

## Scripture and Prayers for an Election Season

### Ways These Can Be Used:

1. For personal prayer and meditation
2. As prayer petitions in the Prayers of the People
3. To be shared via social media by congregations, rostered leaders, and lay people

### **Pastor Julianne Smeck, Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio**

#### Ephesians 2:13-14

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is the hostility between us.

#### Prayer petition:

Source of Power and Life, you have broken down the walls which keep us from being one body. Help us join you in your work of both tearing down walls and building up the new community you continue to create in Christ. Amen

### **Pastor Joel Richter, Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Wilmington, Ohio**

#### Micah 6:8

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

#### Prayer Petition

Christ humbly guide us over the next few months and in our lives, our lives are defined by following you. As we follow, teach us to love kindness and mercy. When we question what to do, let us pause and turn to you. Demonstrate your compassion through our

lives. When we speak or act, let us reflect on these questions. Is it kind? Is it necessary? Is it true? When the answer is yes to all of them, guide our words and actions as we live and speak your truth. Amen.

**Pastor Carmen Colón-Brown, Pastora, Vida Eterna Iglesia Luterana, West Chester, Ohio**

Isaiah 58:6-10

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

Prayer Petition

Dear Father, here I am! Shine your light upon me. Guide me as I consider the actual realities of our society. Help me clear my mind and heart to sense your presence. Help me hear your living Word.

Help me see YOU in the face of my friend,  
in the face of my peer, in the face of those unknown to me,  
and in the face of those who oppose my beliefs.  
Help me understand those who would pervert your justice.  
Use me as an instrument of your light to help ALL people.  
Use me as an instrument of your Voice and your Will  
in the midst of anxiety, fear, and anger.

Dear Father, here I am! Shine your light upon me  
Amen

**Pastor Tim Mentzer, Assistant to the Bishop, Southern Ohio Synod**

John 6: 68-69

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Prayer Petition

Lord, all you say is true. Let your will be done to be according to your Word.

May your truth teach me, and guard me, and lead me to a blessed end. May it free me from every wrong desire and every confused thought. Then, may I walk with you in freedom of spirit and in liberty of heart. Amen.

**Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt, Southern Ohio Synod**

Exodus 20: 16

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Prayer Petition (Based on Martin Luther's Explanation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment)

Lord God, teach us to fear and love you so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray them, slander them, or hurt their

reputation, but defend them, speak, will of them, and explain everything they do and say in the kindest way. Amen.

**Pastor Michelle Terry, Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland Ohio**

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Prayer Petition

Gracious God, we ask for your strength and guidance this election season and beyond. Remind us of your presence, and that you are our help and hope in all situations. Be with poll workers, voters, and our country. Guide our next president to lead with kindness and justice.