



## LWF Youth

### International Youth Day Prayer Resources 2022

#### Opening Prayer

Thank you, God, for your grace, thank you for your love, because you allow your children to be reunited. On this day, we ask you above all to forgive our sins. And this moment when we gather in your name, we ask for your presence among us and may the Holy Spirit be with us for the advancement of your ministry on earth.

Merci seigneur pour ta grâce, merci pour ton amour, car tu permet à ce que tes enfants soit réuni, en ce jour, nous te prions avant tout de pardonner nos péchés. Et ce moment où nous sommes devant ta face, nous implorons ta présence parmi nous et que ton esprit saint soit d'avantage parmi nous pour l'avancement de ton ministère sur terre.

- Keza, 26, Church of the Lutheran Brethren in Cameroon

Dios de la vida, te damos gracias por permitirnos despertar hoy, gracias por darnos la oportunidad de reunirnos en tu nombre. Gracias Señor por la gracia que repartes en cada uno de nosotros cada día. Te pedimos que te quedes con nosotros en este encuentro y en los días venideros, que sea Tu luz la que nos guíe y acompañe en este caminar. En el nombre de tu hijo amado Jesucristo, Amén.

God of life, we thank you for allowing us to wake up today, thank you for giving us the opportunity to gather in your name. Thank you, God, for the grace you distribute to each of us every day. We ask that you stay with us in this meeting and in the days to come, that it be Your light that guides and accompanies us on this journey. In the name of your beloved son Jesus Christ, Amen.

- Alejandra, Lutheran Church of Hope and Faith, Nicaragua

*Amen*

#### Readings

Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.



- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip—  
    he who watches over you will not slumber;  
<sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel  
    will neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup> The LORD watches over you—  
    the LORD is your shade at your right hand;  
<sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day,  
    nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
    he will watch over your life;  
<sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
    both now and forevermore.

Matthew 28: 16-20

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

## **Prayers for the World**

### **Prayer 1:**

Almighty God, we pray for the world today. We pray for peace and hope for all of us. Many have been troubled by natural disasters, conflict, and the results of a global pandemic. In challenging times, help us turn to you as our source of strength and hope.

- Frederick, 28, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana

### **Prayer 2:**

O God of hope and love, hear the prayers of your people in need of healing, reconciliation, and unity.



Let your mercy and love flow to your people suffering from poverty, injustice, and indifference. Let your justice and peace flow like a river flowing to the seas and oceans.

Flow through us, by your Spirit, and cleanse us with water that brings renewal to us and the world.

We pray unceasingly with repentant hearts, pour down your forgiveness and love, O God, our hope, our love, our peace, our spring of reconciliation.

Our loving Creator, Thank you for your blessings that accompany every step of our lives wherever we are.

God, it is You who has fashioned us in a variety of languages, cultures, and races. Do not let this diversity divide us. Instead, help us to welcome the gifts we can receive from each other.

Grant us the wisdom to reconcile and maintain unity among ourselves. God, make us bearers of light amid the darkness of this world.

- Rafael, 29, Protestant Christian Batak Church (HKBP), Indonesia

**Leader:** God in your mercy

*All: Hear our prayer.*

## **Prayers for the Church**

### **Prayer 1:**

Gather your people, bring our congregations together again, congregations who have been so shaken by the countless tragedies of recent times that they may have become alienated from each other and from the idea of being together in Your name.

Call us together, again and again. Grant us patience and give us the frayed hope of reunion, whether in this life on earth or with You in the resurrection.

- Bence, 25, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary

### **Prayer 2:**

We pray for Churches leading the way and bringing light and salt in working for Climate Justice.



- Nora, 24, Church of Norway

**Leader:** God in your mercy

*All: Hear our prayer.*

## Prayers for Youth

### Prayer 1:

God, you are the reason we are here. You are the reason we can love. Through your love, we take care of one another, and we embrace one another as your disciples. The world needs us young people to shine Your light. We have the energy. We have the drive to make something happen.

We give thanks for the gift of being your hands and feet in the world. We give thanks that we may share in your love.

- Tristan, 21, Northeastern Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa

### Prayer 2:

Beloved Jesus Christ, every day all over the world the voices of young people are silenced. You are too young - they say. You have no idea how it works - they say. We are not experienced enough to find a solution - they say. They tell us to wait and listen. But we know better.

We know that you gained a voice among the scholars when you were nine years old, you didn't let yourself be silenced later either, not by influential authorities and not even by your relatives. Where people had to hear God's word, you spoke up against all odds and injustice.

Together, we want to continue your mission of peace in this world. Help us to fight for our right to be heard, strengthen us, so that we can encourage others to follow your call. Help us remember that even in our struggles, we are all part of your creation. Transformation for a better world begins within all of us, through all generations.

O Lord, guide us to be a meaningful part of transforming your world, and give us the boldness we need.

- Rivka, 30, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg, Germany

**Leader:** God in your mercy



*All: Hear our prayer.*

## **Prayers for Creation**

### **Prayer 1:**

Almighty God your creation is beyond imagination, you commanded and everything was made.

Thank you for all the beautiful things in this world you have created. God we know that it's our duty to keep your creations safe and beautiful - as was it in the beginning.

We repent for our selfishness. We have made mistakes – we have cut down trees or polluted water. Forgive us and remind us of Your call to protect your creation wisely.

- Geetanjali, 24, Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church, India

### **Prayer 2:**

God, we know that it has never been so important to recognize the importance of the environment in which you have placed us. We are too often a threat to the world around us, the world that bears the same stamp of your love that you have also given to us. Our lives and our future depend on how we love our environment. Help us to reconnect with each other around the globe in your original blessing, recognizing we are also part of the Creation in danger.

- Bence, 25, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary

### **Prayer 3:**

MUNGU tunakushukuru kwa ajili ya uumbaji mkuu..tunashukuru kwa Kuwa ulituumba kwa mfano wako...basi utujalie ili tuweze kuwa Kama wewe kwa matendo na mienendo.

GOD, we thank you for the great creation. We are grateful that you created us in your image. Grant us courage so that we can be like you in actions and behaviors.

- Isack, 26, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

**Leader:** God in your mercy

*All: Hear our prayer.*

## **Prayers for Peace**



### **Prayer 1:**

Heavenly Father, in this time when the world is flooded with anxiety and fear about war and sickness and worries about the future; we pray that your peace may flood the earth and fill each person's heart. We pray that all may bring their worries to you and may find rest.

- Elsa, 22, Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand

### **Prayer 2:**

Mothering God, we thank you for giving us freedom and knowledge to spread your word around the world, seeking peace and justice through your teachings that we experience daily, thus becoming messengers of peace!

We pray for those who need peace and harmony and those who go through difficult periods where they live, in the certainty that you guide them to protect their families, friends, and siblings of faith.

We ask that you guide leaders in the resolution of conflicts and ending wars around the planet. We ask you to strengthen and guide all those who seek justice so that we can promote more and more equity in society.

We are increasingly grateful for the doors that justice opens for women and young people. We are grateful for the times the church encourages people to feel proud of who they are, and for the times the church assures your people that they do not need to hide their feelings.

- Luiz, 21, Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil

**Leader:** God in your mercy

*All: Hear our prayer.*

**Leader:** For what else do the people of God pray?

(pause for prayers in the chat)

We praise your name oh God. May these prayers - spoken aloud, shared in the chat, and said in the silence of our hearts – be acceptable to you. This and all else you see that we need, grant us in the name of Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come.

*All: Amen*



## Sending Blessings

### **Blessing 1:**

May Christ's light guide us through life, that we will inspire one another to see the good in everything, to do good for the world and for our sisters and brothers.

May Christ inspire us to show peace and to build a better future.

Together we can make the change.

Because of Christ, where we go, hope follows. Let's be peace messengers.

- Malva, 22, Church of Sweden

### **Blessing 2:**

You have all you need to love the World and be loved by it.

May you be the brave presence of Christ in the world.

May you find joy and meaning in yourself just as God sees you - as beautiful parts of the purpose of existence.

### **Blessing 3:**

May the Holy One who compels us to be in prayer and reflection, unite us to build healing spaces and grow seeds of reconciliation, and inspire us to work for the good of the whole inhabited world.

May God send us forth to our communities with a renewed commitment to justice, peace, and healing.

Go now, in loving service, to nurture the whole earth and creation.

Go in peace, defend the rights of the poor and oppressed, the earth and all that is therein and uphold human dignity.

Go forth to the world, as Christ's heart, hands, and feet.

- Rafael, 29, Protestant Christian Batak Church (HKBP), Indonesia

All: Amen