

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted
up, you ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in.
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord Almighty, he is the King of glory.

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Gracious God, we come before you in prayer
because, in the Christ, you have come to us. Be-
cause you came to us, look upon yourself our
frail human frame, and fully participated
in our humanity, we know that you not only care
about us, but that you also fully understand
us and want the best for all your human family.

Therefore, we pray for all our brothers and sisters
who live in circumstances of war or civil unrest.
O Prince of Peace, silence the guns of war
and make us to love your peace above all else.

We pray for all those who suffer from poor
housing, inadequate nourishment, or other misery. O
Suffering Servant be among your poor and impoverished,
standing beside them, as you always have, their helper
and advocate.

We pray for those who suffer bereavement through the
loss of someone they love. O Comforter, stand beside
those who grieve, particularly at this time of year, when
their loss seems all the greater.

We pray for all those who have lost their faith.
O Teacher, during this Advent, may our faith be strengthened
by your presence among us even as you healed the
debility of your frail disciples.

For all these needs and the other unspoken
needs of our hearts, Come, Emanuel -