



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



PRAYER SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 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 32 (*Read Responsively*)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ^l is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me ^l day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ^l heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my
guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you
forgave me the guilt ^l of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in ^l time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve ^l me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ^l of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should
go; I will guide you ^l with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ^l understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay
near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations ^l of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ^l in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ^l in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ^l true of heart.

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace
us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of
your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 ask you to help us remember the diverse gifts, stories and cultures of our Arab and Middle Eastern siblings in Christ, who remind us of the church's rich history and tradition. We ask that you would bless the advocacy, witness, leadership development and ministry support provided by ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage. 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.

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, 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, 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.

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.

Almighty God, with a parent's love and care you have blessed us with the joy and responsibility of children. As we bring them up, give us gracious love, calm strength, and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God, our creator, you have ordered seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain. Give to all who work the land fair compensation for the work of their hands. Grant that the people of this and every nation may give thanks to you for food, drink, and all that sustains life; may use with care the land and water from which these good things come; and may honor the laborers who produce them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 all accountants and bookkeepers as they work to ensure transparency and equity in finance. 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.

O blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove the fears that attack them; strengthen those who are engaged in the work of recovery; and to those who care for them, give honesty, understanding, and persevering love; for your mercy's sake.

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 Catherine of Sienna: "Power of the eternal Father, help me. Wisdom of the Son, enlighten the eye of my understanding. Tender mercy of the Holy Spirit, unite my heart to yourself. Eternal God, restore health to the sick and life to the dead. Give us a voice, your own voice, to cry out to you for mercy for the world. You, light, give us light. You, wisdom, give us wisdom. You, supreme strength, strengthen us."

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

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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