



## 2024 Prayer Guide for St. Mark Lutheran Church

**“Seek the Lord and His strength, seek his presence continually,” 1 Chronicles 16:11**

How thankful we can be that we can enter into prayers with our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Mark Lutheran Church, a church body which is strongly rooted in the truth of God’s Word and in the belief that God is fully alive and calling us to follow Him.

Communicating with God - speaking *and* listening to Him - is one of the great gifts and privileges of being his child. It should be the centerpiece of your spiritual journey. Prayer is a wonderful gift, an ever-accessible. So as we enter into 2024 Easter Season and the rest of 2024, we do so in the confidence that God is listening to our prayers and answering them in His perfect way. We seek revival of St. Mark Lutheran Church, our community, nation and the world. Revival is birthed in ongoing prayer and it begins with YOU.

For these Days of Transition, we are simply asking that you take time each day using this booklet, the *St. Mark 2024 Prayer Brochure*, and the *Youth Prayer Guide* to pray for (1) the concerns presented, (2) adding whatever prayers you may be inspired to say and you may (3) join with others near and far in prayer. Please take an extra copy of the booklet and give it to a friend. They too will be enriched by the passages and following prayers.

## Why Should We Pray?

NOTE: Christian service is most effective when prayer not only precedes it, but also flows together with it. When prayer is overlooked or appended as an afterthought to service, the power of God is often absent.

Here are ten reasons why.

1. Prayer enhances our fellowship and intimacy with God (Psalm 116:1-2; Jeremiah 33:2-3).
2. The Scriptures command us to pray (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Timothy 2:1).
3. When we pray, we follow the example of Christ and other great people in Scripture like Moses and Elijah (Mark 1:35; Number 11:2; 1 Kings 18:36-37).
4. Prayer appropriates God's power for our lives (John 15:5; Acts 4:31; Ephesians 3:16; Colossians 4:2-4).
5. We receive special help from God when we pray (Hebrews 4:16).
6. Prayer makes a genuine difference (Luke 11:9-10; James 5:16-18). As William Temple is attributed to observing, "When I pray, coincidences happen; when I don't, they don't."
7. Prayer develops our understanding and knowledge of God (Psalms 37:3-6; 63:1-8; Ephesians 1:16-19).
8. Our prayers and God's answers give us joy and peace in our hearts (John 16:23-21; Philippians 4:4-7). Our problems may not disappear, but in prayer we gain a new perspective on our problems along with the peace and patience to stand firm.
9. Prayer helps us understand and accomplish God's purposes for our lives (Colossians 1:9-11).
10. Prayer changes our attitudes and desires (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).<sup>1</sup>



### Suggestions for Enhancing Your Practice of Prayer<sup>2</sup>

- Choose the best time. Select a particular time of the day, and dedicate it only to personal prayer.
- Choose the best place. Where there will be a minimum of interruptions and distractions.
- Set a minimum time for daily prayer. Try to be realistic - don't attempt too much at first, or prayer life will become mechanical and discouraging. "In prayer, quality is always better

than quantity."

- Be consistent. Picture it as a daily appointment you have made with God and respect it as much.
- Focus on the person of God. Prepare your heart and mind for prayer by releasing all stresses and concerns and giving them to the Lord. (1 Peter 5:7).

- Come before Him in humility. Judge yourself to be sure that you are approaching him honesty and openness, with no barriers of unconfessed sin, because he hates sin and cover-ups.
- Come expectantly to the throne. Come in simplicity and trust like a child to a father. Expect the supernatural - ask Him for something only he can do (Genesis 18:14) and watch what happens.
- Pray at all times in the Spirit. “We do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26).
- Strive for a balanced diet. Our prayers should incorporate adoration, confession, supplication (intercession and petition), and thanksgiving.
- Pray Scripture back to God. By personalizing passages of Scripture and offering them back to the Lord, you integrate them in your life and experience and think God’s after Him.
- Do not do all the talking. Practice time of silence before the Lord so that you can be sensitive to the prompting of His Spirit.
- Make prayer a part of your relationships with people. Prayer should be a part of the home and part of Christian friendships.
- Practice the presence of God. In this way, each task is rendered in his name and done in conscious dependence on him.
- We should to seek to cultivate the practice of praying for others as we see them and talk to them. Watch what affect it has on our attitudes and behavior.
- Begin to associate your work with prayer. “It is not prayer in addition to work, but prayer simultaneous with work.



<sup>1</sup> Boa, Ken, Conformed to His Image, Biblical, Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, Rev. Ed. , Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2021, pp.83-84.

<sup>2</sup> Boa, Ken, Conformed to His Image, Biblical, Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, Rev. Ed. , Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2021, pp.84-8s.

The following is a suggested format for your use during these each day of prayer:

- 1. SUBMITTING TO GOD** – Because of all You have done for me, I present my body to You as a living sacrifice for this day. I want to be transformed by the renewing of my mine, affirming that Your will is good for me and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)

One possible way to begin each time of prayer is to focus your mind by using a prayer known as "The Jesus Prayer." This very simple prayer has been used widely since its introduction in a book, *The Way of the Pilgrim*. This book describes a Russian peasant who traveled around trying to learn how to "pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17) This prayer can be used to quiet the mind. It is short and simple but can also be used for deeper reflection as is demonstrated in the explanation below.

### **The Jesus Prayer:**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on me.**

**Lord** - You are the One who hears our prayer. Lord you are in charge and we are your servants. Help us choose to please the One whom we serve rather than to choose to please ourselves.

**Jesus** - You bless little children and care for people's needs. You are our Friend. You became human and came to fill us up with joy.

**Christ** - You are God's anointed one. You fulfilled God's plan for our salvation. We all belong to you.

**Son of God** - When we speak to You in our prayers, we speak to God. You are the Eternal one of the Eternal Father. We stand in awe before the majesty of the Holy Trinity.

**Have Mercy on us** - Have mercy as we are in need and really can't help ourselves. Your help is a gift we can't earn or repay.

**On Me** - You, God, know us, love us, hear us and have mercy on us personally. **Can be repeated with these additions:**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on \_\_\_\_\_.** (insert a name of one for whom you want to pray)

## **2. ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING**

Offer a brief word of praise to God for one or more of His *attributes* (e.g., love and compassion, grace, mercy, holiness, goodness, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, truthfulness, unchanging character, eternity) and/or *works* (e.g., creation, care, redemption, loving purposes, second coming).

### **1 Chronicles 29:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> Then David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly: "O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel,<sup>[a]</sup> may you be praised forever and ever! <sup>11</sup> Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty.

Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things.

<sup>12</sup> Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything.

Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength. <sup>13</sup> "O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name!

### **Prayer of St. Richard**

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Music links based in St. Richard's prayer <https://youtu.be/-Fqqwkp9eOk>  
and

*Godspell* 70's musical [https://youtu.be/0riOEiK2kqA?si=x6t\\_cydC6LYzbaEF](https://youtu.be/0riOEiK2kqA?si=x6t_cydC6LYzbaEF)



## C- Confession (repent) ...I am sorry

3. **EXAMINATION** Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness. (Psalm 139:23-24)



<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you. Psalm 51:7-13

### Read Psalm 32: 1-7

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup> For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up<sup>[b]</sup> as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.

<sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah*

### Prayer based on Psalm 32

Gracious God you have so blessed us with your forgiveness. When we keep silent about our sins, we suffer; we groan in pain. But as soon as we tell you of our sins, You forgive us and lift our suffering and pain.

Almighty Father, we are often afraid to admit our wrongdoing. We forget to come to you for mercy. Help us remember to call out in prayer. Teach us Your will and the way You choose for us to go. Your love surrounds us when we trust in You, O Lord. We are glad, we rejoice, we shout for joy in Your Love.

## Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.  
<sup>2</sup> to the voice of my supplications!  
<sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
<sup>4</sup> But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered  
<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word, I hope;  
<sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,



### Prayer based on Psalm 130

Merciful Lord, though I daily stray from you and fail to obediently serve you in all my thoughts and actions, you do not abandon me but call me as your beloved child. Thank you for your great mercy. Search the depths of my soul and cleanse me of all that inhibits true obedience to your Word. Cause me to not to rush rashly ahead in life but rather to wait upon you for guidance and direction, knowing that you possess all wisdom and knowledge. All this I ask in the name of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

**Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:1.7*

### Prayer based on James 4:1-17

- Lord, instruct us regarding the passions that are at war in our members: Teach us to recognize our excessive attachments to worldly things, lest by friendship with the world we become Your enemies.
- Almighty God, who yearn jealously over the spirit You have made to dwell in us, make us humble that we may receive Your grace; and let us not be proud, lest we find ourselves opposing You.
- *Help us to submit ourselves to You*, and to resist the devil until he flees from us. *Draw us near to You, Lord*, as You draw near to us. *Cleanse our hands, forgive our sins, purify our hearts*, and make us single-minded in turning ever toward You.
- Teach us to mourn for the miserable state of Your Church in this world, the wretchedness and dejection she suffers in striving to walk in Your Way.
- *Guide us not to judge one another*, as the judgment of *souls* is Yours alone; but let us not forget our obligation to judge *sins*, because for this You have given us Your law, and by this, our sins can be forgiven
- All this we pray in Your own holy Name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen and Amen.

**4. MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

I am a child of God. John 1:12

I have been justified and redeemed. Romans 3:24

I am a branch of the true vine, and conduit of Christ’s life. John 15:1,5

I am a fellow heir with Christ. Romans 15:7

I am chosen, holy, and blameless before God. Ephesians 1:4

*Who Does God Say That I Am?*

<https://kenboa.org/spiritual-formation/identity/> (5:18) for more verses in a photo essay with music)

Write out below how your identity in Christ affects your understanding of prayer as a discipline in your daily life.

Other prayer topics for this day:

- Who is someone you need to forgive or need to receive forgiveness from?
- Pray for them, yourself and the work of reconciliation.
- Addictions, anger, idols (work, money, power, recognition, individual).
- Lack of respect (for God and others) hectic pace of life/time management.
- St. Mark’s *Prayer Brochure for 2024* for Day One which focuses on ourselves.

## P– PETITION...I ask

*Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18*

**5. FILLING OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.** Ask the Spirit to control and fill you for this day. I want to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) When I walk by the Spirit, I will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16) If I live by the Spirit, I will also walk by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25). I want to be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18) Ask the Spirit to control and fill you for this day.

### **Read Romans 12:1 and pray using Romans 12:1**

Lord, remind me daily and assist me through your grace and mercy, that I offer my body as a living and holy sacrifice to God, a sacred offering that brings Him pleasure; understanding this is my reasonable, essential worship. Hear my prayers and give me your courage and fortitude to trust you and obey your calling to do thy will and thereby glorifying you. Amen and amen.

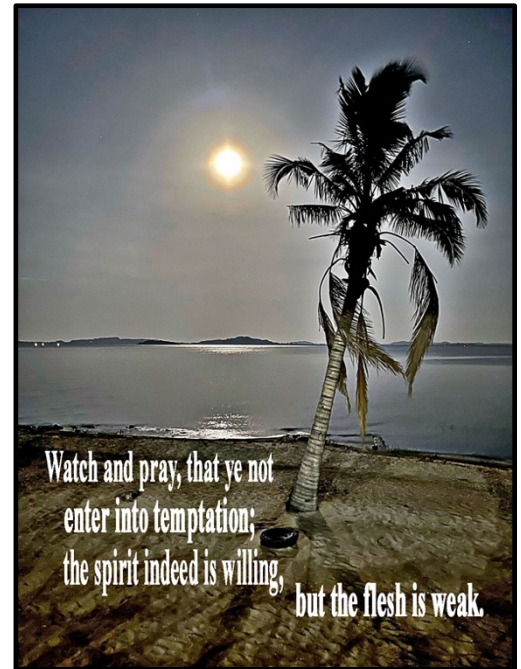
### **Read and pray using Psalm 86**

Precious Father,  
You are the highest and there is no one like you. We praise you and worship your Holy Name. You are forever by our side to love us, forgive us, and provide everything that we will ever need. *Your ways are better than our ways.* Help us so that *we will always be thankful in times of plenty and in want.* Lead us so that *we will always trust in your wisdom and not in our own.* With happiness and joy I give my life to you this day that I would be your humble and loving child. In the name of Jesus, Amen

### **Read and Pray using 1 Timothy 2:1-4**

Prayers based on *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

Lord God, I call on you this day. You faithfully restore your people and have great love for us as we seek your mercy in tender, heartfelt prayer. *May we always be aware of the magnificence of your constant presence and love in our life.* May we always seek to love you and our brothers and sisters by your great example. *Remind us each day to bring all our troubles and concerns to you in prayer.* Teach us to be patient and allow you to do your holy work within us. *Give us strength and courage to always trust in you.* Lord, please hear my prayer, Amen.





## Read and pray using Psalm 119

Psalm 119:10, 49-50,105

<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you;  
do not let me stray from your commandments.

<sup>49</sup> Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.

<sup>50</sup> This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

A prayer based on *Psalm 119*

O Lord, Father in Heaven, Guide me

Mold me.

Form me.

Turn me.

Teach me.

Change me.

Get hold of me

Make me yours.

Show me your Way.

All day let that Way be before me.

In every thought, breath and action

let it be the beacon, the guide,  
the control, the path of my life.

Help me follow your Way  
to the very end of my days.

May I never stop searching  
and desiring your Law.

Thank you for putting me here in your hands. Amen.



**Be on ALERT** to the promptings/warnings of the Holy Spirit to pray mightily to put up hedges of protection and secure boundaries around those who He directs you to pray. Yourself, family, friend(s), neighbor(s), church, community, state and nation. Note: Revival, restoration can be unsettling.

## Psalm 91

<sup>1</sup> Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> This I declare about the LORD:  
He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;  
he is my God, and I trust him.

<sup>3</sup> For he will rescue you from every trap  
and protect you from deadly disease.

<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his feathers.  
He will shelter you with his wings.  
His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

<sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies in the day.

<sup>6</sup> Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness,  
nor the disaster that strikes at midday.

- <sup>7</sup> Though a thousand fall at your side,  
 though ten thousand are dying around you,  
 these evils will not touch you.
- <sup>8</sup> Just open your eyes,  
 and see how the wicked are punished.
- <sup>9</sup> If you make the LORD your refuge,  
 if you make the Most High your shelter,  
<sup>10</sup> no evil will conquer you;  
 no plague will come near your home.
- <sup>11</sup> For he will order his angels  
 to protect you wherever you go.
- <sup>12</sup> They will hold you up with their hands  
 so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.
- <sup>13</sup> You will trample upon lions and cobras;  
 you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love me.  
 I will protect those who trust in my name.
- <sup>15</sup> When they call on me, I will answer;  
 I will be with them in trouble.  
 I will rescue and honor them.
- <sup>16</sup> I will reward them with a long life  
 and give them my salvation."



See St. Mark's *Prayer Brochure for 2024* that focuses on our Church.

The 2024 corporate prayer focus of St. Mark Church:

- Requesting Holy Spirit to focus St. Mark on God's Word and Kingdom day by day.
- Asking the Holy Spirit to energize St. Mark Church so to achieve God's work.
- Engaging God's heart by seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance in exercising spiritual gifts.

Specific Corporate prayer petitions:

- **repent** of our sins, individual and corporate (St. Mark Church);
- ask the Holy Spirit for **revival** within St. Mark Church by
  - unity in prayer (fellowship)
  - the preaching of the Word at St. Mark church;
  - conversions by the power of Holy Spirit at St. Mark.
- ask the Holy Spirit for St. Mark Church to continue **reformation** for all believers:
  - making disciples
  - practical training and teaching for our soul forming Christian journey,
    - conforming to Jesus' image;
    - transformation of St. Mark minds - shifting from a temporal to an eternal perspective;

- ask the Holy Spirit for St. Mark to be a church of **restoration**
  - nurturing future pastors to live and teach the Word,
  - growth in evangelism
    - asking the Holy Spirit to embolden each of our St. Mark family to develop new relationships within their own neighborhoods, schools, work;
    - sharing personal stories of the Christian life at St. Mark;
    - serving community needs through St. Mark based services.
    - concluding with prayers of praise and thanksgiving in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen and Amen

## V– VISION...I act

*I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him. Ephesians 1:17*

### St. Mark's Mission Statement

**Worship** – to give glory to God through the proclamation of the word of God and through worship and the sacraments.

**Love** - to build up the body of Christ.

**Share** – to give witness to God's love and salvation.

**Grow** – to encourage all members to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Serve** – to seek to do God's will and to use our time talents and possessions in service to God and all people.

### **Read and pray using Psalm 100** Prayer based on *Psalm 100*

Gracious God, each time we gather for worship in your name we receive a foretaste of the feat to come. You present to us a vision of a world where sin is no more, suffering has ended, and joy lasts forever around your heavenly banquet table. As your blessed and forgiven children lead us ever forward by your light, illumining the paths of our futures by the reflected glory of your Son. Help us to share your triumphal vision with others, caring as you have cared, loving as your loved, sharing as you have shared. Throughout this year may your Kingdom be evident among us and through us, that we the church would overcome the cynicism and apathy of the world by living in the hope and knowledge that comes through your Word. Wherever we encounter pain or suffering may we offer the healing palm of the Gospel, wherever the devil is running amuck may we speak the truths that you have revealed in Holy Scriptures. Clear the fog of our human misunderstandings and cause us to keep our eyes on the revealed glory that is your Son's witness as we pray in His strong name, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**6. PURPOSE OF MY LIFE.** I want to love the Lord my God with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind, and I want to love my neighbor as myself. (Matthew 22:3, 39)

My purpose is love God completely, love myself correctly, and love others compassionately.

I will seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. (Matthew 6:33)

I have been called to follow Christ and to be a fisher of men. (Matthew 4:19)

I will be a witness to those who do not know Him and participate in the Great Commission to go and make disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)  
I want to glorify the Father by bearing much fruit, and so prove to be Christ's disciple. (John 15:8)

### **Disturb Us, Lord Disturb Us**

Disturb Us, Lord Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true Because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely Because we sailed too close to the shore.  
Disturb us, Lord, when With the abundance of things we possess We have lost our thirst For the waters of life; Having fallen in love with life, We have ceased to dream of eternity And in our efforts to build a new earth, We have allowed our vision Of the new Heaven to dim.  
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, To venture on wider seas Where storms will show Your mastery; Where losing sight of land, We shall find the stars. We ask You to push back The horizons of our hopes; And to push into the future In strength, courage, hope, and love.  
(attributed to Sir Francis Drake -1577)

## **Ten Tips for Intercessory Prayer<sup>1</sup>**

1. Ask. (Matthew 7:7-8; Philippians 4:6; James 4:2)
2. Ask in the will of God. (James 4:13-17; 1 John 5:14)
3. Ask in faith. (1 John 5:15; James 1:6-7; Mark 11:22-24)
4. Ask specifically. (Mark 10:51; Luke 6:12-13; 2 Corinthians 12:8)
5. Ask with thanksgiving. (Hebrews 13:15; Philippians 1:3-4; Colossians 1:3-4, 11-12)
6. Ask in the Spirit. (Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20)
7. Ask in fellowship. (John 15:7; James 5:16; 1 John 3:21-22)
8. Ask frequently (1 Chronicles 16:11; Colossians 4:2; Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 8:1)
9. Ask with others. (Matthew 18:19-20; Romans 15:30)
10. Ask in Jesus' name (John 14:13-14; 16:24; Ephesians 3:11-12; Hebrews 10:19-22)

<sup>1</sup>Boa, Ken with Jenny Abel, *Shaped by Suffering, How Temporary Hardships Prepare Us for Our Eternal Home*, Intervarsity Press, 2020, p.213.

**Paul's Life Changing Prayers for Others**  
Read and pray for those the Holy Spirit places on your heart. Ephesians 1:17-19a, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9b-12.



### **Read and pray using Revelation 21:22-26**

Prayer based on *Revelation 21:22-26*

Dear God, thank you for this vision, the greatest vision of all, life eternal in your majestic kingdom. May this vision bring us comfort in our times of sorrow and inspiration for every day of our lives. Cause the light that you have given us in Jesus Christ to shine brightly in our hearts so that we will be beacons of hope to the world around us. Stir within us by the power of your

Holy Spirit, and give us a great desire to advance your kingdom until the whole world knows of your glory. Bless the members of this your congregation with excitement about what you have done for us in Christ Jesus and the power of his resurrection to bring new life for all. Give us wisdom in planning and strength to live out the calling you have given us through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen



### Spread of the gospel. for REVIVAL and Making Disciples

Almighty, Eternal Father, Your love for Your Church is clearly evident to us by the power of Your hand on this congregation. We are sheep in constant need of our Shepherd and we are in awe of Your tender care for us.

We love You, Lord, and we praise You with our entire being for Your faithfulness and the promises we stand on as Your people. The building you provided for us decades ago is a blessing but it is not Your church. We, Your people, are Your church and we seek Your guidance with every step into our future, Father, because of the incredible joy in the knowledge of being within Your will and serving You. We have witnessed the clear direction You are providing to renew us, to transform us into becoming the church You want us to be, to become disciples, committed to being used in Your Kingdom work wherever we are. Please continue to send us wisdom through the awesome power of Your Holy Spirit, to follow Your lead as we continue to do your Kingdom work. We pray that you will infuse powerful insight and wisdom into our thoughts and actions. Please continue to steer this ship, Lord, prevent any resistance, provide a spirit of unity among us and ignite Your fire within us to accomplish all that You want us to be. In the precious, saving name of Jesus, amen and amen.

### For believers to grow in their faith

Gracious God, you have set your baptized people on a wonderful path of discipleship which culminates in the great gift of eternal life. Cause us now to fully partake of the gifts you provide us to sustain us in our journey and to grow in faith and obedience. Thank you for Saint Mark Lutheran Church; may we fully partake in its worship, in its educational ministries, and in growing outreach. As part of your priesthood of all believers may we offer prayers for all who are in need and may we be a Christ-like helper to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 37: 3-7

- **THE COMING OF CHRIST AND MY FUTURE WITH HIM** Your kingdom come, Your will be done. (Matthew 6:10) You have said, “I am coming quickly.” Amen, Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20) I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to me. (Romans 8:18)  
<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

See St. Mark's *Prayer Brochure for 2024* that focuses on the world and St. Mark Lutheran Church's mission.

Topics for free prayer:

- REVIVAL, REFORMATION, RESTORATION in St. Mark Church (p.15).
- Prayer as a priority each day for St. Mark Church leaders and congregation.
- Our Transition and Call Teams' spiritual guidance in seeking our next pastor.
- Intentional Intermediate Pastor Steve, his wife, Penny and family.
- For our youth at Quake and on the St. Mark Mission Trip.
- Lenten Worship, small group studies and Devotion
- Grow our ministries in serving our community.
- For protection of our elementary, middle, high schools, and institutions of higher education.
- For all school age children while they are at school - for safety and pressures they face each and every day.
- 30 Days of Prayer for Muslims
- Our nation's return to God through revival.
- Peace / Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

**May The Road Rise Up To Meet You**

May the road rise up to meet you  
And the wind be on your back  
May the sun shine warm upon you  
And the rain fall gently down  
May God hold you, ever hold you  
May God hold you, in the palm of His  
hand  
Gently hold you, come enfold you  
May God hold you, in the palm, The palm  
of His hand  
May the stars come out to greet you  
As you lie your head to rest  
May the moonlight smile upon you  
And your dreams be ever blessed



Click on the link below to hear a beautiful Irish blessing in song.

<https://youtu.be/hA1F0uOuMFs?si=9s7eY9St-r3uRfPR>

## Reflection on your Prayers

Take three or four minutes after you have finished praying to reflect on the prayer. This is not part of the prayer, but a separate exercise. How did the prayer get started? Were you aware of God's presence, or was there a sense that you were simply thinking by yourself? Did any parts of the prayer seem especially "alive" as you prayed? Did you have times of strong convictions or emotion, and if so, what were they? Did they seem to be moving you closer to God, or farther away?

What difficulties did you encounter? Did you feel tired or bored or experience other barriers? Did you find your mind wandering, and if so, to what? What were you praying over when this happened? How did you respond? Did you have any sense of being called to respond or carry out some action? If so, what was it? What was the general "tone" of your prayer: warm and loving? Difficult or painful? Dark? Reassuring? Sobering? Foggy? Did you pray with an attitude of thanksgiving and gratitude?



<sup>1</sup>Boa, Ken, Handbook to Prayer: Praying Scripture Back to God, Trinity House Publishers, Inc. One Piedmont Center, Suite130, Atlanta, Georgia, 30305.