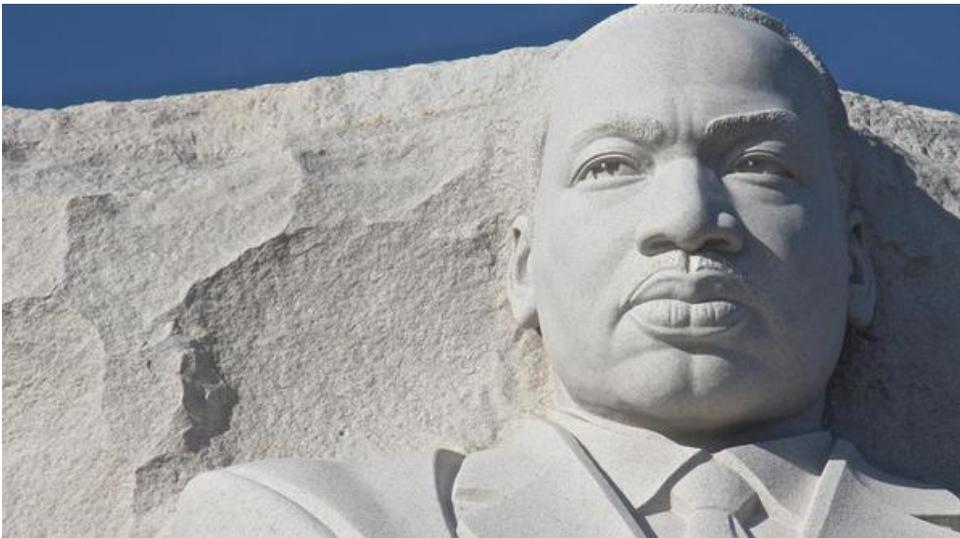




# Touring Day Prayer Services

MLK Jr. Memorial



## **Introduction**

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord grant us peace, now and forever.

Group: Amen.

Leader: Throughout history God has manifested his love and care for those who have suffered from violence, hatred, and oppression. Together we gather here at this memorial of Martin Luther King Jr. to remember the history of our past and stand together as people from the United States against oppression and the right to life of all human beings.

## **Reading**

Reader 1: Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,<sup>\*</sup>  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of  
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## **Psalm 51**

Reader 2: The response is, "Create in me a clean heart."

All: Create in me a clean heart.

Reader: Have mercy on me, O Gracious One, according to your steadfast love;  
According to your abundant kindness forgive me where my thoughts  
and deeds have hurt others. Lead me in the paths of justice, guide my  
steps on paths of peace!

Response: Create in me a clean heart.

Reader: Teach me, that I may know my weaknesses, the shortcomings  
that bind me,  
The unloving ways that separate me, that keep me from  
recognizing your Life in me; For I keep company with fear, and  
dwell in the house of ignorance.  
Yet, I was brought forth in love, and love is my birthright.

Response: Create in me a clean heart.

Reader: You have placed your truth in the inner being; therefore, teach me the wisdom of the heart. Forgive all that binds me in fear, that I might radiate love;  
cleanse me that your light might shine in me.  
Fill me with gladness; help me to transform weakness into strength.

Response: Create in me a clean heart.

### **Intercessions**

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord, God, the defender of the weak and powerless, who delivered our ancestors.

For our own city as we struggle to understand, to grieve, to bring justice and peace, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who are victims of oppression, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For an end to all acts of violence and hatred, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

The Lord heals our wounds and strengthens us in our weakness; let us pray as Christ taught us:

All: Our Father...

### **Conclusion**

Leader: Lord God, we gather today at the memorial of Martin Luther King Jr. to celebrate how far we have come as a community but also to pray for our own city, the city of St. Louis as we are struggling to understand

and to make sense of all that has happened this past year. May our God be our guide and protection. That together through Christ there can be peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God bless us with his mercy, strengthen us with his love, and enable us to walk in charity and peace. Amen.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.