



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ



PRAYER SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

GREETING

L: God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

C: have mercy on us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DIALOGUE

L: O Lord, I cry to you for help.

C: In the morning my prayer comes before you.

L: Let my mouth be full of your praise

C: and your glory all the day long.

L: Every day will I bless you,

C: and praise your name forever and ever.

L: Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,

C: O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

L: You redeem my life from the grave,

C: and crown me with mercy and steadfast love.

L: Lord, hear my prayer,

C: and let my cry come before you.

MARTIN LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

C: Amen.

PSALMODY: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (*Read Responsively*)

L: ²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

C: ²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man-y to number, living things both small and great.

L: ²⁶There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

C: ²⁷All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

L: ²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

C: ²⁹When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

L: ³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

C: ³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

L: ³²You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

C: ³³I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.

L: ³⁴May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.

**C: ^{35b}Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS

L: Ever-living God, strengthen and sustain pastors and bishops especially Rev. Christopher Bruesehoff, our Pastor, Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, our Bishop and Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, our Presiding Bishop, that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people. Grant that together they may follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. We give thanks and praise to God for the rich diversity of humankind, especially for our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and siblings in Christ. We pray for our church and society to exercise total inclusion, hospitality without bias or fear, and respect and advocacy for the LGBTQIA+ community. Grant that, together, we may bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; help us to support our partners in ministry, especially the Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Social Ministries, Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries, and ELCA World Hunger, for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, we lift before you all who govern, especially our President, Joseph Biden, our Governor, Phil Murphy, our Mayor, Susan Shin Angulo, all the legislators and members of the judiciary. May those who hold power understand that it is a trust from you to be used, not for personal glory or profit, but for the service of the people. Drive from us cynicism, selfishness, and corruption; grant in your mercy just and honest government; and

give us grace to live together in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Gracious God, your Son called on you to forgive his enemies while he was suffering shame and death. Lead our enemies and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth. From everlasting you are God, our dwelling place in all generations. You are the source of holy wisdom, and the fountain of all truth. We give thanks to you for the elders among us. We are graced by their wisdom and seasoning. We are touched by their knowledge and faith. Bless them, O God, as they are a blessing to us. Pour out your Spirit, that our elders may continue to dream dreams and testify to the Light of their salvation, Jesus Christ. May we find inspiration in their years of faithfulness. May we follow their example by serving you with steadfastness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Abundant God, we give you thanks for the fruitful earth, which produces what is needed for life. Bless those who work in the fields; grant favorable weather to all engaged in agriculture; and help us to ensure that all people share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

L: God, our refuge and strength, our present help in time of trouble, care for those who tend the needs of the sick. Strengthen them in body and spirit. Refresh them when weary; console them

when anxious; comfort them in grief; and hearten them in discouragement. Be with us all, and give us peace at all times and in every way; through Christ our peace.

C: Amen.

L: God, our creator, by your holy prophet Jeremiah you taught your ancient people to seek the welfare of the cities in which they lived. We commend our neighborhood to your care, that it might be kept free from social strife and decay. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create here a community of justice and peace where your will may be done; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Today we pray for [Insert Vocation Here]. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, Creator of all mercies, we humbly thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We praise

you for your creation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings of life. Above all we bless you for your immeasurable love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with thankful hearts we praise you, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by living in your gifts of holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all worship and praise, now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed, especially...and those we hold in our hearts. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

L: A prayer from Irenaeus: "It is not thou that shapest God, it is God that shapest thee. If thou art the work of God await the hand of the artist who does all things in due season. Offer God thy heart, soft and tractable, and keep the form in which the artist has fashioned thee. Let thy clay be moist, lest thou grow hard and lose the imprint of God's fingers."

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray together.

C: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading

us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

L: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

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