

April 28, 2024 National Day of Prayer Sermon May 2, 2024

The first Thursday of May is The National Day of Prayer that is May 2nd. No one can deny the need of prayer in our world and our nation. Today's is a service of prayer: The desire of our heart would be for a great revival in our land - but always tempered with the even greater desire for God's perfect will and plan to be carried out. ///Dear Heavenly Father, It is a tumultuous time on Your earth and we are hard pressed to know exactly how to pray that honors you, expresses our righteous concerns and still gives us hope. I believe it would be a consensus in this fellowship that our nation could once again be restored and motivated first and foremost to Your Biblical revelation. That peaceful, moral, ethical righteousness be the guiding light for our nation and to shine from here upon on the peoples of the earth. We do have prophetic insights from scripture that instruct us to always be ready – always be ready in every generation for Your return and Your plans for that and ensuing ages to usher in eternity. So that is our prayer that Your will be done and we be guided to recognize and participate in every righteous part of Your divine enterprise. -AUDIENCE PLEASE JOIN ME IN THE MODEL PRAYER FROM THE NKJV ON THE SCREEN, **Matthew 6:9-13**: *Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*

When we pray - always remember, it is an unparalleled privilege to have a personal audience with the creator and God of the universe. It follows then, **Philippians 4:6-7** *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Every prayer is answered in perfect accord to God's will, He answers yes, no or wait. A practical and helpful scripture to prepare us for effective prayer is **Psalms 139:23-24**

2. Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. NKJV

The Psalmist reminds us to be humble before our Creator God, desiring for every thought, intent, desire, and anxiety of our hearts to be revealed and made righteous! That humble attitude - examines and despises any evil angel, sin, and wickedness that may be found, and seeks to remove it from life. ///Just quick a note, a couple of satan's tricks are to insert selfish motivation over God's will, to divert attention to inconsequential circumstances and outright making us think our way is somehow superior to Gods. In other words, be careful what we pray for because after all in God - **Mark 4:22** *For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. NKJV* That is such an important teaching, the writer of Hebrews repeated it: **Hebrews 4:13** *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. NKJV* So the instruction for growing believers is **Matthew 12:36-37** *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of Judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*” NKJV

The event we focus on today is called The National Day of Prayer and with that in mind I have asked 5 men to comment and pray for our country's leaders: First will be **Leonard** as he prays for the Executive Branch of our government, **Psalms 47:7-9** **ESV**. Second will be **Jimmy** as he prays for the Legislative Branch of our government **1 Timothy 2:1-2** **ESV** . Third will be **Mike** as he prays for the Judicial Branch of our government **2 Chronicles 19:5-7**. Fourth will be **Frank** as he prays for the State And Local Leaders Branch of our government **1 Peter 2:13-14** **ESV**. Fifth will be **Daniel** as he prays for the upcoming election of our government **Deuteronomy 1:13** **ESV**.

3.

The very fact that prayer has not always existed parallels a time in the future when prayer as we know it will not exist. When man had full access to the Lord, there was no need for prayer, Adam and Eve freely spoke with the Lord face-to-face in the garden (Genesis 3:8). In eternity, the same will be true.

For now, the Lord has given us access to Him through prayer **Hebrews 4:16 NKJV**
Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

However, it seems that the fall of man caused men to have to begin “to call upon the name of the LORD.” **Genesis 4:26 NKJV** *And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.*

The last prayer in the Bible is a poignant and powerful plea found in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 22:19-20 *and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

Matthew 6:9-13

Philippians 4:6-7

Psalms 139:23-24

Mark 4:22

Hebrews 4:13

Matthew 12:36-37

Psalms 47:7-9 ESV Leonard

1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV Jimmy

2 Chronicles 19:5-7. Mike

1 Peter 2:13-14 ESV. Frank

Deuteronomy 1:13 ESV. Daniel

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

Genesis 4:26 NKJV

Revelation 22:19-20 NKJV

_____ below are the handouts to the 5 men _____

For April 28 the sermon is The National Day Of Prayer. I start with about 15 minutes of prayer and comments and then explain; “I have asked 5 persons to pray for our country’s leaders:” First will be Leonard as he prays for the Executive Branch of our government

To those leading prayers: I am handing you this note with a brief sample prayer and scripture I got off the internet for National Day Of Prayer. Please feel free to alter it as much as you want to into your own thoughts and words.

A Specific Prayer for the Executive Branch

While God has allowed earthly rulers, he is the supreme Ruler over all of his creation. As Psalm 47:7-9 reminds us, “For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!” (ESV).

Heavenly Father, please be with our president and vice president. Whether we agree with the man or woman in that office, we pray they would seek you and that their decisions would benefit all Americans. Let them be those who seek justice for the innocence, succor for the poor and liberty for all. Amen.

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A Specific Prayer for the Legislative Branch

In Paul’s letter to Timothy, he reminds him about the importance of praying for our leaders. For example, in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, he writes: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (ESV).

Lord, we pray for our legislators, as they have an often difficult task of crafting laws and overseeing budgets. May they put their constituents first and their own desires second. May they seek the good of all over the good of a few. May they be honest in all of their dealings. Amen.

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A Specific Prayer for the Judicial Branch

God is a God of justice—he cares deeply for wrongdoings to be corrected and those who commit crimes to be justly punished. 2 Chronicles 19:5-7 tell us: “He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges, ‘Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the Lord. He is with you in giving judgment. Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the Lord our God, or partiality or taking bribes’” (ESV).

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A Specific Prayer for Your State and Local Leaders

Our daily lives are often impacted more by our state and local leaders than by our congressional representations. As Peter writes in 1 Peter 2:13-14, “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good” (ESV).

Dear God, help our state and local leaders to be righteous in all that they do. Let them seek to create laws and rules that benefit all who live within their jurisdiction. May they desire to serve, rather than be served, to help rather than to take, and to give rather than receive. Amen.

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Each year, many American have the chance to vote in local, state and national elections. As Deuteronomy 1:13 reminds us, “Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads” (ESV).

Our Heavenly Father, let us remember you are sovereign over all even as we prayerfully consider who should represent us. Let us be kind to those with whom we disagree politically. Let us seek your Scriptures for guidance. Let us always look to Jesus as our Savior and not earthly men and women, keeping in mind that your kingdom will come one day with Christ as our glorious leader. Amen.