

Almighty God, as we recall your coming into human history in the person of Jesus Christ, we are reminded that you truly are one of us. In sharing our human condition, you experienced first-hand the joys and sorrows, the excitement and the disappointments, the laughter and the tears of our human existence.

Yet, you have come into our world to lead us to our place in the Kingdom of Heaven. You have come to reassure us of the love of God even in those moments when the darkness of sin and the shadow of death would threaten to dim your light in our lives.

In those moments when things are going well and we would like to feel granted, remind us, O Lord, that all good things come to us as your most gracious blessing — more evidence of your love that sustains us in this life. In those moments when we are faced with problems, when our troubles storm around us and waves of pain and suffering threaten to drown us in sorrow, remind us that you came to heal, O Savior, you alone have the strength we need to withstand the forces of evil in this world. You alone have the love that overcomes the hate, and the life that overcomes death, and you share them with us.

Let us never forget that with you by our side, we shall overcome —

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