

St. Luke's Prayer Calendar

December 2018

Saturday, December 1

Lord, Thank you for the gift of the Christmas season and its traditions that unite our family. As we make preparations for these celebrations, help us to keep you, God, in our hearts. Let your love be present in all that we do. Amen.

Sunday, December 2

Lord, Thank you for the gift of worship, which provides us an opportunity to come together as a church to spend time with you and renew our spirits. God, we know that there are people in the world who cannot freely worship you. We pray for those who are persecuted because of their faith. We pray that you would give them courage, sustain them, and protect them as they live in faithfulness to you. Lord, we also pray that you would help us to remember that our freedom to worship you is a gift of high value. Amen.

Monday, December 3

Lord, we thank you for the gift of work. You have blessed us with unique gifts and talents which allow us to provide for our families. Lord, we pray for those who are unemployed. We pray that you would help them to make connections that open doors to meaningful employment. Please provide for them and give them encouragement. Help us to see our jobs as opportunities to further your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Tuesday, December 4

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of friends who walk alongside us through the ups and downs of life. Thank you for those special friends who bless us each day with loving kindness and support. Show us how to be a blessing to them also. Amen.

Wednesday, December 5

Gracious God, the Great Physician, we thank you for the gift of good health which allows us to do everything that we need to do. We pray for those who are sick and need physical healing. Grant them comfort as they undergo medical procedures, peace as they await test results, and support as they rely on family and friends. Then, O Lord, we pray for your miraculous healing to restore them to good health. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Thursday, December 6

Almighty God, thank you for the gift of education. Thank you for the capacity to learn new things, the opportunities to study and grow and the mentors and teachers who invest their time in us. We pray, Lord, that you be with those who may lack the opportunity for education as well as those who have learning disabilities. Please provide new opportunities for them to grow and learn. Help us to share our gifts, our talents, and our time with them. Amen.

Friday, December 7

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of family. Thank you for binding us together with love. We pray for healing of broken family relationships; grant us opportunities for reconciliation. Help us to forgive and offer grace to bring harmony back into our troubled relationships. We also pray for those who are without their family; help us to show them the love of their church family. Amen.

Saturday, December 8

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of knowledge which allows us to make better decisions. We confess that we often think we know it all and fail to see things from someone else's point of view. We even allow knowledge to divide us and separate us from others who think differently. Help us, O Lord, to remember that our human knowledge and understanding of things is so very limited compared to yours. We seek your guidance to help us to use our knowledge to do good things that will bring about unity and to make the world a better place. Amen.

Sunday, December 9

God of Providence, we thank you for the gift of sustenance. From the beginning, you created the world for our benefit to provide for us and to sustain our life. You have blessed us with food to nourish our bodies, water to hydrate us, clothing to keep us warm, and shelter to protect us from harm. You also gave us the responsibility to take care of our neighbors. We pray that you would give us opportunities to show our gratitude to you in our actions by blessing those whose basic needs are not being met. Grant us the compassion of Jesus, and work through us to use our time and our resources to help others. Amen.

Monday, December 10

Heavenly Creator, we thank you for the gift of life. You made us in your image and breathed the breath of life into us. Help us to be good stewards of our lives by using our gifts and talents for the purposes of your Kingdom. Help us to strive to be intentional with our time so we can best serve you. Let our actions and our words be respectful and life-giving. Amen.

Tuesday, December 11

Father in Heaven, thank you for the gift of prayer. Thank you that you love us so much that you want to spend time with us and hear what is on our hearts. Thank you, Lord, that you are always there for us and that we can come to you in prayer at any time and about anything. Draw us close to you and cultivate our prayer life. Amen.

Wednesday, December 12

Divine Father in Heaven, thank you for the gift of faith. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to choose you and to grow in our faith. Thank you for the way our faith gives us hope and sustains us in the trials of life. We thank you for all the ways that you grow our faith each day, and we pray that you would continue to guide us in our journey. Amen.

Thursday, December 13

Almighty God, thank you for the gift of church. We thank you for a beautiful place where we can come together to worship you, study your word, make friends, give ourselves away, and grow in our faith. God, we recognize that because we, the people, make up the church it is imperfect in many ways, but also, that you are at work in our church in amazing ways. Help us to keep our focus on you and your Kingdom so that we may persevere during times of trials, difficulties, trivial differences and differences of human opinion. Amen.

Friday, December 14

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of joy. We thank you that joy is born deep down inside of us and cannot be taken by the circumstances of the world. When we focus on you, your joy fills our hearts. Help us to keep our priorities grounded in you so that we may grow your gift of unending joy. Amen.

Saturday, December 15

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of mercy. You are always faithful to show us mercy and hear our cries for help. We pray that you would grow the gift of mercy in our hearts so that we may hear the cries for help in our world and become your vessels of mercy. Amen.

Sunday, December 16

Holy Lord, God Almighty, we thank you for the gift of peace. We thank you that no matter what happens we can trust you because you love us unconditionally, and knowing this gives us a peace that transcends all understanding. We pray, God, that you might bring that same powerful peace into the whole world. In praying for peace, we recognize that you have called us all to be your agents of peace in our own corner of the world so that a movement of transformation begins and spreads throughout the world. Give us what we need to be your peacemakers. Amen.

Monday, December 17

All-knowing God, we thank you for the gift of forgiveness. You graciously give us second and third and even more chances to get things right, but we continue to fail. Thank you for your forgiveness for the things we do that are wrong, for the words that we say that hurt others and for the times that we forsake you. Please guide us back to your paths of righteousness and help us to live a better life as a reflection of your love. Amen.

Tuesday, December 18

Holy God, thank you for the gift of transformation. Thank you that you are always working to grow us and help us figure things out. We thank you God that you do not want us to stay where we are and that you have called us to a higher purpose. Give us the courage to step out of our comfort zones into a deeper place of faith. Amen.

Wednesday, December 19

Holy Father, we confess that during the Holiday season, we struggle to find joy as we grieve the loss of those whom we love who have returned to you. We are sad and lonely. While others around us are happy, busy, and wondering why we don't get into the Christmas spirit. Draw near to us this Christmas season, help us remember our loved ones fondly and find peace in the knowledge that they are in your great care. Come Emmanuel, Amen.

-Prayer by Rev. Thomas Harper

Thursday, December 20

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of grace. You have forgiven our sins and given us grace upon grace. Lord, we pray that you would grow in us that same spirit of grace so that when the opportunity arises we remember to extend the grace that we have received to others who are in need of our forgiveness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Friday, December 21

God, we thank you for the gift of compassion. Jesus came to earth, walked with us, wept with us, and had compassion for us. We pray, God, that you would break open our hearts from the bondage of the world and fill us with your compassionate love so that we are moved to make a difference in the world. Help us to love and live like Jesus. Amen.

Saturday, December 22

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of the Sabbath. We thank you for showing us how to rest from our work and renew our spirit in you. We pray that during this busy season of life you will give us the self-discipline to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Amen.

Sunday, December 23

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of true love. You have loved us unconditionally to the point of sending your Son to die on a cross so that we might be saved from our sin. Jesus lived his life to model your love for us. We pray that you would open our hearts and fill them with your great love so that it overflows into our thoughts, our words, and our actions. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

God of light and life, we've waited for you for so long. Come and be born again in our hearts. Make us like shepherds who guard you, like wise men who bring you gifts, like angels who announce you, and like Mary who treasures you. Amen!

-Prayer by Rev. David Horton

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

O God, We prayed that you would come down and in your mighty power put the world right again. Instead, you came as a helpless infant, humbling yourself, and showed us that the ultimate power is the power of love. We join all the world in praising you for being love made flesh, and commit ourselves to living the ways of your kingdom, where love reigns. Amen.

-Prayer by Dr. Tom Pace

Wednesday, December 26

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Jesus. We thank you that you love us enough to bring Heaven down to earth. We pray that you would fill our hearts with the love of Jesus so that we live every day like Christmas. Amen.

Thursday, December 27

Lord, we thank you for the gift of truth. We thank you that Jesus came as the ultimate truth that sets us free. We thank you also for our friends and family who love us enough to speak the truth to us in Christian love. We pray that you would be at work in us and guide us to always seek the truth in love with grace. Amen.

Friday, December 28

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of fortitude. Thank you, God, for giving us a strength deep down inside of us that we can use in times of adversity, trials, or temptation. Thank you for giving us the emotional and mental strength to persevere during hard times. We pray that when we need it, you would help us to find your great strength inside of us. Amen.

Saturday, December 29

God, we thank you for the gift of hope. We thank you that you have given us eternal hope through Christ Jesus to sustain us through the trials of life. We pray that you help us to always focus on the great hope that you have given us and to share your hope with others who need to hear it. Help us to speak life into others. Amen.

Sunday, December 30

Gracious God, we thank you for your abundant blessings and gifts that we have freely received from you. We confess that living in this country has skewed our perception of abundance and that, oftentimes, we take your gifts for granted, especially your intangible gifts. As this year comes to an end, we praise you and thank you for all of your blessings, and we re-dedicate our lives to living for you. Amen.

Monday, December 31

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of 2018. We thank you for the unexpected blessings, the struggles which grew our faith, the friends and family who walked beside us and prayed for us, the memories that we cherish, the eye-opening experiences, and the love and hope that sustained us. Thank you, God, for all of the ways that you have been at work in our lives in 2018, both seen and unseen. We pray for your continued guidance and blessings as we enter into 2019. All honor and glory is yours. Amen.