

Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: caregivers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Amen. (Lutheran World Federation Intercessory Prayers in the midst of the spread of Covid-19)

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around covid-19. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (© ELCA- reproduction allowed)

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 85) (© ELCA- reproduction allowed)

Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of great distress. In mercy put an end to the covid-19 epidemic that is afflicting many people around the world. Grant relief to those who are suffering, and comfort to those who mourn the death of loved ones. Sustain all medical personnel who are attending to the sick, and bless the efforts of those who are working tirelessly to discover a treatment for this disease. In these times of affliction and distress, strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit to continue steadfast in the one, true, saving faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our suffering Lord and Saviour, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Rev. Timothy Teuscher, President Lutheran Church—Canada)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (327) Small Catechism Lutheran Service Book (translation Concordia Publishing House)

Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (North American Lutheran Church -NALC)

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: Continue in our *hospitals* his gracious work among us [especially in _____]; console and heal the sick; grant to the physicians, nurses, and assisting staff wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your blessing upon all who serve the suffering; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** (NALC)

Scripture Readings

Psalm 121:1–2

¹I look to the hills! Where will I find help?

²It will come from the LORD, who created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 46

¹God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble.

²And so, we won't be afraid. Let the earth tremble and the mountains tumble into the deepest sea.

³Let the ocean roar and foam, and its raging waves shake the mountains.

⁴A river and its streams bring joy to the city, which is the sacred home of God Most High.

⁵God is in that city, and it won't be shaken. He will help it at dawn.

⁶Nations rage! Kingdoms fall. But at the voice of God the earth itself melts.

⁷The LORD All-Powerful is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸Come! See the fearsome things the LORD has done on earth.

⁹God brings wars to an end all over the world. He breaks the arrows, shatters the spears, and burns the shields.

¹⁰Our God says, "Calm down, and learn that I am God! All nations on earth will honour me."

¹¹The LORD All-Powerful is with us, The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 13

¹How much longer, LORD, will you forget about me? Will it be forever? How long will you hide?

²How long must I be confused and miserable all day? How long will my enemies keep beating me down?

³Please listen, LORD God, and answer my prayers. Make my eyes sparkle again, or else I will fall into the sleep of death.

⁴My enemies will say, "Now we've won!" They will be greatly pleased when I am defeated.

⁵I trust your love, and I feel like celebrating because you rescued me.

⁶You have been good to me, LORD and I will sing about you.

Psalm 31:1-3, 5

¹I come to you, LORD, for protection. Don't let me be ashamed. Do as you have promised and rescue me.

²Listen to my prayer and hurry to save me. Be my mighty rock and the fortress where I am safe.

³You, LORD God, are my mighty rock and my fortress. Lead me and guide me, so that your name will be honoured.

⁵You are faithful, and I trust you because you rescued me.

Psalm 57:1, 7-10

¹God Most High, have pity on me! Have mercy. I run to you for safety. In the shadow of your wings, I seek protection till danger dies down.

⁷I am faithful to you, and you can trust me. I will sing and play music for you, my God.

⁸I feel wide awake! I will wake up my harp and wake up the sun.

⁹I will praise you, Lord, for everyone to hear, and I will sing hymns to you in every nation.

¹⁰Your love reaches higher than the heavens; your loyalty extends beyond the clouds.

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Our God has said: "Encourage my people! Give them comfort.

²Speak kindly to Jerusalem and announce: Your slavery is past; your punishment is over. I, the LORD, made you pay double for your sins."

³Someone is shouting: "Clear a path in the desert! Make a straight road for the LORD our God.

⁴Fill in the valleys; flatten every hill and mountain. Level the rough and rugged ground.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will appear for all to see. The LORD has promised this!"

⁶Someone told me to shout, and I asked, "What should I shout?" We humans are merely grass, and we last no longer than wild flowers.

⁷At the LORD's command, flowers and grass disappear, and so do we.

⁸Flowers and grass fade away, but what our God has said will never change.

⁹There is good news for the city of Zion. Shout it as loud as you can from the highest mountain. Don't be afraid to shout to the towns of Judah, "Your God is here!"

¹⁰Look! The powerful LORD God is coming to rule with his mighty arm. He brings with him what he has taken in war, and he rewards his people.

¹¹The LORD cares for his nation, just as shepherds care for their flocks. He carries the lambs in his arms, while gently leading the mother sheep.

Isaiah 41:9-10

⁹From far across the earth I brought you here and said, "You are my chosen servant. I haven't forgotten you."

¹⁰Don't be afraid. I am with you. Don't tremble with fear. I am your God. I will make you strong, as I protect you with my arm and give you victories.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

²²The LORD's kindness never fails! If he had not been merciful we would have been destroyed!

²³The LORD can always be trusted to show mercy each morning.

²⁴Deep in my heart I say, "The LORD is all I need; I can depend on him!"

²⁵The LORD is kind to everyone who trusts and obeys him.

²⁶It is good to wait patiently for the LORD to save us.

³¹The Lord won't always reject us!

³²He causes a lot of suffering, but he also has pity because of his great love.

³³The Lord doesn't enjoy sending grief or pain.

Lamentations 3:55-58

⁵⁵From the bottom of the pit, I prayed to you, LORD.

⁵⁶I begged you to listen. "Help!" I shouted. "Save me!" You answered my prayer

⁵⁷and came when I was in need. You told me, "Don't worry!"

⁵⁸You rescued me and saved my life.

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵I tell you not to worry about your life. Don't worry about having something to eat, drink, or wear. Isn't life more than food or clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth more than birds? ²⁷Can worry make you live longer? ²⁸Why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow. They don't work hard to make their clothes. ²⁹But I tell you that Solomon with all his wealth^[1] wasn't as well clothed as one of them. ³⁰God gives such beauty to everything that grows in the fields, even though it is here today and thrown into a fire tomorrow. He will surely do even more for you! Why do you have such little faith? ³¹Don't worry and ask yourselves, "Will we have anything to eat? Will we have anything to drink? Will we have any clothes to wear?" ³²Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things. Your Father in heaven knows that you need all of these. ³³But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well. ³⁴Don't worry about tomorrow. It will take care of itself. You have enough to worry about today.

Matthew 8:14-17

¹⁴Jesus went to the home of Peter, where he found that Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with fever. ¹⁵He took her by the hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and served Jesus a meal. ¹⁶That evening many people with demons in them were brought to Jesus. And with only a word he forced out the evil spirits and healed everyone who was sick. ¹⁷So God's promise came true, just as the prophet Isaiah had said, "He healed our diseases and made us well."

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. ³⁰This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.

Luke 4:38-41a

³⁸Jesus left the meeting place and went to Simon's home. When Jesus got there, he was told that Simon's mother-in-law was sick with a high fever. ³⁹So Jesus went over to her and ordered the fever to go away. Right then she was able to get up and serve them a meal. ⁴⁰After the sun had set, people with all kinds of diseases were brought to Jesus. He put his hands on each one of them and healed them.

⁴¹Demons went out of many people and shouted, "You are the Son of God!"

John 10:27-29

⁷ My sheep know my voice, and I know them. They follow me, ²⁸ and I give them eternal life, so that they will never be lost. No one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father gave them to me, and he is greater than all others. No one can snatch them from his hands, ³⁰ and I am one with the Father.

John 15:12-17

¹² Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you. ¹³ The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them. ¹⁴ And you are my friends, if you obey me. ¹⁵ Servants don't know what their master is doing, and so I don't speak to you as my servants. I speak to you as my friends, and I have told you everything that my Father has told me. ¹⁶ You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. Then my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. ¹⁷ So I command you to love each other.

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

³¹ What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? ³² God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? ³³ If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? ³⁴ Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us. ³⁵ Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death. ³⁷ In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. ³⁸ I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, ³⁹ and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Revelation 1:17-18

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead person. But he put his right hand on me and said: Don't be afraid! I am the first, the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, but now I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys to death and the world of the dead.

Scripture quotations: Contemporary English Version (CEV)

Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society

Resources taken from www.lutheranchurch-canada.ca, www.elcic.ca, www.elca.org, www.thenalc.org, www.lutheranworld.org