

Prayer Before a National Election

GREENVILLE AREA CHRISTIAN MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 6, 2022 HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF PRAYER BEFORE A NATIONAL ELECTION

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

A LITANY OF THANKS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Glory to you, O God, for creating the human race
and for endowing us with the mystery of your image.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

For Africans and Asians and Indians,
for Australians and Europeans and Americans,
and for tribal peoples and island dwellers,
we bless you, O God.

We bless you, O God.

For blacks and whites and yellows,
for browns and reds and those in between,
and for their children of every hue,
we exalt you, O God.

We exalt you, O God.

For Hindus and Buddhists and Muslims,
for Jews and Christians and all God-fearing people,
and for all who care for the earth and for one another,
we magnify you, O God.

We magnify you, O God.

For newborns and toddlers,
for children and youth,
and for adults and the aged,
we extol you, O God.

We extol you, O God.

For the healthy and the infirm,
for the worker and the owner,
for those we admire and those we fear,

we glorify you, O God.
We glorify you, O God.

For persons who lead,
for persons who follow,
and for those who walk alone,
we adore you, O God.
We adore you, O God.

To all the human family,
Make us a blessing.
We bless you, O God.
We bless you, O God.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might
be to you, our God, forever and ever.
Amen.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

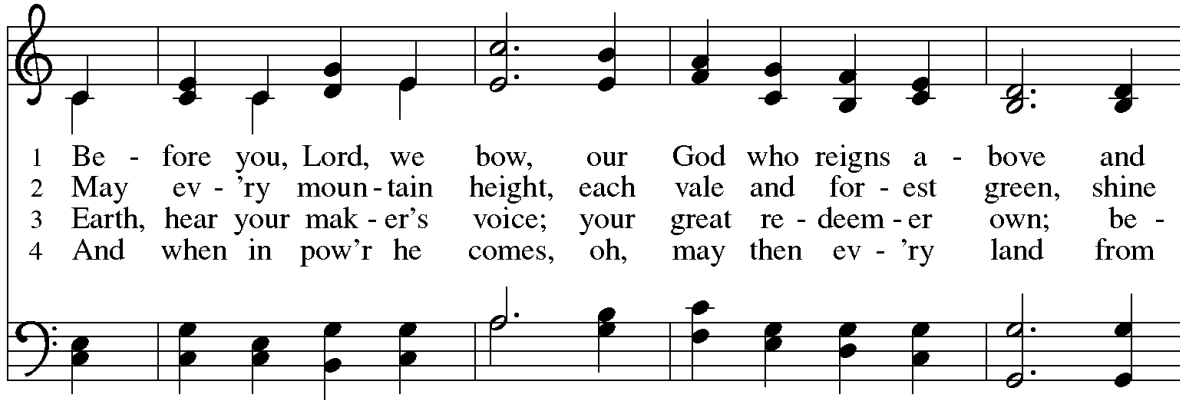
OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

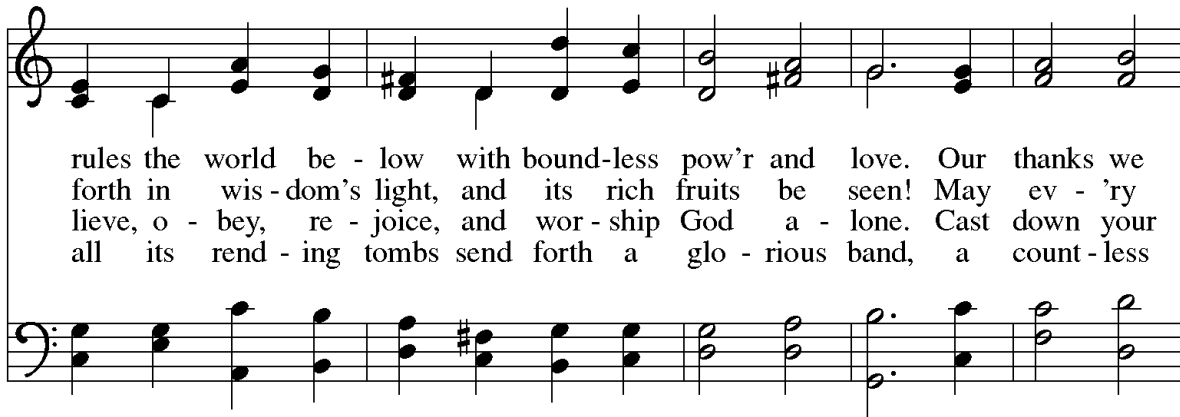
O God of steadfast love, you are near to those who call, to all who cry out to you for help. Hear our cries and save us, grant to us your grace and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SILENCE

Before You, Lord, We Bow



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
2 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -
4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound - less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
lieve, o - bey, re - jice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your
all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!
tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection, and song.

Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

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

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SILENCE

Reading: Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are
gone.**

Who regards the power of your wrath?

Who rightly fears your indignation?

**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?

Be gracious to your servants.

**Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us
and as many years as we suffered adversity.

**Show your servants your works,
and your splendor to their children.**

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

SILENCE

Reading

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe — the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans--born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage--and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. ...

Let us begin anew — remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.

Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us.

Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths and encourage the arts and commerce.

Let both sides unite to heed in all corners of the earth the command of Isaiah — to "undo the heavy burdens . . . (and) let the oppressed go free." ...

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility — I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it — and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.

(from the inaugural address of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, January 20, 1961)

SILENCE

Reading: Matthew 25:31-40

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SILENCE

Reflection

SILENCE

PRAYER

The Holy Spirit prays with us and through us.

Let us pray.

God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves and to strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor those

vows and pray for our nation in this election season, for wise and just leaders, and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.

We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

God of peace and gentleness,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our siblings throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future.

God of generosity and compassion,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all nations, that they may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give.

God of liberty and freedom,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all elected leaders, and those seeking office, that they be guided in ways of care and justice for all the people who they represent.

God of all peace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice.

God of all gifts and blessings,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we will respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws.

God of fellowship and equality,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for a reverence of creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

God of nature and the universe,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, that they may be welcomed in our midst and be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

God of outcasts and wanderers,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God's loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer.

God of comfort and healing,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God's grace.

God of absolution and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be relieved and protected.

God of children and families,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of your healing love.

God of outreach and restoration,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart.

God of eternal life and resurrecting love,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of your Son. Watch over our country now and in the days ahead, guide our leaders and all who will vote, guide them in all knowledge and truth and make your ways known among all people. In the passion of debate give them a quiet spirit; in the complexities of the issues give them courageous hearts. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SILENCE

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Beloved in the Lord,
God has shown you what is good.
What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,

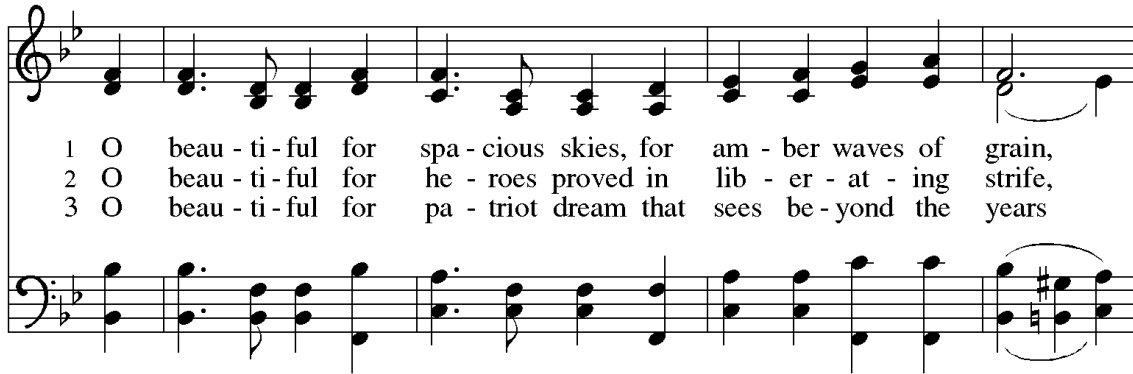
and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

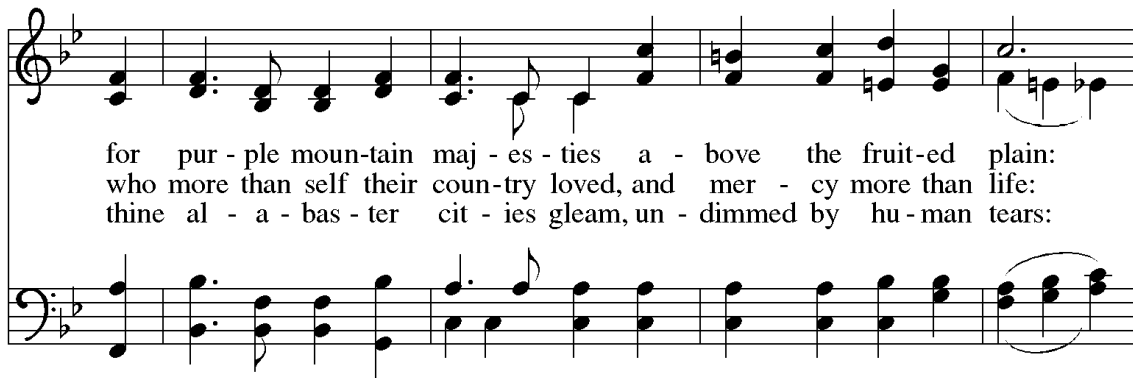
Amen.



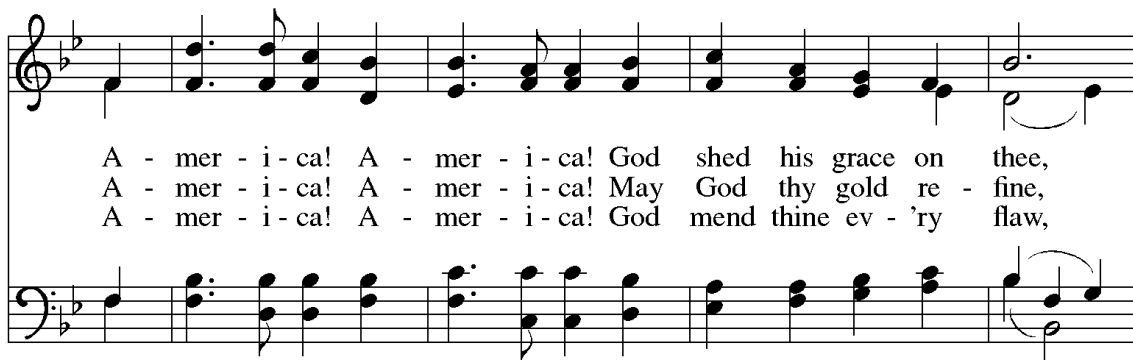
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



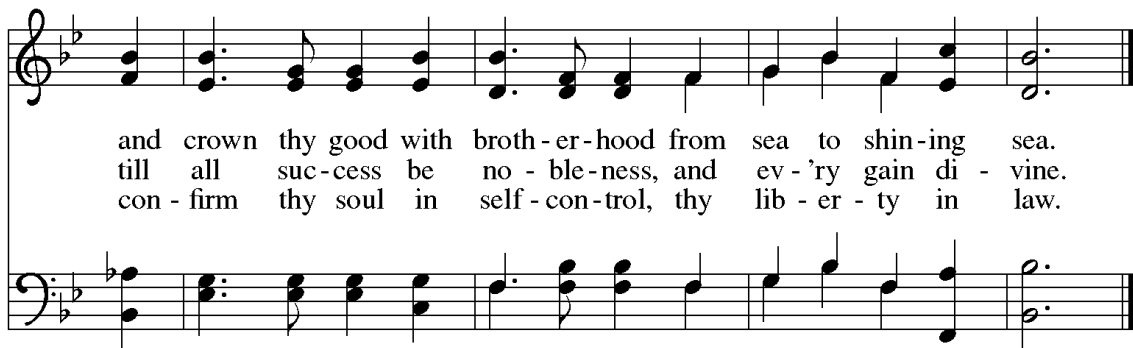
1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

Participating in this service:

The Rev. David Dobi, pastor, First Presbyterian Church

Deacon Frank Luciani, St. Michael's Church

The Rev. Brenda Martin, pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

The Rev. Nicole Pickens, pastor, St. Mark's United Church of Christ, New Hamburg,
and Zion's United Church of Christ, Transfer

The Rev. Brian Riddle, campus pastor, Thiel College

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

“A Litany of Thanks,” from “Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table,” Gail Ramshaw. Copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission.

Some materials from Vote Faithfully Toolkit resources compiled by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, United Church of Christ and Episcopal Church. Prayers from Presbyterian Church USA.



O God,
we live in a time of peril and promise.
We ask that you infuse each of us,
voters and candidates for elected office,
with a longing for peace
and the common good
of all your people and creation.

Rooted in the Gospel,
with this intention deep in our hearts,
we place our trust in You,
O God,
and in the power of our communal
prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of the Adrian Dominicans - Adapted

