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National Fast: A Proclamation by the President of the United States

Abraham Lincoln

Israel Washburn Jr.

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NATIONAL FAST. A PROCLAMATION.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, A Joint Committee of both Houses of Congress has waited on the President of the United States, and requested him to recommend a day of Public Humiliation, Prayer, and Fasting, to be observed by the People of the United States with religious solemnities, and the offering of fervent supplications to Almighty God for the safety and welfare of these States, His blessings on their arms, and a speedy restoration to peace;

And whereas, It is fit and becoming in all people at all times to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God, to bow in humble submission to his chastisements, to confess and deplore their sins and transgressions in the full conviction that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and to pray with all fervency and contrition for the pardon of their past offences, and for a blessing upon their present and prospective action;

And whereas, When our beloved country, once, by the blessing of God, united, prosperous and happy, is now afflicted with faction and civil war, it is peculiarly fit for us to recognize the hand of God in this visitation, and in sorrowful remembrance of our own faults and crimes as a nation and as individuals, to humble ourselves before Him, and to pray for His mercy—to pray that we may be spared further punishment, though justly deserved: that our arms may be blessed and made effectual for the re-establishment of law, order, and peace throughout our country, and that the inestimable boon of civil and religious liberty, earned, under His guidance and blessing, by the labors and sufferings of our fathers, may be restored in all its original excellence. Therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, do appoint

THE LAST THURSDAY OF SEPTEMBER NEXT,

as a day of HUMILIATION, PRAYER AND FASTING, for all the people of the Nation, and I do earnestly recommend to all the people, and especially to all ministers and teachers of religion of all denominations, and to all heads of families—to observe and keep that day according to their several creeds and modes of worship in all humility, and with all religious solemnity, to the end that the united prayer of the Nation may ascend to the Throne of Grace, and bring down plentiful blessings upon our own country.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the United States to be affixed, this 12th day of August, A. D. 1861, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-sixth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

STATE OF MAINE.

A PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR.

The President of the United States, having by the foregoing Proclamation, appointed a day of Public Humiliation, Prayer and Fasting:

I, ISRAEL WASHBURN, JR., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby direct that the aforesaid Proclamation be printed, and promulgated and distributed throughout the State, in the same manner as Proclamations of days of Annual Fast and Thanksgiving, issued by the Governor of this State.

Given at the Council Chamber, at Augusta, this eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-sixth.

ISRAEL WASHBURN, JR.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

JOSEPH B. HALL, *Secretary of State.*