



Service of Midday Prayer  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 - Inauguration Day

Opening Sentences

Our help is in the name of the Lord. Ps. 124:8  
**Maker of heaven and earth.**

The mighty one, God the Lord, Ps. 50:1  
Speaks and summons the earth  
From the rising of the sun to its setting.

Praise the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

Hymn 331

*God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

NATIONAL HYMN

1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past.  
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.  
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay:  
thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.
3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.  
Lead us from night to never-ending day.  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

## Prayer

God of ages,  
In your sight nations rise and fall,  
And pass through times of peril.  
Now when our land is troubled,  
Be near to judge and save.  
May leaders be led by your wisdom;  
May they search your will and see it clearly.  
If we have turned from your way,  
Help us to reverse our ways and repent.  
Give us your light and your truth to guide us;  
Through Jesus Christ,  
Who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.

## Scripture Lessons

*Isaiah 2:2-5*

*Ephesians 2:13-22*

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

### Affirmation of Faith

*from The Confession of 1967*

**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ**

**The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.**

### Hymn 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

1. Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
2. Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
6. Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Dismissal

The God of peace be with us. **Amen.**  
Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**