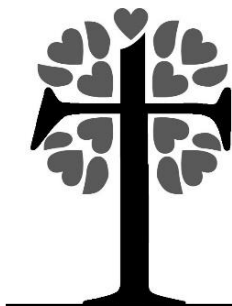


Election Day Prayer for the Nation



Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Tree of Life Lutheran Church
Odessa, Delaware

Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



November 5, 2024 ~ Election Day Prayer

Leader in regular type, **congregation in bold type**

↑ means stand as you are able

Restrooms are by the kitchen and by the Wiggle Room

Wiggle Room is available for anyone needing a brief break from worship, at the end of the piano wing of the sanctuary

WiFi is available: Look for TOL-GUEST; password is OdessaTOL1

We Gather as God's People

↑ **TRISAGION AND DIALOG** *(Based on Psalm 133 and Ephesians 4:1-6)*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

Have mercy on us. Glory to the Father, and to the +Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

How good it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard of Aaron.

Therefore lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

With humility and gentleness, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

For there is one body and one Spirit, one hope of your calling,

One Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all.

↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Everlasting God, you are the source of all liberty, and before you every earthly ruler must bend the knee. Bless our United States on this Election Day. Take away arrogance and hatred from our hearts; break down walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love. Above all, help us place our highest trust in you alone, as we await that day when all people live in harmony around your heavenly throne. All this we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God bless our native land;
 firm may it ever stand
 through storm and night.
 When the wild tempests rave,
 Ruler of wind and wave,
 do thou our country save
 by thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise
 to God above the skies,
 on whom we wait.
 Thou who art ever nigh,
 guarding with watchful eye,
 to thee aloud we cry:
 God save the state!

We Hear God’s Word

READING: Micah 6:6-8

A reading from Micah:

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 146

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
 on that very day their plans perish.**

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
 whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
 who keeps faith forever;**

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

READING: Ephesians 2:13-20

A reading from Ephesians:

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
He utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

**⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.**

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

GOSPEL: John 18:33-38a

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

TIME FOR REFLECTION

We Raise our Prayers to God

A brief silence will follow each petition, for reflection and silent prayer.

O Lord, hear our prayer,
And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray: Almighty God, you alone are Lord. Guide our hearts and minds, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you. Strengthen our faith, so that we do not place our ultimate trust in human princes or powers, but trust and follow your will above all. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

You have bound the human race together in a common life. In times of turmoil and disagreement, help us set aside hatred or bitterness, listen for your voice amidst competing claims, and work together as your people. Grant peace to your Church, peace to our world, peace to our nation, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

You have given us this good land as our heritage. Continue to bless, protect and guide the United States. Help us to use the liberty you have given us in accordance with your gracious will. Bless Joe, our president; Kamala, Donald and all candidates for the presidency; our senators and representatives in Congress; and all candidates for Congress. Grant them wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with truth and integrity, and make them mindful of their calling to serve this nation with humility as your servants. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

You lift up leaders in every community. Bless and support our states, cities and towns; all who govern them; and all candidates for state and local office. May those who hold power understand that it is a trust from you, to be used not for personal glory or profit, but for the good of all. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

You call your people to honor those in authority. Bless voters with wise minds and honest hearts, that we may elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors. Lead everyone to respect the outcome of elections, to serve as honorable citizens, and to pay due respect to all newly elected leaders, even if we did not vote for them. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

You are our rock and our fortress. Send your protection upon all the men and women who serve in our armed forces, as police and as first responders. Defend them day by day, and help them know your abiding presence wherever they may be. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

You are a friend to the poor and a liberator to the oppressed. Look with mercy upon all who live with injustice, violence, poverty and neglect. Give us the compassion to help those in need, the strength to fearlessly contend against evil, and the courage to seek liberty and justice for all. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

You help the troubled heart. Tend the sick, grant peace to the anxious, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted and shield the joyous. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

You give us eternal life through your Son, Jesus Christ. At this hour, he bore our sins upon a tree, so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. He rejected the throne of earthly glory, in order to make his throne a cross of salvation. Unite us by the blood of his cross, and lead us to follow where he has led the way. Guide us in all our doings, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, that we may have a holy and peaceful life in this world, and eternal glory in the life to come. All this we pray through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray...

↑ LORD'S PRAYER

**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 and ever. Amen.**

God Sends Us in Mission

↑ **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

↑ **HYMN**

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

RED HYMNAL #888

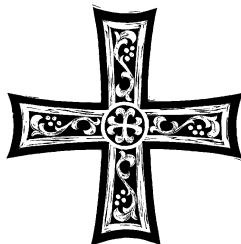
O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain:
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years,
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears:
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

↑ **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us depart in peace with one-another.
Thanks be to God. Amen.



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