

A Prayer for Our Nation
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Olney, Maryland

JANUARY 7, 2021 | 7:00 PM

OPENING VERSICLES

LSB 285

L O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PSALM

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶**The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸**Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.**

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,**

I will be exalted in the earth!”

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PSALM

Psalm 146

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

Romans 12:9–21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:33–38a

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

REFLECTION

Pastor Timothy Boerger

THE LITANY

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/queen/king] 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.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION

P Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD

P 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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.**

BENEDICAMUS and BLESSING

LSB 287

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C **Amen.**



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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