

June 22, 2006

Dear Prayer Servant:

Thank you for taking the time to pray for the 98<sup>th</sup> Michigan District Convention.

Even though you may not be able to be present physically at the Convention, God hears our prayers wherever we are. Your prayers are an important part of the overall prayer ministry supporting the Convention and its participants. Please pray especially for God's direction and guidance for all of the Convention proceedings, and for wisdom and discernment for the delegates. Please pray also for God's divine protection for all of the participants and their families. Finally, pray that God would use all that transpires for the building of His kingdom and the salvation of the lost.

For your convenience, a brief prayer guide is attached which includes the following:

- 1) A suggested guide for a 30-40 minute prayer session.
- 2) An Agenda of the Convention Proceedings to assist in tailoring petitions to what is currently happening or what will be happening shortly on the Convention floor
- 3) Selected Collects from the new *Lutheran Service Book* for use as may be appropriate in your prayers

Although we will not be making specific prayer requests from the participants available on this Website, please pray in general that God would hear those requests, and that His grace, mercy and peace would be with any of the participants who have special needs during this time.

On behalf of the Convention participants, we thank you for your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Kendra Casasanta  
Convention Intercessors Co-coordinator  
Immanuel, Macomb

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Convention Intercessors Co-coordinator  
Messiah, Midland

## Suggested Outline for a 30-40 Minute Prayer Session

- Praise and Adoration:** 2-3 minutes  
Acknowledging God as the Sovereign Lord of the Universe
- General Confession and Acknowledging God's Grace:** 2-3 minutes  
We are **Redeemed** by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ.  
As sinners, we can only approach the throne of God through His Grace, and the free gift of Salvation that we have in Jesus Christ.  
Yet, we are bold to come before Him because of that Grace and His promise to hear us for Jesus' sake.
- General Intercession for the Convention:** 5 minutes  
We are **Refreshed** and equipped by the Holy Spirit. Ask that the Holy Spirit would be present to guide and direct our discussion and actions so that all that we do would be aligned with God's will for His Church; and that through our actions His kingdom might be advanced by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that God would dispatch his holy angels to guard and protect the delegates, staff, volunteers and their families so that the enemy may have no opportunity to hinder or distract from what God desires us to accomplish. Pray that we are **Ready** for whatever action God is leading us to as a result of this Convention.
- Specific Intercession for the Current and Upcoming Sessions:** 5-10 minutes  
A rough outline of the Convention Agenda is included so that specific petitions may be brought before God relating to what is currently happening or will be happening soon within the Convention proceedings.
- Petitions for Needs and Prayer Requests of Convention Participants:** 5-10 minutes  
Boxes for prayer requests have been made available at several locations throughout the convention floor. Requests will be brought to the prayer chapel periodically throughout the day. Please pray for these specific requests. Selected Collects from the *Lutheran Service Book* have been included for your use if desired.
- General Intercession for the Church and for our Synod and District:** 2-3 minutes  
Pray that God would bless His Church and our Synod and District; that He would guard and protect our leaders and grant them wisdom and discernment in seeking His will for the building of His kingdom.  
Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as preparations are made and delegates are chosen for the 2007 Synodical Convention.
- General Intercession for Our Country, its Leaders, and for our Troops:** 2-3 minutes  
Pray for spiritual renewal in our Country, for wisdom for our Leaders and those in authority, and for the safety and protection of our Troops.

# COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING\*

## The Church and Her Mission

### **For the Church**

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (102)

### **For the mission of the Church and her missionaries**

Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries who proclaim the saving cross that Christ, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (105)

### **Unity of faith**

O God, Your infinite love restores to the right way those who err, seeks the scattered, and preserves those whom You have gathered. Of Your tender mercy pour out on Your faithful people the grace of unity that, all schisms being ended, Your flock may be gathered to the true Shepherd of Your Church and may serve You in all faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (107)

### **Defending the Church from error**

Almighty and everlasting God, You would have all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. By Your almighty power and unsearchable wisdom break and hinder all the counsels of those who hate Your Word and who, by corrupt teaching, would destroy it. Enlighten them with the knowledge of Your glory that we may know the riches of Your heavenly grace and, in peace and righteousness, serve You, the only true God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (109)

### **For persecuted Christians**

Lord Jesus Christ, before whom all in heaven and earth shall bow, grant courage that Your children may confess Your saving name in the face of any opposition from a world hostile to the Gospel. Help them to remember Your faithful people who sacrificed much and even faced death rather than dishonor You when called upon to deny the faith. By Your Spirit, strengthen them to be faithful and to confess You boldly, knowing that You will confess Your own before the Father in heaven, with whom You and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, now and forever. (111)

### **Teaching the faith**

Almighty God, the fount of all wisdom, by Your Holy Spirit enlighten those who teach and those who learn that, rejoicing in the knowledge of Your truth, they may worship You and serve You from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (115)

### **Seminaries and colleges**

O God, source of all abiding knowledge, through Word and Spirit You both enlighten the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom You draw to Your service. Look with favor on the seminaries and colleges of the Church, blessing those who teach and those who learn, that all the baptized may apply themselves with ready diligence to their tasks and faithfully fulfill their service according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (116)

**Increase of the holy ministry**

O God, You led Your holy apostles to ordain pastors in every place. Grant that Your flock, under the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, may choose suitable men for the ministry of Word and Sacrament and may uphold them in their work for the extension of Your kingdom; through Him who is the chief Shepherd of our souls, Jesus Christ, our Lord. (121)

**For Synod or District convention**

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given the Comforter to Your Church and have promised to abide with it forever. Pour forth the blessing of Your Spirit on our pastors and lay delegates now assembled / about to assemble in Your name. Grant them abundant steadfastness of faith, purity of love, and a sincere desire for peace that they, by the help of Your abiding Spirit, may conduct the affairs of Your Church in all humility and godliness, and to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (143)

**To open a church convention**

Almighty and gracious God, send Your Holy Spirit to bless, with His grace and presence, all those here assembled in Your name that Your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may do the will of Him who loved her and gave Himself for her, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. (144)

## At Worship

**For blessing on the Word**

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (150)

**For pardon, growth in grace, and divine protection**

O Lord, our God, we acknowledge Your great goodness toward us and praise You for the mercy and grace which our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and our hearts have known. We sincerely repent of the sins of this day and those in the past. Pardon our offenses, correct and reform what is lacking in us, and help us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Inscribe Your law upon our hearts, and equip us to serve You with holy and blameless lives. May each day remind us of the coming of the night when no one can work. In the emptiness of this present age keep us united, by a living faith through the power of Your Holy Spirit, with Him who is the resurrection and the life, that we may escape the eternal bitter pains of condemnation.

By Your Holy Spirit bless the preaching of Your Word and the administration of Your sacraments. Preserve these gifts to us and to all Christians. Guard and protect us from all dangers to body and soul. Grant that we may with faithful perseverance receive from You our sorrows as well as our joys, knowing that health and sickness, riches and poverty, and all things come by permission of Your fatherly hand. Keep us this day under Your protective care and preserve us, securely trusting in Your everlasting goodness and love, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (159)

**General thanksgiving**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we, Your unworthy servants, give You humble and hearty thanks for all the goodness and loving-kindness that You bestow on us. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But above all, we bless You for Your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. We implore You to give us a right understanding of all Your mercies that our hearts may ever be deeply thankful and that we may show forth Your praise with both our lips and our lives. Direct our lives in ways of holiness and righteousness all our days that we may enjoy the testimony of a good conscience

and the hope of Your favor, be sustained and comforted in every time of trouble, and finally be received into Your everlasting kingdom; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (160)

### **General intercession**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we offer before You our common supplications for the well-being of Your Church throughout the world. So guide and govern it by Your Holy Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Send down upon all ministers of the Gospel and upon the congregations committed to their care the healthful spirit of Your grace that they may please You in all things.

Behold in mercy all who are in authority over us. Supply them with Your blessing that they may be inclined to Your will and walk according to Your commandments. We humbly ask Your abiding presence in every situation that You would make known Your ways among us. Preserve those who travel, satisfy the wants of Your creatures, and help those who call upon You in any need that they may have patience in the midst of suffering and, according to Your will, be released from their afflictions; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (161)

### **Praise and supplication**

Lord God, creator of heaven and earth, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise You for the abundant mercy which You this day so richly have provided us, blessing us not only with daily bread for our bodies but also with heavenly food for our souls. Grant that Your living and powerful Word may abide in our hearts, working mightily in us to Your glory and for our salvation. We commit ourselves to Your divine protection and fatherly care. Let Your holy angels be with us that the evil foe may have no power over us. Look in mercy on Your Church and deliver it from all danger and adversities. By Your Holy Spirit comfort and strengthen all who are in affliction or distress, and grant Your abiding peace to us all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. (162)

### **For the Holy Spirit**

Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (183)

### **For divine guidance**

Almighty and ever-living God, You make us both to will and to do those things that are good and acceptable in Your sight. Let Your fatherly hand ever guide us and Your Holy Spirit ever be with us to direct us in the knowledge and obedience of Your Word that we may obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (187)

### **Thanksgiving to God**

Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (191)

### **Grace to use our gifts**

Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use them always to Your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (192)

### **Steadfast Faith**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, because of Your tender love toward us sinners You have given us Your Son that, believing in him, we might have everlasting life. Continue to grant us Your Holy Spirit

that we may remain steadfast in this faith to the end and finally come to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (200)

#### **For reconciliation**

God of love, through Your Son You have commanded us to love one another. By the guidance of Your Word and Spirit, deliver us from impenitence and teach us the truth that we might confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and be reconciled to one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (206)

#### **In times of temptation**

Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. (209)

#### **For control of the tongue**

We pray You, O Lord, to keep our tongues from evil and our lips from speaking deceit, that as Your holy angels continually sing praises to You in heaven, so may we at all times glorify You on earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (210)

#### **For purity**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (211)

#### **For faithfulness**

Lord God, we thank You that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to hold fast Your Word in hearts which You have cleansed that thereby we may be made strong in faith and perfect in holiness, and be comforted in life and death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (212)

#### **For humility**

O God, You resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility after the likeness of Your only Son that we may never be arrogant and prideful and thus provoke Your wrath, but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (216)

#### **For patience**

O God, by the patient endurance of Your only-begotten Son You beat down the pride of the old enemy. Help us to treasure rightly in our hearts what our Lord has borne for our sakes that, after His example, we may bear with patience those things that are adverse to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (217)

#### **Answer to prayer**

Almighty God, You have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Your Son's name. Mercifully incline Your ears to us who have now made our prayers and supplications to You, and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked according to Your will we may receive to meet our need and bring glory to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (219)

#### **Hope of eternal life in Christ**

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (222)

## Civil realm

### **For the nation**

Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (224)

### **Responsible citizenship**

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (225)

### **For responsible leaders**

O merciful Father in heaven, from You comes all rule and authority over the nations of the world for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well. Graciously regard Your servants, those who make, administer, and judge the laws of this nation, and look in mercy upon all the rulers of the earth. Grant that all who receive the sword as Your servants may bear it according to Your command. Enlighten and defend them, and grant them wisdom and understanding that under their peaceable governance Your people may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness, and unity. Protect and prolong their lives that we with them may show forth the praise of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (226)

### **For peace in the world**

Heavenly Father, God of all concord, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end all conflicts in the world. Teach us to examine our hearts that we may recognize our own inclination toward envy, malice, hatred, and enmity. Help us, by Your Word and Spirit, to search our hearts and to root out the evil that would lead to strife and discord, so that in our lives we may be at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (228)

### **In times of war**

O Almighty God, You alone can establish lasting peace. Forgive our sins, we implore You, and deliver us from the hands of our enemies that we, being strengthened by Your defense, may be preserved from all danger and glorify You for the restoration of tranquility in our land; through the merits of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. (229)

### **Armed forces of our nation**

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (233)

## Home and Family

### **For home and family**

Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (239)

### **For those who are married**

Most gracious God, we give thanks for the joy and blessings that You grant to husbands and wives. Assist them always by Your grace that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their marriage vows, grow in love towards You and for each other, and come at last to the eternal joys that You have promised; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (243)

### **For those who are separated**

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of those who are separated. Give them the power of Your Holy Spirit that they may attend to counsel of Your Word that, finding a renewed unity of purpose in their marriage, they may be reconciled to one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (244)

### **Estranged & divorced**

Look with mercy, O Lord, on Your servants for whom the bond of wedded love and faithfulness has been broken. Where they have sinned grant them repentance that they may receive Your forgiveness and live in the mercy of Your healing power; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (245)

### **Care of children**

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have blessed us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom that, as they grow in years, we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. (246)

### **For young persons**

Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to Your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (247)

### **Adoption of children**

Merciful Father, because of Your great love revealed in Christ You called us to the household of faith in Your Son Jesus, our Savior, and chose us to be Your own dear children. Grant Your grace to all who have adopted children that, finding in them a special blessing, they may nurture them as Your chosen ones; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (249)

### **For children in crisis**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, be a source of strength and hope for the children in our families. When they stray, protect them from all danger and grant Your abiding presence. Guide them by Your Word into paths of wisdom and righteousness, and send Your holy angels to watch over them, that the evil one may have no power over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (250)

### **For the aged**

Almighty God and gracious Father, in Your mercy look on those whose increasing years bring them weakness, anxiety, distress, or loneliness. Grant that they may always know care and respect, concern and

understanding. Grant them willing hearts to accept help and, as their strength wanes, increase their faith with the constant assurance of Your love through Jesus Christ, their Savior. (251)

### **For those who are moving**

Lord God, Your gracious presence attends Your people wherever they go. Be with those who lives are in transition as they move from a familiar home to a new community. Support them in times of challenge or loneliness, and surround them with caring Christian people so that they may find welcome and peace in their new location and joy in Your ongoing kindness and love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (253)

## **In Times of Need**

### **For the sick**

O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body; You chasten and You heal. Show mercy to Your servant(s) name(s). Spare his/her/their life (lives) and restore his/her/their strength. Even as You gave Your Son to bear our infirmities and sicknesses, deal compassionately with Your servant(s) and bless him/her/them with Your healing power. We commit him/her/them to Your gracious mercy and protection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (255)

### **For those who will undergo surgery**

Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers on behalf of Your servant(s) name(s), as he/she/they undergoes(undergo) surgery. Bless him/her/them with faith in Your loving kindness and protection. Endow the surgeon(s) and the medical team(s) with ability and skill so that, according to Your will, this surgery may bring Your servant(s) to a full restoration of health and strength; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. (259)

### **For those who minister to the sick**

Lord God, be with the doctors and nurses and all others who minister to the needs of those who are ill. Through their wise and compassionate service, grant relief to the suffering and hope to the afflicted so that all may know of Your boundless care; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (261)

### **For one near death**

Eternal Father, You alone make the decisions concerning life and death. We ask You to show mercy to Your servant, name, whose death seems imminent. If it be Your gracious will, restore him/her and lengthen his/her earthly life; but if not, keep him/her in his/her baptismal grace and in Your abiding care. Give him/her a repentant heart, firm faith, and a lively hope. Let not the fear of death cause him/her to waver in confidence and trust. At Your chosen time, grant him/her a peaceful departure and a joyous entrance into everlasting life with the glorious company of all Your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. (262)

### **For those who mourn**

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth and giver of life, we thank You for all the mercies You granted to our brother(s)/sister(s), name(s), during his/her/their earthly life (lives), especially for calling him/her/them to faith in Jesus Christ. Comfort the survivors who mourn his/her/their death(s) with the hope of the glorious resurrection and a joyful reunion in heaven. Keep us mindful that we are mortal so that we will ever be prepared to die in the faith and finally receive the glory promised to all who trust in Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. (263)

### **Time of bereavement**

Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, help us to look to You in our time of sorrow, remembering the cloud of faithful witnesses with which we are surrounded. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of those who now rest in Your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (265)

**For parents of a stillborn child**

Heavenly Father, Your Son bore all our griefs and carried all our sorrows. Strengthen the faith of name of parent(s) and all who bear this heavy burden of sorrow and loss. Help them to rely on Your boundless mercy and to trust that their child, who has been gathered into Your loving arms, remains in Your abiding care; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (273)

**In times of affliction and distress**

Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in every situation they may recognize and receive Your gracious help and comfort, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (280)

**For those who are lonely**

Almighty God, merciful Father, by Word and Sacrament You have created Your Church in this world to be a godly communion and a caring family. Grant Your blessing to those who dwell in loneliness that they may find a place of healthful solace and pleasant fellowship among people faithful to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (282)

**Those suffering from addiction**

O blessed Jesus, even as You minister to all who are afflicted, look with compassion on those who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Assure them of Your unfailing mercy, remove the fears that attack them, release them from their addiction, and grant skill, patience, and understanding love to all those who provide care for them; for Your own mercy's sake. (288)

**The unemployed**

Heavenly Father, we commend to Your care those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Grant that the wealth and resources of this rich land be profitably used so that all persons may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (289)

## In Times of Joy

**Restoration of health**

Almighty and Gracious God, we give thanks that You have restored the health of Your servant, name, and for this blessing we praise Your name. Grant that he/she may continue joyfully through the days You have given him/her in this world and also share in eternal glory at the appearing of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. (297)

**At the birth of a child**

Merciful Father, You add to the generations of mankind. This day we thank You for the birth of name(s). By the gracious working of Your Holy Spirit, help him/her/them to grow in Your nurture and admonition that he/she/they may bring glory to You and serve others in Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (301)

**Anniversary of a marriage**

O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (304)

\*Selected from Collects to appear in *Lutheran Service Book*.