



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Praying about our faithful mission together

We go forward in confident hope because our hope is grounded in Christ. We finally meet one another—not in our agreements or disagreements—but at the foot of the cross, where God is faithful, where Christ is present with us, and where, by the power of the Spirit, we are one in Christ.

Related Readings and Prayers from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care*

Readings and Prayers for “Other Occasions”

Anxiety, apprehension, fear

Psalm 4: Answer me when I call

Psalm 27: The LORD is my light and salvation

Psalm 46: God is our refuge and strength

Psalm 91: The shelter of the Most High

Psalm 121: I lift up my eyes to the hills

Isaiah 43:1-3a: I have called you by name

Lamentations 3:55-58: I call on your name from the depths

Matthew 6:25-34: Do not be anxious

John 10:11-18: I am the good shepherd

John 14:1-3: Where I am, there you may be also

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Philippians 4:4-7: Rejoice in the Lord always

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to us, your children, a consciousness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us once more to enjoy health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

O most loving Father, you want us to give thanks in all circumstances and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Grant that fears and anxieties in this mortal life may not hide from us the light of your immortal love shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bitterness, anger

Psalm 30: Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning

Psalm 39: The measure of our days

Psalm 73: Envy at the prosperity of others

Psalm 88: My soul is full of troubles

Isaiah 53:4-7, 11-12: Surely he has borne our griefs

2 Corinthians 1:3-7: God comforts us in all our sorrows

2 Corinthians 4:16—5:9: We walk by faith, not by sight

Ephesians 4:26: Do not let the sun go down on your anger

Ephesians 6:10-17: Strength in the Lord

Philippians 2:5-11: The mind of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 5:6-9: Cast your anxieties on God

Lord God, when we are assaulted by the troubles of life, and the deep waters of anger threaten to overwhelm us, do not let us sink. In your great compassion, hear us and help us. Deliver us from anger's power over us. Lead us out of bitter silence and hurtful words so that we may speak the truth in love. Heal every heart set on vengeance, and show us the way to honesty and reconciliation; through the one who has shown us both impassioned zeal and forgiving love, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Discouragement, despair

Psalm 13: How long, O LORD?

Psalm 88: My soul is full of troubles

Isaiah 43:1-3a: I have called you by name

Jeremiah 20:7-13: The LORD is with me

Mark 4:35-41: Jesus stills the storm

John 10:11-18: I am the good shepherd

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Colossians 1:19-23: All things reconciled to God

Hebrews 4:14-16: Jesus sympathizes with our weakness

1 Peter 5:6-9: Cast your anxieties on God

1 John 5:14-15: God hears in whatever we ask

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your living grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray.

God our comforter, you are a refuge and a strength for us, a helper close at hand in times of distress. Enable us so to hear the words of faith that our fear is dispelled, our loneliness eased, our anxiety calmed, and our hope reawakened. May your Holy Spirit lift us above our sorrow to the peace and light of your constant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Gratitude

Psalm 8: How majestic is your name
Psalm 30: Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning
Psalm 34: Blessed are those who take refuge in God
Psalm 100: We are God's people
Psalm 103:1-13: Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalm 145: The LORD is gracious and merciful
Psalm 150: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD
1 Chronicles 29:10-13: Blessed is God forever and ever
Philippians 4:4-9: Rejoice in the Lord always
1 Peter 1:3-9: Born anew to a living hope

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 and preservation, 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.

Broken relationship

Psalm 22: Why have you forsaken me?
Psalm 27: The LORD is my light and salvation
Psalm 55:1-8, 12-14, 16-22: Betrayed by a friend
Psalm 62: For God alone my soul waits
John 14:27: Peace I leave with you
Ephesians 2:13-22: Christ is our peace

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Time of conflict, crisis, disaster

Psalm 42:1-3: My soul thirsts for the living God
Psalm 46: God is our refuge and strength
Psalm 77: Seek the LORD in the day of trouble
Psalm 91: The shelter of the Most High
Psalm 140: Deliver me from the hands of the wicked
Lamentations 1:1-3 The city weeps bitterly
Ephesians 2:13-22 Christ is our peace
1 Peter 4:12-13 Enduring fiery trials

God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray to you almighty God, in this time of _____. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion, and guide our actions. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril; for the sake of your great mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

From “Sickness and Health” Section

Healing and wholeness

Psalm 27: The LORD is my light and salvation

Psalm 91: The shelter of the Most High

Psalm 121: I lift up my eyes to the hills

Lamentations 3:22-26: The steadfast love of the LORD

Matthew 8:14-17 : Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law

Matthew 11:28-30 : I will give you rest

John 10:11-18 : I am the good shepherd

God of compassion, your Son Jesus Christ, the great physician, made the broken whole and healed the sick. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore to us wholeness of life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.