

THE EMMAUS MANUAL:

MATINS AND VESPERS

*RECITING THIS GOOD NEWS TOGETHER*

## INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of the MATINS AND VESPERS is a deeper trust in Christ by His Gospel. By this trust we know Him, and with this trust we serve Him.

What is the Gospel?

The Good News

that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.

that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again,

And that the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit is now offered in His Name.

This Good News is not just information. It is the Light by which He is revealed and the Bread by which He gives Himself to us. And it is made a living and active Word by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Fellowship of believers.

The job of this Good News is to rescue our trust in Him, shepherd our attention toward Him, and to give us to each other in His Name.

The Gospel comes to us through the words of Scripture, both in the Old Testament promises of a good king, a new heart, and a return home, and in the New Testament announcement that Christ is the fulfillment of all those promises. Scripture itself tells us its job is to create and deepen our faith in Christ: *“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and by believing you may have life in His Name.” JOHN 20:31*

With MATINS AND VESPERS we recite this Good News to ourselves to each other.

MATINS is a liturgy for the morning, and VESPERS is a liturgy for the evening, each is made up of three things,

- 1) confession of sin, 2) the promises of Scripture, and 3) the prayers of others.

MATINS AND VESPERS can be done alone or in a group. If in a group, assign a reader to read either MATINS AND VESPERS. Other members of

the group read the bold portions. Some passages change depending on the day of the week, but it always clear which of those passages to read.

The group or individual can make a choice on which psalms to read for the psalm of the day or which scriptures to read for the “Lesson.” If meeting regularly, it is often beneficial to move through the *psalms one by one, and through a Gospel day by day or meeting by meeting.*

If meeting regularly, it customary to allot 30 minutes for doing either MATINS or VESPER. Groups may catch up and chit chat before starting. There are two points in service where the group encourage to talk: there is chance to reflect on the scripture, and then later a chance to offer prayer requests. These opportunities are marked in the service.

It is sometimes beneficial to think of morning and evening prayer as involving “steps,” as everything always happens in order and you simply move from one to the next, each step has a heading in all caps.

1. Opening sentence
2. Confession of sin
3. Absolution
4. Invitatory
5. Venite
6. Psalm of the day
7. Scripture lesson
8. Canticle
9. Thoughts or reflections on scripture
10. Apostle’s creed
11. The prayers
12. The suffrages
13. The collects
14. Prayer for mission
15. Intercessions and thanksgivings
16. General thanksgiving
17. Prayer of St. John
18. Dismissal

MATINS	5
VESPERS	31
PRAYERS FOR VARIOUS OCCASIONS	55

## BEFORE BEGINNING

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your Holy Name.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# MATINS, *a liturgy for the morning*

# I.CONFESSION *returning to Him*

## OPENING SENTENCE

1

Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father  
and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

2

Send out your light and your truth,  
that they may lead me,  
and bring me to your holy hill  
and to your dwelling. *Psalms 43:3*

3

Thus says the high and lofty One  
who inhabits eternity,  
whose name is Holy,  
"I dwell in the high and holy place  
and also with the one who has a contrite  
and humble spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the humble  
and to revive the heart of the contrite." *Isaiah 57:15*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Dearly beloved,  
we have come together in the presence of  
Almighty God our heavenly Father,  
to set forth his praise,  
to hear his holy Word, and to ask,  
for ourselves and on behalf of others,  
those things that are necessary  
for our life and our salvation.  
And so that we may prepare ourselves  
in heart and mind to worship him,  
let us kneel in silence, and with  
penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins,  
that we may obtain forgiveness  
by his infinite goodness and mercy.  
Therefore draw near with me to the throne of  
Heavenly grace.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

#### ABSOLUTION

Almighty God  
have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen us in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep you us in eternal life. **Amen.**



## II. SCRIPTURE *receiving Him*

### INVITATORY

O Lord, open our lips;

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us;

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father,

and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit

**As it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and ever shall be,**

**world without end.**

**Amen.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's Name be praised.**

## VENITE

O come, let us sing unto the LORD;  
let us heartily rejoice  
in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the LORD is a great God  
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the depths of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down,  
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

## THE PSALM OR PSALMS APPOINTED

*Read a Psalm, after the Psalm, say*

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

THE LESSONS *read one or more passages from Scripture. After  
reading, say*

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

THE CANTICLE *A canticle is said after the Lesson.*

1

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore  
to our father Abraham,  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
You, my child,  
shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord  
to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH Luke 1: 68-79*

2

Splendor and honor and kingly power  
are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,  
for with your blood  
you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people,  
and nation,  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.  
And so, to him who sits upon the throne,  
and to Christ the Lamb,

Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,  
for ever and for evermore.

*A SONG TO THE LAMB Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13*

3

I will sing to the Lord,  
for he is lofty and uplifted;  
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge;  
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him,  
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior;  
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army  
has he hurled into the sea;  
the finest of those who bear armor  
have been drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them;  
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord,  
is glorious in might;

your right hand, O Lord,

has overthrown the enemy.  
Who can be compared with you, O Lord,  
among the gods?  
who is like you, glorious in holiness,  
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?  
You stretched forth your right hand;  
the earth swallowed them up.  
With your constant love  
you led the people you redeemed;  
with your might you brought them in safety  
to your holy dwelling.  
You will bring them in and plant them  
on the mount of your possession,  
The resting-place you have made  
for yourself, O Lord,  
the sanctuary, O Lord,  
that your hand has established.  
The Lord shall reign for ever and for ever

*THE SONG OF MOSES Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18*

*After canticle,*

**Glory be to the Father,  
And to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now, and every shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

THOUGHTS OR REFLECTION ON

SCRIPTURE *people may discuss what stood out in their hearing of  
Scripture before moving on to the Apostles' Creed*



THE APOSTLES' CREED, *a summary of Scripture*

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day He rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### III. PRAYER *staying with Him*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE SUFFRAGES

O Lord, show your mercy upon us,

**And grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, guide those who govern us.

**And lead us in the way of justice and truth.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**And let your people sing with joy.**

O Lord, save your people;

**And bless your inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**And defend us by your mighty power.**

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**And take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

COLLECTS, *set prayers for the day*

1

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy  
but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
Mercifully grant that we,  
walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other  
than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

2

O God,  
the King eternal,  
whose light divides the day from the night  
and turns the shadow of death into the morning:  
Drive far from us all wrong desires,  
incline our hearts to keep your law,  
and guide our feet into the way of peace;  
that, having done your will with cheerfulness  
during the day,

we may,  
when night comes,  
rejoice to give you thanks;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3

O God,  
the author of peace and lover of concord,  
to know you is eternal life  
and to serve you is perfect freedom:  
Defend us, your humble servants,  
in all assaults of our enemies;  
That we, surely trusting in your defense,  
may not fear the power of any adversaries;  
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

4

O Lord, our heavenly Father,  
almighty and everlasting God,  
you have brought us safely  
to the beginning of this day:  
Defend us by your mighty power,

that we may not fall into sin  
nor run into any danger;  
and that, guided by your Spirit,  
we may do what is righteous in your sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

5

Heavenly Father,  
in you we live and move and have our being:  
We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us  
by your Holy Spirit,  
that in all the cares and occupations of our life  
we may not forget you,  
but may remember  
that we are ever walking in your sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

6

O God our King,  
by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
on the first day of the week,

you conquered sin, put death to flight,  
and gave us the hope of everlasting life:  
Redeem all our days by this victory;  
forgive our sins, banish our fears,  
make us bold to praise you and to do your will;  
and steel us to wait  
for the consummation of your kingdom  
on the last great Day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

7

Almighty God,  
who after the creation of the world  
Rested from all your works  
and sanctified a day of rest  
For all your creatures:  
grant that we,  
putting away all earthly anxieties,  
may be duly prepared  
for the service of your sanctuary,  
and that our rest here upon earth  
may be a preparation for the eternal rest

promised to your people in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR MISSION

1

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you stretched out your arms of love  
on the hard wood of the cross  
that everyone might come within the reach  
of your saving embrace:  
So clothe us in your Spirit  
that we, reaching forth our hands in love,  
may bring those who do not know you  
to the knowledge and love of you;  
For the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

2

O God, you have made of one blood  
all the peoples of the earth,  
and sent your blessed Son  
to preach peace to those who are far off  
and to those who are near:  
Grant that people everywhere



may seek after you and find you;  
bring the nations into your fold;  
pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;  
and hasten the coming of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole  
body of your faithful people  
is governed and sanctified:  
Receive our supplications and prayers  
which we offer before you  
for all members of your holy Church,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may truly and devoutly serve you;  
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS, PETITIONS, AND  
THANKSGIVINGS *A time for individual prayer requests*

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants  
give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation,  
preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world  
by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
For the means of grace,  
and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray,  
give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts  
we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness**

**all our days;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God,  
you have given us grace at this time,  
with one accord  
to make our common supplications to you;  
and you have promised  
through your well- beloved Son  
that when two or three are gathered  
together in his Name  
you will grant their requests:  
Fulfill now, O Lord,  
our desires and petitions  
as may be best for us;  
granting us in this world  
knowledge of your truth,  
and in the age to come,  
life everlasting. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

# VESPERS, *a liturgy for the evening*

# I. CONFESSION *returning to Him*

## OPENING SENTENCE *choose one or more*

1

Jesus spoke to them, saying  
“I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me  
Will not walk in darkness,  
But will have the light of life. *John 8:12*

2

Lord, I have loved  
The habitation of your house  
And the place where your glory dwells. *Psalms 26:8*

3

Let my prayers be set forth  
In your sight as incense,  
And let the lifting up of my hands  
Be an evening sacrifice. *Psalms 141:2*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Dearly beloved,  
we have come together in the presence of  
Almighty God our heavenly Father,  
to set forth his praise,  
to hear his holy Word, and to ask,  
for ourselves and on behalf of others,  
those things that are necessary  
for our life and our salvation.  
And so that we may prepare ourselves  
in heart and mind to worship him,  
let us kneel in silence, and with  
penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins,  
that we may obtain forgiveness  
by his infinite goodness and mercy.  
Therefore draw near with me to the throne of  
Heavenly grace.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

#### ABSOLUTION

Almighty God  
have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen us in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep you us in eternal life. **Amen.**



## II. SCRIPTURE *receiving Him*

### INVITATORY

O Lord, open our lips;

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us;

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father,

and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit

**As it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and ever shall be,**

**world without end.**

**Amen.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's Name be praised.**

## O GLADSOME LIGHT

O gladsome light,  
Pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed.  
Now as we come  
To the setting of the sun  
And our eyes behold the vesper light  
We sing your praise, O God:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times  
To be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O giver of life,  
And to be glorified through all the worlds.

PSALM or APPOINTED PSALMS *after the Psalm, say*

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

THE LESSONS *read one or more passages of Scripture, after  
reading, say*

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

CANTICLE *say a canticle after the lesson*

1

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
For he has regarded  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from now on,  
all generations will call me blessed;  
For he that is mighty has magnified me,  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on those who fear him,  
throughout all generations.

He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the mighty

from their thrones,  
and has exalted the humble and meek.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.  
He, remembering his mercy,  
has helped his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our fathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever. *SONG OF MARY* Luke 1:46-55

2

Lord, you now have set your servant free  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.

3

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with the old leaven,

the leaven of malice and evil,  
but with the unleavened bread  
of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.  
Christ being raised from the dead  
will never die again;  
death no longer has dominion over him.  
The death that he died,  
he died to sin, once for all;  
but the life he lives, he lives to God.  
So also consider yourselves dead to sin,  
and alive to God in  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.  
Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a man came death,  
by a man has come also  
the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die,  
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia

*CHRIST OUR PASSOVER* 1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

*After canticle, say*

**Glory be to the Father,  
And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now,  
And every shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

THOUGHTS OR REFLECTION ON

SCRIPTURE *people may discuss what stood out in their hearing of  
Scripture before moving on to the Apostles' Creed*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day He rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### III. PRAYER *staying with Him*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**



## THE SUFFRAGES

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful

**We entreat you O Lord.**

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace  
and goodwill

**We entreat you O Lord.**

That we may be pardoned for our sins and offenses.

**We entreat you O Lord.**

That there may be peace in your Church and in the  
whole world

**We entreat you O Lord.**

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,  
And not be condemned before the great judgment  
seat of Christ

**We entreat you O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit  
in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one  
another and all our life to Christ.

**We entreat you O Lord.**

## COLLECTS

1

O God,  
the source of all holy desires,  
all good counsels,  
and all just works:  
Give to your servants that peace  
which the world cannot give,  
that our hearts may be set  
to obey your commandments,  
and that we, being defended  
from the fear of our enemies,  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

2

Lighten our darkness,  
we beseech you, O Lord;  
and by your great mercy  
defend us from all perils  
and dangers of this night;  
for the love of your only Son,

our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

3

O God, the life of all who live,  
the light of the faithful,  
the strength of those who labor,  
and the repose of the dead:

We thank you for the blessings  
of the day that is past,  
and humbly ask for your protection  
through the coming night.

Bring us in safety to the morning hours;  
through him who died and rose again for us,  
your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

4

Lord Jesus, stay with us,  
for evening is at hand  
and the day is past;  
be our companion in the way,  
kindle our hearts, and awaken hope,  
that we may know you

as you are revealed in Scripture  
and the breaking of bread.

Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

5

Lord Jesus Christ,  
by your death you took away  
the sting of death:  
Grant to us your servants  
so to follow in faith  
where you have led the way,  
that we may at length fall asleep  
peacefully in you  
and wake up in your likeness;  
for your tender mercies' sake.

6

O God, the source of eternal light:  
Shed forth your unending day  
upon us who watch for you,  
that our lips may praise you,  
our lives may bless you,

and our worship on the morrow give you glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

7

Lord God, whose Son  
our Savior Jesus Christ  
triumphed over the powers of death  
and prepared for us  
our place in the new Jerusalem:  
Grant that we, who have this day  
given thanks for his resurrection,  
may praise you in that City  
of which he is the light,  
and where he lives and reigns  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR MISSION

1

Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who work,  
or watch, or weep this night,  
and give your angels charge  
over those who sleep.  
Tend the sick, Lord Christ;  
give rest to the weary,  
bless the dying,  
soothe the suffering,  
pity the afflicted,  
shield the joyous;  
and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

2

O God, you manifest in your servants  
The signs of your presence:  
Send forth upon us the Spirit of love,  
Than in companionship with one another  
Your abounding grace

May increase among us;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3

Almighty and everlasting God,  
Whose will it is to restore all things  
In your well-beloved Son, the king of kings  
And Lord of lords:  
Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth,  
Divided and enslaved by sin,  
May be freed and brought together  
Under his most gracious rule;  
Who lives and reigns with you  
And the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever

INTERCESSIONS, PETITIONS, AND  
THANKSGIVINGS *A time for individual prayer requests*

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants  
give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation,  
preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world  
by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
For the means of grace,  
and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray,  
give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts  
we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness**



**all our days;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God,  
you have given us grace at this time,  
with one accord  
to make our common supplications to you;  
and you have promised  
through your well- beloved Son  
that when two or three are gathered  
together in his Name  
you will grant their requests:  
Fulfill now, O Lord,  
our desires and petitions  
as may be best for us;  
granting us in this world  
knowledge of your truth,  
and in the age to come,  
life everlasting. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

# PRAYERS FOR VARIOUS OCCASIONS

*a way to trust Him with other things in our life*

SUFFERING AND DISTRESS	54
EVANGELISM AND REPENTANCE	63
GROWTH	67
PROTECTION	77

## PRAYERS FOR SUFFERING AND DISTRESS

### TO CAST OUR CARES ON HIM

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### FOR CHRIST TO COME AMONG US

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### TO ACCEPT THE SUFFERINGS OF THE PRESENT TIME

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### TO HAVE COMPASSION ON OUR WEAKNESS

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus

Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR THOSE IN BONDAGE TO ADDICTION

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon those who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who minister to them, give patient understanding and persevering love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE ELDERLY

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for *them* homes of dignity and peace; give *them* understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and as *their* strength diminishes, increase *their* faith and *their* assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR CHRIST TO BEAR US THROUGH EVERY TEMPTATION

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FOR THOSE AFFLICTED WITH MENTAL SUFFERING Almighty God, whose Son took upon himself the afflictions of your people: Regard with your tender compassion those suffering from anxiety, depression, or mental illness; bear *their* sorrows and *their* cares; supply all *their* needs; help *them* to put *their* whole trust and confidence in you; and restore *them* to

strength of mind and cheerfulness of spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR HUMAN FRAILITY

O God, you know that we are set in the midst of many grave dangers, and because of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant that your strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry us through every temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### IN PAIN

Lord Jesus Christ, by your patience in suffering you hallowed earthly pain and gave us the example of obedience to your Father's will: Be near us in our time of weakness and pain; sustain us by your grace, that our strength and courage may not fail; heal us according to your will; and help us always to believe that what happens to us here is of little account if you hold us in eternal life, our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

#### IN TIMES OF SUFFERING OR WEAKNESS

Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: I hold up all my weakness to your strength, my failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the Cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived, without cowardice and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love. **Amen.**

#### FOR THOSE WITH CHRONIC DISEASE

Heavenly Father, sustainer of our life and source of our hope: Comfort and relieve all who endure long term illness or persistent handicap [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Give your grace to all who minister to their needs, that they may

be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through him who knows our weakness and has shared our sorrows, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE DISCOURAGED AND DOWNCAST

O God, almighty and merciful, you heal the broken-hearted and turn the sadness of the sorrowful to joy, Let your fatherly goodness be upon all whom you have made. Remember in pity all those who are this day destitute, homeless, elderly, infirm, or forgotten. Bless the multitude of your poor. Lift up those who are cast down. Mightily befriend innocent sufferers, and sanctify to them the endurance of their wrongs. Cheer with hope all who are discouraged or downcast, and by your heavenly grace preserve from failing those whose poverty tempts them to sin. Though they suffer on every side, suffer them not to be distressed; though they are perplexed, save them from despair. Grant this, O Lord, for the love of him who for our sakes became poor, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FOR THE RECOVERY OF A SICK PERSON Almighty and immortal God, giver of life and health: We implore your mercy for your servant, that by your blessing upon him and upon those who minister to him with your healing gifts, he may be restored to health of body and mind, according to your gracious will, and may give thanks to you in your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF ILLNESS Sanctify, O Lord, the sickness of your servant, that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith and seriousness to *his* repentance; and grant that *he* may live with you in everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that all those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### FOR PRISONERS

O God, you forgive when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy: We humbly ask you, of your goodness, to comfort all prisoners [and especially those who are condemned to die]. Give them a right understanding of themselves, and of your promises, that trusting wholly in your mercy, they may not place their confidence anywhere but in you. Relieve the distressed; deliver the innocent; bring the guilty to repentance; and as you alone bring light out of darkness, and good out of evil, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit they may be set free from the chains of sin, and brought to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR COMFORT FOR ALL WHO SORROW Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### FOR RELIANCE ON GOD'S POWER IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSITY

O Lord God, who sees that we put not our trust in anything that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



FOR THOSE WHO MOURN TO NOT BE OVERWHELMED Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: deal graciously with those who mourn. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR TRUST IN THE MIDST OF THINGS WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND

Help us, we pray, O Lord, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE AWARENESS OF THE UNCERTAINTIES OF HUMAN LIFE

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE COMFORT OF THOSE IN MISERY AND AFFLICTION

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

FOR FORGIVING OTHERS AS WE SUFFER

O Glorious Lord, your servant Stephen looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors: Grant that in all our sufferings here upon earth we may love and forgive our enemies, looking steadfastly to Jesus Christ our Lord, who

sits at your right hand and intercedes for us; and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR A SICK CHILD

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child. Relieve *his* pain, guard *him* from all danger, restore to *him* your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise *him* up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for your dear Name's sake. **Amen.**

#### FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servant., and give your power of healing to those who minister to *his* needs, that *he* may be strengthened in *his* weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER WHEN TAKING MEDICINE Almighty God, in your goodness you created the earth and all its elements, and have given us skill to make medicines that heal and relieve our pain. All healing comes from you, and in you I put my trust. Grant that this medication may, in your mercy, give comfort and bring healing to my body; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR UNCERTAINTIES IN THE MORNING

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, help me to do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. **Amen.**

### TO NOT BE LEFT COMFORTLESS

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### FOR DOUBTS AND UNCERTAINTIES

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TO FRUSTRATE THE DESIGNS OF EVIL TYRANTS Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

IN TIMES OF SOCIAL CONFLICT OR DISTRESS Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# PRAYERS FOR EVANGELISM AND REPENTANCE

## TO PURIFY OURSELVES AS HE IS PURE

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## TO BE UNITED IN ONE BODY BY THE ONE SPIRIT

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## FOR A SPIRIT OF EVANGELISM

Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TO BRING OUR BROTHERS INTO CHRIST'S GRACIOUS  
PRESENCE

Almighty God, you gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FOR THE COMING OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THAT OUR VOCATIONS AND MINISTRIES MAY DEVOUTLY  
SERVE THE LORD

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

FOR WATCHFULNESS

Thou, who with thine own mouth hast told us that at midnight the bridegroom shall come: Grant that the cry, "The bridegroom cometh!" may sound evermore in our ears, that so we be never unprepared to meet him, or forgetful of the souls for whom he died, for whom we watch and pray. And save us, O Lord. **Amen.**

FOR CHRIST'S COMPASSION ON THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW HIM

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE LORD TO BREATHE HIS SPIRIT ON HIS CHURCH

Lord God of our salvation, you speak the word to your scattered people, and raise us up from the valley of death: Breathe your Spirit upon your Church, that we may live and stand before you confident in your risen Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FOR THE UNREPENTANT

Merciful God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn to you and live; and through your only Son you have revealed yourself as the God who pardons iniquity. Have mercy on the unrepentant and those who do not believe. Awaken in *them*, by your Word and Holy Spirit, a deep sense of *their* sinfulness and peril. Take from *them* all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word. Grant *them* to know and feel that there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which they must be saved, but only the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so bring *them* home and number *them* among your children, that *they* may be yours for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

FOR FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE TO SIN

Set us free, loving Father, from the bondage of our sins, and in your goodness and mercy give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have

made known to us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ASTRAY TO BE BROUGHT BACK  
TO THE UNCHANGEABLE WORD OF CHRIST

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FOR CHRIST TO PLANT THE LOVE OF HIS NAME IN THE  
HEART OF MAN

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS FOR GROWTH

### TO PLEASE GOD RATHER THAN MEN

Our God, in whom we trust: Strengthen us not to regard overmuch who is for us or who is against us, but to see to it that we be with you in everything we do. **Amen.**

### FOR EYES OF FAITH

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in the fullness of his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### TO BE MADE WORTHY OF OUR CALLING

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve; and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### FOR BEHOLDING THE KING IN HIS BEAUTY

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening:



Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR DAILY DYING TO SIN

O God, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to die upon the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the devil and the power of death: Grant us grace to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd of your people: Grant that, when we hear his voice, we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE FEAR OF THE LORD

O Lord, you never fail to support and govern those whom you bring up in your steadfast love and fear: Keep us, we pray, under your continual protection and providence, and give us a perpetual fear and love of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### ON CHRIST'S RULE OF OUR HEARTS

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FOR INNER RENEWAL THROUGH THE WORD Gracious God and most merciful Father, you have granted us the rich and precious jewel of your

holy Word: Assist us with your Spirit, that the same Word may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, to build us up and edify us into the perfect dwelling place of your Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues; grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

FOR THE RESTLESSNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR KNOWING CHRIST TO BE THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FOR LEARNING TO ASK RIGHTLY FROM THE LORD

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and, that we may receive what we ask, teach us by your Holy Spirit to ask only those things that are pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our

Lord, who with you and the same Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

#### TO BE ILLUMINED BY WORD AND SACRAMENT

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR DEPTH OF FAITH AND STEADFASTNESS OF PURPOSE

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truth our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in time we may come to think your own thoughts after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

#### FOR A VIRTUOUS HEART

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy thought can drag down; an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose can tempt aside. Bestow upon me understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that finally may embrace you. **Amen.**

#### FOR UNION WITH CHRIST

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within thy wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from thee. From the wicked foe defend me. In the hour of my death call me, and bid me come to thee, that with thy saints I may praise thee for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### FOR THE SPIRIT OF SELF-DENYING SERVICE

O gracious God, we remember before thee this day thy servant and apostle James, first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the Name of Jesus Christ; and we pray that thou wilt pour out upon the leaders of thy Church that spirit of self-denying service by which alone they may have true authority among thy people; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### TO POUR LOVE INTO OUR HEARTS

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### FOR GRACE TO LOVE WHAT YOU COMMAND

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### TO WALK IN THE WAY OF HIS SUFFERING AND SHARE HIS RESURRECTION

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to

suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### TO CAST AWAY WORKS OF DARKNESS

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### THAT WE MAY SHARE THE DIVINE LIFE

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE LIGHT

O God, you have caused that holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

#### TO GLADLY SUFFER SHAME AND LOSS

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior

Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR FAITH TO PERCEIVE

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

#### TO RECEIVE HIM AS OUR REDEEMER

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### TO SEE HIS GLORY FACE TO FACE

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### TO BE RAISED TO ETERNAL JOYS

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### TO DWELL WITH CHRIST IN HEART AND MIND

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### TO MAKE US WORTHY OF OUR CALLING

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve; and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### TO BE WHOLLY GOD'S

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### FOR THE LORD TO INCREASE AND MULTIPLY HIS MERCY UPON US

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we

lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE BREAD OF CHRIST

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR A PURIFIED CONSCIENCE

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

TO RECOGNIZE CHRIST IN THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND US  
Almighty, everlasting God, give us grace to behold you, present in your Word and Sacraments, and to recognize you in the lives of those around us. Stir up in us the flame of that love which burned in the heart of your Son as he bore his passion, and let it burn in us to eternal life and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

#### TO BE DELIVERED FROM THE SERVICE OF SELF ALONE

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who declarest thy glory and showest forth thy handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us, we beseech thee, in our several occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work which thou givest us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one that serveth, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



## TO TRUST IN GOD WITH ALL OUR HEARTS

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

## TO PASS THROUGH THINGS TEMPORAL AND NOT LOSE THINGS ETERNAL

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## FOR THE LORD'S PROTECTION

Almighty and merciful God, in your goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in mind and body, may accomplish with joyful hearts those things which belong to your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FOR THOSE WE LOVE

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your neverfailing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for *them* better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FOR THOSE WHO TRAVEL

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [especially \_\_\_\_\_]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### FOR THE ABSENT

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the ends of the earth: We ask you graciously to behold and bless those we love who are now absent from us [especially \_\_\_\_]. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body, and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love, in the communion of your Holy Spirit and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### TO WITHSTAND THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL

O Lord God, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### FOR THE LORD TO KEEP US

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### FOR SLEEP

Father, in your mercy dispel the darkness of this night, and let your servant sleep in peace, that at the dawn of a new day I may wake with joy in your Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OTHERS

O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served, but to serve: We ask you to bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that

they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the sake of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### FOR DELIVERANCE FROM PERIL

Almighty God, our strong tower of defense in time of trouble: We offer you praise and heartfelt thanks for our deliverance from the dangers which lately surrounded us and for your gracious gift of peace. We confess that your goodness alone has preserved us; and we ask you still to continue your mercies toward us, that we may always know and acknowledge you as our Savior and mighty Deliverer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE RESTORATION OF HEALTH

Almighty God and heavenly Father, we bless and praise your Name on behalf of your servant, and we give you humble thanks that you have been please to deliver *him* from sickness. Grant, O gracious Father, that by your help he may live in this world according to your will, and be made a partaker of everlasting glory in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### FOR THE LORD TO KEEP HIS CHURCH BY HIS PERPETUAL MERCY

Keep your Church, O Lord, by your perpetual mercy; and because without you the frailty of our nature causes us to fall, keep us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable for our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE CHURCH TO BE GUIDED BY FAITHFUL AND TRUE PASTORS

O Almighty God, who into the place of Judas didst choose thy faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: Grant that thy Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be ordered and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR PASTORS TO BE LED

O God, call faithful pastors and anoint them with your Holy Spirit, to feed your flock by Word and Sacrament, and lead them in the way of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONS

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: Continue in our hospitals his gracious work among us [especially in \_\_\_\_\_]; console and heal the sick; grant to the physicians, nurses, and assisting staff wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your blessings upon all those who serve the suffering; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR CHRIST TO BE OUR DEFENSE AGAINST ALL ENEMIES

We beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defense against all our enemies, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of Your Son: Accept and Fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our

ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

O God, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and rations may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR GOD TO GRACIOUSLY BEHOLD HIS CHURCH

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**