

Invocation
Given by The Most Reverend John C. Wester, Bishop of Salt Lake City
on the occasion of the
Inauguration of Governor Gary R. Herbert, 17th Governor of the State of Utah
August 11, 2009

Loving God, Heavenly Father, Lord of All, we gather today conscious of your abiding presence and we humbly acknowledge your infinite mercy and your unfathomable love. Yours are the ages and the seasons, all that is and all that will be. How fitting, then, that we now turn to you at this historic moment in our state's history for it is in you that we live, and move and have our being.

At this moment of new beginnings, we ask you, Gracious God, to look kindly upon us here and turn to our prayer. In particular, we ask you to grant your blessing to Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. as he begins a new life of service to our country as Ambassador to china. We thank you for his selfless service to us Utahans and for his distinguished years of leadership in our home state and throughout these United States. Grant him wisdom and strength as he navigates the waters of diplomacy in the best interests of our citizens, the people of China and of all people of good will throughout the world.

Merciful Father, grant your fullest blessings upon Governor Gary Herbert and Lieutenant Governor Gregory Bell as they now assume executive leadership in Utah and begin their new roles of service to our state. We thank you for their generous hearts and their willingness to work together for the common good. May they lead us all on the paths of peace and justice, inspiring us to place our talents and gifts at the service of our neighbor as we seek to follow their example. Touch their hearts with prudence, the charioteer of the virtues, that they may listen with open minds and commit themselves to seeking justice for all, no matter the cost. Grant our new governor and lieutenant governor the grace of the shepherd as they seek to gather us together as one people comprised of various cultures, religions and nationalities. Help them to seek out those on the periphery: the homeless, the uninsured, the poor and the vulnerable. With your help, may they persevere in their commitments, resolute and unwavering, as they champion the inalienable rights of all in Utah, citizens and immigrants alike, and as they conserve the precious gifts of land and water you have given us in this, the most beautiful of states.

Loving God, in this moment of new beginnings, we ask that you will help us to always remember that you are the God of life and that you have commissioned us to nurture that life through our acts of sacrifice and love. You call us to take the road less traveled and never to look back, for you are with us always, the companion on the journey. At the beginning of this new journey in Utah, we beseech you to walk with us always and to help Governor Herbert and his Lieutenant governor to be clear reflections of your loving providence. Amen.