

Morning Prayer

SATURDAY, August 21, 2021



Notes about this Resource:

At the beginning and end of each day during CLAY, our entire gathering community comes together for times of worship. Those sessions are built right into the schedule - we will all participate simultaneously, from wherever we are across the country.

Depending on how your Home Team is choosing to connect with each other during the gathering, you might want to meet for a small group morning or night prayer as well. In each document, you will find suggested readings and songs that match up with the theme of the day.

This resource is meant to give you one option for daily prayers. Feel free to adapt it in a way that makes sense in your context. You can use the entire prayer outline as provided, or you can use the suggested readings and songs as part of the daily prayer liturgy that your group is used to.

If your Home Team is not holding daily prayer together and you would like to pray with someone else virtually, podcast versions of these daily prayers are also available.

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GATHERING

The God who created space and time, journeyed with us in human form, and travels with us still, be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us along our way. Keep us safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

[Optional Song / Hymn]

Choose a song from the suggestions listed below, or choose a song of your preference.

WORD

READ: 1 Kings 19:1-8 (Elijah in the wilderness)

RESPONSIVE DIALOGUE AND PRAYER:

We sit like Elijah alone in the wilderness.

"It is enough, O Lord."

The troubles of life overwhelm our spirits.

"It is enough, O Lord."

The way seems too dark; the valleys, too deep.

"It is enough, O Lord."

God rescues us from despair and grants us strength.

"You are beloved, my precious child."

Let us pray. God of our sorrows, **when we grieve a loved one, face an illness, or lose a job, the road seems long, lonely, and treacherous. Comfort us in our despair, guide us through the wilderness, and enfold us in your loving embrace. Grant your mercy and peace to all those in need this day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

DISCUSSION:

- When have you most despaired, or felt like you had just had enough, during this pandemic?
- What lessons have you learned through this wilderness journey?

[Optional Song / Hymn]

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Hear, O Israel, **the Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

O God, we give you thanks for those who have traveled the path of faith: for Abraham and Sarah, who trusted in your promise; for Mary and Joseph, who acted according to your word; for Paul, who spread the good news of Christ. Lead us also in your way, your truth, and your life. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

You sent your Son into the messiness of our world. Smooth the pathways between people and nations, that together we will move toward your justice and peace. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

You walk with us on all the paths of life. Be with those facing hardship this day: the grieving, the poor, the lost, the sick (especially). Hold them in the palm of your hand. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER:

[Optional Song / Hymn]

SENDING

BLESSING & DISMISSAL:

The Lord watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.

Thanks be to God.

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MUSIC SUGGESTIONS:

Common Praise

Hymn #613 - "We Lay Our Broken World"

Hymn #177 - "A Spendthrift Lover Is the Lord"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Hymn #396 - "Spirit of Gentleness"

Hymn #808 - "Lord Jesus, you shall be my song"

Contemporary Hymns:

"Great You Are," Jordan Smith, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEgteBSKwKA>

"Just Be Held," Casting Crowns, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIZitK6_IMQ

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