

## **20 Days of Prayer**

January 1-20, 2020

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. -2 Chronicles 7:14*

Let's pray. Together. Each day. Let's do this 20 days in a row (and beyond!). As we begin a new year and a new season and a new hope let's first pray that God is our first treasure, our first hope, our first longing, and our first love. Let's pray that His will is done before any of ours. Let's pray that He does the things only He can do in us, around us, and through us. And then let's thank and praise Him when He does what He has promised, which is more than we can ask or imagine.

The following is a resource for you in this 20 Days of Prayer. It will encourage you to read Scripture, pray through that Scripture, and continue to ponder and pray throughout your day. A psalm will also be suggested each day to read, ponder, and pray through (a great habit to get into). You are welcome to use whichever part is helpful in guiding your prayers and to pray far beyond what is suggested. May the Holy Spirit give you wisdom, strength, and power to continue to grow in prayer and your relationship with our Lord.

*Go to our website and see resources on how to incorporate fasting into this 20 Days of Prayer.*

### **Two Basic Prayer Outlines**

Your prayers can follow basic outlines like the **Lord's Prayer** itself, or here are another two common ways:

#### **●ACTS Prayer**

- Adoration: Give God praise and honor for who he is as Lord over all.
- Confession: Confess your sin to God and ask Him to help you overcome.
- Thanksgiving: Give thanks to God for each and every blessing you notice each day.
- Supplication: Pray for God's reign and will to come to you and others.

## ● **Martin Luther's "Simple Way to Pray"**

- In this personal letter to his barber Peter Beskendorf, Luther encouraged him to grow in the habit of praying. He then advised using Scripture or the catechism to guide his prayers, saying, "I divide each command into four parts, thereby fashioning a garland of four strands. That is I think of each commandment as first, **instruction...**, second, I turn it into **thanksgiving**; third, a **confession**; and fourth, a **prayer**. This turns every text into "a school text, a song book, a penitential book, and prayer book."

However you pray, pray in Jesus' name, trusting God is hearing you and is drawing near to you through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **January 1: Humble Yourself**

*Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Matthew 5:3-12*

At the heart of prayer is a humble recognition of need and a hopeful trust that God will provide. In your prayers pray for humility, repentance, and the hearts of our church, our community, nation, and world to be transformed. Pray in hope that God will come down and heal our land.

*Pray Psalm 32*

### **January 2: Confess and You Will Be Healed**

*Read/Pray Psalm 51*

As you pray this psalm let it teach you about our falling short of God's will, God's faithfulness, and how we can confess our sinfulness and receive the grace that restores us and renews us. Pray this psalm for our community as well and ask God to bring about renewal where our nation is rebelling against His will.

### **January 3: Pray Constantly**

*Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Pray today that God helps you develop the habit of continual prayer. Pray that all God's people would grow in prayer. Ask God to make prayer the rhythm and lifeblood of St. Andrews and its ministries.

*Pray Psalm 16*

### **January 4: The Lord's Prayer**

*Read Luke 11:9-13: Our Father*

God wants us to speak to Him as a good Father. Jesus and the apostles taught us to look at Him in this way and pray to Him as Father. So spend time in prayer thanking God for being your father, asking Him to help you forgive the failings of your earthly fathers, and praying you can be a spiritual father/mother figure to others in your life.

*Pray Psalm 68*

### **January 5: The Lord's Prayer**

*Read/Pray Psalm 115: Hallowed be your name*

As we gather for worship today spend time praising God, giving thanks, and glorifying Him for all the good you see in His creation, in your life, and in the work of God's people.

### **January 6: The Lord's Prayer**

*Read Revelation 11:15-18: Your kingdom come*

There is so much in our world, our community, our church, and our own lives that still lacks God's perfect will, justice, peace, love, and more. Pray for the people and situations you know need God's reign to break into.

*Pray Psalm 145*

### **January 7: The Lord's Prayer**

*Read Acts 2:42-47: Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*

Pray that the churches of this world, and God's elected people, would be living in His will, His word, enjoying the fellowship of the saints, seeking Him in prayer and praise, and gathering together to receive His grace and be equipped to accomplish His will on this earth.

*Pray Psalm 138*

### **January 8: The Lord's Prayer**

*Read Jeremiah 29:1-9: Give us this day our daily bread*

God knows what we need. We are not to worry about our basic needs, but we are to pray this so we are thankful for all he provides. We also pray that we work to make our community a place that allows all to thrive and live in peace with each other and be drawn near to God. Pray for the needs of your community today.

*Pray Psalm 127*

**January 9: The Lord's Prayer**

*Read Colossians 3:12-17: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us*

Jesus returned to this phrase right after teaching the Lord's Prayer and said, "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Pray today that your heart is humbled and confess your sins to God. Pray also your heart is so humbled you can forgive those who have sinned against you and those you love and thus receive the healing forgiveness of Christ.

*Pray Psalm 31*

**January 10: The Lord's Prayer**

*Read Daniel 3:13-18: Lead us not into temptation*

Ask God today for the strength that no matter what the temptation, what the threat, what the trial you may be facing, you will hold on to Jesus alone and be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to stand firm in the faith.

*Pray Psalm 1*

**January 11: The Lord's Prayer**

*Read Ephesians 6:10-20: Deliver us from the evil one*

If you've made it this far you've felt the battle already. Pray today for the strength to keep fighting the good fight, to overcome the onslaught of the evil one (Satan) and those aligned with him, and having stood firm, receive all the promises given to those who have "come through the great tribulation."

*Pray Psalm 46*

**January 12: Bless the gathering**

*Read Hebrews 10:19-25*

Pray that God gives the people of St. Andrews, and all those who trust in Him, a heart for worship, a desire to gather in His name, and a passion to love and serve each other to His praise and glory.

*Pray Psalm 100*

### **January 13: Delight yourself in the Lord**

*Read/Pray Psalm 37*

If you read verse 4 and think you'll get what you really want after you give lip service to God, read it again. It's about delighting yourself, period, in God. Pray today that our church, community, and nation leave our other desires behind and embrace the God of grace and light.

### **January 14: Fasting and Prayer**

*Read Matthew 6:16-21*

If you haven't fasted in any way yet, today is the day to give it a try. Keep yourself from something(s) today and pray God shows you how to live in delight of Him.

*Pray Psalm 119:9-16*

### **January 15: Praying for opportunities**

*Read 1 Peter 3:15*

Pray that God not only make you ready to share your hope in Jesus, but that he gives you opportunities to do so. Pray this occurs in the life of everyone at St. Andrews and that we are faithful and bold enough to respond to those opportunities to inspire our community to live out the hope found in Christ.

*Pray Psalm 119:41-48*

### **January 16: Trusting the words will come**

*Read Luke 12:4-12*

Pray today that you, and all of us at St. Andrews, believe these words from our Lord Jesus and remember that we have a spirit of power in us that will help us proclaim His Good News when given the opportunity.

*Pray Psalm 100*

### **January 17: More than we ask or imagine**

*Read Ephesians 3:14-21*

Today we can begin to pray that God would do even more than we ask. We can accept His "no" or "not now," and we can wait for a yes that is beyond what we hope for. Pray today that our faith would expand and that we can begin to hope for more in Christ than we've ever thought.

*Pray Psalm 8*

**January 18: Faith**

*Read 2 Kings 6:15-19*

Pray that our faith would be able to see what we can't see with our eyes. That we can believe that "God exists and rewards those who seek him." That those who patiently endure will receive a crown of everlasting life!

*Pray Psalm 146*

**January 19: Hope**

*Read Romans 5:1-5*

Rejoice in hope with the saints today. The hope of the resurrection. The hope of the new heaven and earth. The hope that endures all and trusts in each and every promise of God being fulfilled for our salvation and His glory.

*Pray Psalm 42*

**January 20: Love**

*Read 1 Corinthians 13*

Pray that which bears all things, believes all things, and hopes all things, is the characteristic that defines St. Andrews, and your life. Give thanks for his everlasting love and ask God to help you love those around you more each day. May they know we are Christians by our love!

*Pray Psalm 136*