

# A GUIDE FOR PRAYER



## United We Stand

*Freedom Worth  
Celebrating*

A Guide for Personal  
& Family Prayer



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## United We Stand: *Freedom Worth Celebrating*

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalm 33:12*

Originally prepared during the celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary, this prayer guide is offered as an ongoing resource for personal and family prayer.

As we seek to remain rooted in God's Word and grow in our faith, may these prayers encourage us to spend regular time with the Lord, giving thanks, seeking His wisdom, praying for our nation and community and remembering that our greatest freedom is found in Jesus Christ.

Prayer and God's Word work together to strengthen our faith, deepen our trust and help us remain steadfast through every season of life. May this guide serve as a companion in your daily walk with Christ, leading you to draw near to Him and faithfully place every joy, concern and hope into His hands.

*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36*

Let There Be Peace on Earth (*read, pray or sing through this hymn as a start to your time of prayer*)

Refrain:	Let peace begin with me,
Let there be peace on earth	Let this be the moment now;
And let it begin with me;	With every step I take,
Let there be peace on earth,	Let this be my solemn vow:
The peace that was meant to be.	(Refrain)
With God as our Father	To take each moment and live
Brothers all are we,	each moment
Let me walk with my brother	In peace eternally.
In perfect harmony.	Let there be peace on earth
(Refrain)	And let it begin with me.
	(Refrain)

Meditation Scriptures - "God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!" Psalm 47:8-9

“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.” Titus 3:1-2

### A Prayer of Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is My health and salvation! Come, all who hear; now to His temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

I praise You, bless You and worship You, Almighty and Everlasting God. I give You thanks and praise for all things, trusting in Your mercy and grace all of my days.

Faithful Lord, by Your Holy Spirit teach me constantly to pray, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on me,” and to trust that You have cleansed me by Your blood.

Grant that I, would raise my voice of praise in joyful response to Your loving care. God of all truth, have mercy upon us who You have called to proclaim Your Holy Gospel. Preserve us from useless entanglements, fortify us in faithfulness when we must suffer, and remind us always that Your Word is not bound.

God of all compassion, grant that Jesus would visit me each day, cleansing me of sin and filling my mouth with thanks and praise.

Merciful Lord, grant that I may with a grateful heart receive all these things, according to Your merciful will. Lead me to respond with a voice of praise and thanksgiving and live a life of holiness and righteousness, displaying in outward form the faith that lives in my heart.

Give me faith that works in love, hope that does not disappoint, compassion that does not fail, and confidence in Your mercy that does not waver, that I may live in Your faith and fear all my days and at length fall asleep in the arms of Your mercy and in everlasting peace; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

### A Prayer of Confession

Dear Father, You sent Your Son to live life among us in human flesh, and as He walked with His disciples, teaching and preaching

about the kingdom of heaven, He shows me the way in which I am called to live as I follow Him. The righteous way, the grace-filled way, the merciful way, the loving way that allows Your love to shine through in my life every day.

Father, as hard as I try, I am prone to sin and I fail. I sin against You in thoughts, words and deeds, things I do, and things I leave undone, things I say, and words I leave unspoken. And I also sin against others in the same ways, thoughts, words and deeds, done, and left undone. Absent Your grace and forgiveness, Father, through Your Son, Jesus' death on the cross, I would surely be damned to be separated from You for all eternity. And yet, because of Your great love for me Your child, You have sent Him to atone for my sins, and by Your grace, through Jesus' blood shed on the cross, You have forgiven me my sins.

Hear me now dear Father as I bring to mind all those ways in which I have sinned against You in the silence of my heart. This is my confession...

The Bible says that, *"If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."* The Bible goes on to say, *"That if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

By the grace of God the Father, through the blood of Christ, His Son, remind me Lord that my sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## A Prayer for Faithfulness

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called me into the work of Your vineyard and lavished upon me Your grace and all manner of spiritual and eternal gifts. Lead me in all faithfulness to walk in the ways in which You would have me to walk, ways that are aware of the needs of others.

Lead me in all faithfulness to act in the ways You would have me to act, ways of loving kindness towards others. Lead me in all faithfulness to speak in the ways You would have me speak, using words of kindness, peace, patience, gentleness and love. Lead me in all faithfulness with eyes, ears, and an open heart to the ones

around me most in need of Your love, open to giving without thought of repayment, open to serving without thought of the cost, open to love and compassion for all the ones whom You love.

Help me to live unto You in humility and patience, to hope in Your pure grace and faithfulness, to abide in Your house, and to praise and magnify Your glorious Name forever; through Christ, my Lord. Amen.

## A Prayer for Our Nation

Almighty God and Father, throughout the ages You have called men and nations to worship You, praise You, honor You, and hold You above all others as the One true God.

Hundreds of years before our nation was even founded, You led people to this land of plenty to discover the blessings You had for them here in America.

Through the many years that followed, Your people in Europe suffered persecution for their faith and trust in You. But by Your providence, You allowed them to remain faithful, and even to find a place where they could worship You in faith and truth.

These United States were founded on the principles that men and women should have the right to worship freely, without governmental obstruction. Keep me ever grateful O God of this precious freedom in these United States.

As I continue to exercise this freedom, let me always do so in ways that honor You and give to You all the glory that is Your due. Help me to keep the first things first. Remind me daily of my need to walk in the ways in which You would have me to walk. Loving others as You have loved me. Give me compassion for those who have differing viewpoints, and space in my heart to love them in spite of our differences. Help me see others first as men and women created in Your image, loved by You, and ones who I should love in the same way.

Holy Spirit send forth the flame of Your love to fill our streets and our land with a people moved by compassion for one another.

Lord Jesus Christ, lead me to humble myself as a citizen of this nation before Your throne of mercy and grace, asking Your

forgiveness, as I seek to return to You in all the seasons that follow.  
Lord in Your mercy, hear my prayer. Amen.

### A Prayer for Our Community

O God, You set the lonely in families so that, Your love might be shared in our homes. You have blessed me with every provision I could possibly need, and much more besides.

In our Citrus County Community, You have placed families and homes, schools and teachers, businesses and those to work in them, retail shops filled with provisions, restaurants for dining, and amazing pieces of Your creation for me to explore. In all these things, O God, You make Your glory known and fulfill Your promise to be with me, and take care of me all of my days.

O God, I praise Your most holy and precious name, giving You thanks and glory for all You have done for me and continue to do for my community. I call upon You, O God, to continue to guide, guard and bless my county. Keep me safe from the evils of the world around me.

Lead me to be prepared at all times to share Your love with those in need. Let not the hatred or bad deeds of others lead me to despair or to depart from You. Rather, O God, in times of triumph or tragedy, peace or problems, blessings or evil lead me ever closer to trust in You for all things. You are God most High, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, together, united in Your name, I lift up to You my unending thanks and praise. Amen.

### A Prayer for Peace

Yahweh, Lord of Hosts, there is a battle that rages around me in this country. It is a battle the enemy has brought to me, and yet it is one in which many, if not most of my friends engage. The name of the battle being waged in the name of the evil one is hatred. It is sown with the seeds of discord and division. An encouragement to see opposition to my views as repugnant and evil, an encouragement to treat those who think differently than me as an enemy, an encouragement to choose not to understand, and to not be understood, but rather to fight just for the fighting's sake.

Lead me, O Lord of Hosts to the battle that wins the day. Lead me to partake in that battle in the way in which the only begotten Son of God went into battle. Help me to drop my pride and arrogance as Your precious and beloved child in this nation. Lead me to humble myself once again before Your throne of grace. Let me see again more clearly Your greatness my God, and the smallness of my petty agendas.

Father, You sent Your Son to bring to us both peace and a sword. But only one of these was to be used among us who follow You. The sword is not for us who believe, but for those within whom there is no belief. Peace is the thing Your Son brought into the world for us who love Him, for us who follow Him, for us who claim the name of Christ, or Christian.

Let there not be hatred and division between me and others, believers or unbelievers, for You O God, love us all. Let me see even those who seem to be against me as ones loved by You, and in my interactions, as much as it depends on me, let me be at peace with others.

Lord Jesus Christ, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, lead me to righteousness, lead me to follow Your commandments so that peace would be like a river in my soul and flow out into my life and the lives of all those around me. I know You and love You. You call me Your precious and beloved child, Your friend, bless me as a peacemaker in all that I do. Rain down Your peace from heaven, Your peace that is beyond my understanding, and cleanse this land of the intentions of the evil one, in the strongest and mightiest name of Jesus I pray!!! Amen.

### A Prayer for the Church

I pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus. I give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for Your compassion shown in Christ Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep and the righteous Son of David. Keep me trusting at all times in Your right hand, in whom true satisfaction is found.

I give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have built one Holy Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with

Christ Himself as the Church's cornerstone. Grant unity to Your Church on earth through the work of Your Spirit and the faithful proclamation of Christ's reconciling cross. As You tore down the dividing wall of hostility between Jew and Gentile in Christ, so heal all divisions of doctrine or pride on earth, even as Your Church is one before Your throne.

I give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have brought me and many families into the household of God. Continue to bless all Christian homes, that fathers and mothers may faithfully lead their children by word and deed to call upon You as Father. I give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for Your constant care and all I need to support this body and life.

I give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Savior, who by His death has made satisfaction for my sins. Grant faith to all who come to His Holy Supper, that I may eat His true body for the forgiveness of sins and be satisfied unto life everlasting.

Lord, in Your mercy, All these things and whatever else You know that I need, grant me, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

### Closing Blessing

*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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

LIVE IN HIS FREEDOM. WALK IN HIS PEACE. SHARE HIS LOVE.

Faith Lutheran Church

*A Beacon of God's Love, Expanding His Kingdom*