

A Service of Prayer for Our Nation

Monday, November 3, 2008

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Prayer before worship: *Heavenly Father, we gather together this evening to call on your name. You establish every earthly authority. You are in control of all things. We ask you to bless our country through the officials who will be elected. We also implore you to bless us with your Spirit as we worship so that we remember that in all things you are the ultimate source of all blessings. Amen.*

Service: Evening Prayer (p. 52)

Hymns: 620, 617, 592

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 47 (p. 85)

Psalm Prayer: *Lord Jesus, your Father raised you on high, seated you at his right hand, and appointed you to head over everything for the sake of the Church. Bless our nation through the leaders you give us. May they, and we, be to the praise of your holy name. through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.*

Scripture Lesson: Romans 13:1-7

Sermon: Psalm 118:8-9

Theme: **Praise Be To The Lord!**

1. Before the fact
2. After the fact

Prayer of the Church: *The Nation* (p. 130) in place of *Lord, Have Mercy* on p. 59

Prayer of the Day: (in place of Prayer for Peace on p. 60) *Lord, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve you faithfully in our generation to the honor of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 13:1-7

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Psalm 118:8-9

It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in man.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.

Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer traces its roots back to the times of prayer that God's Old Testament people, the Jews, observed. They set aside a time for prayer at the third, the sixth, and ninth hours of the day. Early Christians carried this practice into their worship life. When Christianity was recognized by the state, public services began to be held at these ancient times. *Evening Prayer* corresponds to the service that was held at the time the sun set. Many of the responses and canticles in this service are therefore very ancient in origin and usage.

As daylight disappears, it is natural for Christians to desire to thank God for the blessings of the day. It is also important for them to recall the presence and peace of Christ, the light of the world, to combat the haunting elements of darkness and the thoughts it sometimes evokes.

The title of the service, *Evening Prayer*, is carried through in the elements of the service. There are many brief prayers throughout. The first Psalm that is used in the service, Psalm 141, emphasizes the believers deep cry for God's help and deliverance. It uses the scriptural image of believers' prayers that are like incense, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. This Psalm puts our prayers as believers in the proper perspective as we worship the Lord.

After the second psalm there is a period set aside for private meditation. Here each worshiper asks questions such as : "What does God say to me here? How can I apply this psalm to my own life? What should I pray for?"

The *Song of Mary* is the chief canticle used historically in this service. A canticle is a song from Scripture other than a Psalm. This song of praise expresses the reason for our confidence in approaching God in prayer. It proclaims the gospel message that God is our Savior. It focuses our attention on proclaiming what God has done for us, instead of only focusing on ourselves.

The canticle that is used at the end of the service, the *Song of Simeon*, was historically used in the service held in late evening (*Compline*). It is fitting at the conclusion of this service as well. We have brought our praise, concerns, and requests to the Lord. We have been reminded again of his love and forgiveness. We leave worship trusting that his answers will always be the best answer.

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

We exist to honor God as we Grow in the Gospel and Go with the Gospel

... that requests, prayers,
intercession and thanksgiving
be made for everyone— for
... all those in authority ...

1 Timothy 2:1-2



Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today. Please sign our guest book near the double door entrance. Restrooms are in the basement near the double stairs.

Today we gather together in the very presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of all of our worship.