

## **Pastoral Prayers from *LSB Pastoral Care Companion***

### **Luther's sacristy prayer**

O Lord God, dear Father in heaven, I am indeed unworthy of the office and ministry in which I am to make known Your glory and to nurture and to serve this congregation.

But since You have appointed me to be a pastor and teacher, and the people are in need of the teaching and the instruction, be my helper and let Your holy angels attend me.

Then if You are pleased to accomplish anything through me, to Your glory and not to mine or to the praise of men, grant me, out of Your pure grace and mercy, a right understanding of Your Word and that I may also diligently perform it.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, shepherd and bishop of our souls, send Your Holy Spirit that He may work with me to will and to do through Your divine strength according to Your good pleasure. Amen.

### **Prayer for faithfulness**

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called me into the work of Your vineyard and lavished upon me Your grace and all manner of spiritual and eternal gifts. Help me to live unto You in humility and patience, to hope in Your pure grace and faithfulness, to abide in Your house, and to praise and magnify Your glorious grace forever; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Pastor's prayer on Saturday evening**

O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, my Lord and my God, I humbly pray You to pardon all my sins. Look not upon my unworthiness but upon Your great mercy, by which You have appointed me to be Your ambassador in Christ's stead. Put Your Word in my mouth and tomorrow speak with my tongue. Bring forth fruit through me, Your unworthy servant, and let not the preaching of Your Word be without effect among us. May all that I utter be in accord with Your Word and the confession of Your Church, that Your name may be glorified, Your congregation truly awakened, and thus, through me, Your unworthy servant, Your Church be edified.

As You inhabited the praises of Israel, dwell in the praises of this our Church. Let the sacrifice of our praise be acceptable to You, and preserve us from insincerity and thoughtless worship.

Incline Your ear to our prayer, O God of Jacob; hear the voice of our supplications and help us.

Preserve unto us Your holy Word that it may be joyfully and boldly proclaimed in its purity, and guard us in the right use of the Sacrament in accord with the institution of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Restrain all who would destroy us and turn them to Yourself.

Be our God and our children's God, now and henceforth, and hear my prayer, O Father, for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter divine. Amen.

### **For the pastor's family**

O faithful God and Lord, I thank You for my family—my wife and children—and for all my relatives. You have given them to me purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and

mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. Preserve them in good health, and give them their daily bread. But above all keep them in Your grace and in the true confession of Your name to the end. For those among my relatives who do not know You, bring them to repentance and faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Prayer for strength and help in the ministry**

O God of all grace and mercy, You have called me, a poor, unworthy sinner, to be a servant of Your Word. You have placed me into the office that preaches reconciliation and given me this flock to feed. In and of myself, I am wholly incompetent to perform the work of this great office. Therefore, by Your grace make me an able minister of Your Church. Give me Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God. Fill me with the right knowledge of Your Word, and open my lips that my mouth may proclaim the honor of Your name. Fill my heart with a passion for seeking the lost and with skillfulness to give to the lambs and sheep entrusted to my care what each one needs at the proper time. Give me at all times sound words, and empower me to perform just works. Whenever I overlook something or, in the weakness of my flesh, speak or act wrongly, O Lord, set it aright, and grant that no one may suffer eternal harm through me. All this I ask of You through the merits of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor (January 24)**

Lord Jesus Christ, You have always given to Your Church on earth faithful shepherds such as Timothy to guide and feed Your flock. Make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and administer Your means of grace, and grant Your people wisdom to follow in the way that leads to life eternal; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Conversion of St. Paul (January 25)**

Almighty God, You turned the heart of him who persecuted the Church and by his preaching caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant us ever to rejoice in the saving light of Your Gospel and, following the example of the apostle Paul, to spread it to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor (January 26)**

Almighty God, You called Titus to the work of pastor and teacher. Make all shepherds of Your flock diligent in preaching Your holy Word so that the whole world may know the immeasurable riches of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.