

The Thuringian School Prayers, April 1930

1. Dear God, you desire with a strong hand,
In these terrible times,
The Homeland, the Fatherland,
to cultivate deep in our hearts.
Lord, allow us to grow pure and great,
To one day carry out a great duty
The bright destiny of the liberated Volk,
To be held in strong hands.

(From a prayer collection of the Thuringian Protestant Church's Landeskirchenrat)

2. Father, in your all-mighty hand,
Stand our Volk and Fatherland.
You were our Forefathers' strength and honour,
You are our constant weapon and defence.
Therefore liberate us from deception and treason.
Make us strong for the liberating act,
Grant us the heroic courage of the Saviour,
Honour and freedom are the highest good!
Our vow and watchword is always:
Germany awake! Lord liberate us!
God grant it!

(By a Protestant clergyman)

3. Father in Heaven,
I believe in your all-mighty hand,
I believe in the Volkstum and Fatherland,
I believe in the Forefathers, might and honour,
I believe you are our weapon and defence,
I believe you punish the treason of our Land,
And bless the liberating act of the Heimat,
Germany, awake to freedom!

(By a German poet)

4. Father in Heaven.

I believe in your omnipotence, justness and love.

I believe in loving my German Volk and Fatherland.

I know that atheism and high treason tear apart and destroy our Volk.

I know that despite this, the yearning and the force for freedom live in the best.

I believe that this freedom shall come about through the love of our Father in Heaven if we believe in our own strength.

(By a Protestant teacher)

5. Hear us, O Lord, the children implore you:

Allow our work to go forward!

Give rest to our dead warriors!

The widows, orphans you console!

And give us Germans renewed strength

Which shall create Freedom and Peace for us.

(By a catholic teacher)¹

¹ *Amtsblatt des Thüringischen Ministeriums für Volksbildung*, 1930, nr.6, 22 April 1930, p.40