



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



PRAYER SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Greeting

God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

O Lord, I cry to you for help.

In the morning my prayer comes before you.

Let my mouth be full of your praise

and your glory all the day long.

Every day will I bless you,

and praise your name forever and ever.

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

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

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

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

You redeem my life from the grave,

and crown me with mercy and steadfast love.

Lord, hear my prayer,

and let my cry come before you.

MARTIN LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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. **Amen.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 84 (*Read Responsively*)

¹ How dear to me is your dwelling,

O LORD of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where
she may lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell in your house!**

They will always be praising you.

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of
springs,**

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁷ They will climb from height to height,

and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸ **LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;**

give ear, O God of Jacob.

⁹ Behold our defend- er, O God;

and look upon the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ **For one day in your courts is better than a thousand
elsewhere.**

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

¹¹ For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and
glory;

no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with
integrity.

¹² **O LORD of hosts,**

happy are they who put their trust in you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was
presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with
clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high
priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYERS

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.

Amen.

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. This month we give thanks for the presence, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors — we stand together as siblings in Christ and partners in the gospel, doing God’s work in the world together. We pray that God will guide our church as it strives for racial justice, socioeconomic equity, racial reconciliation and an end to racism in our church, society and institutions. Grant that 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.

Amen.

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, Global Refuge, Lutheran Social Ministries, Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries, and ELCA World Hunger, for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, we lift before you all who govern, especially our President, Donald Trump, our Governor, Phil Murphy, our Mayor David Fleisher, 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.

Amen.

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Lord God of our ancestors, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do with our children. Walk with them in life, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. You see all; you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith. May the good work that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you; eyes to behold you; ears to listen for your word; a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God of earth and air, water and fire, height and depth, we pray for those who work in danger, who rush in to bring hope and help and comfort when others flee to safety, whose mission is to seek and save, serve and protect, and whose presence embodies the protection of the Good Shepherd. Give them caution and concern for one another, so that in safety they may do what must be done, under your watchful eye. Support them in their courage and dedication that they may continue to save lives, ease pain, and mend the torn fabric of lives and social order; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God, bless our cities and make them places of safety for all people, rich and poor. Give us grace to work for cities where neighborhoods remain vibrant and whole, where the lost and forgotten in society are supported, and where the arts flourish. Make the diverse fabric of the city a delight to all who live and visit there and a strong bond uniting people around common goals for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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 artists of all types, the painters, sculptors, photographers, actors, dancers, performers, musicians, and all the others who make our world more interesting. We give thanks for the incredible gifts and talents bestowed upon them. 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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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 those we name aloud...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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

A prayer from Martin Luther: "Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give."

Amen.

Let us pray together.

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

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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