



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

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Video message responding to events in Washington, D.C.
Jan. 6, 2021

Dear church,

We have come to a day we never thought we would see. An angry mob has breached the Capitol and occupied the floors of the Senate and the House. Let's be clear: the right to assemble and the right to free speech are enshrined in the Bill of Rights. But this is neither. Nor is it a protest.

This is not only breaking the law, but it's a threat to our democracy. We pray for all who are in harm's way. For our congregations, who are so close to the Capitol and are bringing prayerful witness for peace and unity. We pray for all of our ecumenical partners nearby as well as our interreligious colleagues. This is a time for us to stand together and to speak out. Enough is enough.

So we ask that God will protect our lawmakers, their staff, the staff of the Capitol, the police who are protecting them, the journalists who are bringing us this news and all in harm's way.

And I offer this prayer:

Rise up and come to our help, merciful God, for we are in need. Our spirits are weighed down with fear. Our bodies feel as fragile as the dust from which we came. All that we have trusted seems hidden from sight. Although this moment has come upon our nation, you have not forgotten us. We do not trust in our own power or strength but in your steadfast love in every generation. Show us your face in this time of trial. Remind us of your faithfulness. And save us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.