



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

February 24, 2022

Pastoral Message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to
Archbishop Dietrich Brauer, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia
Bishop Alexander Scheiermann, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Urals, Siberia and the Far East
Bishop Ivan Laptev, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace be with you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Like many around the world, we the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have witnessed with grave concern the increased tensions between Russia and Ukraine which have now alarmingly deteriorated to intensified military conflict.

As members together in the Lutheran communion and as companions on the journey in God's mission, I share with you my prayers in this challenging time.

Please know that your brothers and sisters in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are joining you in prayer. We pray that the God of peace grant comfort to the people in Ukraine and in Russia, that the Holy Spirit guide political leaders to act for peace, in wisdom and humility. We pray for all those who are working for peace in their respective roles and positions: for the politicians who seek diplomatic solutions and for organizations and initiatives that create space for dialogue. We pray for all those providing and receiving humanitarian assistance during this conflict. We pray that our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia will soon live again fully in God's peace without war.

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit so that we seek to live in unity with all people, breaking down the walls that divide, ending the hostility among us, and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away; through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever. Amen.

In God's mercy,

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop

Prayer from All Creation Sings, Augsburg Fortress, 2020