

# January 2021 Prayer Prompts

Prepared by Pastor Hope Deutscher (With ELCA Resources)

*We offer these prayer prompts to help you connect with God and create a daily routine of prayer.*

- 1 As we begin 2021, we give thanks that God looks upon us with newness and a desire for us to thrive.
- 2 Pray for our international churches and leaders; together may we care for one another using our diverse gifts, cultures, languages, resources and perspectives in every circumstance.
- 3 Give thanks and praise to God that we know and can testify to the good news that Jesus Christ became flesh and lived among us; so that we might see and experience God in our lives.
- 4 January is *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month*. We remember and pray for victims of sex trafficking, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and forced labor and ask God's guidance in caring for victims and actively working to end this abuse, injustice and oppression.
- 5 We give thanks for the service and leadership of Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Synodical Bishops.
- 6 *Epiphany* In wonderment, we may have questions about our faith; we pray that the truth will be illuminated for us of who we are as baptized children of God and the certainty of the Good News.
- 7 We pray for doctors, nurses, emergency responders and health care workers who need renewal, strength, gratitude and recognition for continuing to care for people during the Pandemic.
- 8 Give thanks for the people in our lives who inspire hope, faith and courage, and whose words and actions touch us and teach us the meaning of grace.
- 9 We praise God that through Christ we have received forgiveness of our sins and salvation through God's unfathomable grace, showered upon us every day!
- 10 On this Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, we give thanks for our baptismal gifts.
- 11 Pray for parents, students, employees and business owners whose plans and routines can be uncertain with the pandemic. May we be adaptive, hopeful, and resilient.
- 12 We pray for ELCA faith-based schools, early childhood education programs and day care centers.
- 13 God is mighty, majestic and eternal throughout the universe! Give glory to God, and shout for joy!
- 14 Ask God to help us practice justice, generosity and care for creation.
- 15 Pray for our young adults who are attending college, that they may have a safe and productive year.
- 16 We give thanks for our full communion partner since 1997, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- 17 Jesus invited Philip to follow him as a disciple, and Philip, in turn, invited Nathanael. May God help us to be faithful followers, eager to invite others to join in God's good work in the world.
- 18 *Martin Luther King Day* Today we remember the life, ministry, sacrifice and activism of Martin Luther King Jr. May we be inspired to continue his work to treat all people equal.
- 19 The Apostle Paul reminds us that we have been made one with the body and spirit of Christ; we pray for unity among all Christians and all people.
- 20 *Inauguration Day* As members of society and the church who represent varied political affiliations and perspectives, we pray together for our nation's newly elected president and vice president, that the Spirit will grant them wisdom, strength, commitment to serving all people.
- 21 We pray for reconciliation, understanding and renewal in our divided nation.
- 22 Ask the Spirit to inspire and guide our lives so that our values, decisions, actions and words reflect the gospel, the teachings of Jesus and the ways of God, who is good, gracious, merciful and just.
- 23 Praise God that, as small and insignificant as we might be in the vast universe, we are wonderfully made and God knows every little thing about us and our human ways.
- 24 Jesus had a simple, personal and compelling invitation to the disciples to drop everything and follow him. We pray that when God calls us to follow and serve, we will respond with faith and trust.
- 25 We pray for organizations that serve the daily needs of communities, families and individuals; including the Barnesville Food Pantry, REACH, Mary's Place, and Churches United for the Homeless.
- 26 When we are like Jonah, reluctant to forgive, practice mercy, or share the gospel, ask the Spirit to help us discern God's ways, grace and mercy for all people, and to act boldly without personal bias.

**27** Give thanks and praise that God knows intimately our complexities, failures, accomplishments, questions, goals and hopes, and loves us beyond measure.

**28** Give thanks for the Lutheran liturgy and worship practices that equip us for daily life, helping us to praise God, listen to God's word and experience unity in the body of Christ.

**29** We give thanks for those who give of themselves: blood, plasma and organ donations, in concern of their neighbor's well-being.

**30** Remember in prayer those who continue to struggle with unemployment, underemployment and job searching as a result of the economic and health impacts of COVID-19.

**31** We give thanks that through Scripture, the Spirit reveals Jesus to be the source of our redemption, instructing us how to live with one another, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world today.