



Michigan District Prayer Vigil

Prayer Guide

Introduction

Thank you for choosing to participate in this Prayer Vigil.

Your passion for prayer is evident in the sacrifice of time you are making today. As you come to Him, be certain and confident that God will hear and answer these prayers. He will provide you with all you need to put Jesus' words into practice.

If you find your mind wandering or if you have additional time, begin to meditate on one of the suggested Scripture passages relating to the Vigil's theme. They are listed for you on the last page of this document. May this time of prayer and meditation with our Lord open your heart more fully and prepare you for the many challenges and blessings that lie ahead!

Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Precious Lord,

We come to You now asking for the Holy Spirit's counsel in maintaining unity within our congregations and seeking Your guidance through this time of pandemic. Forgive us for the many times we try to go it alone, aim for our own selfish desires, and forget about our commitments to You. Help us to become the people You want us to be, to seek first Your kingdom, and make You the Lord of our lives.

Often, we are uncertain about what to do or which way to turn. We seek Your will, through the Holy Spirit, and ask You to open our hearts more fully. Show us how to develop a lifestyle in harmony with Your commands so that we may experience Your guidance in a special way. Show us where we may be used by You in overcoming obstacles within our paths. Bring peace upon our souls with the knowledge that You will use all difficulties for our betterment and for the growth of Your kingdom.

Lord, thank You first and foremost for sending Your Son, Jesus, to restore our relationship with You. Because of Him, we can now have life and live more abundantly. Let our eyes remain fixed on the motivation for all we do or hope to accomplish—the cross. May we never forget Christ's willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice by giving His life on our behalf in order to pay our sin debt. We look forward with gratitude to the journey that lies ahead and put our entire trust in Your open and enfolding arms.

In Your Son's Holy and precious name, we pray. AMEN.

Sunday, May 24 – Worship and Pastors

For the third day of our Michigan District Prayer Vigil, we are focusing on our walk together, our worship and our church workers. We have 358 congregations across the state of Michigan. Congregations with a long history and some with a recent beginning. Congregations overlooking a great lake, and others overlooking a great harvest. Today we pray for our worshiping communities. The Saints that by grace fill our sanctuary. The people of God purchased by the crucified and risen Savior. Below you will find a sample prayer. Following that prayer, you will find verses gathered under different petitions for the church. You are invited to read the Bible verses and then **pray that petition as you are led by the verses.**

Sample Prayer

Lord Jesus, we ask You to shine the light of Your love upon Your Church. That we, being instructed by the truth of the apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth. Grant to Your people Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and take them to heart that, by the power and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the precious hope of everlasting life. Father, you desire not the death of a sinner, but that all would repent and live. Allow Your Church to proclaim Your love and truth to all people so that all may be saved. Give our church body faithful pastors who proclaim Christ, who love Your sheep, and who teach nothing contrary to your Word. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Petition for Humility & Confession as we Seek the Lord

"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place" (2 Chron. 7:14–15).

. . . Lord, hear our prayer!

A Petition to Follow Jesus

"And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (Luke 9:23–24).

. . . Lord, hear our prayer!

A Petition to Proclaim Jesus

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation'" (Mark 16:15).

"Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:22–24).

. . . Lord, hear our prayer!

A Petition for Unity in Christ Among a Diverse Church Body

"I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1–3).

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28).

. . . Lord, hear our Prayer!

A Petition to Love One Another

“By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

. . . Lord, hear our Prayer!

A Petition of Protection and Boldness

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18).

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Tim. 2:12–14).

. . . Lord, hear our Prayer!

A Petition for our Pastors and Elders

“This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” (1 Cor. 4:1–2).

“So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:11–13).

. . . Lord, hear our Prayer!

Other petitions:

. . . for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

God, we thank You for the graciousness You extend to us as You hear our prayer requests. Sometimes we become confused about what You want from us. Sometimes we focus more on successful service to You rather than on having the proper relationship with You. Give us the understanding of how the words of Christ will allow us to come to a better understanding of what You want for us. We lay these petitions before You with anticipation and excitement about the way You will choose to answer them. Help us to continue in fervent prayer in the days ahead so we remain faithful for the rest of our lives. We give You all the praise and glory for what You are going to do in the hearts and minds of all in the Michigan District. In Jesus’ name, AMEN.

Suggested Scripture Readings

- Matthew 11:28 : Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Psalm 46:10 : Be still and know that I am God
- Psalm 145:4 : One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 : All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.
- Colossians 4:2 : Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
- Romans 12:1 : Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- Mark 6:31 : Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.
- Luke 15:23 : Let's have a feast and celebrate.
- Mark 2:27 : The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
- Ephesians 4:32 : Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- Philippians 2:12 : If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.