

A DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING – *for the Diocese of South Carolina, August 30, 2017*



In response to the recent ruling by the South Carolina Supreme Court and in anticipation of our Diocese filing a Motion for a Rehearing on September 1, 2017, Bishop Mark Lawrence has called the Diocese of South Carolina to observe August 30, 2017 as a Day of Prayer and Fasting.

Fasting is abstaining from food (or certain food) or drink; or other personal consumption with the specific intention of directing that time or energy towards God. A fast can take many different forms. One may choose to fast from food an entire day, drinking only water or juice. Others may fast by skipping a meal or eating only fruit. Some choose to fast from their mobile phone, computer, TV or radio. Often a fast lasts a full day or it may last from sunrise to sunset.

Some churches may choose to offer a specific service on this day or open their sanctuary for prayer and meditation.

In addition to observing the fast we are providing the following resources to guide the time of prayer.

For those seeking guidance in shaping their personal devotions it is always appropriate, especially on this occasion, to follow the ACTS template.

ACTS Template

A – Adoration in our approach to God
C – Confession for how we've fallen short
T – Thanksgiving for the grace and mercy we've nonetheless received
S - Supplication for God's intervention in all those affairs of life we know are beyond our control and which only He can redeem.

Repentance and Praise

Repentance: *Begin with a time repentance.*

- Psalm 51
- The Great Litany (Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 148)
- Litany of Penitence, (BCP p. 267)

Praise: *Move to a time of praise.*

Individual and corporate praise is particularly efficacious as a compliment to repentance and intercession. Hymns

and contemporary songs of praise and adoration are powerful for the bringing down of spiritual strongholds.

- Psalm 136, 145-150
- Canticles 8, 12, 13, 18-21 (BCP p. 85-96)

Prayer Direction

1. **Spiritual Covering** for our Diocese during this time of uncertainty
2. Lift Up Prayers of **Confession and Repentance** for those things in our corporate life that need God's healing and forgiveness
3. Pray for **Clarity** - that all would have a good understanding of what the ruling means for us
4. Pray for **Commitment** – that all will be moved to do what we need to do, together
5. Pray for **Confidence** - the courage to trust in God's provision for us as we walk through these uncertain days

Prayer Guide from Archbishop Foley Beach

(The day after the ruling was released Archbishop Beach called for a day of prayer and fasting on our Diocese's behalf. The following guide was included with his message)

Let us fast and intercede on behalf of:

- Bishop Mark Lawrence
- The Standing Committee
- The Clergy (and rectors)
- The vestries and congregations affected by this ruling
- The Legal team

Let us ask God for His blessing on all of them...

For Wisdom from God (James 1:5)

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (English Standard Version, ESV)

For Godly Counsel (Proverbs 15:22)

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed. (ESV)

For true Justice (Amos 5:24)

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (ESV)

For trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5,6)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

For God's leadership in their next steps (Psalm 32:8)

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. (ESV)

For the right doors to be opened (Matthew 7:7, 8)

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. (ESV)

For the public witness of the Gospel and the Glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17)

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (ESV)

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (ESV)

For God's peace in the storm (Philippians 4:6, 7)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives, and the one who seeks, finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened. (Jesus in Matthew 7:7,8)

Third Day Evening: Before Sleep

This prayer, from The Valley of Vision, is reprinted with permission from Banner of Truth.

God of All Sovereignty,
Thy greatness is unsearchable,
Thy name most excellent,
Thy glory above the heavens;
Ten thousand minister to thee,
Ten thousand times ten thousand
stand before thee;
In thy awful presence we are less than
nothing.
We do not approach thee because we
deserve thy notice, for we are sinners;
Our necessities compel us,
Thy promises encourage us,
Our broken hearts incite us,
The Mediator draws us,

Thy acceptance of others moves us.
Look thou upon us and be merciful
unto us;
Convince us of the penalty and pollu-
tion of sin;
Give us faith to believe, and, believing,
to have life in Jesus;
May we enter into his sufferings;
Let us see thy hand in the instruments
of our grief, rejoicing that they are
from thy over-ruling providence.
Let not our weeping hinder sowing;
nor sorrow, duty.
While living in a world of change let us
seek the abiding city.

Be with us to our journey's end that we
may glorify thee in death as in life.
We bless thee for preservation, sup-
plies, mercies, and to thee, keeper of
souls, we commit all we are and have.
May no evil befall us, no sickness come
nigh us, no horror disturb us!
May our conscience be clear, our
hearts pure, our sleep sweet!
And with the innumerable company
who neither slumber nor rest we join
in ascribing blessing, honour,
glory and power to the Lamb upon the
throne, for ever and ever.

Churches of the Diocese of South Carolina

Holy Apostles, Barnell
The Parish Church of St. Helena, Beaufort
St. Paul's, Bennettsville
St. James Anglican, Blackville
Strawberry Chapel, Berkeley County
The Church of the Cross, Bluffton
The Cathedral of St. Luke & St. Paul, Charleston
The Church of the Good Shepherd, Charleston
Holy Trinity, Charleston
Old St. Andrew's, Charleston
St. Albans Chapel, The Citadel, Charleston
St. Andrew's Mission, Charleston
Saint James, Charleston
St. Michael's, Charleston
St. John's Chapel, Charleston
St. Philip's, Charleston
St. David's, Cheraw
St. Paul's, Conway
Holy Cross, Daniel Island
St. Matthew's, Darlington
St. Barnabas, Dillon
Trinity, Edisto Island
Historic Epiphany, Eutawville
All Saints, Florence
Christ Church, Florence
St. John's, Florence
St. Matthew's, Fort Motte
Prince George Winyah, Georgetown
St. James, Goose Creek
Holy Trinity, Grahamville
Ascension, Hagood
St. Bartholomew's, Hartsville
St. Luke's, Hilton Head
Church of Our Saviour, Johns Island
St. John's, Johns Island
The Advent, Marion
Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant
Trinity, Myrtle Beach
The Well By the Sea, Myrtle Beach
Resurrection, North Charleston
Grace Parish, North Myrtle Beach
Redeemer, Orangeburg
St. Paul's, Orangeburg
Christ the King Grace Church, Waccamaw
Redeemer, Pineville
Trinity, Pinopolis
Holy Cross, Stateburg
Holy Cross, Sullivans Island
St. Matthias, Summerton
St. Paul's, Summerville
St. Timothy's, Cane Bay
Holy Comforter, Sumter
Resurrection, Surfside Beach
Atonement, Walterboro
St. Jude's, Walterboro
Christ St. Paul's, Yonges Island

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