



Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pastoral Care

Readings and Prayers in times of Economic Uncertainty

In times of economic uncertainty, we long for the comfort, peace, love, and security promised by God in Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are assured of those promises. Scripture readings and prayer in personal or community settings proclaims the word of God and reminds us to rely on God's certainty rather than the uncertainty that surrounds us in the world.

For more readings and prayers, see *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pastoral Care* available from Augsburg Fortress Publishers at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Anxiety, apprehension, fear

Psalm 4: *Answer me when I call*

Psalm 27: *The LORD is my light and salvation*

Psalm 46: *God is our refuge and strength*

Psalm 91: *The shelter of the Most High*

Psalm 121: *I lift up my eyes to the hills*

Isaiah 43:1-3a: *I have called you by name*

Lamentations 3:55-58: *I call on your name from the depths*

Matthew 6:25-34: *Do not be anxious*

John 10:11-18: *I am the good shepherd*

John 14:1-3: *Where I am, there you may be also*

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*

Philippians 4:4-7: *Rejoice in the Lord always*

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to us, your children, a consciousness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us once more to enjoy health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

O most loving Father, you want us to give thanks in all circumstances and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Grant that fears and anxieties in this mortal life may not hide from us the light of your immortal love shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Discouragement, despair

Psalm 13: *How long, O LORD?*

Psalm 88: *My soul is full of troubles*

Isaiah 43:1-3a: *I have called you by name*

Jeremiah 20:7-13: *The LORD is with me*

Mark 4:35-41: *Jesus stills the storm*
John 10:11-18: *I am the good shepherd*
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*
Colossians 1:19-23: *All things reconciled to God*
Hebrews 4:14-16: *Jesus sympathizes with our weakness*
1 Peter 5:6-9: *Cast your anxieties on God*
1 John 5:14-15: *God hears in whatever we ask*

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your living grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray.

God our comforter, you are a refuge and a strength for us, a helper close at hand in times of distress. Enable us so to hear the words of faith that our fear is dispelled, our loneliness eased, our anxiety calmed, and our hope reawakened. May your Holy Spirit lift us above our sorrow to the peace and light of your constant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Guidance, protection

Psalm 27: *The LORD is my light and salvation*
Psalm 46 *God is our refuge and strength*
Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7: *Glorious things of you are spoken*
Isaiah 41:9b-10: *Fear not, I am with you*
Lamentations 3:22-26: *The steadfast love of the LORD*
Matthew 11:28-30: *I will give you rest*
Luke 4:1-12: *The temptation of Jesus*
John 10:27-29: *My sheep hear my voice*
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*
2 Thessalonians 3:3: *The Lord is faithful and will guard you*
Hebrews 13:5-6: *God will never forsake you*

A prayer of Thomas à Kempis

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly graven that no prosperity, no adversity, shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life.

Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

O God, full of compassion, we commit and commend ourselves to you, in whom we live and move and have our being. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest by the way. Give us refuge from the turmoil of worldly distractions beneath the shadow of your wings. Let our hearts, so often a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Difficulty in vocational life, unemployment

Psalm 37:3-7a: *Commit your way to the LORD*

Psalm 90: *Prosper the work of our hands*

Matthew 6:25-34: *Do not be anxious*

Matthew 11:28-30: *Promise to those carrying heavy burdens*

2 Corinthians 1:8-11, 18-20: *Every one of God's promises is a "Yes"*

Philippians 4:4-7: *The peace of God will guard your hearts*

O God, the heavens declare your glory and tell of your work in creation. From you come the gifts of our bodies and minds, our skills and abilities, and the opportunities to use these gifts in sustaining our lives and in helping our neighbors. We pray for those whose livelihood is insecure; for those who are bearing heavy burdens and stressful times at work; for those whose work is tedious or dangerous; for those who have experienced failures at work; for those who have lost a job; and for all who face any difficulty in their lives of labor. Surround them with your never-failing love; free them from restlessness and anxiety; keep them in every perplexity and distress; and renew them in facing the opportunities and challenges of daily life and work; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

God of justice, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our wealth and resources that all people may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labor; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.