

ST MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



ADDRESS:
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SERVICE TIMES FOR WORSHIP

TRADITIONAL
Saturdays at 5:30pm
Sundays at 8:00am

CONTEMPORARY
Sundays at 10:30am

SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY CLASSES
Sundays at 9:20am
(September- May)



2026 St. Mark Church Daily Prayer Guide

**Intercession
For Myself
God, Family, Church,
America the Beautiful,
One Nation Under God
1776-2026**

He is the One who gave us this promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by My name, will 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 will heal their land."
As we humbly and diligently seek Him, we'll be changed, and we'll see transformation in America through prayer!

Today's Vision
I Act

- Light your candle in your chosen place and time.
- Breath in and out deeply several times.

For St. Mark Church

Prayer is central to following God.” (about Prayer in St. Mark Church Vision statement)

Therefore

Lord, with contrite heart I come to you in prayer asking for your help in working out St. Mark Church’s mission statement and our vision statements.

<https://smc.info/what-we-believe/>

Click on the + to see the definition

- Pray
- Worship
- Provide opportunities and encourage people to grow in Christ
- Attract young people and provide what they need
- Share our gifts both material and spiritual
- Maintain a safe supportive place for people
- Combine faith and relationships
- Be in the world, but not of the world

My activities...

- Living out my new identity in Christ;
- Knowing God
- Renewing my mind daily—devotions, studying scripture
- Learning and seek training to be a disciple by conforming to His image;
- Hearing for His voice, whispers, nudge (s) and listening to Him;
- Being obedient and faithful in doing God’s will;
- Trusting God in all life choices;
- Intercessory Prayer;
- Journaling serves as another form of prayer, a means of personal reflection, and insights from scripture;
- Other . . .

See Appendix 3 I Act for guidance to learn more about being, doing, hearing/listening and prayer..

LECTIO DIVINA PRACTICE EXERCISE #2

Scripture	
Read (<i>lectio</i>)	→ Slowly read the Scripture passage <i>several times</i> .
	Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud to help capture the passage in your memory. • Read prayerfully, asking, “Lord, what are you saying to me in this passage?”
Reflect (<i>meditatio</i>)	→ Reflect and ruminate on the <i>words and phrases</i> in the text.
	Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow enough time to enjoy the text. • Don't demand immediate gratification or try to control the outcome. <p>→ Which words, phrases, or images speak to you most?</p>
Respond (<i>oratio</i>)	→ Offer the internalized passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, or thanksgiving.
	Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you get distracted, return to your selected word(s) or phrase(s). • Be receptive as the Lord speaks to you.
Rest (<i>contemplatio</i>)	→ What word or image encapsulates the spirit of the passage for you?
	→ Take a few minutes to present yourself before God in silence and yieldedness. When your mind wanders, center yourself by returning to the spirit of the passage.
	Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The frustration of apparent failure is common; don't let it stop you. • Consider reducing your exposure to media and other forms of distraction to enhance your ability for contemplation.

Table 14

Lectio Review.

Was there a part of this exercise that you found challenging?

Was there a part of this exercise that you found rewarding?

Was there a part of this exercise that you found surprising?

¹ Boa, Kenneth, Steward, Michael, and Abel, Jenny, Conformed to His Image Study Guide, Biblical, Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, Zondervan Academic, 2020, pp.109-113.
Resource - Boa, Kenneth, Sacred Reading: A Journal, Navpress Pub Group, 2020.

To assist you, here is a prayer sequence for examination and encouragement that incorporates The Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, the seven deadly sins, the four cardinal and three theological virtues, and the fruit of the Spirit. This can serve as a kind of spiritual diagnostic tool.²

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17)

You Shall have no other gods before me.
 You shall not make for yourself an idol.
 You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God in vain.
 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 Honor your father and your mother.
 You shall not murder.
 You shall not commit adultery.
 You shall not steal.
 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
 You shall not covet.

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-11)

Poverty of Spirit (nothing apart from God's grace)
 Mourning (contrition)
 Gentleness (meekness, humility)
 Hunger and thirst for righteousness
 Mercy to others
 Purity of heart (desiring Christ above all else)
 Peacemaking

The Four Cardinal & Three Theological Virtues

Prudence
 Temperance (moderation, self-control)
 Justice (fairness, honesty, truthfulness, integrity)
 Fortitude (courage, conviction)
 Faith (belief and trust in God's character and work)
 Hope (anticipating God's promises)
 Love (willing the highest good for others, compassion)

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread., and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

The Seven Deadly Sins

Pride
 Avarice (covet)
 Envy
 Wrath
 Sloth
 Lust
 Gluttony

The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

Love
 Joy
 Peace
 Patience
 Kindness
 Goodness
 Faithfulness
 Gentleness
 Self-control

Our Place before God - Humility

This is a litany of Humility - Petitions for transformation.
 From the desire of being esteemed - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being loved - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being extolled - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being honored - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being praised - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being preferred by others - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being consulted - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being approved - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of suffering rebukes - Deliver me Jesus;
 the desire of being humiliated - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being forgotten - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being ridiculed - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being wrong - Deliver me Jesus;
 From the desire of being suspected - Deliver me Jesus;

Response - Grant me the grace to desire it.
 That others may be loved more than I - Grant me the grace to desire it.
 That others may be esteemed more than I - Grant me the grace to desire it.
 That in the opinion of the world others may increase, I may decrease - Grant me the grace to desire it.
 That others may be chosen and I set aside - Grant me the grace to desire it.
 That others may be praised and I unnoticed - Grant me the grace to desire it.
 That others maybe preferred to me in everything - Grant me the grace to desire it.
 That others may be holier than I - provided I shall be as holy as I should be.
 Amen and Amen

From Hallow, Day 1 of the Lent 2024 Pray 40: He Leadth Me
 Lent Pray40: The Return
<https://hallow.app.link/qbNquiHAR0b>
 Lent Pray40: The Return

¹Boa, Ken, Handbook of Spiritual Growth: Twelve Facets of the Spiritual Life, Trinity House Publishers, Inc. Atlanta, Georgia, KenBoa.org., 2008. P.263.

²Boa, Ken, Conformed to His Image, Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, Revised Edition, Zondervan Academic, Grand Rapids, Mich., 2021,2020, pp.291-293.

Learning to Hear God - a process

This speech is a must-watch for anyone yearning to strengthen their spiritual life and find reassurance in the presence of God. It offers timeless guidance, deep wisdom, and practical strategies to nurture a faith-filled journey, making it a source of inspiration and hope.

What does listening to God sound like, settings for listening?

Check out “A sermon by C.S. Lewis, “How to Hear When He Speaks.” (about 12 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ_IcoKo4Sg

Conforming to His Image

Surrendering to God: to realize I am working to be transformed. Heal what is broken; untangle what has been twisted. “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” Galatians 2:20, John 14:20

Suggestion: think of yourself on a journey during which God is equipping (conforming) you to be like Him and with Him in your real home, heaven. Romans 8:29

This is an ongoing process. To know Him is to love Him, to love Him is to trust Him, to trust Him is to obey Him, to obey Him is to abide in Him, to abide in Him is to bear fruit and to bear fruit is to glorify Him. Romans 8:31-39

The process—loving God is an inside outside process. It is the invisible aspirations and longings that set our course in our relationship with God.

Key to loving Him, is to spend time with Him.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. How we honor Him.

Come to will - willing to do His will,

The more we obey Him, the more we come to know Him.

Love the things He loves,

Chose the things that He sets before us for our good.

Pray that you will abide in Jesus today realizing that you can do nothing of lasting value apart from Him. (John15:5)³

³ Boa, Ken, Stewart, Michael and Abel, Jenny, Conformed to His Image Study Guide, Biblical, Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, pp. 57-61.

Appendix 2 Petitions I Ask...

Knowing the Importance of Prayer in God’s Eternal Work...
building up St. Mark Church through prayer during 2026

“When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen.

Jeremiah 29:12

In Fellowship I ask God’s blessing for St. Mark Church to:

- continue to be a House of Prayer;
- faithfully engaging in the Great Commission;
- listen and be obedient to the calling of the Holy Spirit.

First note for a believing church to be engaged in God’s eternal work of salvation, restoration, and building up the body of Christ, there are three requirements of the congregation.

- Help me to realize God’s work through St. Mark Church can only be achieved, if I seek to be energized by the Holy Spirit.
- Help me pray with prayers of faith to engage God’s heart by seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance and giving glory to God for answered prayers.
- Understand God’s ordained accomplishments for St. Mark Church will be attained, when I depend on the Holy Spirit and willingly exercise my Spirit’s gifts.¹

So I:

- **repent** of my sins, individual and corporate (St. Mark Church); *Matthew 4:17*
- ask the Holy Spirit for **revival** within St. Mark Church by; *Mark 16:15-20*
 - the preaching at St. Mark church;
 - conversions by the power of Holy Spirit at St. Mark Church;
- ask the Holy Spirit for St. Mark Church to continue **reformation** for all believers: *Matthew 28:18-20*
 - practical training and teaching for our soul forming Christian journey,
 - transformation of St. Mark minds - shifting from a temporal to an eternal perspective;
 - making disciples.
- ask the Holy Spirit for St. Mark to be a church of **restoration** *1 Corinthians 13:11*
 - nurturing future pastors to live and teach the Gospel,
 - asking the Holy Spirit to encourage each of our St. Mark families to develop new relationships within their own neighborhoods, schools, work;
 - sharing personal stories of the Christian life at St. Mark Church;
 - serving community needs through St. Mark Church based services.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to remind me to conclude with prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

¹Tozer, A.W., Compiled by W. L. Seaver, Communing with God in Everything, Prayer, Moody Press, 2016, pp. 53-55.

Understanding we are deep in spiritual warfare, we pray on the amour of God every day.
Ephesians 6:10-18. ESV

Living Out My New Identity—a prayer of transformation

God of glory, majesty, and dominion, You have graciously accepted me as a living member of the Body of Christ, and You have implanted me in the communion of saints that will forever endure.

Now that I have received a new identity in Jesus as a holy and beloved part of Your glorious and eternal plan, may I live out that new identity in my thinking, my speech, and my actions.

Empower me to be Your ambassador, Your witness of the transforming life that is found in Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. May I love and obey Him and stake everything I have on Him without reservations or conditions.

Empower me to live during this brief earthly sojourn in light of Your return and to treasure this as a unique time of opportunity that I will never have again. For it is only on this earth that I can share the gospel and serve people in need. Amen and Amen
Boa, Ken, Transforming prayer. 12/29/24

Knowing God ²

Day by Day

Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us; for the pains and insults which thou has borne for us. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother, *may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly,* for thine own sake. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 *I pray* that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Ephesians 1:17-18

Knowing Him more clearly...

What is the difference in knowing about (rational knowledge— gathering facts or power of reason) and experiential knowledge (knowing via the senses, relationships, or participation)?

Why are both important?

² Boa, Ken, Stewart, Michael and Abel, Jenny, Conformed to His Image Study Guide, Biblical, Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, pp.6-11.

What does knowing God more clearly look like?

- Spending time with Him,
- Communicating with Him—praying to Him and listening for His voice.
- Responding to his loving overtures.

If you don't desire to know Him more clearly, *desiring to desire* Him is a good starting point. Pray that God would grant you this desire. Which of the above (time, communication, and responsiveness) will you commit to pursue God better?

Love Thee More Dearly...

The dearness with which we love God is proportional to our understanding of who He is. What comes to mind when you think of God? What is your image of God?

Does the following statement about God's son correspond with your vision and understanding of God? *Jesus is not merely the end of a deductive process, but a person to be known and loved for himself.*

A.W. Tozer writes, "What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about us." Boa kindle Devotional Spirituality

Do you nourish great thoughts of the living God? If not...

Renewing your mind can be achieved by a daily disciplined training

- List your habits of nourishment -
 - Memorizing Scripture; sacred readings—Lectio Divina
 - Telling others what God has done for you;
 - Reflecting on God's blessings in your life, present and past;
 - Involvement in home study Bible classes.
- Next your habits of neglect -
 - Sporadic attention to daily devotions, prayer time;
 - Lack of a thankful attitude or ingratitude for answered prayers, blessings, protections, and...
 - Hard Thanksgivings.

Follow thee More Nearly

- Willing to do His will;
- Loving the things He loves;
- Choosing the things He sets before us

Pray these three tasks, asking God for "wisdom and . . . revelation in the knowledge of Him" and for the empowerment and enjoyment of loving Him completely.