

Main thought: The greatest gift of all is salvation through the blood of Christ. However, just after that is good government and justice. Even the best of human government falls short, but we pray in this Psalm that God will grant justice even here through our government. Now, more than ever, our government needs our prayers.

#### Psalm 82

God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:  
“How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked?  
Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;  
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.  
Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”  
They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
I said, “You are gods,  
sons of the Most High, all of you;  
nevertheless, like men you shall die,  
and fall like any prince.”  
Arise, O God, judge the earth;  
for you shall inherit all the nations!

#### Prayer:

Thanks be to You, Ruler of nations, because You have granted our native land free institutions of government, under which we enjoy both civil and religious liberty. By Your mighty hand, protect the government of this free republic, and suffer it not to be overthrown by revolutions and civil wars; and always grant us honest and wise men for offices high and low. Amen.