

CREDITS

This booklet was provided for by the Ozaukee County Chapter of Lutherans for life. ***The Oz. County Chapter wishes you to remember that we reflect and show the love of Christ as we pray in a peaceful manner. We witness the truth of our cause to others as we respond kindly even to those who may react in a harmful or violent way.***

This booklet was compiled by Rev. Christopher Mark Seifferlein of Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Adell, Wisconsin.

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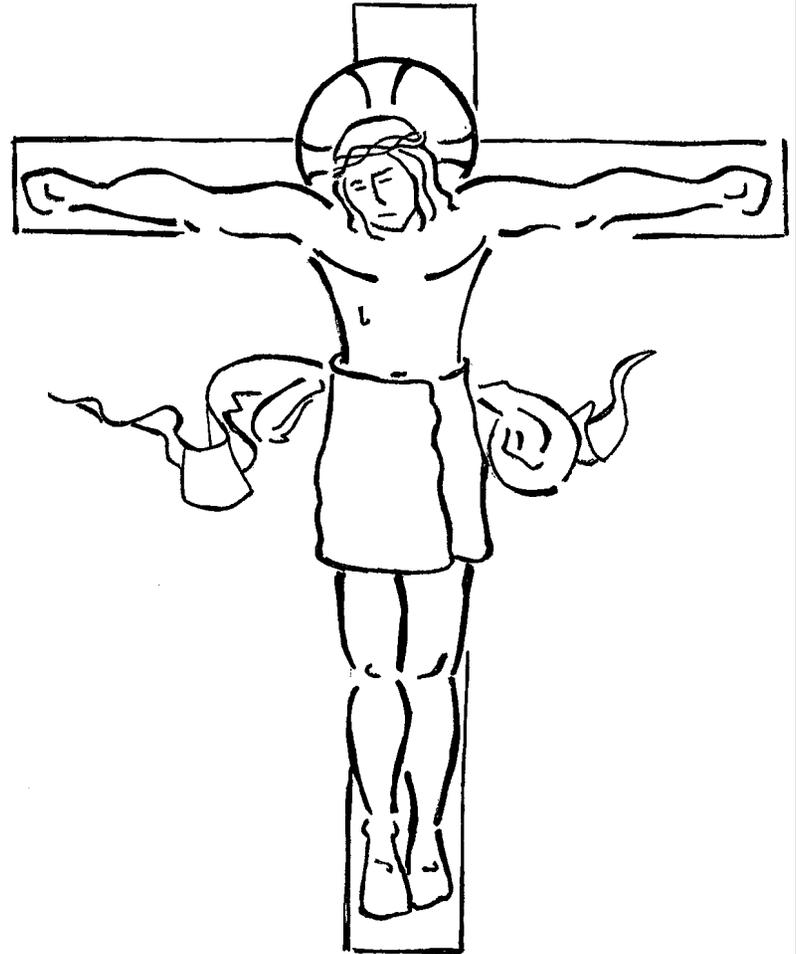
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PRAYERS FOR A LIFE VIGIL



"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Luke 23:34



Lutherans
For Life

*Equipping Lutherans
to be Gospel motivated
voices For Life*

REVIEWS

"...who was conceived by the Holy Spirit." Our Lord himself became a helpless child—even a tiny embryo—to secure our salvation and eternal life. His humility in his humanity which led to death itself, gives us insight and courage as we advocate for those who are the least among us. May this time of quiet prayer to the Lord of life bring you strength and courage as we join together in love for our neighbor. —**Maggie Karner, Director, LCMS Life and Health Ministries**

This booklet will serve to focus the attention of those who attend sidewalk counseling sessions; above all, the emphasis must be kept on the cross of Christ. — **Rev. Dr. Kevin Voss, Director, Concordia Center for Bioethics**

My thanks to you and the Oz. County Lutherans For Life for producing this resource. This is a prime example of what we mean in our mission statement by "Gospel-motivated voices For Life." These litanies help keep our "voice" focused where it should be when engaged in prayer vigils, upon Christ and His Word of Law and Gospel. I encourage its use as a way for us to be salt and light in our decaying and dark world. And may the blessing of Jesus be upon you, "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mathew 5:16b). — **Dr. Jim Lamb, Executive Director, Lutherans for Life**

I rejoice that Lutherans are calling upon the LORD for help and deliverance in the face of this great evil. This booklet fills a great need, guiding the faithful in God-pleasing prayer at abortion clinics. —**Rev'd Christopher S. Esget, Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Alexandria, VA, Member, LCMS Sanctity of Human Life Committee**



CLOSING HYMN & BENEDICTION

Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord

Grant peace, we pray, in mer - cy, Lord; Peace
in our time, O send us! For there is
none on earth but You, None oth - er
to de - fend us. You on - ly,
Lord, can fight for us. A - men.

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Repeat if desired

Benediction

May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble;
May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
May He send you help from the sanctuary,
And strengthen you out of Zion;
May He remember all your offerings,
And accept your burnt sacrifice.
May He grant you according to your heart's desire,
And fulfill all your purpose.
Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;
But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

From Psalm 20:1-4 & 7



APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints.
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection + of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**



HYMN OF INVOCATION

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.
- 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.
- 3 Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.
- 4 The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.



PRAYERS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

For the comfort of one who has undergone an abortion

Gracious Father in heaven, look with mercy on Your sons and daughters who suffer the shame of abortion and for the fathers and others who were complicit in them. For the sake of Christ Jesus, our Savior, bring them to realization, forgive them all their sins, and remove all feelings of guilt and despair. Protect them from the accusing voices of others and the accusations from within. By Your Spirit increase their faith that they may entrust themselves and their children into Your fatherly hands; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

When a mother is considering an abortion

God of all grace, out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy You have given us life and commanded us not to hurt or harm our neighbor in his body. Teach us to care for the unborn children whom You have created in Your image. Grant Your grace to all pregnant mothers, and especially those who enter this clinic, that, by Word and Spirit, they may live according to Your will and have the courage to nurture and cherish their children. Surround them with those who will rejoice in their child, and provide for their needs of body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Other specific concerns may be talked about, prayed for, and listed especially prayers for a peaceful and blessed vigil.

After these prayers have concluded, one or more of the following litanies may be used

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CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

At this point a fitting devotion may be read or given.

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Depending what time it is, choose one of the following closing prayers.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. **Amen.**

Noon Prayer

Blessed Lord Jesus, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the earth may look to You and see their salvation; for Your mercy's sake we pray. **Amen.**

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. **Amen.**

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¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

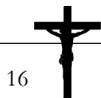
²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

Response after each line: Have mercy on us!

God the Father, Creator of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Son, through whom all things were made,

God the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life,

Lord Jesus, the Beginning and the End,

Lord Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,

Lord Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life,

Lord Jesus, Eternal Word of Life,

Lord Jesus, living in the womb of the Virgin Mary,

Lord Jesus, Lover of the poor and weak,

Lord Jesus, Defender of the helpless,

Lord Jesus, Bread of Life,

For every sin against life,

For the sin of abortion,

For the daily killing of innocent babies,

For the bloodshed throughout our land,

For the silent screams of Your children,

For the killing of Your future disciples,

For the exploitation of women by abortion,

For the silence of Your people,

For the apathy of Your people,

For the co-operation of Your people in this tragedy,



Response after each line: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our pre-born brothers and sisters killed by abortion,
 For our pre-born brothers and sisters threatened by abortion,
 For our brothers and sisters who have survived abortion,
 For mothers who have had abortions,
 For mothers tempted to have abortions,
 For mothers pressured to have abortions,
 For mothers who have refused to have abortions,
 For the fathers of aborted babies,
 For the families of aborted babies,
 For the families of those tempted to have abortions
 For abortionists,
 For all who assist and cooperate in abortions,
 For doctors and nurses, that they may nurture life,
 For government leaders, that they may defend life,
 For the clergy, that they may speak up for life,
 For the pro-life movement,
 For those who speak, write, and work to end abortion,
 For those who help provide alternatives to abortion...
 For those who promote adoption,
 For national and local pro-life groups,
 For unity in the pro-life movement,

 For courage and perseverance in pro-life work,
 For those who suffer ridicule and rejection for their stand for life,
 For those imprisoned for defending life,
 For those who have been injured and mistreated for defending life,
 For legal professionals,
 For courts and judges,



But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. ³ Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, ⁴ they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. ⁵ Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" ⁶ This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

⁷ So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." ⁸ And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. ¹⁰ When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord."

And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.



*14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

*17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!*

*18 Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.*

*19 If only you, God, would slay the wicked!
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!*

*20 They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.*

*21 Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?*

*22 I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.*

*23 Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

*24 See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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For police officers,
For educators,
For media professionals,
In thanksgiving for the babies saved from abortion,
In thanksgiving for the mothers saved and healed from abortion,
In thanksgiving for the former abortion providers who have become pro-life,
In thanksgiving for all those who take a stand against abortion,
In thanksgiving for the call to be part of the pro-life movement,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us,

O Lord, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have created all things through Your Son Jesus Christ. He trampled the power of death by His Paschal Mystery. May all who acknowledge You promote the sacredness of life and always serve You faithfully, through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Litany by Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life. Used by permission.



MARTIN LUTHER'S LITANY

O Lord,
have mercy.

O Christ,
have mercy.

O Lord,
have mercy.

O Christ,
hear us.

God the Father in heaven,
have mercy.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy.

Be gracious to us.

Spare us, good Lord.

Be gracious to us.

Help us, good Lord.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and
evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from
sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and
water; and from everlasting death:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nati-
vity;

By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony
and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your pre-



READINGS

*After the litanies have concluded, one or more of the follow-
ing readings may be read.*

Psalm 139

¹ *You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.*

² *You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

³ *You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

⁴ *Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.*

⁵ *You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.*

⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

⁷ *Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?*

⁸ *If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

⁹ *If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,*

¹⁰ *even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*

¹¹ *If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"*

¹² *even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

¹³ *For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*



Lord, have mercy.

For all who live in broken homes, that You would mend their wounds, and be their comfort in times of distress:

Lord, have mercy.

For all our young people, that they might lead lives of sexual purity, knowing that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit:

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of our nation, that they might be bold defenders of our religious liberty, so that we might worship You without fear, and that we might raise our children in a way that is pleasing in Your sight:

Lord, have mercy.

For the citizens of our nation, that we be made wise as serpents and as innocent as doves, so that we might faithfully be defenders of the unborn, and speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves:

Lord, have mercy.

For the Shepherds of this community, that you might unite them in Your Truth, and that You might give them the wisdom to speak Your Word in a way that is both bold and compassionate:

Lord, have mercy.

For all of us when we stumble and fall, and for our many sins:

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer may follow here or where it is listed on p. 18.

Litany by Pr. Peter J. Scaer. Used by permission.



cious death and burial;

By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

Help us, good Lord.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

Help us, good Lord.

We poor sinners implore You

to hear us, O Lord.

To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived; To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need; To direct and defend our President and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant



children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them; To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
we implore You to hear us.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

have mercy.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

have mercy.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

grant us Your peace.

O Christ,

hear us.

O Lord,

have mercy.

O Christ,

have mercy.

O Lord,

have mercy. Amen.

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God the Father in heaven,
have mercy.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world.

have mercy.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all women who are pregnant, that they might receive their children as a gift from God:

Lord, have mercy.

For all children conceived but not yet born, that the womb might be for them a place of safety:

Lord, have mercy.

For all women who have had abortions, that they might find forgiveness at the foot of the cross:

Lord, have mercy.

For all men, that they would take up the responsibilities that You have given, that they might be protectors and guardians of life:

Lord, have mercy.

For those doctors who perform abortion, that they might repent, and see the error of their ways:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who are married, that husbands might cherish their wives as Christ loves the church, and that wives might honor their husbands for the sake of Christ:

