



# 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.

## **Monday, May 25 – Our Country, its Government, Military Personnel, Medical Personnel, First Responders, and our State**

For this fourth and final day of our Michigan District Prayer Vigil, we are focusing on the many blessings we enjoy while living in the United States of America. We remember its military personnel who over the years have fought for, and often given their lives for, the many freedoms we enjoy—especially our religious freedom, and that they still defend our country to this day from its enemies. This is also an opportunity for us to pray that God would rid us of another ‘enemy’—the COVID-19 virus—that has affected our country and the world. We pray for medical personnel and first responders, who risk their lives in serving others that their life might be preserved. We finally pray on this day for our beloved Michigan. May she be rid of this virus, get back to work, be divinely helped and healed while dealing with the flooding and other catastrophic emergencies that have crippled her and her citizens in various ways ... and in ALL OF THIS, that God’s people are diligent to be the salt and light God intends us to be among our neighbors and communities who are watching. By grace through faith, we, after all, are those who know what it means to be rescued NOW and eternally from sin, death, and the devil.

Below you will find a sample prayer. Following that prayer, you will find Scripture references that will help us focus as we pray about the many topics listed above. You are invited to read the Bible verses and then **pray as you are led by ... something that you’ve read in a verse, a few of the verses, all the verses, and especially by God’s Holy Spirit Who is working through the Word.**

### **Sample Prayer**

Holy Jesus, Loving Father, Sanctifying Holy Spirit, thank You for being the only, amazing, loving God that You are. By Your invitation we come to You burdened and weighed down, seeking Your mercy and knowing that for Christ’s sake, You will hear and answer. Please be with, guide and protect our country—its government, military personnel, medical personnel, first responders, and also our beloved State of Michigan. You alone know the healing that we need in every area of life, in every place where we live. Give us spiritual eyes to see where you are working and your Holy Spirit to walk in Your ways as we are led to obey, serve, and pray. Truly, it is Your desire that all men would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Therefore, we implore You that, through the light of Your Word and the power of the Holy Spirit in us and through our continual thankfulness to You and Your love—especially during this time of the pandemic, its many unintended consequences, and now the flooding—would be a bold witness to everyone ... that they would ask us to give an account for the hope that is in us, a hope that we could share with gentleness and reverence. All this we are bold to pray in Your holy name. Amen.

### **Scriptures to look to God alone for protection from our enemies (whoever, whatever they may be) and to heal our land**

2 Chronicles 20:1–13 (and following)

2 Chronicles 7:1–6, 10–15

**Scriptures on following Jesus/trusting God, being blessed through difficulties, and being a witness to others and loving one another**

2 Corinthians 1:1–11

Matthew 5:1–16

Romans 8:28–39

John 13:35

**A Scripture passage encouraging our respect, honor, prayers for government and our faith-filled response of obedience**

Romans 13:1–14

**Please close your time of prayer by confessing the Apostle’s Creed and praying the Lord’s prayer.**

May God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be with you all.

## **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.