

National Day of Prayer Guide

May 7, 2020

Using This Guide

This guide is intended to center your prayer experience in a combination of scripture, devotional thoughts, and collective prayer. The reformers and specifically Martin Luther all agree that prayer can be understood as “speaking to God in words and thoughts” (Luther’s Small Catechism). Here’s how you can use this resource.

- **Begin with Scripture.** If prayer is a conversation with God, it makes sense for us to let God begin our conversation. We invite God’s voice to center our thoughts, still our hearts, and ground us in what He would have us talk about with Him.
- **Sit with our thoughts and feelings.** At their core, devotional thoughts are what can be heard and felt echoing in our thoughts and feelings as we consider what God has spoken to us. I encourage you to add your own devotional thoughts in the blank spaces, provided.
- **Respond with your own words and thoughts through prayer.** I also encourage you to continue the prayer conversation with God beyond the printed, “amen”.

May this prayer guide bring joy in knowing that God receives your words and thoughts. He invites you to, “not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7).

Joy and Peace!



Tim Bayer, Lead Pastor
30 April 2020

For the Armed Forces

And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. Matthew 24:6

God will protect us from all wars, whether it is against a country, virus, or our friends or family. I know he protected me during the Vietnam war. Our military personnel need our prayers. Sometimes there is great loneliness and fear. But God is always by our side.

Prayer: Heavenly Father please watch over our military, whether they are fighting in foreign lands, in the air, on the ground, or on the sea. Protect them, give them comfort and peace. May you bring peace to the world. We also pray for our enemies, that they will see your Grace and Love for everyone. Amen

For Children

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Psalm 127:3

Like us, children have no basis to help them understand this time of isolation. They look to adults to see how to respond to the changes in the world around them. This gives us an opportunity to help shape their faith.

Prayer: Dear Lord. Help us to use this unique time in our history to help our children grow in their love of You. Help us to cherish them as precious gifts from you. Amen.

For Parents

God created our children and has a plan for them and you. *“Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.”* Proverbs 24:3

These are scary times for all of us. Our children need our wisdom and support during these unprecedented times. Pray with your children and educate them with devotions, biblical readings and prayers. Remind them that God promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Prayer: Gracious heavenly Father, thank you for my children. Give me wisdom and opportunities to share your love and promises with them regardless of their age. Character and integrity are formed in the home, keep me mindful of this awesome responsibility and give me wisdom as I instruct my children in the way of the Lord. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

For Medical Workers

The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:5b-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love. 2 Timothy 1:6-7

The world finds itself in despair and all are affected. Yet God has placed a special calling upon the lives of all healthcare workers to stand in the gap and care for the afflicted, knowing full well of the consequences and costs. He wants us to trust in Him only and to ask Him for peace, wisdom, and courage no matter the outcome.

Prayer: Dearest Lord, today we call upon you for peace, your peace, and for courage and stamina as we fight the battle before us in medicine, knowing full well that you are over, through, and in all things. May we press into you for what we need and when we need it and may we never grow faint, but increase our faith. Amen.

For Government Leaders

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Ti 2:1-4

They are some of the easiest to criticize and they do jobs that few people want in times of crisis. No matter what they do, they will be slandered and called uncaring. These men and women are a gift to us and deserve honor. Politics aside, our government leaders are people created in the image of God, in need of his grace. What a time to be unsuspectingly graceful to those leaders trying to do the best for all.

Prayer: Father, you've established the world and all that is in it, including the rulers, kings, and government leaders. We pray that you would give them incredible mercy and wisdom as they make decisions that impact all in our country. Give them peace. Give them the words for all situations. May they bless you, Lord. Amen.

For Educators

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Fellow educators, although the times seem uncertain and there may be struggles in communication with families and students, take heart that in whatever you do, you do as if serving the Lord and rejoice and be glad in it. It has purpose, meaning, and will make a difference. This is a distance race and we need to run it well.

Prayer: *Father God, you are the one true God that sustains all things and you know our hearts and struggles in life. Now is no different and we humbly ask that you guide our thoughts, words, and deeds as we move forward with confidence in our educational roles that you have entrusted and blessed us with. Amen.*

For the Lonely

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

There are many people that are feeling lonely and isolated now. People in retirement homes and care facilities are especially vulnerable. Jesus loves us and wants us to be in communion with Him and each other. As His church we can reach out and encourage one another. A phone call or a card can really brighten someone's day!

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we pray that all those who are feeling lonely and isolated would know the peace and joy that come from the love that you have for us in Jesus Christ. Show us ways that we might encourage people and demonstrate the love you have for all of us. Amen.*

For the Unemployed

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:31-33

The last thing someone wants to hear when they are out of work is "Don't worry. Everything is going to be alright." But that is exactly what Jesus said to us. We naturally worry about how we are going to provide for our families, put food on the table, a roof over their heads, and clothes to wear. As followers of Christ we shouldn't just tell people that God cares for them but actually help to provide for their needs where we can (James 2:15-16). We can demonstrate the love God has for us by supporting our Food Banks and Missions, or just lending a hand wherever possible.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we pray that those who are unemployed will get back to work soon and that they will be able to provide for themselves and their families until this crisis is over. Show us ways we can help provide for those in need in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

For the Sick and Dying

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" Romans 15:13

My daughter went to New York to care for the sick and dying at Coney Island Hospital. She sees hopelessness and despair every day in patients and staff, yet she is there to be a light and source of encouragement and to do her best as a believer and nurse. Her hope, our hope, rests solely in Jesus Christ and the work that He completed on the cross. May we never lose sight of that hope regardless of circumstance.

Prayer: Dear God, you are a God of hope and promises. You are true to your word and your word is true. May those suffering through sickness and dying find and cling to the hope that is in you and may you bring comfort and encouragement to those who love and care for them. Amen.

For those Seeking God

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Matthew 5:6
But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Matthew 6:33

There are many searching for God in the midst of their existence. They ask questions and wonder about who God is, what he's like, and why he might have a care for them. Some seek God through walks in nature or meditation or disciplines. When we seek God earnestly on his terms, he does not ignore his creation. They can see his works and he awaits those who seek him with open arms.

Prayer: *O Lord my God, teach my heart this day where and how to see you. You have made me and remade me. You have given me all the good things I possess. Yet some long for you, but don't know you. Reveal yourself to them. Show them your love and your truth. Give them the faith to rest in your grace. Amen.*

For Marriages

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Families are the bedrock upon which our society is built. Times have changed, yet the institution of marriage and family remains the same for believers. Satan has been trying for centuries to break this down and cause chaos and havoc; separating what God intended to remain together. Recognition and trust in God, His word and His authority in our lives is paramount in defending the faith and honoring what He initiated and intended.

Prayer: *Lord, though the times and people's hearts, minds, and beliefs change, you stand immutable. God, you have no need to change for You are complete and perfect in Yourself and have no need of anything. As you told Moses, "I AM that I AM." You have called us to love You and love each other. You've given marriage as a holy relationship that reflects our relationship with You. Show us how to follow your example and set aside our selfishness and pride and humbly serve each other. Help us to be of one spirit and of one mind and value each other above ourselves, looking out for each other's interests.*

For Society

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27

God loves us and cares for us and wants us to follow His example. Because of social isolation, the fabric of our society is being torn apart. Many still can communicate with family and friends, but also, many are alone and out of touch with anyone.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to remember those who are alone at this time. Stir us to write or pick up the phone and call, to give our time and our ear to them. For those of us who can, help us to be charitable to those in need. We pray that you would turn our hearts and minds to you and your kingdom, and help us to remember that the greatest commandment is Love.

For the Global Pandemic

"He has made everything in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart. Yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end" Ecclesiastes 3:11

Every moment in our lives is significant. On this side of Heaven we may never know God's plan or why things happen. We do not have God's perspective on eternity.

Prayer: Lord please give us hope and trust in you. Help us realize that the difficulties we face are not an interruption of your plan but rather an important part of your plan to continue and complete your work in us. Amen.

For Medical Cures

“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. 2 Chronicles 7:13-15

We believe in and worship a God that loves us. He is not punishing anyone with a virus and certainly not our nation but we have turned away from Him. We, like the prodigal son, have walked and sometimes run from the present of our Almighty God. Our sin has broken our relationship with Him and Satan is working hard to keep us separated from God. But the writer of 2 Chronicles tells us of a cure, not the lies of Satan but the truth of God's love. If we will humble ourselves, pray and seek God and turn from our ungodly ways, He will hear us, forgive our sins and heal our land. Wow, what a loving and powerful God we serve. Let us take to heart the scripture and trust Him for the cure.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we have indeed sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We ask you to forgive us our sin as we repent of our wrong behavior. In Jesus name, we ask you to fill us with your Holy Spirit and give us the strength we need to live a life fully committed to You. We love You, believe in Your promises and acknowledge our need for You, Jesus. Please Father, hear our prayer and heal our land. In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

For the Fearful

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

How many times has God told His people to lead courageously and to not be afraid? Below are some specific examples throughout the Bible. It is no different today. He knows we are afraid and reminds us who He is. He is God. We are not to be afraid because of who He is and not who we are. Each time God told His people to lead or not to be afraid it was and is because of Him. He is our rock and shield.

There is plenty to be afraid of if we choose, i.e. COVID-19, loss of a job, loss of a loved one, lack of provision and more. We also have the opportunity to exercise the faith God has given us and to lead courageously and not be afraid, because of Him and who He is.

Read Also: *Genesis 15:1; Joshua 1:6-9; Luke 12:32; John 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Hebrews 13:6; Revelation 2:10*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you know us. You know we are afraid, yet you remind us of who You are and that our courage and resolve to move forward lies in and because of who You are. Thank you for the reminders and for Your love and tangible gifts. Amen