

Closing Prayer for Ecclesiastical Assemblies

Original 1934 version

Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank Thee from our hearts that it pleases Thee to gather a Church in our land and to employ our services to that end. Thou dost graciously so order all things that we can preach the gospel without any hindrance and may engage in public worship. Thou has also been present with Thy Holy Spirit in our assembly, guiding our deliberations according to Thy will, and binding our hearts together in mutual peace and unity.

Wilt Thou, O faithful God and Father, graciously bless the efforts that we purpose to put forth, and wilt Thou finish in power the work which Thou hast begun. Continue to gather unto Thyself a true Church, and cause it to preserve the purity of doctrine; guide it in the proper use of the holy sacraments; and inspire it with zeal for the maintenance of church purity.

Bring to nought all wicked and subtle counsels that are devised against Thy Word and Church. Give strength to all whom Thou has placed in authority over Thy Church, to the end that they may preach Thy Word in faithfulness and steadfastness.

Strengthen the civil magistrates of Thy people, in order that they may wield the sword of worldly power in justice and with wise restraint. In particular do we pray for the civil rulers, both higher and lower officers of government, whom Thou hast been pleased to appoint over us. We commend unto Thee especially the esteemed council of this city. Grant that their rule may be entirely directed toward the supremacy of the King of kings over rulers and ruled alike. May through their labors the shameful and wicked dominion of Satan be increasingly disturbed and broken down. May it be given unto us to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and gravity.

Hear us, O God and Father, through Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit, the only and true God, is worthy of eternal praise and glory.

Amen.

With Updated Language

Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank You from our hearts that it pleases You to gather a Church in our land and to employ our services to that end. You graciously so order all things that we can preach the gospel without any hindrance and may engage in public worship. You have also been present with Your Holy Spirit in our assembly, guiding our deliberations according to Your will, and binding our hearts together in mutual peace and unity.

Will You, O faithful God and Father, graciously bless the efforts that we purpose to put forth, and will You finish in power the work which You have begun. Continue to gather unto Yourself a true Church, and cause it to preserve the purity of doctrine; guide it in the proper use of the holy sacraments; and inspire it with zeal for the maintenance of church purity.

Bring to nought all wicked and subtle counsels that are devised against Your Word and Church. Give strength to all whom You have placed in authority over Your Church, to the end that they may preach Your Word in faithfulness and steadfastness.

*[Strengthen those who serve in public office and govern over of Your people, in order that they may use the worldly power they have been given for justice and with wise restraint. In particular do we pray for the civil rulers, both higher and lower officers of government, whom You have been pleased to appoint over us. We commend unto You especially the esteemed council of this city. Grant that their rule may be entirely directed toward the supremacy of the King of kings over rulers and ruled alike. May through their labors the shameful and wicked dominion of Satan be increasingly disturbed and broken down. May it be given unto us to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and gravity.]**

Hear us, O God and Father, through Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit, the only and true God, is worthy of eternal praise and glory.

Amen.

**In the context of a classis meeting it may make sense to leave this paragraph out. However, it also may be included as a way to strengthen the practice of praying for the governing authorities.*