

Introduction

Thank you for choosing to participate in this Prayer Vigil.

Your passion for prayer is evident in the sacrifice of time you are making today. As you come to Him, be certain and confident that God will hear and answer these prayers. He will provide you with all you need to put Jesus' words into practice. You can choose to pray for the specific requests below or you can pray as the Lord guides you to pray.

If you find your mind wandering or if you have additional time, begin to meditate on one of the suggested scriptures relating to the Vigil's theme. They are listed for you on the last page of this document. May this time of prayer and meditation with our Lord open your heart more fully and prepare you for the many challenges and blessings that lie ahead!

Opening Prayer

Introduction based on [Ephesians 4:11-16](#) (a great passage to read today)

Lord of the Church, we ask Your blessing upon pastors and teachers in the role of equipping the saints for works of ministry. Bless the saints in each of their works of ministry so that the Body of Christ is built up and Your Name is praised. Spiritually inspire each member of Your Body to become mature in godly living, speaking the truth in love and in all things grow up into Christ who is the Head. We pray that the whole body, held and joined together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Help our teachers prepare their final lessons of the school year with joy and enthusiasm even if they are still learning to manage Google classrooms and master previously unknown educational platforms. Let their instruction be received with hungry appetites for learning and inquisitive minds seeking understanding. For those who share the Bread of Life and for those who are planning Vacation Bible School and Summer children's ministries, guide their efforts, grant them willing volunteers, effective strategies and eager participants. Open indifferent hearts to the excitement, the need, and the joy of feeding on Your Word and sharing it. Let the teaching of Your Word be infectious with energy, powered by Your Spirit and let it work life, faith and salvation in all hearts, especially new ones. Encourage each of us praying today in our own study of Your Word and increase in us a desire for personal growth in mission and witness.

We especially pray for the outreach ministries of our congregations and schools. Be with those families on the margins that are being touched by our Early Childhood Centers and Day Schools. Let the lessons children have learned be shared with their moms and dads and let the presence of Your Spirit be alive in their homes. Even in this time of limited personal contact, bless the occasions of our people when they are interacting with souls who do not yet know You. Bless neighbors out walking and friends preparing outside Memorial Day meals. Help each of us, as

neighborhood missionaries, to make the most of every opportunity, serving in love, establishing trust, meeting needs and sharing the Good News of Christ our Savior.

Most Gracious and Almighty God, You have built Your Church upon the confession of faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God and promised that even the gates of hell would not be able to prevail against it. Let Your Holy Word proclaimed from houses of worship this weekend, reach deep into human hearts, stir souls, create faith and strengthen trust. For those planning to gather in public worship, keep them aware of social safety and nourish their souls with Christian fellowship. For those preparing livestreamed worship and for those who will be logging on in a variety of digital devices, grant them patience, perseverance and technological success. Thwart every effort of the Evil One who seeks to bring disruption, division and even doubt and death. Embolden Your people with steadfast faith, strength of unity and resolve of purpose. Amen.

School Ministry Prayers

For the first day of our FLGA District Prayer Vigil, one of our focuses is on our Lutheran schools. We are grateful for the impact our early childhood centers, elementary, middle schools, and high school, are having on the students and families they serve. Below you will find several points of focus you can use as you go to our Lord in prayer.

- A successful end to the 19/20 school year.
- Wisdom for our leaders as they plan for the 20/21 school year.
- Clarity in the coming months on what the beginning of the school year may look like as students return to our buildings.
- Safety for all our students, families, and faculties.
- Thanksgiving for the peace only God can provide.
- Thanksgiving for the work our teachers have done to adapt during this time.
- Thanksgiving for the parents who have put in so much effort to support their child(ren)'s education.
- Thanksgiving for the students who have been so flexible and willing to adapt.
- Financial solutions for the challenges our schools are facing.
- Continued encouragement for teachers as they find innovative and creative ways to educate students no matter the circumstance next school year.
- Early childhood centers, as they look to open up in the coming weeks/months to provide daycare for families.
- School leaders, as they look to fill open positions with Christian educators.
- Patience and understanding for everyone as difficult decisions are made that impact our schools.
- Discernment, as we seek God's will in every decision that is made.

Church Ministry Prayers

Today we are also focusing on our Church ministry. With the Word of God in our hands, and the song of our church upon our hearts, God invites us into this time of prayer together as His Holy Christian Church on earth, and as brothers and sisters in Christ in the Florida Georgia District LCMS. (To read the Scripture verses, you may use your own Bible, click on the verses for a link, or use the page below labeled “Church Ministry Bible Verses.”)

[Read Acts 2:1–13](#)

I.

The Church’s One Foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her to be His Holy bride;
With His own blood He sought her, and for her life He died.

[Read Acts 2:14–36](#)

Lord of the Church,
For the creation of Your Church, and the means of grace we are privileged to share, we give You our thanks and praise this day! By the presence and power of Your Holy Spirit, please keep our body of believers throughout the world in the one true faith—that Jesus Christ is both Lord and Messiah—and empower us to share that faith with others, through the ministries of our congregations, especially with those who may not know You as Lord and Savior.

II.

Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev’ry grace endued.

[Read Acts 2:37–41](#)

Lord of the Church,
We remember our baptisms this day, and the blessings of saving faith, the forgiveness of sins, and the promise of eternal life that You give in and through this special sacrament. May our baptismal faith lead us to repent of our sins, turn from our self-reliance and self-interest, and help us to rely more solely on You for deliverance in our day and for ministry during these trying times.

III.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder by heresies distressed,

Yet saints their watch our keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

[Read Acts 2:42-47](#)

Lord of the Church,

We live during times of deep division both within our church and also in our culture. May the truth of Your Word help guide our life together as a body of believers and may the grace of Jesus Christ be our source of peace and patience as we interact with other people during this time. May our beliefs and behavior reflect the grace and truth of Jesus, and may we find our unity as Your people gathering around Your Word and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Gracious Father in Heaven, please add to our number daily those who are being saved through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

IV.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
'Til with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blessed,
And the great Church victorious, shall be the Church at rest.

[Read Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

Lord of the Church,

Even as we are separated during this time of sheltering in place, we pray that Your Holy Spirit would continue to breathe life and health into Your people; we pray that Your Holy Spirit would strengthen our resolve and ignite our passion to love; we pray that Your Holy Spirit would transform the spiritual death and decay of the people of this planet into the life and spiritual vitality that You have promised Your Church through Your sacrifice on the cross and Your rising to life again from the tomb.

V.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O blessed, heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, may see You face to face!

[Read John 15:26-16:15](#)

Lord of the Church,

We pray for Your Holy Spirit to be with our church workers who are working in all kinds of contexts to love Your people, serve them in their times of need, and lead them to repentance, forgiveness, and faith that are found in a relationship of truth and trust in You. Please give Your strength, wisdom, compassion, and words of grace to those who minister to others in difficult

and dire circumstances, those who are struggling with this virus, those who are near death, and those who have lost loved ones during this time. Lord, even as we are surrounded by disease and death, please keep us safe and healthy, help us to be kind and compassionate to those who are hurting, and lead us to those who are lost; that they may find their place with Your Church, and that they would profess saving faith in Your name!

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Closing Prayer

Glorious God our Father, You are able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. According to Your power that is at work within us, to You be glory in the Church throughout all generations, and in Christ Jesus, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

Opening and closing prayer provided by Rev. Charles T. Reich, Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL

Church Ministry Bible Verses

[Acts 2:1-13](#)

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested^[a] on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? **9** Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, **11** both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." **12** And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

Acts 2:14-36

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.^(b) ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus,^(c) delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.”

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

[Acts 2:37-41](#)

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

[Acts 2:42-47](#)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe[Ⓜ] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley;^[a] it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath^[b] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling,^[c] and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

[John 15:26-16:15](#)

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

16 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he

is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Suggested Scripture Readings

- Matthew 11:28 : Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Psalm 46:10 : Be still and know that I am God
- Psalm 145:4 : One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 : All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.
- Colossians 4:2 : Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
- Romans 12:1 : Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- Mark 6:31 : Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.
- Luke 15:23 : Let’s have a feast and celebrate.
- Mark 2:27 : The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
- Ephesians 4:32 : Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- Philippians 2:12 : If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.