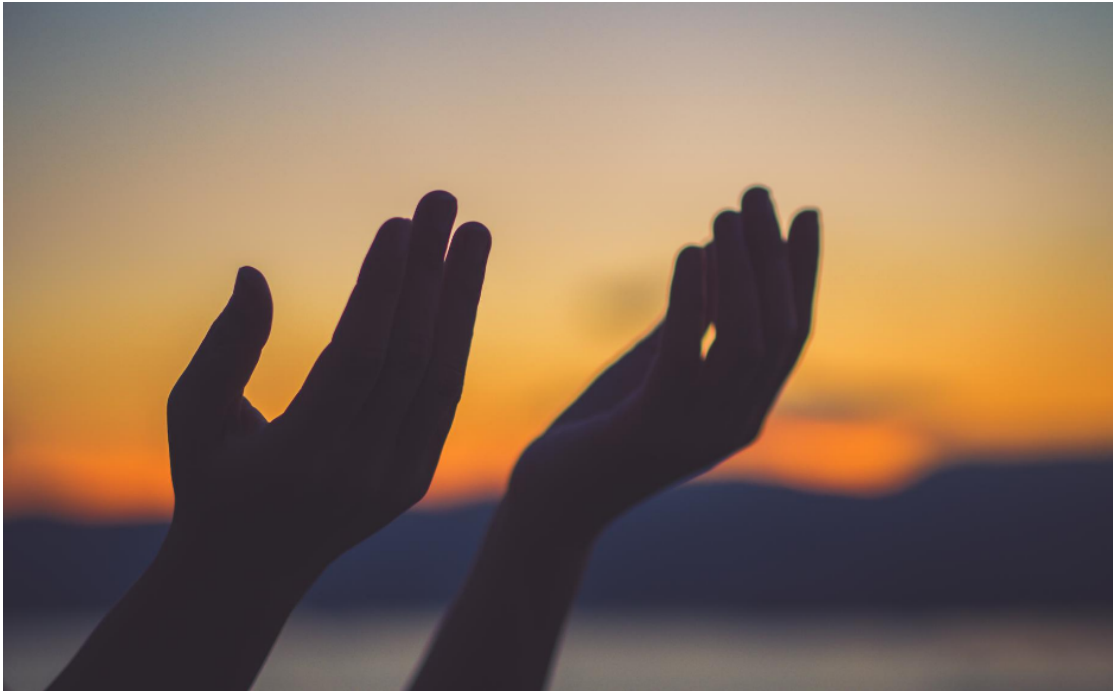


# National Day of Prayer



The National Day of Prayer is a day on which people of different faiths are invited to pray for The United States of America and its leaders. The date itself changes each year, as it is held on the first Thursday of May.

## **History**

The very first day of prayer was declared in 1775 by the Continental Congress, which asked people to pray for the fledgling nation. This initial declaration gradually evolved into two formalized events. In 1863 President Lincoln oversaw the naming of the autumnal observance of prayer and thanks as Thanksgiving Day.<sup>1</sup>

Almost a century later President Truman oversaw the establishment of the spring tradition of prayer and thanks as the National Day of Prayer in 1952. The intent of the Day was to honor the history of public prayer in the United States by designating a day for Americans to come together and pray or meditate according to their own belief systems.

In 1988, President Reagan amended the 1952 resolution to designate that the National Day of Prayer would be on the first Thursday in May. Every year since then, the sitting U.S. President, regardless of party or denomination, has issued an official proclamation on the National Day of Prayer. Similarly, each of the 50 U.S. Governors issues annual proclamations. Many religious, interfaith and community groups hold events recognizing the day.

### **Observances**

While the U.S. government officially recognizes the day, it does not mandate or provide any guidelines as to how the day should be observed. Organizations and people from any tradition can create a National Day of Prayer observance, including interfaith groups.

In some places, a local Chamber of Commerce or service organization (e.g., Kiwanis) may organize a day of community service or similar type of charitable event to celebrate the day. Individual temples, churches, mosques, gurdwaras, or other houses of worship may hold their own events or come together for an interfaith event. Because the National Day of Prayer is completely voluntary, anyone can organize an event, from a prayer breakfast to a food drive to a moment of silence.

Information edited from :

<https://tanenbaum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/National-Day-of-Prayer-2019-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

**The Ifa Foundation International**

**Guide To Orisa & Ifa Prayer On The National Day Of Prayer 2021**

Prayers adapted from Nana Iyanifa Vassa's Book Ifa-ing

**ANCESTORS: Opening of Honor & Praise Of Those Who Came Before Us**

Omi tutu	(Blessings of Cool Water)
Ona tutu	(Blessings of the Road)
Ile tutu	(Blessings of the Home)
Tutu Laroye	( May a cool messenger bless the road)
Orisa Tutu	(Blessings of the Orisa)

Ajuba to all of the collective elevated ancestors.

We give honor and praise to those whose blood runs through our veins.

Please accept the coolness of this water so that you may be cool and comfortable.

Please accept the light and energy so that you may have brightness and strength. We love and miss your presence here on Earth but gather strength and wisdom from your continued energy and guidance. May your guidance continue to open our paths and roads and the paths and roads of those we love.

May your wisdom bring love, prosperity, children, long life, and good health to our homes.

Ase Ase Ase

\*You may also pound the floor with your ancestor staff to summon your ancestors as you call each name three times during this prayer

**ORUNMILA & ELA**

Reverence to Oludumare who first encompassed the universe

Reverence to Orunmila, second only to Oludumare

Reverence to the 200 Irunmole' on the right

Reverence to the 200 Irunmole' on the left

Reverence to Akoda who first learned Ifa

Reverence to Aseda who second learned Ifa

Reverence to all my spiritual teachers

Respect and love to all the beautiful Aje Mothers

Respect and love to all my departed blood Relatives.

Respect and love to my Ori, the guide for me for Destiny

May I live my life with good character.

Ase, Ase, Ase

## **ORI**

Ori, I call on you  
Ori, I call on you  
Ori, I call on you

Ori, place me in good condition.  
My feet, carry me to where the condition is favorable.

Where Ifa is taking me to, I never know.  
Cast divination oracle for Sasore  
In the prime of his life

If there is any condition better than the one I am in at present, may my Ori not fail to place me there!

Support me, my Ori. Make me prosperous, my Ori. Ori is humankind's supporter before all other Orisa.  
Ase, Ase, Ase

## **ESU**

Ose Tura, Ose Tura, Ose Tura  
Please listen to our Prayers.  
We reach out and connect with the energy of Esu to open our doors, paths, and roads, to the great opportunities for my destiny.

Ose Tura, Ose Tura, Ose Tura  
Open our paths and roads, and the path and roads of those we love and care for, for all good to come.

Ose Tura, Ose Tura, Ose Tura  
Shut down any doors, paths, or roads, that might do us harm. Build your protective shield around us today and always.  
Ase, Ase, Ase

## **OBATALA**

Obatala, I pray to you with honor and respect for all that you bring to our lives life and those we love and care about.

As you are the purest form of Clarity and the white light that blesses us all with the inner vision, inner peace, and tranquility. We ask for the connection to higher wisdom.

Ase, Ase, Ase

## **YEMONJA**

Yemonja we call you today and ask for your help:

To stay afloat as I travel each day of life.

To keep my thoughts fluid, allowing the movement I need

To know when to move forward and when to move shift back

To know how to tap into my knowledge inside the deep dark places, Seeing the light inside.

To see what is on the surface without allowing the intensity to blind me.

To become stabilized when things are moving in a rough way

To take in replenishing energy as well remove that which is not good for me

To use the coolness of the water when things become too heated

To wash away and purify any negative thoughts

To be able to hear my messages through the sounds of life's crashing waves

To realize my wealth and travel to my destiny

To have the ability to know my safe space, protecting myself & those I love.

## **OYA**

May Oya's winds blow freshness into our lives. And when necessary blow away all that is not positive for our lives.

Strengthen our abilities to trust and move with the sudden changes that the Universe provides.

Help us to stay steady through the shifts.

May our thoughts be calm so that the wisdom of Oya Yansa will be captured by our minds and utilized.

Move us to where we need to go next, while still keeping our feet on the ground.

Ase Ase Ase

## **SANGO**

We call on the energy of Sango to help us:

Maintain good character throughout any situation that may present itself.

To see life with a longer-term view. To use the fires of Sango to burn away negative thoughts.

To not allow our actions to cause permanent scarring or damage.

To see through any falseness and find the Truth in all situations.

Sango helps us steer clear from any manipulation that would detour us in any way from the true path of our Destiny!

Ase, Ase, Ase

## **OGUN**

We thank the Universe for leading us to the energy path of Ogun.  
For bringing our awareness in focus so we may know where to connect with our  
STRENGTH! So we may be able to carry on the work that must be done.

As we connect to the Ogun energy:  
We will unite our thoughts to gain more FOCUS

And gain even greater strength for that which needs more tunnel vision in order to see  
life more clearly.

We ask to have the abilities of increased DYNAMIC CREATIVE THOUGHT so we may  
bring positive creative motion into our Universe.

Ase, Ase, Ase

## **OSUN**

Ore Yeye O, Osun O!

Mother Osun, show us the way to flow in a calm fluid manner, so that we may best work  
with the knowledge that is right there in front of us to bring us into greater alignment with  
our inner strengths!

Mother Osun, help us to create more joy and love in the world as you support us. Bring  
your soothing healing waters when we are in need and bring us the ability to  
successfully maneuver the strong currents of your rivers during the turbulent times in  
our lives. Move us with grace and beauty as necessary, while keeping us afloat. Bring  
us all to a place of more JOY & LOVE.

Ase, Ase, Ase



**References:**

1. Tanenbaum Combatting Religious Prejudice
2. Ifa-ing by Nana Iyanifa Vassa

<https://tanenbaum.org>

<https://spiritualtools.org>