

Service for Prayer on the National Day of Prayer

St. John's Episcopal Church

May 1, 2025



*No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here*

Invitatory and Psalter

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Psalm 119

Your word is a lantern to my feet
And a light upon my path.

I have sworn and am determined
to keep your righteous judgments.

I am deeply troubled;
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.

Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your judgments.

My life is always in my hand,
yet I do not forget your law.

The wicked have set a trap for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.

Your decrees are my inheritance for ever;
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes
for ever and to the end.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

**The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,**

**So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

**The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.**

**The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

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

The Lessons

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah

**With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?**

**He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The Prayers

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer;
And let our cry come to you.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

For the Human Family

*O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:
Look with compassion on the whole human family;
take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;
break down the walls that separate us;
unite us in bonds of love;
and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth;
that, in your good time,
all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prayer For the Nation (BCP. p. 258)

*Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory,
to serve you in freedom and in peace:
Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

For an Election (adapted from BCP p. 822)

*Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges:
Guide the people of the United States
in the election of a president and other officials and representatives;
give us clarity in our electoral process in the weeks ahead;
give us the gift of a peaceful election;
grant us clear understanding of our electoral results;
and bring us to new unity in our country,
that, by faithful administration and wise laws,
the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

For our Country (BCP p. 820)

*Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage:
We humbly ask that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor
and glad to do your will.
Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners.
Save us from violence, discord, and confusion;
from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.
Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people
the multitudes brought here out of many kindreds and tongues.
Endue with the spirit of wisdom
those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government,
that there may be justice and peace at home,
and that, through obedience to your law,
we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth.
In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness,
and in the day of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail;
all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

For Social Justice

*Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart
and especially the hearts of the people of this land,
that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease;
that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

For Peace

*Eternal God,
in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness,
no strength known but the strength of love:
So mightily spread abroad your Spirit,
that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace,
as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

For Peace Among the Nations

*Almighty God our heavenly Father,
guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth,
and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness,
that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Prayer For Sound Government (BCP. p. 821)

*O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land,
that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and
a blessing to other nations of the earth.*

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

*To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States,
Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority,
grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.*

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

*To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and
Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people,
and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.*

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

*To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity,
that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.*

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

*And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and
to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens,
that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions
for the well-being of our society;
that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.*

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

For Local Government

*Almighty God our heavenly Father,
send down upon those who hold office in this State of California,
and the Cities of Chula Vista and San Diego
the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice;
that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices
to promote the well-being of all people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prayer for the President of the United States

and All in Civil Authority (BCP. p. 820)

*O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world:
We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence,
we may dwell secure in your peace.
Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in
authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of
truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this
people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.*

For Cities

*Heavenly Father,
in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City
to which the nations of the world bring their glory:
Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth.
Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life.
Send us honest and able leaders.
Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression,
that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order,
and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents
may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prayers of Intercession or Thanksgiving

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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