

St. Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH



PRAYER SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021

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GREETING

LEADER: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

ALL: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.

DIALOGUE

LEADER: Holy is the Lord, the Almighty,

ALL: He was, he is, and he is to come.

LEADER: He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

ALL: He created all things. By his will they came to be.

LEADER: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain;

ALL: worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.

LEADER: By his blood he purchased for God

ALL: people of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.

LEADER: Christ made of them a kingdom

ALL: and priests to serve our God.

LEADER: And they shall reign on earth forever.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

MARTIN LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

LEADER: 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 22:25-31 (*Read responsively*)

P: ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**All: ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

P: ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**All: ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

P: ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**All: ³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

P: ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LEADER: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our

PRAYERS FOR VARIOUS CONCERNS

The mission of the church

LEADER: 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 remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the New Jersey, Southeastern Minnesota, and Sierra Pacific synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Congregational ministries

LEADER: Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that the people of St. Michael's may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. We ask God to renew our self-discipline, patience, empathy, and spirit of community concern and care as we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19 and respond to its impact; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Pastors and bishops

LEADER: 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.

ALL: Amen.

State, provincial, local governments

LEADER: Almighty God, we lift before you all who govern, especially: President Joseph Biden, Governor Phil Murphy, Mayor Susan Shin Angulo, all 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.

The nation

LEADER: Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We pray that the Spirit will renew and equip us for the difficult work of understanding, bridging and mending the differences and schisms in our communities and nation. and that God would make us bold in our witness as people of faith, yet humble, empathetic and caring as we listen to and talk with one another; in the name of Jesus Christ, our sovereign and our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

For Creation

LEADER: Creating God, we marvel at the abundance of the world you have made and we rejoice in the beauty of the earth. Unite us in our shared calling to be stewards of creation, to reduce waste and to simplify our lives. Reconcile all of creation to itself and repair the environmental destruction caused by human

carelessness and greed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
ALL: Amen.

Our enemies

LEADER: 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.

Peace

LEADER: 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. We pray for an end to the gun violence that has become commonplace in our country, and ask God for the wisdom, will and courage to advocate and work for laws and solutions that honor and protect God's gift of life, for the sake of our neighbors and communities; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Those seeking deeper knowledge of God

LEADER: Gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. We ask God to help us live fully the love we know in Jesus Christ, and we pray that it will shine brightly in the world so all may know that God is love; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Those in trouble or bereavement

LEADER: 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.

Thanksgiving

LEADER: Almighty God, Father 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.

General intercession

LEADER: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

ALL: Amen.

A prayer for faith

LEADER: Let us pray together:

ALL: 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.

LEADER: 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

LEADER: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

