

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)
Three Days of Prayer
January 5-7, 2021

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.—John 15:9-11

Our attitude toward prayer has often been characterized by saying, “well, all we can do now is pray!” Prayer is not a hopeless act of desperation. Prayer is a gift that God has given to us as a means to approach the throne of grace with confidence—like a child coming to her or his parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats, and every part of life. It is an opportunity to express the deepest heartache and the greatest joy. Prayer is a conversation between the Creator and the created...and the conversation began with God, for us, in Christ Jesus. Prayer is a powerful way in which we abide in the Lord.

Over three days, January 5-7, 2021, we are invited to come together with LCMC congregations across the U.S. and around the world to pray. Each day has a theme: confession, petition, and vision. As a member congregation of LCMC, we pray that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us in revitalizing existing congregations and planting new congregations to proclaim the Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Zion Lutheran Church, LCMC
15 South 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 234-4064
Email: zionhbg@comcast.net
Website: www.zionharrisburg.org

All Biblical citations are from the English Standard Version.

Day One: January 5
Confession

Psalm 32

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

This day is focused on confession. We have made our lives, our relationships—and even the church—in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. We gather to lay down our pride, our sin and our agenda and ask the Lord of the church for forgiveness, which He gives freely and with mercy.

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Day Two: January 6 Petition

Psalm 100

Matthew 6:9-13

[Jesus said,] “Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’”

This is a day of petition. Pray for your congregation, for the pastor and for those who carry out various ministries within the congregation. Pray for the congregations and ministries that meet in Zion’s building and their leaders. Pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Pray for those on our prayer list and homebound members. Pray for those who minister in hospitals and nursing homes. Pray for chaplains, in all settings. Pray for those who minister by providing food, clothing, and shelter. Pray for all those connected to the congregation that they might know God’s redeeming love for all in Christ.

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Day Three: January 7
Vision

Psalm 100

Mark 10:42-45

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

This is a day of vision. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move through the hearts and minds of leaders and pastors that God's vision for His church might be revealed and fulfilled. This is a time of prayer for renewal, revival, and encouragement. Pray for future ministry for the Christian Church and for the congregation Zion.

Prayer

Lord God of our salvation, it is your will that all people might come to You through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Inspire our witness to Him, that all may know the power of His forgiveness and the hope of His resurrection. We pray in His name.

- "The Mission of the Church,"
Lutheran Book of Worship, page 46