

NATIONAL DAY *of* PRAYER

Hear the cry and the prayer
that your servant is praying
in your presence this day.

1 Kings 8:28

May 3, 2018



NATIONAL DAY *of* PRAYER

*As you enter the Chapel, please assume a quiet and respectful attitude of worship.
Please silence your mobile devices.*

ORGAN PRELUDE Samuel Metzger
✦CALL TO WORSHIP Joshua L. Preston
✦FIRST PSALTER LESSON Psalm 133

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

**It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

A Season of Praise and Thanksgiving

✦HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 283: "We Are God's People" SYMPHONY

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- Praise Jesus as the Lord of the Nations
- Give Thanks for the Gospel of Jesus
- Give Thanks for the Church United in Christ

A Season of Confession and Repentance

EPISTLE LESSON James 4:1-10

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?
Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?
You desire and do not have, so you murder.
You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.
You do not have, because you do not ask.
You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
You adulterous people!
Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?
Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says,
"He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?
But he gives more grace.
Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
Be wretched and mourn and weep.
Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

✦HYMN OF CONFESSION: No. 334 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" ARISE

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Heavenly Father, we praise You!
For in King Jesus, the barriers which have separated us
from You and each other are torn down.
It is Your will that Your people should be one in Christ
and reflect the eternal unity that exists in the Trinity.
Yet we confess we have selfishly chosen the way of division and dissension.
It is Your will for Your Church to love its neighbors
and make disciples of all nations.
Yet we confess we have built up walls in our hearts
to protect ourselves from our enemies.
Have mercy on us according to Your loving kindness.
Free us from the idols that keep us from obeying You
and loving our neighbor.
Break down the walls we have built.
Keep us clinging to the cross of Christ,
so Your grace may abound in us and to our nation through us.
We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. I John 1:8-9

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

A Season of Intercession

SECOND PSALTER LESSON Psalm 116:1-2, 5-7, 16-17

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Our World

- Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.
- Pray for the Gospel to be proclaimed to all nations.
- Pray for the effectiveness and fruitfulness of all of our missionaries.

Our Nation

- Pray for the easing of political unrest and backbiting.
- Pray for the easing of racial tensions and for our police departments throughout the nation.
- Pray for wisdom and a posture of repentance for all our national leaders.
*President Trump; Vice President Pence; Members of Congress;
Senators Alexander and Corker; U.S. Representatives Phil Roe, John Duncan,
Chuck Fleischmann, Scott Desjarlais, Jim Cooper, Diane Black, Marsha Blackburn,
David Kustoff, and Steve Cohen; the Supreme Court; and the U.S. Judicial System*

Our State

- Pray that our state leaders will seek the Lord and listen to Him.
Governor Bill Haslam; Tennessee General Assembly; and the State Judicial System
- Pray that they will surround themselves with wise counsel.
- Pray that they would personally know the Lord in a saving way through faith in Jesus Christ.

Our City

- Pray our church would be the light of Jesus to Memphis.
- Pray our church would serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.
- Pray that our city leaders will seek the Lord and His will.
Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland; Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Jr.
- Pray for our school systems, teachers, and students
- Pray for our law enforcement and emergency personnel

Our Church and Ministry Partners

- Pray for God’s blessing on our pastoral staff and church officers.
- Pray for God’s anointing upon all our ministries.
- Pray for God’s cultivation of and preservation of our unity.
- Pray for God’s blessing and provision for our local ministry partners and church plants.

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 4:1-6. Dan G. Burns

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

HOMILY Our Contribution to National Unity

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 483 “Lead On, O King Eternal” LANCASHIRE

✦BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

✦Indicates congregation standing

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National Day of Prayer is an annual observance, mandated by Congress, on the first Thursday of each May. Its purpose is to underscore the importance of prayer for the nation and its leadership and encourage all Americans to pray for God’s healing and blessing upon our nation.

The first day of prayer on record was observed prior to the nation’s first birthday in 1775, and the official National Day of Prayer was established by Congress in 1952 and signed by President Truman as an annual observance.

This day of prayer is for everyone; persons of every ethnicity and political affiliation can unite in prayer for our shared country, communities, families, and futures.