

JOIN WITH US



LENT 2014

Prayers to go with daily scripture readings

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Isaiah 58:1-12

Gracious and Loving God, bring your power to remove our sinful chains, to tear away the ropes of the burdensome yoke, and to set free the oppressed. May your light shine through us regardless of our brokenness. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Richard Egtvedt

Student, Delaware-Maryland Synod

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Psalms 51

God of all Creation, we lift up in prayer those who are suffering from the lack of religious freedoms all over the world. We pray that you will open up our ears and eyes to hear and see their cries. Lead us into the renewing of our minds by giving us new experiences outside of our faith communities. Give us the courage to go where the Spirit leads us, and empower us as individuals and communities of faith to work for peace. May we be your instruments of peace where peace seems impossible. In your Holy Name, Amen.

The Rev. Ricky A. Phillips

Student, Alumni, Pastor, Mazeppa Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, PA, Upper Susquehanna Synod

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Jonah 4:1-11

Loving God, we often feel weak and afraid until we remember that your care and love for us appeared in the person of your Son, Jesus Christ who life, death and resurrection was for us. Strengthen us so we can feel your Holy

Spirit lift our eyes to behold Christ's cross and your victory. Amen.

The Rev. John Fehringer

Volunteer, Alumnus, Retired, Upstate New York Synod

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Isaiah 58:1-12

Holy God, in this time of Lent, we remember all that you have given us, including food to nourish and sustain our bodies. Guide us in your ways of justice, that we may seek after you in all we do. Help us to more willingly serve others, sharing what we have been given and welcoming those who are strangers to us. We pray this in your name, Amen.

Kristen Papson

Student, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Matthew 4:1-11

Heavenly Lord, guide our path upward to you and teach us the ways of your loving justice. Chastise us yet with mercy for manipulating the resources of your creation to reap a harvest of death against our neighbor, and cause us to cease from the folly of war forever more. Amen.

Dr. B. Bohleke

Library Director and Archivist, Lower Susquehanna Synod

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Psalms 32

Compassionate God, you see us better than we see ourselves. You know all our transgressions and forgive

them because of your unending love. Often we imagine our sins are too great for even you to forgive and that we are no longer worthy of your love or welcomed into your presence, but you never forsake us. We give thanks for your mercy and compassion, we rejoice in your righteousness, in your victory over sin and death, and we ask that you help us to forgive others as you always forgive us. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Nicole Miller

Student, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Genesis 4:1-16

God of Compassion, help us to acknowledge and face the sin lurking at our doors. Guide us in keeping watch over all of your children so the blood of our brothers and sisters does not cry out from the ground. May our offerings find favor with you this Lenten season. Amen.

Michael Lengel

Student, Lower Susquehanna Synod

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28

Merciful and gracious God, we thank you for the gift of your commandments written not to condemn us, but out of your great love and compassion. Led by your Holy Spirit, we come seeking not to be filled by food and drink, but by your forgiveness and healing. Give us the courage to be true to your covenant as we seek justice for all people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Edwina Landry

Student, New England Synod



THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Psalm 121

Our Father, our hands are open to receive the blessings of this table — food and drink, relationships and love — signs of your ever-present care. Through these gifts, preserve us in your love as we go forth to share your love and as we return to celebrate your faithfulness. In all our travels, remind us again that our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen.

Samuel Chamelin

Student, United Church of Christ

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Micah 7:18-20

God of Compassion, during this time of Lenten reflection and repentance, we find ourselves simply asking, “Who can compare to you?” You hear our prayers for mercy and pass over our iniquities, casting all our sins far away. Thank you for your unrequited love and steadfast faithfulness. Nourish us through these forty days as we fast with your Word and in your presence. Amen.

Betty Lou Deuchler

Student, Delaware-Maryland Synod

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Luke 7:1-10

Holy and wonderful God, while we at times are quick to judge others, let us remember that we are not without sin and as such have no place condemning our sisters and brothers. Give us a heart full of love and not hate so that we can forgive as we have been forgiven. Let our Lenten discipline be one of seeking to love and not condemn. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

David Petr

Student, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Genesis 12:1-4a

Creator God, you send us out on journeys known and unknown with the promise of life abundant. We raise our hearts and voices in praise to you for what you have given to nourish us along the way. As we travel through life, bless our lives and enable us to be blessings to others. Amen.

Ellen Lundie

Student, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Numbers 21:4-9

Dear Lord, there are times in this Lenten season when we feel as if we are in a barren desert . . . alone, without you and afraid among the poisonous snakes. As Moses lifted the bronze snake on a pole, so too, you are lifted on a cross, assuring us of your eternal love, forgiveness and patience. Give us the peace that comes with the confidence of your steadfast presence in our lives. Amen.

Paul W. Wangerin

Seminary Board of Directors, West

Virginia-Western Maryland Synod

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Psalm 128

Generous God, we are overwhelmed by the abundance of your gifts. We thank you for the many blessings that you bestow upon us. You give us the fruit of our labors, the gift of family, a long life with dignity and value. Help us to walk in your ways and rejoice in your blessings. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

MaryLou Matthews

Student, Upper Susquehanna Synod

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

John 7:53-8:11

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you invite and welcome our prayers especially in times of crisis even onto the

point of death. Strengthen our trust in your ongoing presence, love, and support even when we do not always see it or sense it. Draw near always to us so that we live with you in our lives no matter what may come in life. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Richard P. Carlson

Glatfelter Professor of Biblical Studies, Director of Internship, and Coordinator of Post-Internship Candidacy, Allegheny Synod

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Colossians 1:15-23

Creating God, we rejoice that from the beginning of time you have held the universe and all its creatures in your loving hands. We thank you for coming into your creation in the flesh in Jesus Christ, through whom you draw the whole world to yourself in love. Help us to trust in your infinite mercy and to hope boldly. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen

Seminary Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Metropolitan D.C. Synod

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Ephesians 2:11-22

Come, Lord Jesus, and enter into us, your dwelling place. Bless us and those who sit at tables together around the globe, that we may be brought near to each other in peace. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Joseph Graumann

Student, New Jersey Synod

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Psalm 95

O Rock of our Salvation, you made all of creation and hold it in your hand, including us. In our lives, however, we do not always follow your ways. We ask that you forgive us when we rebel and test you and that you remain faithful to your children. Amen.

Christine Kirchner

Student, Pacifica Synod



SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Exodus 17:1-17

As we prepare ourselves to observe and re-experience the death and resurrection of our Lord, it is good to remember that everything we have, everything we eat and drink, everything we enjoy, is a gift from God. And we need to remember that asking and giving help, supporting and being supported by our fellow believers, is at the heart of what the Church means. Moses could not bring the people out of Egypt and through the wilderness without God's help, and that of Aaron and others. It is interesting that Moses holding up his arms to direct Joshua and his army formed the sign of the cross. But even Moses, strong as he was, needed help to continue to hold up his arms. Like us, he needed the vertical, as well as the horizontal dimensions in his life. Lord, give us the wisdom to seek your help and the help of others as we seek your grace. Amen.

Robert Oshlo
Spouse of Student, Nebraska Synod

MONDAY, MARCH 24

2 John 1-13

God of love, we praise you and give thanks for the gifts of children and family and friends. We pray that you may keep us in faithful love, guard us from temptation and protect us from deception that would lead us astray. As you keep us within your circle of love, always remind us to practice your love and not just speak it. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your only Son, whose sacrifice on the cross revealed your perfect love. Amen.

Barbara Krumm
Student, Virginia Synod

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Triune God, we give thanks for the many ways that you nourish us. So often we fill our lives with spiritual junk

food instead of enjoying your feast of mercy and grace. Help us turn to that which truly satisfies: your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

David Sensenig
Student, Metro DC Synod

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Psalm 81

Gracious God, sing and shout! For You, O Lord, let this our blessing be: May all creation sound the gong along the way. Nourished by your Love and Word are we, not only at this table place, but in all space! We give you everlasting praise. Amen.

Carol Black
Student, Upper Susquehanna Synod

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

1 Samuel 15:10-21

Gracious Lord, Eternal Savior, we are your people. As with the Israelites of old we call out for our God to appoint for us a king. Yet our king comes not from the multitudes of men, but from the Father. Guide us as we wait patiently in His glory, to follow our King, the Word made flesh, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Rev. Jeremiah A. Sassaman
Alumni Association President, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Ephesians 5:1-9

Gracious God, as the season of spring leads us out of winter darkness and into longer hours of daylight, so may we, by faith in your Son, Jesus Christ, bring light and life to the world around us. Strengthen us day by day through your grace, enabling us to seek out, lift up, and show forth in our lives that which is good and right and true, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The Rev. Julia L. Fraser
Seminary Board of Directors, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Psalm 23

Comforting God, you promise to be with us "through the darkest hour" and, as the days of Lent move us with Jesus toward the dark hour of his cross, we ask you to walk beside us as the Good Shepherd. May your Spirit lead us beside still waters, restore our broken and lonely souls, and guide us in right paths. Comfort us with your Shepherd-presence in our walk toward Golgotha and the hope that lies beyond. Amen.

The Rev. Glenn E. Ludwig
Vice President of Seminary Advancement, West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

1 Samuel 16:1-13

My dearest Jesus, my Christ, after all that you have done for me, what else could I ask of you, but show me what I can do for you in return, and for you in my neighbor. I eat this bread, and cherish this meal, in deepest gratitude. I humbly sing your praises, for the food you grant for my soul, for the balsam you pour on my sorrows, for the nourishment you provide for my body, and for the healing of my spirit.

The Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna
Professor of Reformation Church History and Director of the Institute for Luther Studies, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Acts 9:1-20

God of all grace, you lead us on paths yet unknown to us. Cease our judgments of one another, and reconcile all the earth to Your loving kindness. May all our acts be proclamation of our Lord Jesus.

Andrew Wagner
Student, United Church of Christ



TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Colossians 1:9-14

Lord we pray for those who do not yet know your love and grace. May they learn your glory strength and spill over in joy. Amen.

Christina McGrath Fair

Spouse of Student, Lower Susquehanna Synod

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Matthew 9:27-34

Lord, you give sight to the blind and speech to the mute. Be with us as we journey with you to the cross. Give us the courage to proclaim the gospel and wrestle with our own demons. Amen.

Zachary Baer

Student, Southeastern Synod

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Revelation 10:1-11

The mighty angel warns John that the delay of judgment is no more and that John must “eat” the scroll. John must make the book part of his inner being. Help us also to make your word part of our inmost being and proclaim Christ’s victory in all lands and to all people. Amen.

Allison Johnson

Student, Greater Milwaukee Synod

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Psalms 130

O Lord, our hope, and our salvation, we cry out in thanksgiving to you for all that you have given to us. Thank you for the food that sustains us, those who prepared it, and all those gathered around this table. We await your coming with great anticipation, knowing that all you do is out of love for your people. Amen.

Adam Buff

Student, North Carolina Synod

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Luke 24:44-53

God of Blessings, we are a people lacking in understanding what you have instructed; have mercy mercy upon us. The deafness we have to your Word and blessing is our sin; have mercy upon us. Give us patience and humility to admit to our weaknesses so that we can recognize your blessings and mercy, and so that we can worship you for your abounding love and sacrifice. Amen.

Nicole Welke

Student, East-Central Wisconsin Synod

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Exekiel 37:1-14

Heavenly Father, we ask you to open our hearts and minds to the word of the Lord. We ask you to open our eyes and ears to the work of the Holy Spirit among us. Help us come together to do your work in our nation, in our communities and in your church. Amen.

James Lakso

Chair Seminary Board of Directors, Allegheny Synod

MONDAY, APRIL 7

1 Kings 17:17-24

Ever-present God, help us grieve the death and destruction that are part of our world and our lives. As we cry out to you from the depths of our being, show us the miracle of breath and the promise of new life. Amen.

Julie Bringman

Student, Metropolitan D.C. Synod

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

2 Kings 4:18-37

Lord of Life, we are surrounded by death. When the shadows overtake us, keep us from despair and bitterness. Give us the strength to trust in you. Help us to pray when the right words fail us. Grant us to feel your ‘breath’

upon our faces. And ultimately, let us experience Christ whose death has overcome death and whose life has now become our true life. In faith and hope in Christ we pray, Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Mark V. Hoffman

Professor of Biblical Studies, Delaware-Maryland Synod

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Psalms 143

Good and gracious God, you called and claimed us in our baptisms and made us your own, freeing us to do your will as your faithful servants. Many innocent people suffer from distress not of their own making. Our own shortcomings and failure to do your will are manifold. Open our eyes and change our hearts so that we live our days in praise of you. Save us from all our enemies and come to our aid for the sake of your holy name and the name of our beloved Savior. Amen.

The Rev. Cinda J. Brucker

Alumni Association, Pastor-Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hughesville, Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna Synod

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Philippians 1:1-11

God of Joy, help us to remember how you have worked the wonders of your grace through us; and to always be aware of the stirring of the gospel within us, calling us to serve. Complete your work in us, so we may joyfully serve both friend and stranger, that your good works will be known to all. Amen.

The Rev. Danny Hammons

Student, Alumnus, Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Gales Ferry, Connecticut, New England Synod

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Job 13:13-19

Gracious God, in Job we find a faithful servant who has lost his family, his eco-



conomic security and his health. We ask that you open our hearts to those in our community, nation and world who have suffered similar losses, that we may be a source of hope and encouragement in the midst of their struggles. Help us to hunger for justice and peace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
Kathryn Lawler
Student, Metropolitan New York Synod

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Mark 10:32-34

God our death and resurrection, reveal to our hearts the mystery of your resurrection and help us to understand that through your death and resurrection you have conquered all our fears. May your gift of grace to us help us to be your faithful disciples seeking always to follow you and not as we want to go. We make our prayer through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.
Godfred Effisah
Student, Metropolitan D.C. Synod

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Matthew 21:1-11

As we enter this holy week, open our ears to hear your Word, and give us the strength and the will to follow. May your Spirit dwell in us, that our voices may join the crowds in the refrain, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Amen.
The Rev. Kelley M. Ketcham
Alumni Association Executive Committee,
Northeastern Ohio Synod

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Isaiah 42:1-9

We give you thanks, loving and tireless God, for spreading out the blessings of this table, the delights of food and companionship. We pray for each other and for all your creation: strengthen the weak; encourage the flagging, satisfy all who hunger for justice and

for healing. Let your new work spring forth with blessings for all of your creation; through your Servant-Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg
Dean of the Chapel and Steck-Miller Professor of the Art of Worship, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

John 12:20-36

Today you plant new seeds of life within us with the reminder of the need for seeds to die to produce abundant fruit. We give thanks for daily food that nourishes us in mind and body. We pray that we will respond to your many gifts to us with lives that are fruitful in Jesus name. Amen.

Bishop Ralph W. Duncan
Seminary Board of Directors, West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Hebrews 12:1-3

Loving God, as we enter into this holy week let us not grow weary or lose heart. Though the darkness may seem to entangle us let us fix our eyes on Jesus and his endurance for us on the cross. In the midst of our weariness we thank you for the gift of your son and the love you shower us with. God you are great. Amen.

Felicia Swartz
Student, Upper Susquehanna Synod

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Lord of all, we thank you for the many blessings you give us: for this meal, for your presence in the communion meal, and for a community with which to share it. Strengthen us with this food, that we may proclaim your life and death until you come again. Amen.

Kerri Clark
Student, Virginia Synod

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Hebrews 10:16-25

Merciful God, we give you thanks for the forgiveness you grant us through the precious and holy blood of your son Jesus Christ. Strengthen our resolve in difficult times through the knowledge of this forgiveness, and help us to lift up one another in the faith and to share the hope we profess with the whole world. Amen.

Patrick Ballard
Student, North Carolina Synod

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Romans 6:3-11

Holy God of love, resurrection, and life, we await the joy of celebrating the Resurrection. Thank you for embracing us in your love to bring us in to new life. As we have died with Christ so we shall live again by your Grace through Jesus our Lord and Savior. Fill us with your Spirit so we may embrace and reflect to others the Grace which you have so freely given us. Amen.

Rick Rutten
Spouse of Student, Rocky Mountain Synod

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

John 20:1-18

Oh, God, today we receive the greatest news the world has ever heard. Filled with the joy of Easter, our hearts declare, "He is Risen!" Give us boldness and courage to join with Mary in declaring "We have seen the Lord!" Help us together be your Resurrection People. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Michael Cooper-White
12th and current President of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg