Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945
Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II

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1944 June 6

D-Day Prayer
PRAYER READ BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE RADIO
THE WHITE HOUSE
JUNE 6, 1944

MY FELLOW AMERICANS: Last night when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew that within at that moment troops of the A.S.S. were marching in another invasion of a suffering humanity. In this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. The enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace,
and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest -- till the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

These are men lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom. And for us at home -- fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas --
whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them -- help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too -- strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.
And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment -- let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace -- a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

AMEN

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Franklin D. Roosevelt
My Fellow Americans:

Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer:

THE PRAYER
My Fellow Americans:

In this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. The enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest — till the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violence of war.

These are men lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to conquer. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home — fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas — whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them — help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too — strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment — let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace — a peace invulnerable to the shemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

AMEN
My Fellow Americans:

In this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our republic and our civilization, and to set free millions of other human beings.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith. They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. The enemy is strong, that we know. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest till the victory is won. The darkness will be split by the fire of many tomahawks. Men's souls will be shaken with the terrible violences of war.

These are men lately drawn from the recreations of peace. They fight never for the love of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for these of us -- fathers, mothers, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas -- we whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them -- help us, Almighty God, to re dedicate ourselves in this hour of great sacrifice.
Many people have pleaded with me to call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the climb is great, I ask that our people give thought to the continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too — strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in building armaments and supplies for the support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to sustain our courage unto our sons where- soever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impact of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment — let not these deter us in our unconquerable spirit.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogance. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a peaceful peace — a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live according to their own desires, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Amen, Almighty God.

Amen.
This, we believe, is the first and only draft of the Prayer.
My Fellow Americans:

In this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic and our civilization, and to set free millions of other human beings.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith. They will need Thy blessings.

Their road will be long and hard. The enemy is strong, that we know. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again, and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest till the victory is won. The darkness will be split by the fire of many cannon. (Silence will not reign.) Men's souls will be shaken with the terrible violences of war.

These are men just lately drawn from the avocations of peace. They fight never for the love of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for those of us--fathers, mothers, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas--we whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them--help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in this hour of greatest sacrifice.
Many people have pleaded with me. Some have urged Thy servant to call the people into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the need is great, I ask that our people give thought to the continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too—strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in building armaments and supplies for the support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to transfuse our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impact of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment—let not these deter us in our unconquerable spirit.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial vanity. Lead us to the salvation of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a powerful peace—a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live according to their own desires, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

So be it, Almighty God.

AMEN
My Fellow Americans: Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest -- until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of
peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home -- fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas -- whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them -- help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too -- strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled.
Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment -- let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace -- a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

Amen.

(this was broadcast around 10.00 p.m., e.w.t.)
My Fellow Americans:

Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer:

(The Prayer)

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. The enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest — till the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men’s souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

These are men, lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They years but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Sons will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home — fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas — whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them — help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. Yet because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too — strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wherever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united
crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment — let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace — a peace invulnerable to the sickenings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

Amen
Mr. Romagna:

Call Mr. Young,
Republic 4000, NBC.

rlk
I want to speak very briefly to the American people, old and young, to ask them to rededicate themselves to the great cause of preserving our government and our civilization, and to help to free millions of other human beings.

Aside from continuing our individual labors, and continuing at top speed the supplying of our armed forces, the American people can serve most greatly by offering well nigh unanimous prayer to the Almighty for the success and the well being of our soldiers and sailors who are at this moment engaged in the continuing task of destroying the unholy efforts of the Nazi hordes to destroy civilization.

Many people have pleaded with me to set aside a special day of prayer; but I have felt that because the road is so long it is best that all of us give more thought to the continuance of prayer—that we invoke divine help every morning and every night.

We have shown and are showing an unconquerable spirit to help to the utmost in the winning of this war. But even in a world-wide war the keenness of that spirit can be dulled for the moment; it can be driven from our minds by personal or local matters or by the impact of temporary events.

This therefore is the moment to recapture the crusading spirit. Such a spirit, rising from 125,000,000 Americans, will with the help of God be translated to our fathers and husbands and sons and brothers who are bravely carrying forward the act of liberation and the destruction of evil power.

We hope for success but we know the strength of our enemy. If it does not come with rushing speed then we shall return again and again, for we have confidence in our strength because it represents
against the teachings of darkness the hope of man—now and in
the lives of children yet unborn.

A prophet of gloom asked me the other day whether
the American people would stick it out if the war should
continue for several years more. My answer was a definite
"Yes", because I think I know the American people pretty well,
in every state and in almost every city. The American people
have tenacity. It may take some time to get full realization
of the seriousness of events and the deep lying principles in
them, but I think they understand deep down in their souls and
propose irrevocably to see the fight against evil through to
sustain their Republic and to give their all to make the
inevitable victory come as quickly as it may.

That is why I ask you all, everywhere, day and night, to
pray to the Almighty that He will give us strength.
D-DAY PRAYER READ BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE RADIO,
THE WHITE HOUSE, JUNE 6, 1944

FDR’s handwritten words on page one of his Reading Copy:

Last night when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome,
I knew that within at that moment troops of the US &
our allies were crossing the Channel in another & greater
operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.