

PANDEMIC ANNIVERSARY: March 11, 1 p.m.

Prayer for home use.

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Thursday, March 11 marks one year since the World Health Organisation declared the coronavirus to be a pandemic.

A commemoration of the sacrifices of this past year, especially those who lost their lives due to the COVID-19 virus will be held in front of the National Assembly, Quebec City at noon on Thursday, March 11, ending with a moment of silence at 1 p.m. for the deceased.

Bishop Pryse of our Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has invited congregations to mark Thursday with fasting and prayer. While we are fortunate in Canada to have reliable health services and planned vaccinations amidst life-style inconveniences, we especially pray for those in circumstances where the struggle to control the pandemic is fraught with political, social, and resource limitations.

At St. John's the flowers at Easter will stand in memory of those who have died of COVID-19 during the past year. May they rest in peace, and most especially may their be healing for the grief and loss experienced by their families.

Invite members of your household to join you.

Have one person (or yourself) read Psalm 121 out loud.

I lift up my eyes¹ to the hills;
from where is my¹ help to come?
My help comes¹ from the LORD,
the maker of heav-¹ en and earth.
The LORD will not let your¹ foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you¹ fall asleep.
Behold, the keep-¹ er of Israel
will neither slum-¹ ber nor sleep;
the LORD watches¹ over you;
the LORD is your shade at¹ your right hand;
the sun will not strike¹ you by day,
nor the¹ moon by night.
The LORD will preserve you¹ from all evil
and will¹ keep your life.
The LORD will watch over your going out and your¹ coming in,
from this time forth for-¹ evermore. (*Psalm 121*)

You may read another few verses from the Bible:

A reading from Isaiah:

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you, says the LORD. See, I have inscribed you on
the palms of my hands. (*Isaiah 49:15-16*)

A reading from John:

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they
die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." (*John 11:25-26*)

A reading from First Thessalonians:

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*)

A reading from Hebrews:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, . . . let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (*Hebrews 12:1-2*)

Prayer

Continue with one or more of the following prayers:

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come:

We give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries.

As we remember those throughout the world who have suffered from the pandemic and especially those who have died due to COVID-19, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more.

Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Strengthen us to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep in you and wake in your likeness; to you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer:

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.

*Adaptation by Pastor Eric Dyck
St. John's, Montreal*