

St. Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH



PRAYER SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

GREETING

L: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

ALL: Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God, who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.

DIALOGUE

L: Come, let us sing to the Lord:
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

ALL: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

L: For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

**ALL: Come, let us sing to the Lord:
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

L: In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.

**ALL: The sea is yours, for you made it;
and your hands have molded the dry land.**

L: Come, let us sing to the Lord:
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**ALL: Come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

L: For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.

**ALL: Come, let us sing to the Lord:
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

MARTIN LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: 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.

ALL: Amen.

PSALMODY: Psalm 15 (*Read Responsively*)

L. Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**ALL: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

L. they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**ALL: In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor
those who fear the Lord.**

**They have sworn upon their health, and do not take
back their word.**

L. They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure of heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYERS

L: Almighty God, Giver 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.

ALL: 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. We pray for the children, youth and family ministry leaders of our church participating in the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza. We pray that they will grow and be strengthened for ministry through this time of spiritual renewal, continuing education, networking and mutual support. 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, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. .

ALL: Amen.

L: Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to 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.

ALL: Amen.

L: Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your name; especially today we pray for the Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Social Ministries and ELCA World Hunger, for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever.

ALL: 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.

ALL: Amen.

L: 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.

ALL 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.

ALL Amen.

L: O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. This month we give thanks for the gifts, 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. . 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.

ALL: Amen.

L: God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow

in years and in knowledge of your world. Give us compassion when they face temptations and experience failures. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Help us to appreciate their ideals and sympathize with their frustrations; that with them we may look for a better world than either we or they have known; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: 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.

ALL: Amen.

L: 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.

ALL: Amen.

L: 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.

ALL: 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.

ALL: 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.

ALL: Amen.

L: 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. ALL: Amen.

L: Let us pray with confidence:

ALL: 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.

BLESSING

L: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod, † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

ALL: Amen.

