



## **PRAYERS FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Bearing witness to Jews and Muslims at home and around the world is a most difficult and complex mission. But they and we need to hear and know that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour, to the glory of God the Father. It is both our calling and our mission to bear witness to these two communities. The Spirit will lead and guide us if we hear the call, pray for the wisdom and insight and guidance that we need, and move ahead in confidence.

### **Prayer for the North American Lutheran Church**

Holy Father, Beloved Lord Jesus Christ, and Gracious Holy Spirit, look with favour upon the North American Lutheran Church, and broaden our vision of mission. May it become the mission of our Church to reach out to the Jewish people and the people of the Islamic faith that we might bear witness to Christ and proclaim the Gospel to members of these communities, both in North America and around the world. We lift our hearts and voices to you on their behalf and on behalf of all people, each one made in your image and likeness. We pray that you would bring the reconciling and merciful peace that comes from Christ alone, so that the whole world will manifest your glory and divine love. To you, O Father, with your Son and Holy Spirit be all honour and praise.

### **A Word of Encouragement**

Brothers and Sisters, let us begin and undergird this mission with constant prayer. Our hope is that, as the North American Lutheran Church begins this particular ministry, each of you, and hopefully, every person in the church, would be especially encouraged to pray daily for the Jewish people and for the people of the Islamic faith. Please include such prayer when you engage in your daily prayers and when you gather as a community on the Lord's Day. The act of prayer on behalf of others opens each of our hearts to be instruments of God's love for the world. May our prayers for the Jewish people and for the people of the Islamic faith create in us a witness of love that is bold and clear, pure and selfless, and that through such prayer God will draw all people to Himself.

## **Prayer for the Jewish People**

Holy Father, we give you thanks for the Sons and Daughters of Abraham and Sarah, the First Covenant People through whom our Saviour, Jesus Christ, came into this world for our redemption. Help us to love and honour and respect this people, who for twenty-three centuries have endured suffering and humiliation, some of it sponsored and encouraged by the members and leaders of the Church. Forgive us, Lord, and replace our inherited biases with love and respect.

We give you thanks for the Jewish people who now also believe in and confess that Jesus is Lord and Saviour and who are reaching out to their Jewish brothers and sisters around world. May we become as active in our outreach to our Jewish neighbours as are all these Messianic Jews. Help us, Lord, to pray for and reach out in love and respect to this First Covenant people.

Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

## **Introduction to Prayer for People of the Islamic Faith**

The people of the Islamic faith need our help and our prayers. Though Muslim nations have persecuted Christians and Jews for centuries, people of the Islamic faith need our love and respect, for they, like all people on this earth, are made in the image and likeness of God. They are in bondage to a religion that has replaced the Old and New Testament Scriptures with the Qur'an and reduced the person of Jesus Christ to that of a prophet, with Mohammed being the chief prophet, and salvation being awarded on the basis of good works. They need to hear that Jesus is their Saviour, and that God loves them and wants them to know the fullness of his love, the love that he gives for the world through Jesus Christ.

## **Prayer for the People of the Islamic Faith**

Holy Father, we give you thanks for the privilege of reaching out with the Gospel to our Muslim neighbours, for they are in need of your mercy and grace. Lord, help us to speak the truth in love, that our words and actions may bear witness to the living Christ, and the hearts of our Muslim neighbours will be set free to love you and to know the fullness of your steadfast and eternal love.

Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer. Amen.