



# TOGETHER **We Pray**

Prayers for Lent and Easter

February 17 – April 7, 2021

LCMS Kansas District

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

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The prayers for this edition of "Together We Pray" were contributed by the President's Council and circuit visitors of the LCMS Kansas District, with some prayers from the *Lutheran Service Book*. We thank our contributors, including Rev. Dr. J.S. Bruss and Rev. Justin Panzer, who compiled the Scripture verses and coordinated the content of this publication.

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Stained glass window images: Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas



February 2021

To the Saints of the Kansas District,

**"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning"** (Joel 2:12).

What is the Lord trying to teach us during this pandemic? What can we say during a time like this? First, the Lord disciplines those that he loves (Heb. 12:4-11). Second, He is refining us (Mal. 3:2). Third, He is testing us (1 Peter 4:12-18).

For what purpose? Jesus started His ministry with a call to repentance. In Matthew 4:17 we read, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." What does that mean? It means that God, in His grace, turns us from ourselves back to Him. He calls us back from ego, selfishness, falling short, worry and straying. He draws us close as we confess our sins to Him and receive His restoring forgiveness. He resets our course, teaches us His ways, and sends us as His renewed people.

**God is calling His people to repentance.** Why? It's a First Commandment issue—to fear, love, and trust in Him above all things and look to Hm alone for our every need. We are called to live lives of daily repentance as the baptized children of Christ, to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance," as John the Baptist says in Matthew 3:8.

This Ash Wednesday, February 17, the Kansas District will observe a Day of Repentance, which will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on what God has been trying to teach us during this pandemic, and to turn back to Him. I invite you to join other LCMS Kansans as we pray the Litany (included here on pages 2-3), reflect, repent, and fast.

Then keep praying. The 50 days of prayer in this edition of "Together We Pray" begin on Ash Wednesday and conclude on Easter Wednesday, April 7. I pray that these verses and prayers will provide helpful guidance and encouragement as we all focus on turning back toward God.

During this Lenten season, as the pandemic wears on, let's turn from our self-deception and self-righteousness, individually and collectively, and return to a life in the footsteps of Jesus, bearing fruit to His glory. It's the new clean heart, the one that comes by grace through faith in Christ—that's what God wants (cf. Psalm 51).

**Yes, return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful!**

In the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The name "Rev. Justin A. Panzer" is written in a cursive script. The "R" in "Rev." and the "J" in "Justin" are capitalized and have decorative loops. The "P" in "Panzer" is also capitalized and has a loop.

Rev. Justin Panzer  
President, LCMS Kansas District

## The Litany

*Lutheran Service Book, 288-289*

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**L** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**L** God the Father in heaven,

**C** have mercy.

**L** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**L** God the Holy Spirit,

**C** have mercy.

**L** Be gracious to us.

**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**L** Be gracious to us.

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;  
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from  
rebellion;

From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from  
everlasting death:

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**L** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;

By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by  
Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;  
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,  
the Comforter:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and  
in the day of judgment:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** We poor sinners implore You

**C** to hear us, O Lord.

**L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and  
ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your  
wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth  
all who have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C we implore You to hear us.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C grant us Your peace.**

**L** O Christ,

**C hear us.**

**L** O Lord,

**C have mercy.**

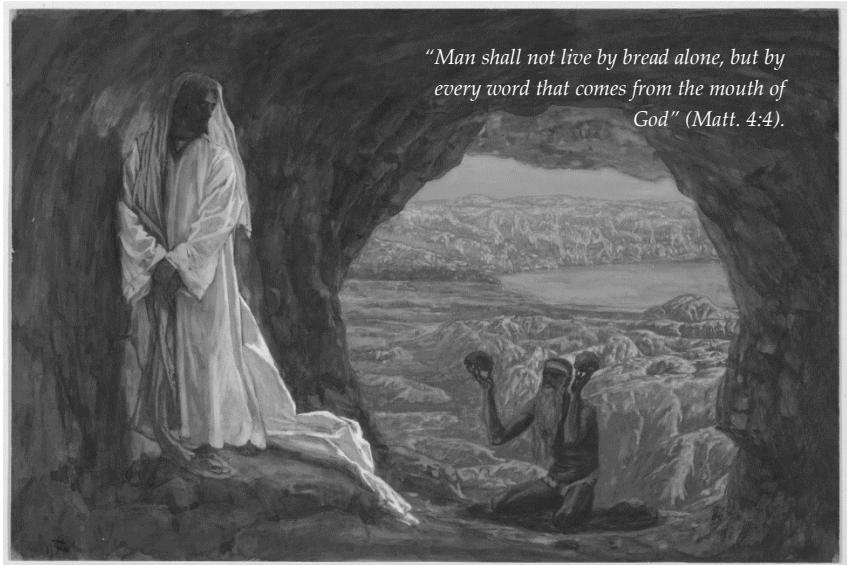
**L** O Christ,

**C have mercy.**

**L** O Lord,

**C Have mercy. Amen.**

*The Litany may conclude with the LORD'S PRAYER and a collect.*



*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).*

## A Note About Fasting

The Kansas District Day of Repentance includes an invitation to fast. But what is a fast? How does it fit in with what the Lord is trying to teach us as He calls us to repentance?

If you have access to The Lutheran Study Bible, turn to page 189, where you'll find a helpful article called, "When You Fast" (also available online on the First Things blog). Note especially these words:

"During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke against fasting as a means of salvation. Instead, He commended fasting as a private, voluntary act of humility before God (Mt. 6:16-18). Take a few moments now to read His words and reflect on your own devotion. If you are like most people, you have thought more about dieting than fasting. It is hard to imagine a daylong fast. No doubt fasting for 40 days like Jesus did after His Baptism is out of the question. Yet our Lord's words clearly reveal that fasting should be part of a Christian's life: He said, "When you fast" (Mt 6:16), not "If you fast" (cf. Mt 9:14-15). The early Christians fasted (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23). Why shouldn't a twenty-first century Christian do likewise?"

A simple fast might involve going without one or two meals before receiving the Lord's Supper and using the time to focus on God's Word. If skipping a meal isn't an option, think about taking a break from something else, like social media or web surfing. Whatever form it takes, fasting is a powerful reminder of Christ's own obedience and sacrifice for us all.

Image: Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness, James Tissot (public domain; text added)



# FEBRUARY

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Kansas District Day of Repentance

*Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. —Joel 2:13*

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from You perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Pray also:* The Litany (p. 2-3 in this booklet)

*Also consider:* Fasting; giving to those in need

Thursday, February 18, 2021

*So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation. —1 Peter 2:1-2*

Lord God, heavenly Father, by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault have I sinned against You and my neighbor. My thinking, speaking, and doing have betrayed the blackness of my heart. I have despised You and Your Word, and I have harmed others. Turn me from my sins. Teach me to hate them. Above all I pray You: do not because of them withhold from me the rich milk of Your mercy, but forgive me, that I may day by day grow up into salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord. Amen.

Friday, February 19, 2021

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. —1 Peter 2:9*

Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your Holy Spirit grant that I may hate the darkness of the sin and death from which You have called me, that my every thought and word may be only my Savior Jesus and that by my actions I may manifest toward others the love You have had toward me in Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

## Saturday, February 20, 2021

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

—Matthew 6:19-21

Heavenly Father, I confess that my love is disordered. I have preferred to You and Your kingdom the kingdom and things of this world and there laid up for myself treasures. Forgive me, and, since You have shown Yourself a true and faithful God by not sparing Your own Son but giving Him up for us all, set my heart upon the things above; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord. Amen.

## First Sunday in Lent, February 21, 2021

(*Invocabit*: Derived from the Latin word, *invoco*, "call upon," that begins the introit)

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.* —Matthew 4:1

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Monday, February 22, 2021

*For He says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* —2 Corinthians 6:2

Almighty God, we thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to die for us, through whom You have reconciled us poor miserable sinners unto Yourself. Prosper Your holy Word and blessed Sacrament among us that many may receive Your salvation in this propitious time, before the night comes when no man shall work; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Tuesday, February 23, 2021

*"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"*  
—Genesis 3:11

Heavenly Father, we remember this day how our parents disobeyed You. Through their disobedience, sin and shame have entered this world. Conform us to the image of Your Son, Jesus Christ, so that our sin and shame continually die in us as we incline our hearts and minds toward You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

*Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—  
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent. —Psalm 91:9-10*

Lord God, You are our dwelling place. Protect us from illness and affliction. Guard us from every evil. Let no plague come near our tent. We rest securely on the promises of Your Word; in the blessed name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Thursday, February 25, 2021**

*Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. —Hebrews 4:14-15*

Lord God, we confess Your Son as Lord. Keep us constant in this confession. Guard us from the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil. This our prayer we raise in the name of the great High Priest, who made the perfect sacrifice of His life for our sins. Amen.

## **Friday, February 26, 2021**

*I acknowledged my sin to You,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. —Psalm 32:5*

Holy God, we acknowledge our sin before You. Our sin is great. We deserve nothing but Your wrath and eternal damnation. Your Son suffered and died for our sin. He paid the price for our sin on the cross. Lord God, You forgive. Grant us all comfort in the name of Your Suffering Servant, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **Saturday, February 27, 2021**

*Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.  
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! —Psalm 32:10-11*

Dear heavenly Father, as we walk to the cross of Christ this Lenten season we carry our own self-made crosses—wickedness of sin and the sorrow of this world. We pray You to relieve us of them, for Your steadfast love surrounds us. Strengthen our faith. Gladden our hearts as we walk with You; in Jesus' most holy name. Amen.

**Second Sunday in Lent, February 28, 2021**

(*Reminiscere*: Derived from the first word in the Latin introit, “remember”)

*Remember your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old. —Psalm 25:6*

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

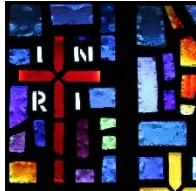


### **Nathan Rebukes David**

**2 Samuel 12: 9-15**

“Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.” ... **David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin. You shall not die.** Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.” Then Nathan went to his house.

Image courtesy Pitts Theological Library Digital Archive; used with permission.



# MARCH

**Monday, March 1, 2021**

*Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to Your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD. —Psalm 25:7*

Dear heavenly Father, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9). Blot out of Your mind our sins, though many, and remember instead Your goodness and mercy, which is so much greater. Grant us Your steadfast love this season as we continue to walk with Christ to His cross, where He died for us all; through the same, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

*For Your name's sake, O LORD,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great. —Psalm 25:11*

Dear God, so govern me that with spiritual eyes I may recognize and confess my inborn sickness and frailty so that I may be brought to the right knowledge of Christ, and be governed, purified, and sanctified by Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021**

*And He answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table." —Matthew 15:26-27*

Lord God, heavenly Father, I beseech You by Your Holy Spirit to fix and confirm in my heart true faith and hope in Your grace and mercy. Although I have cause to fear because of my conscience, my sin, and my unworthiness, yet in Your grace may I, like the Canaanite woman, persevere steadfastly, and through Christ find in You my help and deliverance in every trial and need. Amen.

**Thursday, March 4, 2021**

*More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. —Romans 5:3-5*

[Turn for prayer ➤](#)

Dear Father in heaven, upon Your love for me and Your fallen world I cast myself; rescue me from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, that, when my final hour comes, I may have a blessed death in the faith of my Baptism and be taken from this valley of sorrow to You in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord. Amen.

#### **Friday, March 5, 2021**

*The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.  
Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins. —Psalm 25:17-18*

Father in heaven, in Your infinite wisdom You know the troubles of my heart and the afflictions of my soul due to my all-too-frequent rebellion against Your precious Word. Though I am not worthy of Your goodness, bring me out of my distress and grant the comfort and assurance of Your forgiveness for the sake of Your beloved Son's death on the cross; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **Saturday, March 6, 2021**

*For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. —1 Thessalonians 4:7*

O Lord, in Your mercy You have called Your dear baptized children to follow You in the ways in which Your Word has revealed. Create in me a clean heart, O God, renewing a right spirit within me through the work of Your Holy Spirit, that I may remain in Your presence always and live under Christ in His kingdom and serve Him and my neighbor in holiness and joy; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### **Third Sunday in Lent, March 7, 2021**

(*Oculi*: Derived from the first word of the Latin introit, "eyes")

*My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. —Psalm 25:15*

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **Monday, March 8, 2021**

*Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. —Psalm 25:16*

To You alone, O gracious God, I pour out my afflictions and reveal my innermost thoughts and desires, for You have promised for the sake of my Savior, Jesus Christ, to hear me and to answer my prayers with Your gracious goodness. Guide me daily to seek Your mercies where they may be found, in Your precious Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

*"Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters."* —Luke 11:23

Gracious Lord, we so often and so easily wander from You into places of loneliness and danger and distress. Keep us ever mindful that You never leave or abandon us and always call us to return and offer hope and comfort and life. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* —Ephesians 5:1-2

Loving Father, we ask You to send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts and help us to grow in fervent love for You and for our neighbor, demonstrating that love through acts of generosity and sacrifice. This we humbly ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **Thursday, March 11, 2021**

*At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true) and discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*  
—Ephesians 5:8-10 (ESV, modified)

Heavenly Father, we lie in the great darkness of this world, hemmed in on every side by chaos, death, false religion, immorality, sin and its victims, our own sinful flesh and what remains unknown to us. May the light of each Lord's Day, each a little Easter, shine through this darkness. For having declared Jesus Your Son by His resurrection, You have also affirmed the truth of His Word, accepted His death for the salvation of sinners, and guaranteed eternal life for all who believe. Help us live in the light of Jesus' resurrection, which the darkness has not overcome. In His name we pray. Amen.

## **Friday, March 12, 2021**

*O God, in You I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.  
The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.* —Psalm 25:2, 17

Gracious Lord, we live in a time when shame afflicts us all—the shame of lost employment, the shame of contracting the virus, the shame of passing the virus, the shame of national and personal sin, the shame of short, heated words, the shame of impatience and regrettable decisions, the shame of giving up on You. Forgive us our sins. Your Word teaches that You are the One who leads people out of shame. As we draw nearer to Easter, help us to see our God—You, Jesus—delivered to death for our shame and raised from the dead for our deliverance from shame. In Your name we pray. Amen.

## **Saturday, March 13, 2021**

*All the dust of earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ... Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.* —Exodus 8:17b, 19

O Father in heaven, in times of sin our hearts can harden, and we are tempted to shut our ears to Your instruction. By Your Holy Spirit turn our hearts toward You, that we might repent and receive forgiveness for all of our sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14, 2021**

(*Laetare*: Derived from the first word of the Latin introit, "rejoice"; midpoint of the Lenten season)

*Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her;  
that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious abundance.* —Isaiah 66:10-11

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning, and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Monday, March 15, 2021**

*Thus says the LORD:  
"In a time of favor I have answered you;  
in a day of salvation I have helped you;  
I will keep you and give you  
as a covenant to the people,  
to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate heritages,  
saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,'  
to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.'"* —Isaiah 49:8

Dear God, though we were in darkness, the day of salvation has dawned in the person and work of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Continue to shine Your light upon us through the ministry of Your Word and Sacraments, that we would never again be prisoners, but show ourselves to be the people of Your covenant; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

*Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!*

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*For the LORD has comforted His people  
and will have compassion on His afflicted.* —Isaiah 49:13

Gracious Father, You have comforted Your people and had compassion on the afflicted through the death and resurrection of Your Son. Guide us now to the unending glories that await us in Your eternal kingdom, where we will sing praises to You forever and ever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

### **Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

*For my brothers and companions' sake  
I will say, "Peace be within you!"* —Psalm 122:8

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, grant unto 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Thursday, March 18, 2021**

*And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.* —Acts 2:46-47

Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your holy Word and blessed Sacraments, give increase to Your Church, and continuously raise up a people to declare Your excellencies, who have called us out of the darkness of our sin and death into Your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Friday, March 19, 2021**

*Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved but abides forever.  
As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds His people,  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
Peace be upon Israel!* —Psalm 125:1-2, 5b

Lord God, heavenly Father, I confess before You that my faith and trust in You have faltered. I have not sought from Your gracious hand my every blessing, my highest good. I have not trusted in Your Word above all things, but have made my own way. Forgive me, restore me, and surround me like the mountains that surround Jerusalem, that from You I may never be moved; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

### **Saturday, March 20, 2021**

*I was glad when they said to me,  
'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'  
Peace be within your walls*

*and security within your towers!* —Psalm 122:1, 7

Turn for prayer ►

Heavenly Father, thanks be to You for the hope, peace, and protection we find in Your house, especially during times of pandemic and other trials. Enable us joyfully to gather in Your house at every opportunity; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21, 2021

(*Judica*: Derived from the first word of the Latin introit, “vindicate”)

*Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,  
from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!*

*For You are the God in whom I take refuge; why have You rejected me?*

*Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*

*Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;*

*let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!*

*Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,*

*and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God.* —Psalm 43:1-4

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### Monday, March 22, 2021

*Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?* —Psalm 43:5a

Lord God, as the trials and troubles of this world lead us to depression and despair, send Your Spirit to call to mind the hope and peace we have only in You and Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

#### Tuesday, March 23, 2021

*Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,  
my salvation and my God.* —Psalm 43:5b

Father in heaven, as our sins weigh us down and the darkness of this world increases, lead us to repent of our sins and to find hope in Your promises and life; through Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### Wednesday, March 24, 2021

*Whoever is of God hears the words of God.* —John 8:47

Heavenly Father, there are so many voices seeking drown out the Truth. Send Your Spirit that we may hear Your Word and live in accordance with it; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Thursday, March 25, 2021**

*For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

—Hebrews 9:13-14

Lord God, heavenly Father, by the sacrifice of your Son, our Lord, and His holy and precious blood we were cleansed. In this Lenten season, as we look forward to His passion and resurrection and in the daily remembrance of our Baptism remind us of that cleansing sacrifice that we may rise to serve you in blessedness and holiness. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

### **Friday, March 26, 2021**

*And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt sacrifice instead of his son.*

—Genesis 22:13

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain, yet in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Amen

### **Saturday, March 27, 2021**

*Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;  
let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!*

*Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,  
and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God.* —Psalm 43:3-4

Our God and Lord, we stand on the eve of the celebration of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection. Lead us by the light of Your Word to sing loud hosannas with the throngs of Palm Sunday. Let us approach the upper room with eager joy where our Lord gave us the gift of His true body and blood. From that room lead us to the garden to wait and watch and in humility to repent of our frailty and inability to stay awake. Let us not shrink from standing beneath the cross instead of running in fear. Let us finally rejoice and praise You for our salvation in the light of the open and empty tomb. May our voices praise You O God, our God. Amen.

### **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion, March 28, 2021**

(*Palmarum:* Derived from the Latin word for "palms")

*They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and He sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.*

*And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* —Matthew 21:7-9

[Turn for prayer ►](#)

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **Monday in Holy Week, March 29, 2021**

*[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.* —Hebrews 9:12

Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **Tuesday in Holy Week, March 30, 2021**

*And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And whoever sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness."*

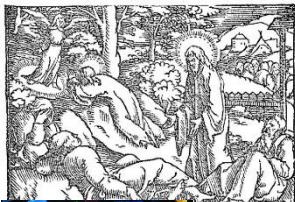
—John 12:44-46

Almighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's passion that we may obtain the forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **Wednesday in Holy Week, March 31, 2021**

*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.* —Romans 5:6-11

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## Garden of Gethsemane

And [Jesus] said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what You will." And He came and found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation" (Mark 14:36-37; image courtesy Pitts Theological Library Digital Archive; used with permission).

# APRIL

### Holy (Maundy) Thursday, April 1, 2021

(Maundy: Derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, "command"; John 13:34, "A new commandment [*mandatum*] I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.")

*For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new testament in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

—1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV, modified)

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Good Friday, April 2, 2021

*So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ... After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed his head and gave up His spirit. —John 19:16-18, 28-30*

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Holy Saturday, April 3, 2021—morning

*For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol,  
or let your Holy One see corruption.* —Psalm 16:10

O God, Creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **The Vigil of Easter, April 3, 2021—evening**

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.* —Romans 6:3-5

O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given us so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunrise, April 4, 2021**

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.* —1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021**

*Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."* —Matthew 28:1-10

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in

righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Easter Monday, April 5, 2021**

*"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."* — Acts 10:38-43

O God, in the paschal feast You restore all creation. Continue to send Your heavenly gifts upon Your people that they may walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Easter Tuesday, April 6, 2021**

*Then [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."* —Luke 24:45-48

Almighty God, through the resurrection of Your Son You have secured peace for our troubled consciences. Grant us this peace evermore that trusting in the merit of Your Son we may come at last to the perfect peace of heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Easter Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.* —Colossians 3:1-4

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers

We encourage you to continue praying daily!

The *Lutheran Service Book* includes a helpful section called "Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families" (pp. 294-298), which contains prayers for every day of the week as well as prayers for various times of the day. You can find the same orders of daily prayer in the back of the ESV Bible (The Classic Pew and Worship Edition, CPH), starting on page 1043. We've included below Luther's Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, which appear in the "Morning" and "Close of the Day" orders.

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* —1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



## Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



## ALSO RECOMMENDED

- ❖ Additional prayer and devotional resources can be found on the [Adult Education page of kslcms.org](#).
- ❖ The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod offers downloadable monthly prayer calendars in support of the mission of the Church. You can find the calendars at <https://www.lcms.org/worship/pray-for-us-calendar>.



## My Redeemer Lives!

Job 19:23-25

“Oh that my words were written!  
    Oh that they were inscribed in a book!  
Oh that with an iron pen and lead  
    they were engraved in the rock forever!  
For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
    and at the last He will stand upon the earth.”

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