



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



PRAYER SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 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 23 (*Read Responsively*)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down^l in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my ^lsoul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ^lfor your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall ^lfear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ^lcomfort
me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence ^lof my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ^lrunning over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ^lof
my life,**

and I will dwell in the house of the ^lLORD forever.

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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 give thanks for the rich heritage, gifts, cultures and contributions to our nation and church of our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ. Gracious God, bless the work and witness of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the ELCA's Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders. Grant that we may always support and partner with them as they 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.

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.

Gracious God, none who trust in your Son can be separated from your love. Give to those who live alone peace and contentment in their solitude, hope and fulfillment in their love of you, and joy and companionship in their relations with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us coworkers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Guide us with your justice in the workplace, so that we may never value things above people, or surrender honor to love of gain or lust for power. Prosper all efforts to put an end to work that brings no joy, and teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for the sake of the common good; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 teachers. Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education: give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

God of liberation, you saw your people as slaves in Egypt and delivered them from captivity; you see works of violence and weep. Relieve the suffering of all who are experiencing abuse or violence. Grant them peace of mind and a renewed faith in your protection and care. Protect us all from the violence of others; help us to bring offenders to justice; keep us safe from the weapons of hate; and restore us to tranquility and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior

and Lord. **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 Julian of Norwich: "In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss. In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and savior. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker,

our lover, our keeper. Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

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 triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection
dawn, now and always.

Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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