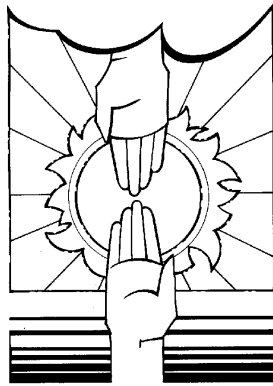


A Vigil of Prayer

Prepared for
**Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hartland, Michigan**

March 2020



O Lord, open my lips, and
my mouth shall declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

To begin, the petitioners may make the sign of the cross and pray together:

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Pastor, Head of the Household, or Individual begins:

Hear the Word of the Lord:

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. — Colossians 4:2-4

For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law. — Romans 3:28

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.
— Hebrews 10:23

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you! For my brothers and companions’ sake I will say, “Peace be within you!” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God we will seek your good. — Psalm 122:1, 6-9

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel. — Ephesians 6:16-19

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. — Acts 14:22-23

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Let us pray:

Faithful God, whose mercies are new every morning, we humbly ask that as we come before You in prayer, that You would grant to us peaceful hearts, quiet minds, and a diligent and obedient spirit in order that we would be enabled to faithfully petition Your grace and fully trust in the Gospel promise of eternal life through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our Savior. Look upon the people of God here at Our Savior in this same mercy. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit and preserve us in Your righteousness. Keep safe our going out and our coming in, and let Your blessing remain with us as we press forward to extend Your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For the Church

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the Mission of the Church

Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grace to receive the Word

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the blessing on the Word

Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For obedience to the Word

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Life as baptized child of God

Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the Holy Spirit

Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, defend us from all error, and

lead us into all truth that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end obtain everlasting life; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For divine guidance

Almighty and ever-living God, You make us both to will and to do those things that are good and acceptable in Your sight. Let Your fatherly hand ever guide us and Your Holy Spirit ever be with us to direct us in the knowledge and obedience of Your Word that we may obtain everlasting life; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Faith, hope, and love

Almighty God, grant us a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in Your mercy, and a sincere love for You and one another; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thanksgiving to God

Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grace to use our gifts

Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use them always to Your honor and glory; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For guidance in our calling

Lord 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; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Christian vocation

Almighty God, look with favor upon Your people in their calling to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage and patience, and strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Against the love of money

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises in Christ Jesus. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may forsake all covetous desires and the inordinate love of riches. Deliver us from the pursuit of passing things that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His righteousness and so find blessedness and peace; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Proper use of wealth

Almighty God, all that we possess is from Your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor You with all we own, always remembering the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Newness of life in Christ

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For steadfast faith

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, because of Your tender love toward us sinners You have given us Your Son that, believing in Him, we might have everlasting life. Continue to grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may remain steadfast in this faith to the end and finally come to life everlasting; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For spiritual renewal

Almighty God, You gave Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Himself. Grant that we, Your adopted children by grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For aid against temptation

O God, You justify the ungodly and desire not the death of the sinner. Graciously assist us by Your heavenly aid and evermore shield us with Your protection, that no temptation may separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For humility

O God, You resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility after the likeness of Your only Son that we may never be arrogant and prideful and thus provoke Your wrath but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For patience

O God, by the patient endurance of Your only-begotten Son You beat down the pride of the old enemy. Help us to treasure rightly in our hearts what our Lord has borne for our sakes that, after His example, we may bear with patience those things that are adverse to us; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Answer to prayer

Almighty God, You have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Your Son's name. Mercifully incline Your ears to us who have now made our prayers and supplications to You, and grant that those things that we have faithfully asked according to Your will we may receive to meet our need and bring glory to You; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hope of eternal life in Christ

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and

that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Collect for peace

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in the world

Heavenly Father, God of all concord, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end all conflicts in the world. Teach us to examine our hearts that we may recognize our own inclination toward envy, malice, hatred, and enmity. Help us, by Your Word and Spirit, to search our hearts and to root out the evil that would lead to strife and discord, so that in our lives we may be at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

In times of affliction and distress

Almighty and most merciful God, in this earthly life we endure sufferings and death before we enter into eternal glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will and to continue steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives that we may know the peace and joy of the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For home and family

Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings; Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Pastor, Head of the Household, or Individual concludes:

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant for the people of God here at Our Savior to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that following Him we may steadfastly walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, "Amen" declares with confidence that what has been asked will be made so. Hear our prayers and grant our requests. We offer before You this our supplication for the well-being of Your Church. So guide and govern her by Your Holy Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Send down upon the people of God here at Our Savior a healthful spirit of Your grace that we may please You in

all things. Behold in mercy all those who hold offices of leadership among us. Supply them with Your blessing that they may be inclined to Your will and walk according to Your commandments. We humbly ask Your abiding presence in every situation, that You would make known Your ways among us. Help us as we call upon You in our need that we may have patience and strength to move forward according to Your good and gracious will; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

All petitioners may make the sign of the cross and pray together:

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. — 1 Corinthians 1:9

For by grace you have been saved, through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. — Ephesians 2:8

The Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

— 2 Thessalonians 3:3

(Jesus said): “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that we have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, “This is why we told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

— John 6:63-69

Before they call, I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. — Isaiah 65:24

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with us and our home of faith, Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, now and forevermore. Amen.

Depart in peace. Amen.

