

September 19, 2025

Prayer for those in need after recent violence

On the weekend of September 13-14, 2025, I was serving at one of our NID congregations with the local pastor. In light of the recent events of violence, he prepared this prayer. With his permission, I share. He prayed this before the service. I share it with you as a model of how we can pray in these days where “we face death all day long” (Romans 8:36). We face sad events (the Annunciation School shooting, shooting of Charlie Kirk, and too many others) trusting in the Crucified and Risen Savior who comforts those who grieve and give strength to a nation, and to God’s people, who can become weary and angry. I also refer you to LSB 764 “When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love.”

**Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss, President
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Our Heavenly Father,

We come before You today with heavy hearts. Once again, America has been scarred by violence, and we mourn the loss of Your children, Fletcher Merkel and Harper Moyski at Annunciation Catholic School in MN, and Charlie Kirk in Utah this week, along with others. We lament the senseless taking of life and the fear that grips our land. Though we do not fully understand, we know that You do, and You see all.

Lord, we pray first for the families and loved ones—for Annunciation Catholic School and Turning Point USA communities. We pray for all grieving violent and untimely death. In this moment of overwhelming grief, grant them Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen them in their sorrow. Let them feel Your arms around them, comfort in the midst of shock, hope in the midst of despair.

We pray too for our nation. We ask forgiveness for the hatred, division, and bitterness that grows among us—often in places we least expect it. Forgive us for the way we



have allowed fear, anger, or ideology to harden our hearts. Help us to see one another as persons, made in Your image.

Lord, sustain those who are afraid, those who feel unsafe, those who are weary of the violence. Cast out the shadows of anger, vengeance, and bitterness with Your light. Stir in us a holy resolve to pursue peace and justice hand in hand.

We pray for those who investigate these crimes: the law enforcement officers, the first responders, the campus communities, all who are seeking truth. Give them wisdom. Give them courage. Bring justice, awareness and healing.

Holy Spirit, bind up our wounds—personal, communal, national. Let this pain not harden us, but humble us; not divide us, but draw us together. May this tragedy awaken in us compassion, mercy, and renewed dependence on You. We pray for the mission and witness of the Church and Your people at this time.

Jesus, You said that blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. We cling to that promise now. Use what feels broken beyond repair in our hearts to fashion something new—a people who love not just in word, but in truth, who walk in courage, in kindness, in righteousness.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ, who bore hatred, cruelty, suffering—and overcame this sin-soaked world by love and His death and His Victorious Resurrection from the Dead. Who now lives and reigns with Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.