

### **PRAYER FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF CREATION**

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your name, now and for ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR RESISTING TEMPTATION**

Teach me, good Lord:

Not to murmur at the multitude of business and the shortness of time.

Not to magnify undertaken duties by seeming to suffer under them, but to treat them all  
as liberties.

Not to call attention to crowded work, or petty fatigues.

Not to gather encouragement from appreciation by others, lest this should interfere with  
the purity of my motives.

Not to seek praise, respect, gratitude, or regard from others.

Not to let myself be placed in favorable contrast with another.

Edward White Benson (1829–1896)

### **A PRAYER FOR GRATITUDE**

The rainbow bending in the sky bedecked with sundry hues  
Is like the seat of God on high, and seems to tell these news—  
That as thereby he promised to drown the world no more  
So by the blood which Christ has shed He will our health restore . . .

Unto such joys for to attain God grants us all his grace

And send us after worldly pain in Heaven to have a place,  
Where we may still enjoy the light which never shall decay  
Lord, for this mercy lend us might to see that joyful day.  
Adapted from “Gascoigne’s Good Morrow,” George Gascoigne (1542–1577)

### **A PRAYER FOR OFFERING PETITIONS**

Almighty God, who has given us the privilege of making our common requests to You, and has promised through Your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name You will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Your servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world a knowledge of Your truth, and life everlasting in the world to come. Amen.

Saint John Chrysostom (347–407)

### **PRAYER OF WORSHIP**

God, you are with me and you can help me. You were with me when I was taken, and you are with me now. You strengthen me. The God I serve is everywhere—in heaven and earth and the sea, but he is above them all, for all live in him: All were created by him, and by him only do they remain. I will worship only the true God; you will I carry in my heart; no one on earth shall be able to separate me from you.

Quirinius of Siscia (d. 308)

### **PRAYER OF FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S WILL**

O Lord, by your dealings with us, whether of joy or pain, of light or darkness, let us be brought to you. Let us value no treatment of your grace simply because it makes us happy or because it makes us sad, because it gives us or denies us what we want; but may all

that you send us bring us to you; that knowing your perfectness, we may be sure in every disappointment you are still loving us, in every darkness you are still enlightening us, and in every enforced idleness you are giving us life, as in his death you gave life to your

Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR LEADERS**

Our hope is in God, who gives help. Let us call upon him, and say:

Look kindly on your children, Lord.

Lord, our God, you made an eternal covenant with your people,  
keep us ever mindful of your mighty deeds.

Let your ordained ministers grow toward perfect love,  
and preserve your faithful people in unity by the bond of peace.

Be with us in our work of building the earthly city,  
that in building we may not labor in vain.

Send workers into your vineyard,  
and glorify your name among the nations.

Shorter Christian Prayer

### **PRAYER FOR PROTECTION**

O God, whose eternal providence has embarked our souls in our bodies, not to expect any port of anchorage on the sea of this world, to steer directly through it to your glorious kingdom, preserve us from the dangers that on all sides assault us, and keep our affections still fitly disposed to receive your holy inspirations, that being carried strongly forward by your Holy Spirit we may happily arrive at last in the haven of eternal salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John Wesley (1703–1791)

### **PRAYER OF BENEDICTION**

May the strength of God pilot us. May the power of God preserve us. May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us. May the way of God direct us. May the shield of God defend us.

Saint Patrick (389–461)

### **A PRAYER FOR THE MIND OF GOD**

Grant me, O Lord, to know that which is worth knowing, to love that which is worth loving, to praise that which pleases you most, and to esteem highly that which is precious to you. Amen.

Thomas Kempis (1379–1471)

### **A PRAYER FOR APPROUCHING GOD**

O Eternal Light, shine in our hearts

O Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil

O Eternal Power, be our support

O Eternal Wisdom, scatter our darkness

O Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us,

that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength  
we may seek your face and be brought  
by your infinite mercy to your holy presence,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alewin

### **A PRAYER FOR A PURE CONSCIENCE**

I need you to teach me day by day, according to each day's opportunities and needs. Give me, O my Lord, that purity of conscience which alone can receive, which alone can improve your inspiration. My ears are dull, so that I cannot hear your voice. My eyes are dim, so that I cannot see your gifts. You alone can quicken my hearing, and purge my sight, and cleanse and renew my heart. Teach me to sit at your feet and to hear your Word. Amen.

John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

### **A PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

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### **A PRAYER FOR DAILY GUIDANCE**

Grant us, we pray, almighty and most merciful God, fervently to desire, wisely to search out, and perfectly to fulfill all that is well-pleasing to you this day. Order our worldly condition to the glory of your Name; and, of all that you require us to do, grant us the knowledge, the desire, and the ability, that we may so fulfill it as we ought; and may our path to you, we pray, be safe, straightforward, and perfect to the end.

Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)

### **A PRAYER FOR THE LOVE OF GOD**

Lord, give us hearts never to forget your love; but to remain there whatever we do, whether we sleep or wake, live or die, or rise again to the life that is to come. For your love is eternal life and everlasting rest; for this is life eternal to know you and your infinite goodness. O let its flame never be quenched in our hearts; let it grow and brighten, till our whole souls are glowing and shining with its light and warmth.

Johann Arndt

### **A PRAYER FOR SELF CONTROL**

Almighty God, you have made all things for us, and us for your glory. Sanctify our body and soul, our thoughts and our intentions, our words and actions, that whatsoever we shall think, or speak, or do, may by us be designed for the glorification of your name. And let no pride or self-seeking, no impure motive or unworthy praise, no little ends or low imagination stain our spirit, or profane any of our words and actions. But let our body be a servant to our spirit, and both body and spirit servants of Jesus Christ.

Thomas Kempis (1380–1471)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING**

Bless all who worship you, from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same.  
Of your goodness, give us; with your love, inspire us; by your Spirit, guide us; by your  
power, protect us; in your mercy, receive us now and always.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Behold, a company of guilty supplicants at your footstool. O God of all grace, work in us  
to will and to do your good pleasure. Transform our being so that we may be the joy of  
many generations. Our understandings are darkened. Our heart is a heart of stone. Our  
very conscience also is defiled. Our affections are earthly and sensual. Open the eyes of  
our understanding. Purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Set  
our affections on things that are above. As he who has called us is holy, so may we also  
be holy in all manner of conversation and godliness. To the only wise God, our Savior, be  
glory and majesty, forever and ever. Amen.

William Jay (1769–1853)

### **A PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE**

Bless all your people, the flocks of your fold.  
Send down into our hearts the peace of heaven,  
and grant us also the peace of this life.  
Give life to the souls of all of us,  
and let no deadly sin prevail against us or any of your people.  
Deliver all who are in trouble,  
for you are our God, who sets the captives free;  
who gives hope to the hopeless,  
and help to the helpless;

who lifts up the fallen;  
and who is the haven of the shipwrecked.  
Give your pity, pardon, and refreshment to every Christian soul,  
whether in affliction or error.  
Preserve us in our pilgrimage through this life from hurt and danger  
and grant that we may finish our lives  
as Christians who are well-pleasing to you and free from sin  
and that we may have our portion and lot with all your saints;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.  
From the Liturgy of Saint Mark (c.100 to 400 A.D.)

### **A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD**

Enlighten us, O God, by your Spirit, in the understanding of your Word, and grant us the grace to receive it in true fear and humility, that we may learn to put our trust in you, to fear and honor you, by glorifying your Holy Name in all our life, and to yield you the love and obedience which faithful servants owe to their master and children to their fathers, seeing it has led you to call us to the number of your servants and children.

John Calvin (1509–1564)

### **A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE**

Lord, forgive me that when life's circumstances lift me to the crest of the wave, I tend to forget Thee. Yet, like an errant child, I have blamed Thee with my every failure, even as I credit myself with every success.

When my fears evaporate like the morning mist, then vainly I imagine that I am sufficient unto myself, that material resources and human resources are enough.



I need Thee when the sun shines, lest I forget the storm and the dark. I need Thee when I am popular, when my friends and those who work beside me approve and compliment me. I need Thee more then, lest my head begin to swell.

O God, forgive me for my stupidity, my blindness in success, my lack of trust in Thee. Be Thou now my Savior in success. Save me from conceit. Save me from pettiness. Save me from myself! And take this success, I pray, and use it for Thy glory. In Thy strength, I pray. Amen.

Peter Marshall (1902–1949)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING**

We resign into your hands our sleeping bodies, our cold hearths, and open doors. Give us to awaken with smiles; give us to labor smiling. As the sun returns in the east, so let our patience be renewed with dawn; as the sun lightens the world, so let our loving-kindness make bright this house of our habitation. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)

### **A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

O Lord, our God, teach us, we pray, to ask rightly for the right blessings. Steer the vessel of our soul toward your heart, the tranquil Haven of all storm-tossed souls. Show us the way we should go. Renew a willing spirit within us. Let your Spirit curb our wayward senses, and guide us to that which is our true good, to keep your laws, and in all our works to rejoice in your glorious and gladdening presence. For yours is the glory and praise from all saints forever and ever. Amen.

Saint Basil (c. 330–379)

### **A PRAYER FOR COURAGE**

Grant us, O Lord, that with peace of mind we may face all that this new day is to bring.

Help us to dedicate ourselves completely to your holy will.

For every hour of this day, instruct and support us in all things.

Whatever tidings we may receive during the day, teach us to accept tranquilly, in the firm conviction that all circumstances fulfill your holy will.

Govern our thoughts and feelings in all we do and say.

When things unforeseen occur, let us not forget that everything comes from you.

Teach us to behave sincerely and rationally toward every member of our family, that we may bring confusion and sorrow to none.

Bestow upon us, our Lord, strength to endure the fatigue of the day, and to bear our part in all its passing events.

Guide our will and teach us to pray, to believe, to hope, to suffer, to forgive, and to love.

Amen.

Prayer of the Optina Elders (Orthodox)

### **A PRAYER FOR CLEANSING**

O Lord our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, cleanse us from our sins, and from every thought displeasing to Thy goodness, cleanse our souls and bodies, our hearts and consciences that with a pure heart and a clear mind, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Coptic Liturgy of Saint Basil

### **A PRAYER FOR STEADFAST HEART**

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downward; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God,

understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)

### **A PRAYER FOR CELEBRATING GOD'S CHARACTER**

Be our Joy and Hope, our Strength and Life, our Shield and Shepherd, our Portion forever. For happy are we if we continue in the love in which loved us; holy are we when we love you unwaveringly. Therefore, you whose name and essence is love, enkindle our hearts, enlighten our understandings, sanctify our wills, and fill all the thoughts of our hearts; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Johann Arndt (1555–1621)

### **A PRAYER FOR THE OPPRESSED**

O You who are Love, and who sees all the suffering, injustice, and misery which reign in the world; look mercifully upon the poor, the oppressed, and all who are heavy laden with labor and sorrow. Fill our hearts with deep compassion for those who suffer, and hasten the coming of your kingdom of justice and truth.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMING THE PAST**

O Love unspeakable and full of glory, whose majesty is not to destroy, but to save, save us from ourselves. Our past relentlessly pursues us. Days we thought dead live over again; deeds we deemed buried meet us on the way; be our defense, O God.  
Fill up that which our lives have left behind. Undo that which we have done amiss. Repair the places we have wasted, bind the hearts we have wounded. Dry the eyes which

we have flooded. Make the evil we have done work for good, so that we ourselves would not know it. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR THE SCATTERED AND THE LOST**

Almighty God, look with compassion on all who are living without you, and on the multitudes who even in this land are scattered like sheep without a shepherd, or who in strange lands are far from the church of their fathers. Visit them with your salvation. O heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, hear our prayers and send forth workers into your harvest. Fit and prepare them by your grace for the work of their ministry. Give them the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Strengthen them to endure hardness, and grant that both by their life and doctrine they may set forth your glory and set forward the salvation of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from the Prayer Book of the Church of Ireland

### **A PRAYER FOR REFRESHMENT**

O Eternal God, you have made me and sustained me; you have blessed me all the days of my life and have taken care of me through all variety of accidents. Nothing happens to me except that which is in your will. O let me never accuse you foolishly, nor offend you by my impatience and haughty pride, nor weaken the hands of those who minister to my needs. Let me pass through the valley of tears and the valley of the shadow of death with safety and peace, with a meek spirit and a sense of your divine mercy. Grant this, eternal God, gracious Father, in the name of our ever blessed Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613–1667)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S MERCY**

O Eternal God, you have made me and sustained me; you have blessed me all the days of my life and have taken care of me through all variety of accidents. Nothing happens to me except that which is in your will. O let me never accuse you foolishly, nor offend you by my impatience and haughty pride, nor weaken the hands of those who minister to my needs. Let me pass through the valley of tears and the valley of the shadow of death with safety and peace, with a meek spirit and a sense of your divine mercy. Grant this, eternal God, gracious Father, in the name of our ever blessed Savior, Jesus. Amen.

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### **A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE WEARY**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who is like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, you see your weak creatures weary of labor, weary of pleasure, weary of hope deferred, weary of self.

In your abundant compassion and fellow feeling with us, and with your unspeakable tenderness, bring us, we pray, to your rest. Amen.

### **A PRAYER FOR PEACE**

O God, you who are the Author of love and the Lover of pure peace and affection, let all who are terrified by fears, afflicted by poverty, harassed by tribulation, worn down by illness, be set free by your indulgent tenderness, raised up by renewal of life and cherished by your daily compassion.

The Gallican Sacramentary, ninth century A.D.

### **A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MOURN**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **A PRAYER FOR SHOWING GOD'S LOVE FOR OTHERS**

O blessed Lord and Savior, who has commanded us to love one another, grant us grace that, having received your undeserved bounty, we may love everyone in you and for you. We ask your compassion for all; but especially for the friends whom your love has given to us. Love them, O Fountain of love, and make them love you with all their heart, with all their mind, and with all their soul, that they may speak and do only what is pleasing to you. . . . Do to them what is useful for them, according to your will, that they would always and everywhere be ruled and protected by you, attaining everlasting life; and to you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and praise forever and ever. Amen.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury (c. 1033–1109)

### **A PRAYER FOR PARDEN**

May God, who pardoned David through Nathan when he confessed his sins, and Peter weeping bitterly for his denial, and the sinful woman weeping at his feet, and the publican and the Prodigal Son, may the same God forgive thee all things. . . . Have no further care for the sins which thou hast confessed, depart in peace.

Orthodox Absolution

### **A PRAYER FOR WISDOM**

O God, the Source of all being and all joy, give us knowledge of ourselves, our powers and weaknesses, our spirit, our sympathy, our imagination, our knowledge, our truth; teach us by the standard of your Word, by the judgments of others, by examinations of ourselves; give us the earnest desire to strengthen ourselves continually by study, by diligence, by prayer and meditation; and from all fancies, delusions, and prejudices of habit, or temper, or society, save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

From the Southwell Liturgy

### **A PRAYER FOR THE INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT**

Almighty God, enter our hearts and so fill us with your love, that, forsaking all evil desires, we may embrace you, our only good. Show us, in your mercy, O Lord and God, what you are to us. Say to our souls; I am your salvation. Speak that we may hear. Our hearts are before you; open our ears; let us seek your voice and cling to you. Do not hide your face from us, we pray, O Lord. Enlarge the narrowness of our souls, that you may enter in. Repair the decayed mansions, that you may dwell there. Hear us, O heavenly Father, for the sake of your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Saint Augustine (354–430)

### **A PRAYER FOR REFRESHMENT**

Holy One, you promised the poor and needy ones that, when their tongues were parched and no water could be found, your rivers would spring forth from the desert to relieve them. Today we thirst; bless us with your living water. Break our drought; surge through our spirits, that we may live again. Amen.

United Methodist Litanies

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glory and majesty, forever and ever. Amen.

William Jay (1769–1853)

### **A PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE**

Bless all your people, the flocks of your fold.  
Send down into our hearts the peace of heaven,  
and grant us also the peace of this life.  
Give life to the souls of all of us,  
and let no deadly sin prevail against us or any of your people.  
Deliver all who are in trouble,  
for you are our God, who sets the captives free;  
who gives hope to the hopeless,  
and help to the helpless;  
who lifts up the fallen;  
and who is the haven of the shipwrecked.  
Give your pity, pardon, and refreshment to every Christian soul,  
whether in affliction or error.  
Preserve us in our pilgrimage through this life from hurt and danger  
and grant that we may finish our lives  
as Christians who are well-pleasing to you and free from sin  
and that we may have our portion and lot with all your saints;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.  
From the Liturgy of Saint Mark (c.100 to 400 A.D.)

### **A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD**

Enlighten us, O God, by your Spirit, in the understanding of your Word, and grant us the  
grace to receive it in true fear and humility, that we may learn to put our trust in you, to  
fear and honor you, by glorifying your Holy Name in all our life, and to yield you the

love and obedience which faithful servants owe to their master and children to their fathers, seeing it has led you to call us to the number of your servants and children.

John Calvin (1509–1564)

### **A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE**

Lord, forgive me that when life's circumstances lift me to the crest of the wave, I tend to forget Thee. Yet, like an errant child, I have blamed Thee with my every failure, even as I credit myself with every success.

When my fears evaporate like the morning mist, then vainly I imagine that I am sufficient unto myself, that material resources and human resources are enough.

I need Thee when the sun shines, lest I forget the storm and the dark. I need Thee when I am popular, when my friends and those who work beside me approve and compliment me. I need Thee more then, lest my head begin to swell.

O God, forgive me for my stupidity, my blindness in success, my lack of trust in Thee. Be Thou now my Savior in success. Save me from conceit. Save me from pettiness. Save me from myself! And take this success, I pray, and use it for Thy glory. In Thy strength, I pray. Amen.

Peter Marshall (1902–1949)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING**

We resign into your hands our sleeping bodies, our cold hearths, and open doors. Give us to awaken with smiles; give us to labor smiling. As the sun returns in the east, so let our patience be renewed with dawn; as the sun lightens the world, so let our loving-kindness make bright this house of our habitation. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)

### **A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

O Lord, our God, teach us, we pray, to ask rightly for the right blessings. Steer the vessel of our soul toward your heart, the tranquil Haven of all storm-tossed souls. Show us the way we should go. Renew a willing spirit within us. Let your Spirit curb our wayward senses, and guide us to that which is our true good, to keep your laws, and in all our works to rejoice in your glorious and gladdening presence. For yours is the glory and praise from all saints forever and ever. Amen.

Saint Basil (c. 330–379)

### **A PRAYER FOR COURAGE**

Grant us, O Lord, that with peace of mind we may face all that this new day is to bring.

Help us to dedicate ourselves completely to your holy will.

For every hour of this day, instruct and support us in all things.

Whatever tidings we may receive during the day, teach us to accept tranquilly, in the firm conviction that all circumstances fulfill your holy will.

Govern our thoughts and feelings in all we do and say.

When things unforeseen occur, let us not forget that everything comes from you.

Teach us to behave sincerely and rationally toward every member of our family, that we may bring confusion and sorrow to none.

Bestow upon us, our Lord, strength to endure the fatigue of the day, and to bear our part in all its passing events.

Guide our will and teach us to pray, to believe, to hope, to suffer, to forgive, and to love.

Amen.

Prayer of the Optina Elders (Orthodox)

### **A PRAYER FOR CLEANSING**

O Lord our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, cleanse us from our sins, and from every thought displeasing to Thy goodness, cleanse our souls and bodies, our hearts and



consciences that with a pure heart and a clear mind, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Coptic Liturgy of Saint Basil

### **A PRAYER FOR STEADFAST HEART**

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downward; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)

### **A PRAYER FOR CELEBRATING GOD'S CHARACTER**

Be our Joy and Hope, our Strength and Life, our Shield and Shepherd, our Portion forever. For happy are we if we continue in the love in which loved us; holy are we when we love you unwaveringly. Therefore, you whose name and essence is love, enkindle our hearts, enlighten our understandings, sanctify our wills, and fill all the thoughts of our hearts; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Johann Arndt (1555–1621)

### **A PRAYER FOR THE OPPRESSED**

O You who are Love, and who sees all the suffering, injustice, and misery which reign in the world; look mercifully upon the poor, the oppressed, and all who are heavy laden with labor and sorrow. Fill our hearts with deep compassion for those who suffer, and hasten the coming of your kingdom of justice and truth.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMING THE PAST**

O Love unspeakable and full of glory, whose majesty is not to destroy, but to save, save us from ourselves. Our past relentlessly pursues us. Days we thought dead live over again; deeds we deemed buried meet us on the way; be our defense, O God.

Fill up that which our lives have left behind. Undo that which we have done amiss. Repair the places we have wasted, bind the hearts we have wounded. Dry the eyes which we have flooded. Make the evil we have done work for good, so that we ourselves would not know it. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR THE SCATTERED AND THE LOST**

Almighty God, look with compassion on all who are living without you, and on the multitudes who even in this land are scattered like sheep without a shepherd, or who in strange lands are far from the church of their fathers. Visit them with your salvation. O heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, hear our prayers and send forth workers into your harvest. Fit and prepare them by your grace for the work of their ministry. Give them the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Strengthen them to endure hardness, and grant that both by their life and doctrine they may set forth your glory and set forward the salvation of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from the Prayer Book of the Church of Ireland

### **A PRAYER FOR REFRESHMENT**

O Eternal God, you have made me and sustained me; you have blessed me all the days of my life and have taken care of me through all variety of accidents. Nothing happens to me except that which is in your will. O let me never accuse you foolishly, nor offend you by my impatience and haughty pride, nor weaken the hands of those who minister to my needs. Let me pass through the valley of tears and the valley of the shadow of death with

safety and peace, with a meek spirit and a sense of your divine mercy. Grant this, eternal  
God, gracious Father, in the name of our ever blessed Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613–1667)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S MERCY**

O Eternal God, you have made me and sustained me; you have blessed me all the days of  
my life and have taken care of me through all variety of accidents. Nothing happens to  
me except that which is in your will. O let me never accuse you foolishly, nor offend you  
by my impatience and haughty pride, nor weaken the hands of those who minister to my  
needs. Let me pass through the valley of tears and the valley of the shadow of death with  
safety and peace, with a meek spirit and a sense of your divine mercy. Grant this, eternal  
God, gracious Father, in the name of our ever blessed Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613–1667)

### **A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE WEARY**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who is like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, you see your  
weak creatures weary of labor, weary of pleasure, weary of hope deferred, weary of self.

In your abundant compassion and fellow feeling with us, and with your unspeakable  
tenderness, bring us, we pray, to your rest. Amen.

Christina Rossetti

### **A PRAYER FOR PEACE**

O God, you who are the Author of love and the Lover of pure peace and affection, let all  
who are terrified by fears, afflicted by poverty, harassed by tribulation, worn down by  
illness, be set free by your indulgent tenderness, raised up by renewal of life and  
cherished by your daily compassion.

The Gallican Sacramentary, ninth century A.D.

### **A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MOURN**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Forward Movement

### **A PRAYER FOR SHOWING GOD'S LOVE FOR OTHERS**

O blessed Lord and Savior, who has commanded us to love one another, grant us grace that, having received your undeserved bounty, we may love everyone in you and for you. We ask your compassion for all; but especially for the friends whom your love has given to us. Love them, O Fountain of love, and make them love you with all their heart, with all their mind, and with all their soul, that they may speak and do only what is pleasing to you. . . . Do to them what is useful for them, according to your will, that they would always and everywhere be ruled and protected by you, attaining everlasting life; and to you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and praise forever and ever. Amen.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury (c. 1033–1109)

### **A PRAYER FOR PARDEN**

May God, who pardoned David through Nathan when he confessed his sins, and Peter weeping bitterly for his denial, and the sinful woman weeping at his feet, and the publican and the Prodigal Son, may the same God forgive thee all things. . . . Have no further care for the sins which thou hast confessed, depart in peace.

Orthodox Absolution

### **A PRAYER FOR WISDOM**

O God, the Source of all being and all joy, give us knowledge of ourselves, our powers and weaknesses, our spirit, our sympathy, our imagination, our knowledge, our truth; teach us by the standard of your Word, by the judgments of others, by examinations of ourselves; give us the earnest desire to strengthen ourselves continually by study, by diligence, by prayer and meditation; and from all fancies, delusions, and prejudices of habit, or temper, or society, save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

From the Southwell Liturgy

### **A PRAYER FOR THE INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT**

Almighty God, enter our hearts and so fill us with your love, that, forsaking all evil desires, we may embrace you, our only good. Show us, in your mercy, O Lord and God, what you are to us. Say to our souls; I am your salvation. Speak that we may hear. Our hearts are before you; open our ears; let us seek your voice and cling to you. Do not hide your face from us, we pray, O Lord. Enlarge the narrowness of our souls, that you may enter in. Repair the decayed mansions, that you may dwell there. Hear us, O heavenly Father, for the sake of your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Saint Augustine (354–430)

### **A PRAYER FOR REFRESHMENT**

Holy One, you promised the poor and needy ones that, when their tongues were parched and no water could be found, your rivers would spring forth from the desert to relieve them. Today we thirst; bless us with your living water. Break our drought; surge through our spirits, that we may live again. Amen.

United Methodist Litanies

### **A PRAYER FOR COURAGE**

O Heavenly Father, the Father of all wisdom, understanding, and true strength, I humbly ask you to look mercifully upon me. Send your Holy Spirit into my heart, not only that I may understand according to your wisdom how to bear temptation, but also how to defeat

it. When I must join to fight in the field for the glory of your name, may I stand courageously in the confession of your faith and truth, being strengthened by the defence of your right hand. May I continue to stand faithfully to the end of my life, through Jesus

Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Nicolas Ridley (1500–1555)

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPARTURE FROM THIS WORLD**

Father in heaven, draw our hearts to you, that our hearts may be where our treasures ought to be, that our minds and thoughts may look to your kingdom, whose citizens we are. Thus, when you shall call us hence, our departure may not be a painful separation from this world but a joyous meeting with you. Strengthen in our heart the conviction that

in life, as in death, we belong to you.

Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855)

### **A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

Gracious Father, we humbly beseech you for your universal church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purge it; and where it is in error, direct it; where it is superstitious, rectify it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, make up its breaches, O Holy One of Israel.

William Laud (1573–1645)

### **A PRAYER IN TIME OF SICKNESS**

Lord, teach me the art of patience while I am well, and give me the use of it when I am sick. In that day either lighten my burden or strengthen my back. Make me, who so often in my health have discovered my weakness presuming on my own strength, to be strong in my sickness when I solely rely on your assistance.

Thomas Fuller (1608–1661)

### **A PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we know that we are dear children of yours and that you are our beloved Father, not because we deserve it, nor could we ever merit it, but because our dear Lord, your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, wills to be our brother and of his own accord offers and makes this blessing known to us. Since we may consider ourselves his brothers and sisters and he regards us as such, you will permit us to become and remain your children forever.

Martin Luther (1483–1546)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S TENDER CARE**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, who came to seek the lost and to gather them to your fold, have compassion on those who have wandered from you; feed those who hunger, cause the weary to lie down in your pastures, heal those who are broken in heart, and strengthen those who are weak, that we, relying on your care and being comforted by your love, may abide in your guidance to our life's end; through

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Ancient Collect

### **A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, your unworthy servants, give you humble and heartfelt thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for your limitless 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 humbly request, give us a sense of all your mercies, that our heart may be openly thankful, and that we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our life, by giving up ourselves 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 Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end.

Amen.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR DESIRING GOD**

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart, that so desiring, we may seek and find you; and so finding you, we may love you; and loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have redeemed us, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury (c. 1033–1109)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEACE**

Grant unto us, Almighty God, the peace of God that passes all understanding, that we, amid the storms and troubles of this life, may rest in you, knowing that all things are within you. We are not only beneath your eye but under your care, governed by your will and guarded by your love. With a quiet heart may we see the storms of life, the cloud and the thick darkness, ever rejoicing to know that the darkness and the light are both alike to you. Guide, guard, and govern us to the end, that none of us may fail to gain immortal

life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### **A PRAYER FOR THE LAND'S OF HARVEST AND WATER**

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with plenteousness:

Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church of the Culdee

### **A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

Let us give thanks to Christ and offer him continual praise, for he sanctifies us and calls us his brothers and sisters.

Lord, help us to grow in holiness.

With single-minded devotion we dedicate this day to the honor of your resurrection; may we make the whole of this day pleasing to you by our works of holiness.

As a sign of your love, you renew each day for the sake of our well-being and happiness; renew us daily for the sake of your glory.

Teach us today to recognize your presence in all men, especially in the poor and in those who mourn.

Grant that we may live today in peace with all men, never rendering evil for evil.

The book of Shorter Christian Prayer

### **A PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Grant us grace to come near you with faith unshaken and full of hope to confess our trespasses and despise them. Let your Spirit reprove us for our sins. Enlighten our hearts that we may see how greatly did we err, misbehave, and forsake the way. Grant us determination to forsake evil that we may be established in your commandments and live to glorify your holy name. Amen.

From the Christian Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt

### **A PRAYER OF TIMES OF PERSECUTION**

Our weakness, Lord, gives you continual opportunity for displaying your strength. And opposition to your church gives you continual opportunity for displaying your power. Thus, at times of persecution, when we feel weak in the face of our enemies, sustain our heart with your strength, and defeat your enemies by your mighty power. And may the blood that your faithful people shed today become the soil in which your church grows and flourishes in the future.

From the Leonine Sacramentary (fifth century)

### **A Prayer For God's Truth**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
grant, we pray, that we might be grounded  
and settled in your truth by the coming of  
your Holy Spirit in our hearts.

What we do not know, reveal to us;  
What is lacking within us, make complete;  
That which we do not know, confirm in us;  
And keep us blameless in your service,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Saint Clement of Rome (c. 90)

### **A PRAYER FOR RELEASE FROM FEAR**

Almighty God, King of kings, who has called us into a Kingdom not of this world: Send forth your Spirit, we pray, into the dark dwelling places of guilt and woe. Reach the heart of every oppression, and make arrogance silent before your presence. Still the noise of

our strife. Put to shame the false idols of every heart. Bring faith to the doubting, hope to those who fear, strength to the powerless, and comfort to all who mourn. O Lord, bestow your Word on faithful witnesses, so that your Kingdom may come quickly. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Huss (1373–1415)

### **A PRAYER OF SELF-ABANDONMENT**

My Father, I abandon myself to you. Do with me as you will.

Whatever you may do with me, I thank you.

I am prepared for anything; I accept everything.

Provided your will is fulfilled in me and in all creatures, I ask for nothing more, my God.

I place my soul in your hands.

I give it to you, my God,  
with all the love of my heart  
because I love you.

And for me it is a necessity of love,  
this gift of myself,  
this placing of myself in your hands  
without reserve  
in boundless confidence,  
because you are my Father.

Charles de Foucauld (1858–1916)

### **A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

O Almighty God, when our vision fails and our understanding is darkened, when the ways of life seem hard and brightness of life is gone, grant to us the wisdom that deepens faith and enlarges trust. And whenever the ways in nature or in the soul are hard to

understand, then may our quiet confidence, our patient trust, our living faith in you be great. . . . May we with a quiet mind at all times put our trust in you. Amen.

Harold Vincent Milligan

### **A PRAYER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

O God, our great Companion, you are the light of minds that know you, the life of souls that love you, and the strength of wills that serve you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, who to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Forward Movement

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S GREATNESS**

Hear us, O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through your name the sea is calmed,  
the fire is quenched, and the grave  
and death are brought to nothing.

You comfort those who are oppressed;  
you heal those who are suffering;  
those who are lost in the sea,  
you come to their aid.

In like manner, my Lord, also come  
to help and deliver us from this time.

For you are the true God,  
the help of those who are oppressed and in tribulation;  
and yours is the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

Prayer of Shenoufe the Copt

### **A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING**

O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the darkness and turns the shadow of death into morning, drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our heart to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when night comes, rejoice and give you thanks.

Amen.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR CREATOR GOD**

I thank you, my Creator and Lord, that you have given me these joys in your creation, this ecstasy over the works of your hands. I have made known the glory of your works to men as far as my finite spirit was able to comprehend your infinity. If I have said anything wholly unworthy of you, or have aspired after my own glory, graciously forgive

me. Amen.

Johannes Kepler (1571–1630)

### **A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O Most High, Almighty, good Lord God, to you belongs praise, glory, honor, and all blessing! Praised be my Lord God and his creatures, and especially for our brother the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the light; fair is he and shines with very great splendor; O Lord, he points us to you!

From “Canticle of the Sun” by Saint Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)

### **A PRAYER FOR HUNGERING AFTER GOD**

Grant us, we pray, the lost who hunger and thirst after righteousness—the longing for God. Grant to us that drawing power by which everything in us shall call for you. Become necessary to us. With the morning and evening light, at noon and at midnight,

may we feel the need of your companionship. . . . Though you do not speak as man speaks, yet you can call out to us; and the soul shall know your presence and shall understand by its own self what you mean. Grant to us this witness of the Spirit, this communion of the soul with you—and not only once or twice: May we abide in the light.

Amen.

Henry Ward Beecher (1813–1887)

### **A PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

I confess, Lord, with thanksgiving, that you have made me in your image so that I can remember you, think of you, and love you. But that image is so worn and blotted out by faults, and darkened by the smoke of sin, that it cannot do that for which it was made unless you renew and refashion it. Lord, I am not trying to make my way to your height, for my understanding is in no way equal to that, but I do desire to understand a little of your truth, which my heart already believes and loves. Amen.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury (c. 1033–1109)

### **A PRAYER TO EXPERIANCE JOY**

As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, you have fashioned me for joy. Share with me the vision that shall find it everywhere: in the wild violet's beauty; in the lark's melody; in the face of a steadfast man; in a child's smile; in a mother's love; in the purity of Jesus.

Gaelic prayer

### **A MORNING PRAYER**

O Lord Jesus Christ, very bright Sun of the world, ever rising, never going down: We ask you to shine upon our spirit. You have driven away the night of sin and error by your

inward light; let us now walk in the light of this day without stumbling. Hear our prayer,  
O Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

Adapted from the Primer of 1559

### **A PRAYER FOR THE ABILITY TO LOVE**

O my God, let me walk in the way of love, which knows not how to see self in anything  
whatsoever. But what love must it be? It must be an ardent love, a pure love, a  
courageous love, a love of charity, a humble love, and a constant love. O Lord, give this  
love into my soul, that I may never more live nor breathe but out of a more pure love of  
thee, my all and only God. Amen.

Dame Gertrude More

### **A PRAYER TO BE USED BY GOD**

Lord, help us to love you; teach us to serve you. Give us your strength that we may  
overcome our corrupt nature. Grant this day that we may have power from on high to  
resist every temptation; to confess Christ before men and women; to labor steadfastly  
with a single eye to your glory; to live in the spirit of prayer, in faith, humility, self-  
denial, and love; and to walk before you in that narrow way that leads to eternal life. Fill  
us with love for others. Teach us to do good to all people, to visit and relieve the  
fatherless and the widows in their affliction. Lord, for your name's sake, hear us. Amen.

Edward Bickersteth (1786–1850)

### **A PRAYER FOR AWAKENING**

O sweet and loving God, when I stay asleep too long, oblivious to all your many  
blessings, then, please, wake me up and sing to me your joyful song. It is a song without  
noise or notes; it is a song of love beyond words, of faith beyond the power of human  
telling. I can hear it in my soul when you awaken me to your presence.

Mechthild of Magdeburg (c. 1212–1280)

### **A PRAYER FOR COURAGE**

O Heavenly Father, the Father of all wisdom, understanding, and true strength, I humbly ask you to look mercifully upon me. Send your Holy Spirit into my heart, not only that I may understand according to your wisdom how to bear temptation, but also how to defeat it. When I must join to fight in the field for the glory of your name, may I stand courageously in the confession of your faith and truth, being strengthened by the defence of your right hand. May I continue to stand faithfully to the end of my life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Nicolas Ridley (1500–1555)

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William Laud (1573–1645)



### **A PRAYER IN TIME OF SICKNESS**

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Thomas Fuller (1608–1661)

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Lord God, heavenly Father, we know that we are dear children of yours and that you are our beloved Father, not because we deserve it, nor could we ever merit it, but because our dear Lord, your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, wills to be our brother and of his own accord offers and makes this blessing known to us. Since we may consider ourselves his brothers and sisters and he regards us as such, you will permit us to become and remain your children forever.

Martin Luther (1483–1546)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S TENDER CARE**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, who came to seek the lost and to gather them to your fold, have compassion on those who have wandered from you; feed those who hunger, cause the weary to lie down in your pastures, heal those who are broken in heart, and strengthen those who are weak, that we, relying on your care and being comforted by your love, may abide in your guidance to our life's end; through

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Ancient Collect

### **A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, your unworthy servants, give you humble and heartfelt thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for your limitless 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 humbly request, give us a sense of all your mercies, that our heart may be openly thankful, and that we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our life, by giving up ourselves 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 Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end.

Amen.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR DESIRING GOD**

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart, that so desiring, we may seek and find you; and so finding you, we may love you; and loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have redeemed us, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury (c. 1033–1109)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEACE**

Grant unto us, Almighty God, the peace of God that passes all understanding, that we, amid the storms and troubles of this life, may rest in you, knowing that all things are within you. We are not only beneath your eye but under your care, governed by your will and guarded by your love. With a quiet heart may we see the storms of life, the cloud and the thick darkness, ever rejoicing to know that the darkness and the light are both alike to you. Guide, guard, and govern us to the end, that none of us may fail to gain immortal

life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A PRAYER FOR THE LAND'S OF HARVEST AND WATER**

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with plenteousness:

Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church of the Culdee

### **A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

Let us give thanks to Christ and offer him continual praise, for he sanctifies us and calls us his brothers and sisters.

Lord, help us to grow in holiness.

With single-minded devotion we dedicate this day to the honor of your resurrection; may we make the whole of this day pleasing to you by our works of holiness.

As a sign of your love, you renew each day for the sake of our well-being and happiness; renew us daily for the sake of your glory.

Teach us today to recognize your presence in all men, especially in the poor and in those who mourn.

Grant that we may live today in peace with all men, never rendering evil for evil.

The book of Shorter Christian Prayer

### **A PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Grant us grace to come near you with faith unshaken and full of hope to confess our trespasses and despise them. Let your Spirit reprove us for our sins. Enlighten our hearts that we may see how greatly did we err, misbehave, and forsake the way. Grant us deter-

mination to forsake evil that we may be established in your commandments and live to  
glorify your holy name. Amen.

From the Christian Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt

### **A PRAYER OF TIMES OF PERSECUTION**

Our weakness, Lord, gives you continual opportunity for displaying your strength. And  
opposition to your church gives you continual opportunity for displaying your power.  
Thus, at times of persecution, when we feel weak in the face of our enemies, sustain our  
heart with your strength, and defeat your enemies by your mighty power. And may the  
blood that your faithful people shed today become the soil in which your church grows  
and flourishes in the future.

From the Leonine Sacramentary (fifth century)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S TRUTH**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
grant, we pray, that we might be grounded  
and settled in your truth by the coming of  
your Holy Spirit in our hearts.

What we do not know, reveal to us;  
What is lacking within us, make complete;  
That which we do not know, confirm in us;  
And keep us blameless in your service,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Saint Clement of Rome (c. 90)

### **A PRAYER FOR RELEASE FROM FEAR**

Almighty God, King of kings, who has called us into a Kingdom not of this world: Send forth your Spirit, we pray, into the dark dwelling places of guilt and woe. Reach the heart of every oppression, and make arrogance silent before your presence. Still the noise of our strife. Put to shame the false idols of every heart. Bring faith to the doubting, hope to those who fear, strength to the powerless, and comfort to all who mourn. O Lord, bestow your Word on faithful witnesses, so that your Kingdom may come quickly. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Huss (1373–1415)

### **A PRAYER OF SELF-ABANDONMENT**

My Father, I abandon myself to you. Do with me as you will.

Whatever you may do with me, I thank you.

I am prepared for anything; I accept everything.

Provided your will is fulfilled in me and in all creatures, I ask for nothing more, my God.

I place my soul in your hands.

I give it to you, my God,  
with all the love of my heart  
because I love you.

And for me it is a necessity of love,  
this gift of myself,  
this placing of myself in your hands  
without reserve

in boundless confidence,  
because you are my Father.

Charles de Foucauld (1858–1916)

### **A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

O Almighty God, when our vision fails and our understanding is darkened, when the ways of life seem hard and brightness of life is gone, grant to us the wisdom that deepens faith and enlarges trust. And whenever the ways in nature or in the soul are hard to understand, then may our quiet confidence, our patient trust, our living faith in you be great. . . . May we with a quiet mind at all times put our trust in you. Amen.

Harold Vincent Milligan

### **A PRAYER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

O God, our great Companion, you are the light of minds that know you, the life of souls that love you, and the strength of wills that serve you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, who to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Forward Movement

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S GREATNESS**

Hear us, O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through your name the sea is calmed,  
the fire is quenched, and the grave  
and death are brought to nothing.

You comfort those who are oppressed;  
you heal those who are suffering;  
those who are lost in the sea,  
you come to their aid.

In like manner, my Lord, also come  
to help and deliver us from this time.

For you are the true God,  
the help of those who are oppressed and in tribulation;

and yours is the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

Prayer of Shenoufe the Copt

### **A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING**

O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the darkness and turns the shadow of death into morning, drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our heart to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when night comes, rejoice and give you thanks.

Amen.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR CREATOR GOD**

I thank you, my Creator and Lord, that you have given me these joys in your creation, this ecstasy over the works of your hands. I have made known the glory of your works to men as far as my finite spirit was able to comprehend your infinity. If I have said anything wholly unworthy of you, or have aspired after my own glory, graciously forgive me. Amen.

Johannes Kepler (1571–1630)

### **A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O Most High, Almighty, good Lord God, to you belongs praise, glory, honor, and all blessing! Praised be my Lord God and his creatures, and especially for our brother the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the light; fair is he and shines with very great splendor; O Lord, he points us to you!

From “Canticle of the Sun” by Saint Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)

### **A PRAYER FOR HUNGERING AFTER GOD**

Grant us, we pray, the lost who hunger and thirst after righteousness—the longing for God. Grant to us that drawing power by which everything in us shall call for you. Become necessary to us. With the morning and evening light, at noon and at midnight, may we feel the need of your companionship. . . . Though you do not speak as man speaks, yet you can call out to us; and the soul shall know your presence and shall understand by its own self what you mean. Grant to us this witness of the Spirit, this communion of the soul with you—and not only once or twice: May we abide in the light.

Amen.

Henry Ward Beecher (1813–1887)

### **A PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

I confess, Lord, with thanksgiving, that you have made me in your image so that I can remember you, think of you, and love you. But that image is so worn and blotted out by faults, and darkened by the smoke of sin, that it cannot do that for which it was made unless you renew and refashion it. Lord, I am not trying to make my way to your height, for my understanding is in no way equal to that, but I do desire to understand a little of your truth, which my heart already believes and loves. Amen.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury (c. 1033–1109)

### **A PRAYER TO EXPERIENCE JOY**

As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, you have fashioned me for joy. Share with me the vision that shall find it everywhere: in the wild violet's beauty; in the lark's melody; in the face of a steadfast man; in a child's smile; in a mother's love; in the purity of Jesus.

Gaelic prayer



### **A MORNING PRAYER**

O Lord Jesus Christ, very bright Sun of the world, ever rising, never going down: We ask you to shine upon our spirit. You have driven away the night of sin and error by your inward light; let us now walk in the light of this day without stumbling. Hear our prayer, O Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

Adapted from the Primer of 1559

### **A PRAYER FOR THE ABILITY TO LOVE**

O my God, let me walk in the way of love, which knows not how to see self in anything whatsoever. But what love must it be? It must be an ardent love, a pure love, a courageous love, a love of charity, a humble love, and a constant love. O Lord, give this love into my soul, that I may never more live nor breathe but out of a more pure love of thee, my all and only God. Amen.

Dame Gertrude More

### **A PRAYER TO BE USED BY GOD**

Lord, help us to love you; teach us to serve you. Give us your strength that we may overcome our corrupt nature. Grant this day that we may have power from on high to resist every temptation; to confess Christ before men and women; to labor steadfastly with a single eye to your glory; to live in the spirit of prayer, in faith, humility, self-denial, and love; and to walk before you in that narrow way that leads to eternal life. Fill us with love for others. Teach us to do good to all people, to visit and relieve the fatherless and the widows in their affliction. Lord, for your name's sake, hear us. Amen.

Edward Bickersteth (1786–1850)

### **A PRAYER FOR AWAKENING**

O sweet and loving God, when I stay asleep too long, oblivious to all your many blessings, then, please, wake me up and sing to me your joyful song. It is a song without noise or notes; it is a song of love beyond words, of faith beyond the power of human telling. I can hear it in my soul when you awaken me to your presence.

Mechthild of Magdeburg (c. 1212–1280)

### **A PRAYER FOR DIRECTION**

Keep me, O Lord, while I remain on this earth, in a daily practice of serious seeking after you. Grant me an affectionate, believing walk with you, so that when you return, I will not be found hiding my talent or serving my flesh or asleep with my lamp unfilled, but waiting and longing for my Lord, my glorious God, for ever and ever.

Adapted from a prayer by Richard Baxter (1615–1691)

### **A PRAYER BEFORE A MEAL**

O Lord, who is the giver of all good things, fill our hearts with gratitude for the food and drink laid before us. And as we fill our bellies, may we be sober and frugal in our eating, taking only that which is necessary to refresh ourselves for your service. Let the pleasure we take in the bread that nourishes our earthly bodies be as nothing to the joy we take in the spiritual bread of your truth, which nourishes the soul.

John Calvin (1509–1564)

### **A PRAYER FOR AN ENCOURAGING SPIRIT**

O Lord, who has so loved my soul, make me a lover of souls. Fill me with an unwearied, unconditional love, one that perceives keenly and endures strongly. Let such love enable others to do and be their best. Help me to be an advocate for the powerless and invisible.

Take from me the spirit of nervousness and self-absorption. Being inwardly cured and thoroughly cleansed, may I be fit to love, steady to persevere. Let no sickness or accident, no task or weariness, make me ungracious to those about me, but in all things make me like your holy Son, Jesus. Amen.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR THE OPPRESSED**

God of Truth, protector of your people, come to the aid of all who are poor and oppressed. By the power of your life-giving Word, lead us in the ways of peace and integrity, and give us the help we long for in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Forward Movement

### **A PRAYER FOR THE WEARY AND CYNICAL**

The breath of life, O Lord, seems spent.  
My body is tense, my mind filled with anxiety,  
Yet I have no zest, no energy.  
I am helpless to allay my fears;  
I am incapable of relaxing my limbs.  
Dark thoughts constantly invade my head,  
And I have no power to resist them. . . .  
Friends no longer want to visit me.  
You have driven away my spiritual brethren.  
I am now an outcast from your church.  
No longer the flowers want to bloom for me.

No longer the trees come into leaf for me.  
No longer the birds sing at my window.  
My fellow Christians condemn me as an idle sinner.  
Lord, raise up my soul, revive my body.  
Saint Gregory of Nazianzus (fourth century)

### **A PRAYER FOR FERVOR OF SOUL**

Teach us, O Lord, and enable us to live the life of saints and angels. Take us out of the apathy, the irritability, the sensitiveness, the anarchy in which our souls lie, and fill them with your fullness. Breathe on us with your breath, which infuses energy and kindles fervor. In asking for fervor we ask for all that we may need and all that you can give. In asking for fervor we are asking for faith, hope, and charity; we are asking for that loyal perception of duty, which follows on yearning affection; we are asking for sanctity, peace, and joy, all at once. Nothing would be a trouble to us, nothing a difficulty, had we but fervor of soul. Lord, in asking for fervor we are asking for you, for nothing short of you, O God. Enter our hearts, and fill them with fervor by filling them with you. Amen.

John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

### **A PRAYER OF LOVE**

Majestic sovereign, timeless wisdom,  
Your kindness melts my hard, cold soul.  
Handsome lover, selfless giver,  
Your beauty fills my dull, sad eyes.  
I am yours, you made me.  
I am yours, you called me.  
I am yours, you saved me.  
I am yours, you loved me.  
I will never leave your presence.  
Give me death, give me life.

Give me sickness, give me health.  
Give me honor, give me shame.  
Give me weakness, give me strength.  
I will have whatever you give.  
Saint Teresa of vila (1515–1582)

### **A PRAYER FOR GREATER LOVE**

I ask you, Lord Jesus, to develop in me, your lover, an immeasurable urge toward you, an affection that is unbounded, a longing that is unrestrained, a fervor that throws discretion to the winds! The more worthwhile our love for you, all the more pressing does it become. Reason cannot hold it in check, fear does not make it tremble, wise judgment does not temper it. Amen.

Richard Rolle (c. 1295–1349)

### **A PRAYER FOR SOCIAL COMPASSION**

Merciful Father, we come to you confessing the sins of our civilization, in which we have all shared. We have been so bent upon our selfish ends that we would not stop to have mercy. When we have seen those whom the injustices of the world have bruised and beaten, we have passed by on the other side. We have built around ourselves the walls of privilege, within which we might not hear the passion of exploited men, the weeping of women, the bitter cry of children robbed of happy youth. O God of judgment, make us fit to ask for your forgiveness before it is too late. Amen.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR ADVENT**

Almighty God and Father of light,  
a child is born for us and a son is given to us.  
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven  
in the silent watches of the night,  
and now your Church is filled with wonder  
at the nearness of her God.

Open our heart to receive his life  
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,  
that our life may be filled with his glory and his peace,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Shorter Christian Prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED**

ord, we beseech you to help and defend us.  
Deliver the oppressed, pity the poor,  
uplift those who have fallen,  
be the portion of those in need,  
return to your care those who have gone astray,  
feed the hungry, strengthen the weak,  
and break the chains of the prisoners.  
May all people come to know that you only are God,  
that Jesus Christ is your child,  
and that we are your people and  
the sheep of your pasture.

Saint Clement of Rome (first century)

### **A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING OUR VALUE TO GOD**

O eternal and most glorious God, you who assure us that precious in your sight is the death of your saints, enable us in life and death, seriously to consider the value, the price of a soul. It is precious, O Lord, because your image is stamped and imprinted upon it; precious, because the blood of your Son was paid for it; precious, because your blessed Spirit, the Holy Ghost, works upon it and tests it by his various fires; and precious, because it is entered into your revenue and made part of your treasure.

John Donne (1572–1631)

### **A PRAYER FOR RENEWED UNDERSTANDING**

I asked for strength that I might achieve;  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health that I might do greater things;  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.  
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing that I had asked for  
but everything that I had hoped for.  
Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered;  
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.  
Prayer of an unknown Confederate soldier

### **A PRAYER FOR FAITH**

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. My faith is weak; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasures of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and did come to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you of whom I can receive but to whom I may not give. Amen.

Martin Luther (1483–1546)

### **A PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT**

Grant to me, O Lord, to know what I ought to know, to love what I ought to love, to praise what delights you most, to value what is precious in your sight, to hate what is offensive to you. Do not suffer me to judge according to the sight of my eyes nor to pass sentence according to the hearing of the ears of ignorant men; but to discern with true judgment between things visible and spiritual, and above all things to enquire what is the good pleasure of your will.

Thomas Kempis (c. 1380–1471)

### **A PRAYER FOR MERCY**

O Lord Almighty, Father unbegotten, upon us miserable sinners have mercy.  
O Lord, who has redeemed the work of your hands by your only Son, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, Adonai, blot out our offenses, and upon your people have mercy.  
O Christ, Brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of his person, have mercy upon us.



O Christ, who saved the world at the command of the Father, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Savior of men, eternal life of angels, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, Spirit, the Comforter, Dispenser of pardon, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, Fountain of mercy and of sevenfold grace, have mercy upon us.

O most bountiful Giver of gifts, Teacher, Source of life, of your goodness have mercy  
upon us.

Adapted from the Litany of the Sarum Missal

### **A PRAYER TO THE RIGHTEOUS KING**

Come forth from your royal chambers, O prince of all the kings of the earth. Put on the visible robes of your imperial majesty. Take up that limitless scepter that your almighty Father has bequeathed you. For now the voice of your bride, the church, calls you, and all creatures sigh to be renewed.

John Milton (1608–1674)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S COMFORT**

Almighty and everlasting God, the comfort of the sad, the strength of sufferers, let the prayers of those that cry out of any tribulation come to you, that all may rejoice to find that your mercy is present with them in their afflictions. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Gelasian Sacramentary (fifth century)

### **A PRAYER FOR RETURNING TO GOD'S PRESENCE**

Show me, O Lord, your mercy, and delight my heart with it. Let me find you, whom I so longingly seek. See, here is the man whom the robbers seized, mishandled, and left half dead on the road to Jericho. O kindhearted Samaritan, come to my aid! I am the sheep who wandered into the wilderness—seek after me, and bring me home again to your fold. Do with me what you will, that I may stay with you all the days of my life and praise you with all those who are with you in heaven for all eternity.

Saint Jerome (347–420)

### **A PRAYER FOR COMFORT**

In the hour of my distress,  
When temptations me oppress,  
And when I my sins confess,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!  
When I lie within my bed,  
Sick in heart and sick in head,  
And with doubts discomfited,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!  
When the tapers now burn blue,  
And the comforters are few,  
And that number more than true,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!  
When the Judgment is reveal'd  
And that open'd which was sealed  
When to thee I have appealed  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!  
Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

### **A PRAYER FOR RELEASE FROM BONDAGE**

O Lord God Almighty, redeem my soul from its bondage, that I may be free to live henceforth, not for myself, but for you. Help me to put away self, and to remember that this life is not given for my ease, my enjoyment. It is a schooling time for the eternal home you have prepared for those who love you. Keep my eye steadily fixed on that haven of rest and peace, that I may not be faint nor be weary from the length of the way, but may strive to walk worthy of my high calling in all meekness and lowliness of heart.

Maria Hare (1798–1870)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S SERVANTS**

O Lord, great is the glory you have received from those whom you in your mercy have called. Lord, protect all of your servants. Stay with them to the end, for they will then glorify your name for all eternity. Amen.

Euplus the Deacon (fourth century)

### **A PRAYER FOR WATCHFULNESS**

Almighty and Everlasting God, prepare us by all the events of life for our great and final change, for we know not how soon it may come upon us. May every opportunity of holy meditation, and of public, social, and secret prayer, call our mind from this earthly scene, that we may be fitted for that everlasting state. When the shadows of evening shall come upon us, when age and sickness arrive, when human help shall fail us, be, O Lord, the strength of our heart and our portion forever more. Amen.

From a prayer by Henry Thornton (1760–1815)

### **A PRAYER FOR MERCY AND KNOWLEDGE**

Almighty and most merciful Father, whose mercy has kept me from the grave, grant that I may reflect on my past life and repent of the days and years in which I ignored your grace and neglected my salvation. Help me to use the time you have given me, so that I may become more diligent in the studies you have given me. When at last I shall be called in judgment, may I be received as a good and faithful servant into everlasting happiness. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Samuel Johnson (1709–1784)

### **A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O Lord my Savior and my Master, I, your undeserving servant, with fear and trembling give thanks to your loving goodness for all benefits which you have poured so abundantly upon me, your servant. I fall down in adoration before you and offer you, O God, my praises. With fervor I cry to you, O God: Deliver me from all adversities, and mercifully fulfill in me those desires that may be pleasing to you. Hear me, O Lord, and have mercy, for you are the hope of all the earth. To you, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed glory, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Adapted from a traditional Orthodox prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR PILGRIMAGE**

O Lord, look in pity on us poor pilgrims in the narrow way. Let us not go astray but reach at last our true home where our Father dwells. Guide and govern us from day to day, and bestow on us food and strength for body and soul that we may journey on in peace. Forgive us for having so often wavered or looked back, and let us march straight on in the way of your laws. May our last step be a safe and peaceful passage to the arms of your love, and the blessed fellowship of the saints in light. Hear us, O Lord, and glorify your

name in us that we may glorify you forever and ever. Amen.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697–1769)

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD’S STRENGTH**

Blessed Lord, who was tempted in all things like we are, have mercy on our frailty. Out of weakness give us strength. Grant to us your fear so that we may fear you only. Support us in time of temptation. Embolden us in time of danger. Help us to do your work with good courage and to continue as your faithful soldiers and servants to the end of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop Brooke Foss Westcott (1825–1901)

### **A PRAYER FOR DIVINE LIGHT**

O Lord, greatest and most true light, from which the light of the day and of the sun springs! O Light, which lightens every human who comes into the world! O Light, which knows no night or evening but is always at midday most clear and fair! Without you all is utter darkness; by you everything is resplendent. O Wisdom, Father of mercies, enlighten my mind, so that I may see only those things that please you and be blind to everything else. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by John Bradford (1510–1555)

### **A PRAYER FOR DEPENDENCE ON GOD**

Grant, Almighty God, that we may learn to rely on you and so trust your blessing that we would avoid stealing and plunder and all other evil deeds. Keep us from all unlawful coveting. Help us to fear you and so learn to bear our poverty on earth by being content with the spiritual riches you offer us in your gospel. As partakers in that Good News, may we cheerfully aspire to that fullness of all blessings, which we shall enjoy when we are

perfectly united to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by John Calvin (1509–1564)

### **A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE**

O Lord, help us to turn and seek you; for you have not forsaken your creatures as we have forsaken you, our Creator. Let us turn and seek you, for we know you are here in our heart when we confess to you, when we cast ourselves upon you and weep in your bosom after all our rugged ways; and you gently wipe away our tears, and we weep more for joy; for you, Lord, who made us, do remake and comfort us.

Saint Augustine (354–430)

### **A PRAYER FOR LIFELONG DIRECTION**

O God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away: Age after age the living seek you and find that there is no end to your faithfulness. Our forbears in their pilgrimages walked by your guidance and rested on your compassion. To their children you were the cloud by day and the pillar by night. Where but in you have we shelter from the storm and shadow, from the heat of life? Take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with your prophets and saints who have trusted in you and were not ashamed. Not because we merit it, but because of your mercy, hear our prayer.

Anonymous traditional prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR HOLY LIVING**

Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church or closet nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in your presence. So may my every word and action have a moral content. Amen.

Susanna Wesley (1669–1742)

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR ENEMIES**

Lord Jesus Christ, you commanded us to love our enemies, those who defame and injure us, and to pray for them and forgive them. We know that you prayed for your enemies, who crucified you. Grant us, we pray, the spirit of Christian reconciliation and meekness, that we may forgive every injury and be reconciled with our enemies. Help us to overcome ill will and personal offense with Christian meekness and true love of our neighbor. We further ask you, O Lord, to grant to our enemies true peace and forgiveness of sins. Do not allow them to leave this life without true faith and sincere conversion. And help us to repay evil with goodness and to remain safe from the temptations of the Devil and from all the perils that threaten us in the form of visible and invisible enemies.

Amen.

Adapted from a traditional Orthodox prayer

### **A PRAYER DURING TIMES OF TRIAL**

O my God, your loving providence transforms sorrows, difficulties, trials, and dangers into means of grace, lessons of patience, and channels of hope. Grant us good will to use and not abuse those privileges. By your great goodness, keep us alive through this dying life, that out of death you may raise us up to immortality. For his sake who is the life,

Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

### **A PRAYER FOR OBEDIENCE**

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous;  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
To give and not to count the cost,  
To fight and not to heed the wounds,  
To toil and not to seek rest,

To labor and not to seek reward,  
Save that of knowing that I am doing your will.  
Saint Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556)

### **A PRAYER TO SHARE IN CHRISTS SUFFERING**

I give you thanks, Lord Jesus Christ:  
In the midst of my trials and sufferings  
You have granted me the strength not to waver;  
By your mercy, you have given me a share of glory eternal.  
Lord Jesus Christ, your compassion caused you to suffer to save the world.  
May the heavens open and the angels receive my spirit,  
For I am suffering for you and your church in this place.  
I beseech you, merciful Lord, please take me to yourself  
And strengthen the faith of your servants who remain.  
Irenaeus of Sirmium, bishop and martyr (fourth century)

### **A PRAYER FOR THOSE WE HAVE NEGLECTED**

O Lord God, merciful and mighty:  
Help those whom I have neglected to help;  
Set aright those whom I have caused to stumble;  
Visit those whom I have neglected to visit;  
Bring back home those I have led astray;  
Cheer the hearts of those whom I have made sad;  
Draw with cords of love those for whom my love has grown cold.  
Save them all, O Lord, and have mercy upon me.

Anonymous



### **A PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR THE RESURRECTION**

We have seen the resurrection of Christ; let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, who alone is without sin. We praise and glorify your holy resurrection. For you are our God; we know no other, save for you. Upon your name we call. Come, all faithful ones, let us adore the holy resurrection of Christ, for through the Cross, joy has come to all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, we sing praises of his resurrection. He endured the cross on our behalf and has destroyed death by death.

Sunday vigil, Orthodox Church

### **A PRAYER FOR SLEEP**

He lay with quiet heart in the stern asleep;  
Waking, commanded both the winds and the sea.  
Christ, though this weary body slumber deep,  
Grant that my heart may keep its watch with thee.  
O Lamb of God that carried all our sin, Guard my sleep against the enemy.

### **A PRAYER FOR SEEKING GOD FIRST**

O God, who has taught us to seek first your Kingdom and its righteousness, teach me to say, "Your will be done" before I say "Give me my daily bread." Teach me to accept your will as the foundation of my happiness, and other things as only its superstructure. I am more afraid of the hunger of the body than of the hunger of the spirit. Convince me that it would not profit me to gain the world and lose my soul. Show me that it is only the possession of my soul that makes the possession of the world any gain. Impress me with the truth that no thing can bring me joy if I myself am not already joyful. Inspire me with the knowledge that the issues of life are not from without but from within. Guide me into the discovery that the pleasures at your right hand are the only things that are pleasures

forevermore. Amen.

George Matheson (1842–1906)

### **A PRAYER OF ADORATION**

It is right and proper that we should give you praise and hymns and glory, O uncreated  
Father of Jesus Christ, who is your only Son.

We praise you because you are known by the only Son, proclaimed and explained by him  
to created beings and known in turn by them. We praise you because you know the Son  
and reveal to the saints the glories that are his. We praise you because you are known by  
the Word you begot and are seen by the saints and understood by them after a fashion.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Heaven is  
full, earth is full of your wonderful glory.

Bishop Serapion (fourth century)

### **A PRAYER FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke, the physician, to set forth in the Gospel  
the love and healing power of your Son. Graciously continue in your church the same  
power to love and heal, to the praise and glory of your name, through 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.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

### **A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S INVITATION**

I am not worthy, Master and Lord, that you should come beneath the roof of my soul: Yet  
since you in your love toward all wish to dwell in me, in boldness I come. Open the  
gates, which you alone have forged; and you will come in with love toward all as is your  
nature; you will come in and enlighten my darkened reason. I believe that you will do  
this: For you did not send away the harlot that came to you with tears; nor cast out the

repentant publican; nor reject the thief who acknowledged your kingdom; nor forsake the repentant persecutor, a yet greater act; but all of those who came to you in repentance were counted in the band of your friends, who alone abide blessed forever, now, and unto the endless ages.

Saint John Chrysostom (347–407)

### **A PRAYER OF PARENTS FOR THERE CHILDREN**

O God, our heavenly Father, who loves humankind and is most merciful and compassionate, have mercy upon our children. We humbly pray for them and commend them to your gracious protection. O God, be their guide and guardian in all their endeavors. Lead them in the path of your truth and draw them near to you, that they may lead a godly and righteous life in your love and fear, doing your will in all matters. Give them grace that they may be even-tempered, hard-working, diligent, devout, and charitable. Defend them against the assaults of the enemy, and grant them wisdom and strength to resist all temptation and corruption of this life. Direct them in the way of salvation, through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from a traditional Orthodox prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR TAKING UP OUR CROSS**

Almighty God, whose Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who rejoice in the mystery of our salvation, may have the grace to take up our cross and follow him, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

Father Everlasting, who has given us the fellowship of your Son, Jesus Christ, be near us in this hour of solemn meditation. May our heart be open to every holy affection and ready to receive and cherish every sacred memory and sacred impression. Impress on us the power of death that this day commemorates. Let a portion of the Spirit that led our Savior to the cross descend upon us and fill our heart with love for you and our fellow humans. Here and now may every selfish passion and desire be quieted, and may the peace that passes all understanding keep our heart and mind in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from a traditional prayer

### **A PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION**

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have given your Son, not only to die for us, but to be our spiritual food and sustenance in the holy sacrament of his body and blood. Teach us to consider the dignity of that holy mystery, and so to search and examine our consciences, that we may come holy and clean to such a heavenly feast, in the marriage garment your Scriptures require. Amen.

Thomas Cotterill (1779–1823)

### **A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way, the truth, and the life. We pray you allow us never to stray from you, who are the way, nor distrust you, who are the truth, nor rest in any one other thing than you, who are the life. Teach us, by your Holy Spirit, what to believe, what to do, and how to take our rest.

Desiderius Erasmus (1466–1536)

### **A PRAYER FOR SHARING IN CHRIST'S SUFFERING**

Lord God Almighty, I thank you today for the privilege of being counted among those who have testified of you with their lives; of sharing the cup of suffering that Christ drank; and of rising again to life everlasting with him, in body and soul, and in the immortality of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Polycarp (second century)

### **A PRAYER OF ASCENSION**

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

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

### **A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Creator Spirit, by whose aid  
The world's foundations first were laid,  
Come, visit every pious mind;  
Come, pour your joy on humankind.  
From sin and sorrow set us free  
And make us, your temples, worthy be.  
Refine and purge our earthly parts,  
But, oh, inflame and fire our hearts!  
Our weakness help, our vice control.  
Submit the senses to the soul.  
And when rebellious they have grown,  
Then extend your hand and hold them down.

Immortal honor, endless fame,  
Attend the Almighty Father's name.  
The Savior Son be glorified,  
Who for lost man's redemption died.  
Endless adoration and praise  
To you, O Spirit, we now raise.  
"Veni Creator Spiritus," John Dryden (1631–1700)

### **A PRAYER FOR LONGING**

Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and so new; late have I loved you. For behold you were within me, and I outside; and I sought you outside and in my unloveliness fell upon those lovely things that you have made. You were with me, and I was not with you. I was kept from you by those things, yet had they not been in you, they would not have been at all. You called and cried to me to break open my deafness; and you sent forth your light to shine upon me and chase away my blindness. You breathed fragrance upon me, and I drew in my breath and do now pant for you; I tasted you and now hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I have burned for your peace. Amen.

Saint Augustine (354–430)

### **A PRAYER OF TRUST**

With all my heart and soul, O God, I thank you, that in all the changes of this mortal life, I can look up to you and cheerfully resign my will to yours. I have trusted you, O Father, with myself. My soul is in your hand, and I believe you will preserve me from all evil. My body and all that belongs to it are of much less value. With security and satisfaction, I trust all I have to you.

Thomas Wilson (1663–1755)

### **A PRAYER FOR CONTENTMENT**

O Hope of all holy and humble persons, the Savior of them that trust in you in time of trouble, do not allow us to remain as captives in spiritual chains. Redeem us so that we would awake to do your will. Lord, you know our desires, and our secret sighing is not hidden from you. Into your hands I commend my spirit and my prayer. Grant to us as you see fit, and make us fit for what you grant us. Give us wisdom to abound or patience to suffer need. Help us to be content where our Master has placed us. Let all our work be done well before our hour of death. Then let us be gathered into your arms, just as the harvesters gather the crop at the appointed season. Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817–1870)

### **A PRAYER FOR SERVING GOD**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled, as to console,

To be understood, as to understand,

To be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Saint Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)

### **A PRAYER FOR SANCTIFICATION**

O God and Lord of the Powers, and Maker of all creation, in your incomparable mercy, you sent your only begotten Son and our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of humankind. Through his holy cross you tore apart the record of our sins and thereby conquered the rulers and powers of darkness. Receive from us sinful people, O merciful Master, these prayers of gratitude and supplication, and deliver us from every destructive and gloomy transgression and from all visible and invisible enemies who seek to injure us. Discipline our flesh with a holy fear, and let not our heart be prone to words or thoughts of evil. Pierce our soul with your love. Let us contemplate you, be enlightened by you, and discern you, the unapproachable and everlasting light. May we offer unceasingly our gratitude to you: The eternal Father, with your only begotten Son, and with your all holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and from age to age.

Amen.

An Orthodox prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR A LOVING HEART**

O God, my God, give me a heart to thank you. Lift up my heart above myself, to you and your eternal throne. Let it not linger here among the hardships and turmoil of this lower world. Let it not be oppressed by any earth-born clouds of care or anxiety or fear or suspicion. Bind my heart wholly to you and to your love. Give me eyes to see your love in all things and your grace in all that surrounds me. Help me to thank you for your love and your grace to all and in all. Give me wings of love that I may soar up to you, cling to you, adore you, and praise you more and more, until I am prepared to enter into the joys of your everlasting love. Amen.

Edward Pusey (1800–1882)



### **A PRAYER FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY**

Fill me, O Christ, with wonder, love, and praise, that I may praise you, God with us.

O Lord, be my light and my strength.

O Lord, in my weakness, perfect your strength.

O Lord, make me your messenger.

O Lord, arm me with the sword of your Spirit.

Lord Jesus, speak to me that I may speak for you.

Lord Jesus, help me to speak the truth.

Enable me to show how sweet it is

to love you,

to weep with you, and

to rejoice with you.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER OF ADORATION**

You, O eternal Trinity, are a deep sea into which, the more I enter, the more I find, and the more I find, the more I seek. O abyss, O eternal Godhead, O sea profound, what more could you give me than yourself? Amen.

Catherine of Siena (1347–1380)

### **A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL ARMOR**

Give to us, O God, the girdle, the helmet, the breastplate, the shield, the sandals, the sword—and above all things, prayer. Grant to us the power and opportunity of well-doing, that before the day of our departure comes, our efforts may have produced good fruit. Allow us to behold your presence in righteousness and be fulfilled with your glory,

for Christ's sake. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Lancelot Andrewes (1555–1626)

### **A PRAYER TO LIVE FOR GOD**

Govern everything by your wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving you in the way you will and not as I choose. Let me die to myself so that I may serve you; let me live to you who are life itself. Amen.

Saint Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

### **A PRAYER FOR LOVING OTHERS**

Father, grant to us true family love,  
That we may belong more entirely to those whom you have given us,  
Understanding each other, day by day, more instinctively,  
Forbearing each other, day by day, more patiently,  
Growing, day by day, more closely into oneness with each other.

Anonymous

### **A PRAYER FOR HOPE**

This is my comfort: that when I come to heaven, I shall understand perfectly what he has done for me, and then I shall be able to praise him as I ought. Lord, having this hope, let me purify myself as you are pure, and let me be no more afraid of death but even desire to be dissolved and be with you, which is best of all.

Anne Bradstreet (c. 1612–1672)

### **A PRAYER TO BE FILLED WITH GRACE**

Use us then, our Savior, for whatever purpose and in whatever way you may require. Here are our poor hearts, empty vessels: Fill them with your grace. Here are our sinful and troubled souls: Revive them and refresh them with your love. Take our hearts for your home; our mouths to spread the glory of your name; our love and all our powers for the advance- ment of your believing people; and never feel the steadfastness and confidence of our faith to diminish—so that at all times we may be enabled from the heart to say, “Jesus needs us, and we him.” Amen.

Dwight L. Moody (1837–1899)

### **A PRAYER TO RUN THE RACE BEFORE US**

Our heavenly Father, we rejoice in the blessed communion of all your saints, which you have allowed us to partake in. We remember before you all who have departed this life in your faith and love, and especially those most dear to us. We thank you for our present fellowship with them, for our common hope, and for the promise of future joy. Let the cloud of witnesses, the innumerable company of those who have gone before and entered into rest, be to us an example of godly life, and even now may we be refreshed with their joy. With patience may we run the race that remains before us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Grant us entrance into the everlasting Kingdom, the glorious assembly of the saints, and with them ever worship and adore your glorious name, world without end. Amen.

The Book of Prayers (1851)

### **A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who dwells in all places and fills all things, the treasure of blessings and giver of life, come and dwell within us and cleanse us from every stain, O Good One, and save our souls.

Traditional Orthodox prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR WORSHIP OF CHRIST , OUR MEDIATOR**

O Lord, how great is the privilege of those who can look up with holy confidence to you. How blessed are they who have you for their friend, you who made heaven and earth and have all things under your government. We ask you to receive us into your favor, to adopt us into your family, and to make all things work together for our good. Amen.

Henry Thornton (1760–1815)

### **A PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE**

O Lord, come quickly and reign on your throne. Often does something rise up within me and try to take possession of your throne. Pride, covetousness, sinfulness, and sloth want to be my kings, and then evil speaking, anger, hatred, and a whole train of vices join with me in warring against myself and try to reign over me. I resist them, I cry out against them, and say, “I have no other king but Christ!” O King of Peace, come and reign in me, for I will have no king but you. Amen.

Bernard of Clairvaux (1091–1153)

### **A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS**

With thankful hearts we remember all your saints who have entered into their rest, especially those who we have known in this life. You have called them to the closer communion that awaits the faithful within the veil. Keep us united with them in one fellowship of Spirit, and at the last day gather us together with them into the joy of your heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

From the Book of Common Order, Church of Scotland

### **A PRAYER OF WORSHIP**

Have mercy upon us, O God, and again have mercy upon us; who, at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, is worshiped and glorified. Christ our good Lord, the long- suffering, exceedingly merciful and extremely compassionate one; who loves the righteous and is merciful to the sinners of whom I am chief; who does not wish the death of a sinner but rather wishes that he repent and live; who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come. Lord, accept our prayers at this hour and at every hour.

Establish our way, and guide us to carry out your commandments. Sanctify our soul.

Cleanse our body. Straighten our thoughts. Purify our intentions. Heal our sickness.

Forgive our sins. Deliver us from every destructive grief, distress, and heartache.

Surround us with your holy angels, who guide and guard within their camp, so we may attain the unity of faith and the knowledge of your infinite and invisible glory. For you are the blessed God now and forever and from all ages to all ages. Amen.

Ancient Coptic prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL PEACE**

Lord, our God, you know our sorrow better than we know it ourselves. You know how easily our fearful soul entangles itself with untimely and self-made cares. We pray, Lord:

Let us clearly discern their inappropriateness and scorn them proudly, these busy self-made cares. But whatever care you do inflict upon us, let us receive it from your hand with humility, and give us the strength to bear it. Amen.

Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855)

### **A PRAYER FOR THE LIFE TO COME**

O Lord God Almighty, whose most blessed Son burst the bands of death and rose again for us: Grant for his sake that we may pass through the grave and gate of death to our joyful resurrection. And, that we may do so, make us while here on earth to rise from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that, being risen with Christ, we may seek

those things which are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. May we set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth, and may our life be so hid with Christ in God now that when he, who is our life, shall appear, we may also appear with him in glory; through the same, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

### **A PRAYER FOR ALLUMINATION**

Hear us, O never-failing light, Lord our God, the fountain of light, the light of your angels, principalities, powers, and of all intelligent beings, who has created the light of your saints. May our souls be lamps of yours, kindled and illuminated by you. May they shine and burn with the truth and never go out in darkness and ashes. May the gloom of sins be cleared away and the light of perpetual faith abide within us. Amen.

Mozarabic liturgy (sixth century)

### **A PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: You take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us. Lord Jesus, you take away the sins of the world. Receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of the Father. Have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One. You alone are the Lord. You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

“Gloria” (fourth-century prayer)

### **A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION**

May the strength of God pilot us. May the power of God preserve us. May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us. May the way of God direct us. May the shield of God defend us. May the host of God guard us against the snares of the evil one and the temptation of this world. May Christ be with us, Christ be before us, Christ be in us, Christ be over us. May your salvation, Lord, be always ours this day and evermore.

Amen.

Saint Patrick (c. 390 to c. 461)