

## **A prayer for election day**

### **Loving God, I ask you to guide me during this important election season:**

Help me to understand the Gospels, in which Jesus Christ reveals his path of love, mercy and compassion, especially toward those who are poor, sick or struggling in any way.

Instruct me on what the church teaches on the important issues of our day: abortion, racism, migration, war and peace, health care, the death penalty, economic justice, care for the environment and on all those questions that I must ponder with your help.

Enable me to form my conscience so that I may vote wisely.

### **Loving God, I ask you to help me to live peacefully with others:**

Allow me to be open to the opinions of others with whom I disagree.

Fill me with a spirit of charity toward those who may oppose me.

Give me patience in times of struggle.

### **Loving God, I ask you to help me stand with those who are marginalized or persecuted:**

Increase my courage so that I can stand up in times of danger.

Create in me a new heart that I might be brave in times of turmoil.

Make me someone who is ready to care for, advocate for and suffer with those on the margins.

### **Loving God, I ask you to aid our civic leaders:**

Grant them good health and a spirit of wisdom.

Open to them paths of reconciliation.

Teach them your ways of love, mercy and compassion.

### **Loving God, I ask you to bless our nation:**

Crown it with your compassion.

Support it with your care.

And nurture it with your love.

Amen.

James Martin, SJ

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