



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

January 14, 2021

The psalmist reminds us that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Our nation is bracing amid reports of acts of political violence planned for the coming days at state capitols and in our nation's capital. Wherever you are, and whatever your political beliefs, we are one in Christ Jesus. On this firm foundation, as a pastor and a bishop, I invite you to join me in prayer during this time of chaos, confusion, fear and grief. For even when "the nations are in an uproar," we are encouraged that "the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psalm 46:6a, 7).

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

Mighty God, our great help in trouble, as distrust, fear and violence threaten our nation and its peoples, we come to you in prayer, seeking your wisdom, strength and peace.

We pray for the health of our democracy and its leaders (*especially ...*), that those elected to serve may utilize government structures and processes to promote human flourishing and the common good...

We pray for those who risk harm to ensure the safety of others: police officers, security guards, the National Guard and other military personnel...

We pray for an end to the evils of white supremacy, Christian nationalism, and racial violence that threatens, destroys and kill...

We pray for those experiencing trauma induced by the public display and use of hateful language and symbols, including Confederate flags, anti-Semitic language and images, and nooses...

We pray for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and historically marginalized groups traumatized by violence stemming from white supremacy: lynchings, bombings, vandalism and church burnings...

We pray for clergy and church leaders, especially for those burdened by mistrust and painful divisions in their communities. Give them and all people the courage to confront white supremacy, Christian nationalism and racist rhetoric with messages of truth, sustained by the power of your magnificent love...

We pray for people and communities struggling to discern your voice amid competing voices clamoring for attention. Direct us to listen deeply and celebrate the diversity among us. Freed in Christ, we dare to witness to your promise of abundant life and abiding peace...

In this time of great uncertainty, we pray without ceasing, trusting that your word, Holy God, never returns empty and your mercy never fails. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Additional prayers for the nation and times of conflict, crisis and disaster can be found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (pages 76-77) and in *All Creation Sings* (pages 49-51). The Great Litany (*ELW* 238) and the prayers of lament in *All Creation Sings* would also be a helpful resource in this time (pages 61-66).