



**Prayers of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

A PATTERN FOR DAILY PRAYER

A quiet moment of reflection. A talk with Jesus. A recited text of shared faith.

Though very different, all of these are valid definitions of “prayer.” Prayer is an intentional and meaningful way in which every person—no matter one’s age, background, or tradition—can express his or her personal relationship with God. If time does not permit the use of the forms printed above, the following pattern for prayer at any time of the day may help to guide you.

Opening

We begin the pattern of daily prayer by opening our hearts and voices to the presence of God. You may make the sign of the cross and say: “In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Psalmody

Praying at least one psalm has long been a part of the daily prayer of God’s people. Through the psalms we express many things: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, lament, confession. In the context of prayer, they are at the same time God’s words to us and our response to God. Observing silence after each psalm allows space to listen for God’s voice. Psalms 23, 34, 46, 51, 103, and 121 are particularly appropriate for daily prayer. The words and tunes of other hymns and songs can further enrich our prayer.

Word

As part of daily prayer, we hear and reflect on readings from the Bible. The reading you choose could be one of the readings from weekly worship, a reading for a particular circumstance from the topical index in this volume, a daily reading from one of various Bible-reading plans, or simply a passage you have found especially helpful and meaningful. Observing a period of silence for reflection on the passage helps to deepen the encounter with God’s word.

Prayers

We conclude with prayers addressed to God. These may include giving thanks for particular gifts of God, prayers for others and for ourselves, and the Lord’s Prayer. These prayers may be in our own words—sharing personal concerns about the day—or topical prayers from the following section, “Prayers for Various Circumstances.” Your prayers may even be without words—simply being still in the presence of God. The word of God’s blessing concludes daily prayer. You may make the sign of the cross and say: “God the Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen.”

PRAYERS

Civic Life, Government, Nations

Peace

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You calm and quiet us, eternal God, as a mother holds her children close; all people have refuge in the shadow of your wings. Spread over us the shelter of your peace. Hold before us the wisdom of your cross, where we are drawn to you not by might or power, but by your boundless love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit so that we seek to live in unity with all people, breaking down the walls that divide, ending the hostility among us, and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away; through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Peace among the nations

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

National distress

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Time of conflict, crisis, disaster

God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful God, hear our cry for mercy in the wake of _____. Reveal your presence in the midst of our suffering. Help us to trust in your promises of hope and life, so that desperation and grief will not overtake us. Come quickly to our aid that we may know peace and joy again. Strengthen us in this time of trial with the assurance and hope we know in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We pray to you almighty God, in this time of _____. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion, and guide our actions. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril; for the sake of your great mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, your own mother looked on when your life ended in violence. Our hearts are pierced with grief and anger at the [*death of / mass shooting in _____*]. We commend the slain to your wounded hands, and their loved ones to your merciful heart, trusting only in the promise that your love is stronger than death, and that even now, you live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

God, our healer and our refuge, we pray for all who suffer from gun violence. With your mercy, bind up their wounds, restore their bodies, and heal their hearts. Comfort the mourners and embrace the lonely. With your might, empower us to change this broken world. Make us advocates for a stable society, alive with hope in you. We ask this through the one once wounded for our transgressions and now standing with us in our sorrows, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God most mighty, God most merciful, our sacred stories tell us that you help and save your people. You are the fortress: may there be no more war. You are the harvest: may there be no more hunger. You are the light: may no one die alone or in despair. God most majestic, God most motherly, grant us your life, the life that flows from your Son and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Those affected by natural disasters

Save us, O God, for the waters are rising, and there is no firm place to stand. Life as we know it has been swept away. Draw near to us in this time of need and be our protection. Support us as we rebuild what has been ruined. Do not let us drown in our sorrow, but raise us to new life in your promise of rebirth, already claimed for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God, in you alone we find safety and shelter. Be a sure refuge to all suffering from wildfires. Grant courage, protection, and favorable weather to firefighters and emergency responders; embrace with supportive communities all who are newly displaced or homeless; comfort those grieving all that has been destroyed and give patience to those who are anxious, not knowing when relief will come. Heal your whole creation, that out of flame and ashes new growth will spring forth. We pray through Jesus Christ, our life and our strength. **Amen.**

Civic distress

Rise up and come to our help, merciful God, for we are in need. Our spirits are weighed down with fear; our bodies feel as fragile as the dust from which we came. All that we have trusted seems hidden from sight. Although this moment has come upon our *nation*, you have not forgotten us. We do not trust in our own power or strength, but in your steadfast love in every generation. Show us your face in this time of trial, remind us of your faithfulness, and save us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God, our help and comfort, accompany our *nation* in this time of uncertainty and loss. As we grieve, assure us of your unfailing presence; as we seek direction in the days ahead, guide us by your wisdom. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Time of civic mourning

God our creator, through whose providing care we enjoy all goodness and life, turn our eyes to your mercy in this time of confusion and loss. Comfort this nation as we mourn; shine your light on those whose only companion is darkness; and teach us all so to number our days that we may apply our hearts to your wisdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The nation

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our sovereign and our Savior. **Amen.**

State, provincial, local governments

Almighty God, we lift before you all who govern this *state/province/city/town* _____. May those who hold power understand that it is a trust from you to be used, not for personal glory or profit, but for the service of the people. Drive from us cynicism, selfishness, and corruption; grant in your mercy just and honest government; and give us grace to live together in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Responsible citizenship

Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Those in civil authority

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, bless the public servants in the government of this *state/province/city/town* _____, that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Help them use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Courts of justice

Lord of all, you have declared what is right: to seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Bless judges and courts, juries and law officers throughout our land. Guard them from retribution and from corruption. Give them the spirit of wisdom, that they may perceive the truth and administer the law impartially as instruments of your divine will. We pray in the name of the one who will come to be our judge, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Those in the armed forces

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Cities

Gracious God, bless our cities and make them places of safety for all people, rich and poor. Give us grace to work for cities where neighborhoods remain vibrant and whole, where the lost and forgotten in society are supported, and where the arts flourish. Make the diverse fabric of the city a delight to all who live and visit there and a strong bond uniting people around common goals for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The neighborhood

God, our creator, by your holy prophet Jeremiah you taught your ancient people to seek the welfare of the cities in which they lived. We commend our neighborhood to your care, that it might be kept free from social strife and decay. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create here a community of justice and peace where your will may be done; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Schools

O God, source of all goodness: we give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless our schools, that they may be places of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students. Grant that teachers and students may work together in mutual respect and find joy in the challenges of academic life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities [*especially _____*], that they may be lively places for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Teachers

God of wisdom, your Son came among us as a teacher. Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education: give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commerce and labor

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Guide us with your justice in the workplace, so that we may never value things above people, or surrender honor to love of gain or lust for power. Prosper all efforts to put an end to work that brings no joy, and teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for the sake of the common good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Healing from breaches of trust

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: In Jesus Christ you join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear the cries of [/ *our neighbors*] who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant that all who have been harmed may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Faithful living in society

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Empower us to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable in our midst, and respect for the common life we share, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God, we pray for our public servants [names], that they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Inspire them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Guide our leaders to govern in such a way that all people enjoy a peaceful and just society. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Eternal God, your Word brought forth creation, and your Spirit brings order out of chaos and confusion. You breathe upon us, and we are able to hear one another with language we can understand. Pour out your Spirit upon us now, that even when we disagree on the way forward, we may remain united in Jesus Christ, in whom we are known and accepted with a single love. **Amen.**

God, our gracious giver, your Son Jesus taught us that where our treasure is there our hearts will be also. Teach us to love people more than money, relationships more than things, and you above all, that the way we live will reflect what we truly value and believe. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who emptied himself in love for us, and now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. **Amen.**

Creation, the earth

Agriculture

Abundant God, we give you thanks for the fruitful earth, which produces what is needed for life. Bless those who work in the fields; grant favorable weather to all engaged in agriculture; and help us to ensure that all people share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The gifts of agriculture

God, our creator, you have ordered seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain. Give to all who work the land fair compensation for the work of their hands. Grant that the people of this and every nation may give thanks to you for food, drink, and all that sustains life; may use with care the land and water from which these good things come; and may honor the laborers who produce them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanks for the harvest

Most gracious God, according to your wisdom the deep waters are opened up and clouds drop gentle moisture. We praise you for the return of planting and harvest seasons, for the fertility of the soil, for the harvesting of the crops, and for all other blessings that you in your generosity pour out on all people. Give us a full understanding of your mercy, that our lives may show respect and care for your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

In time of scarce rainfall

O God, giver and sustainer of life, in this time of need send us the gift of rain, so that we may receive the fruits of the earth for our benefit and for your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Creation and new creation

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Creation's praise

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Preservation and healing from exploitation

Holy Spirit, you move through all creation with sighs too deep for words. Open our hearts to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Speak through your church to rebuke the forces that seek to exploit your planet. Join our human prayers with the voices of all creation and move us to honor you by preserving the gifts of nature that reveal your glory. **Amen.**

Stir up your power, O God, and save your good creation. The earth groans in travail. Forests fall, oceans rise, crops fail. The air is thick with so much burning. Free us from the powerful who destroy the air, water, and land. Frustrate their violence, expose their lies, overthrow their schemes. Pour out over the earth justice that rolls down like water to nourish the life of the world. Preserve the health of your beloved creation [*especially* _____]. Strengthen those who serve and protect the garden of this earth. Restore the choir of your creatures and let us sing for joy. Gather us at your river, under the tree of life. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth; in the name of the one who from a wounded tree birthed a new creation, Jesus our redeemer. **Amen.**

Well-being of creation

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water — the waters on the earth, and under the earth, the water above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's water, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us; through Jesus Christ, source of living water. **Amen.**

Creator God, who set the stars in their places and directs the course of the planets; who robed this earth with a thin garment of air, making it a haven of beauty and life; who breathed into each of us the breath of life: We thank you for the gift of air. Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and in all your gifts that we receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

Creator God, who lifted up the mountains and formed the dry land; whose hands shaped us out of the dust of the earth; who formed the soils and made this earth a place of beauty and abundance: We give you thanks for the gift of the land. Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and all your gifts that we receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

God, creator of all living things, you fashioned a world in which lands and waterways, plants and animals, together meet the needs of all that you made. We pray that such vitality may flourish around the globe. Bless those who work the soil and who manage animals. Uphold their towns and villages. Nurture bees and other pollinators. Protect farmlands and ranches from drought and flood. Free children from forced labor in the fields. Grant an economy that can sustain those families who treasure a rural life. Teach us how to share with everyone the benefits of each harvest, and accept our gratitude for all sustenance you provide, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God, we lift to you the animal inhabitants of the earth. For those seen and unseen creatures and living things that attest to your creative power, we ask your blessing. We pray for victims of animal cruelty. Bless all who care for injured and abused animals. Comfort those who mourn for their pets and for endangered and extinct species. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Faith and science

Mysterious God, whose imagination and desire embrace all: We seek to discern you in the interplay of forces, in the order and the chaos of the universe, and in the complexities of every living system. Give us grace to honor your goodness in what we know and in what we do not know, in the world's harmonies and turbulence, and in its promise and change. For you are in, through, and beyond all that is: one God, made known to us in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, our inspiration and guide. **Amen.**

God of mystery, you made the universe with its marvelous order and chaos, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures. We give you thanks for all who study the mysteries of creation and ask that their work may increase our curiosity, wonder, and joy, that we may come to know you more truly and serve you more humbly; in the name of Jesus Christ, your Wisdom and your Word. **Amen.**

A prayer of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Creator God, you have called us to be keepers of your earth. Through greed we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and we drown in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother Earth. We stand with indigenous people worldwide who are demanding restoration of their ancestral lands. We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth, that they may negotiate with wisdom and fairness. May they act with compassion and courage; and lead us into the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children. **Amen.**

A prayer of Pope Francis

Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your kingdom of justice, peace, love, and beauty. **Amen.**

Daily Life

Vocation in daily life

O God, give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty; pure and temperate in all enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

The care of children

Almighty God, with a mother's love and a father's care you have blessed us with the joy and responsibility of children. As we bring them up, give us gracious love, calm strength, and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Holy God, loving parent of the child Jesus, we pray for children around the world. Alert us to the struggles that many children endure. With your generous and tender care, grant to all children compassionate adults who will shield them, feed them, and help them to grow strong and skilled, joyful and free. Empower family members and all caregivers with adequate resources and a daily renewal of wisdom and patience, and assure them of their holy vocation as guardians of your dear ones, for the sake of our protector, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Young persons

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Give us compassion when they face temptations and experience failures. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Help us to appreciate their ideals and sympathize with their frustrations; that with them we may look for a better world than either we or they have known; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God of our ancestors, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do with our daughters and sons. Walk with them in life, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. You see all; you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith. May the good work that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Families

Triune God, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless family life everywhere and fill all homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Strengthen the commitment of husbands and wives to one another, that they may mirror your covenant faithfulness; pour out your Spirit on parents, that through them their children may taste your unconditional love; and empower all family members to live in your grace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Those who live alone

Gracious God, none who trust in your Son can be separated from your love. Give to those who live alone peace and contentment in their solitude, hope and fulfillment in their love of you, and joy and companionship in their relations with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The elders of the community

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth. From everlasting you are God, our dwelling place in all generations. You are the source of holy wisdom, and the fountain of all truth. We give thanks to you for the elders among us. We are graced by their wisdom and seasoning. We are touched by their knowledge and faith. Bless them, O God, as they are a blessing to us. Pour out your Spirit, that our elders may continue to dream dreams and testify to the Light of their salvation, Jesus Christ. May we find inspiration in their years of faithfulness. May we follow their example by serving you with steadfastness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Health of body and soul

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Those in affliction

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray. **Amen.**

Those in trouble or bereavement

Almighty God, your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The chronically ill and their support team

Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all people living with illness for which there is no cure, as well as their families and loved ones. Help them to know that you claim them as your own and deliver them from fear and pain; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

Caregivers and others who support the sick

God, our refuge and strength, our present help in time of trouble, care for those who tend the needs of [*the sick*]/[name/s]. Strengthen them in body and spirit. Refresh them when weary; console them when anxious; comfort them in grief; and hearten them in discouragement. Be with us all, and give us peace at all times and in every way; through Christ our peace. **Amen.**

O Lord, we are at the limits of our power to help. We place into your hands ourselves and all that we have left undone. For what you have helped us to do, we thank you. We ask you to lend your strength to what must be done by others. Now shelter us in your peace, which surpasses our understanding. **Amen.**

Health care providers

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Emergency workers

God of earth and air, water and fire, height and depth, we pray for those who work in danger, who rush in to bring hope and help and comfort when others flee to safety, whose mission is to seek and save, serve and protect, and whose presence embodies the protection of the Good Shepherd. Give them caution and concern for one another, so that in safety they may do what must be done, under your watchful eye. Support them in their courage and dedication that they may continue to save lives, ease pain, and mend the torn fabric of lives and social order; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recovery from sickness

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to us, your children, an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us once more to enjoy health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Restoration of health

O Lord, your compassions never fail and your mercies are new every morning. We give you thanks for giving our *sister/brother* [*name*] both relief from pain and hope of health renewed. Continue in *her/him* the good work you have begun; that *she/he*, daily increasing in bodily strength and rejoicing in your goodness, may so order *her/his* life and conduct that *she/he* may always think and do those things that please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Family Life

Fidelity in marriage and personal relationships

Blessed God, I give thanks to you for the blessing of *name*, my *wife/husband/friend*. I rejoice in the warm thoughts of *her/him* that bring me cheer and comfort far from home. Throughout the loneliness and isolation of my *deployment / time away*, may the love we share strengthen me in the promises I made to *her/him*. Lift up *her/his* heart also with the sure knowledge of my love. Watch over *her/his* going out and *her/his* coming in, and keep *her/him* in safety and hope until we meet again. **Amen.**

Relationships in turmoil

God of compassion and grace, in your steadfast love accompany name/s. As you ever work to restore and renew your people, overcome bitterness with your joy, hatred with your love, brokenness with your life; and give us hope through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us and experienced the pain of betrayal. You understand the anguish and anger I feel hearing that name has been unfaithful. Keep me from being overwhelmed by bitterness or swallowed up by despair, with the knowledge that you walk with me through the darkest valley and that your abiding love will never fail me. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, you wept upon hearing the news of Lazarus's death, so I know you understand the grief I feel being absent at the death of my *friend / family member*. There are so many things I wish I could have said, and I now lay them before you, trusting that you hold *her/him* in the palm of your hand forevermore. Comfort me with the knowledge that you gather all the faithful into your presence. **Amen.**

Healing, Wholeness

Disability

Creator God, you made us all in your image. Help us to embrace one another as you do, beloved and blessed; not in need of fixing, but in need of authentic welcome. Bring healing where it is desired, affirmation where it is lacking, and awareness to all. Open our hearts to receive the gifts and needs of all people, and to become communities where everyone can find a place. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Living with mental illness

Mighty God, in Jesus Christ you know the spirits that cloud our minds and set us against ourselves. Comfort those who are torn by conflict, cast down, or lost in worlds of illusion. By your power, drive from us the powers that shake confidence and shatter love. Tame unruly forces within us, and bring us to your truth, so that we may know peace and accept ourselves as your beloved children in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Those in emotional distress

Merciful God, you give us the grace that helps in time of need. Surround name with your steadfast love and lighten *her/his* burden. By the power of your Spirit, free *her/him* from distress and give *her/him* a new mind and heart made whole in the name of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

Despair, desperation

Loving God, inspire by your Holy Spirit those who are afraid of losing hope, especially name/s, for whom we now pray. Give *them* a fresh vision of your love, that *they* may find again what *they* fear has been lost. Grant *them* your powerful deliverance; through the one who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Almighty God, do not let me sink into the depths of depression and sorrow. Give me a glimpse of hope, and grant me the strength to seek help. You know that I live in fear and dread. Sometimes I do not even know if I have the courage to face tomorrow. Rescue me through your Spirit. Motivate me to seek help, guidance, and comfort from others, so that I may continue with renewed hope, trusting in your unending mercy and love. Hear me, I pray, through Jesus Christ my Savior. **Amen.**

God of all hope, I confess that there are many times I find it hard to hold on to hope. The problems seem huge and without solution. Often I dread each new day and wonder if I can take another step into the future without fear. Yet you have promised to be with me always. Do not abandon me now. Come to me by your Spirit and lead me to a new day of hope. **Amen.**

Lord of hope, I am so depressed, sinking where even my own shadow won't stay by me. I don't know where to go, how to get help, or what to do. There is no one that I trust. I'm afraid. I'm so tired of all this. I'm ready to give up. Is there help for me? Send me help. Lift me out of this heavy fog. Is there any hope? Show me a reason to hope. Don't give up on me. I ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Despair, thoughts of suicide

Heavenly Father, the pain I feel is so overwhelming that I want to die. Help me now to reach out to others who can help me. Please, O God, stop my suffering, give me hope, and show me that life can be worth living. Hear me, I pray, through Jesus Christ my Savior. **Amen.**

Those who suffer abuse and violence

Mighty Jesus, living Word, soothe the bodies, souls, and minds of the victims of *sexual violence / domestic violence / _____*. Bring them peace, hope, comfort, and strength. Bring abusers to justice and prevent them from causing further harm. Stir up the heart of your church gathered here and around the world, that we value justice and healing over silence and shame. Show us the way to your righteousness, led by the voices of those who suffer. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Holy One, you do not distance yourself from the pain of your people, but in Jesus you bear that pain with all who suffer at others' hands. With your cleansing love bring healing and strength to name; and by your justice, lift *her/him* up, that in body, mind, and spirit, *she/he* may again rejoice. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Holy One, you do not distance yourself from the pain of your people, but in Jesus you bear that pain with all who suffer at others' hands. With your cleansing love bring healing and strength to name; and by your justice, lift *her/him* up, that in body, mind, and spirit, *she/he* may again rejoice. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Addiction, recovery

God our source, our hearts are restless until we find our rest in you. As Jesus once offered living water to a Samaritan woman at the well, so we ask you to meet our deepest needs with your eternal life. Help us to honestly name the desires that have power over us. Forgive us our injuries to self and other. Give us the strength we need to face each day. Direct our thoughts and actions toward the life that truly is life. This we ask through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Compassionate God, your Son brought healing and wholeness to people stricken with disease, death, and demons that destroyed the joys of family life. Look with favor on *these families* / [name/s] as they struggle against addiction and all the harm it brings to name/s and those who love *them*. Grant them your strength to cope with the difficulties of each day, the power of the Holy Spirit to confront name/s at the opportune time, and the love of the Savior to support name/s in the struggle against addiction; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove the fears that attack them; strengthen those who are engaged in the work of recovery; and to those who care for them, give honesty, understanding, and persevering love; for your mercy's sake. **Amen.**

Inner Life

Anxiety, apprehension, fear

O most loving Father, you want us to give thanks in all circumstances and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Grant that fears and anxieties in this mortal life may not hide from us the light of your immortal love shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eternal God, my heart this *night/day* is filled with fear. Dark shadows seem to cloud each hour. The path ahead appears filled with problems and threats. Deliver me from senseless worry and protect me amid genuine danger. Teach me to trust in your unending love. Let me walk in confidence and strength as your child by faith, following after Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, as you stilled the wind and rough sea so long ago and brought calm to your terrified disciples, so care for me now and calm my heart. Rescue me from fear and grant me courage to do my duty. Walk with me each step of the way and keep me in your unending care. You know me far better than I know myself. You have been with me from the beginning. You have made me your disciple. Assure me by your Spirit that you will hear my prayer, for you have promised to be with me always. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Eternal God, walk with me this day, for the problems that I face are complex. The best course of action will not always be clear; the right thing to do is sometimes hard to determine; and the struggles I confront are difficult. Assure me of your forgiving love and your steadfast care, that I may face each day with confidence that you will never abandon me. Hear me now, I pray, through Jesus Christ my Savior. **Amen.**

Bitterness, anger

Lord God, when we are assaulted by the troubles of life, and the deep waters of anger threaten to overwhelm us, do not let us sink. In your great compassion, hear us and help us. Deliver us from anger's power over us. Lead us out of bitter silence and hurtful words so that we may speak the truth in love. Heal every heart set on vengeance, and show us the way to honesty and reconciliation; through the one who has shown us both impassioned zeal and forgiving love, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Daily renewal

Almighty God, by my baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you turn me from the old life of sin. Grant that I who am reborn to new life in him may live in righteousness and holiness all my days. **Amen.**

Gift of sleep

God of peace, the hours are long, the work is hard, the duties are complex, and the fears and anxieties are real. Enable me to lay in your hands the day that is past—the good I have been permitted to do, but also my worries and feelings of uncertainty. As I take a deep breath of gratitude for your constant mercy and love, allow me to sleep in peace, trusting in your unfailing care. Let my sleep be a confession of confidence in your love, which you have shown in Jesus Christ my Savior. **Amen.**

For a peaceful night

Dear Jesus, as a hen covers her chicks with her wings to keep them safe, protect us this night under your golden wings; for your mercy's sake. **Amen.**

Isolation, loneliness

O God, look upon me with your love, for I feel so alone. I fear tomorrow and do not know what the future holds. Yet you have promised to be my friend and guide. Come to me now by your Spirit and embrace me amid my sense of isolation. In this time of special need, grant me a new awareness of the community in Christ that holds me and a strong assurance of your love, through Jesus Christ my Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful God, in the stillness of my soul I listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet my restless heart with the knowledge that you are near me, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle my faith and light the lamp of hope within my heart. Then take me by the hand into each day that lies ahead, for where you lead I can confidently go with Jesus Christ my Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed Lord, in moments of pain I turn to you for strength; in times of loneliness I seek your loving nearness. Grant that your life and love and joy may flow through me for the healing of others in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Pain

As Jesus cried out on the cross, I cry out to you in pain, O God my Creator. Do not forsake me. Grant me relief from this suffering and preserve me in peace; through Jesus Christ my Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Protection through life

O God, full of compassion, I commit and commend myself to you, in whom I live and move and have my being. Be the goal of my pilgrimage, and my rest by the way. Give me refuge from the turmoil of worldly distractions beneath the shadow of your wings. Let my heart, so often a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God; through Jesus Christ my Lord. **Amen.**

Shame

Gracious God, as you made garments for Adam and Eve when they hid from you out of shame, so also through baptism you have dressed your people in the garment of salvation. I know, therefore, that I need never hide from you because of my shame. Help me to trust your acceptance and love for me in the midst of every circumstance, so that, clothed in the righteousness of Christ, I may come before you without fear and offer myself in service to your world. **Amen.**

Temptation

Lord Jesus, you know the temptations that I face this day. Even you faced temptation—to abuse the power and authority entrusted to you—and you found the strength to resist it. Guard and keep me now, so that I may not be deceived or misled into false belief, despair, shame, or vice. Help me in this time of testing, and give me strength to do what is good and right, for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Travel

God of surprising grace, meet me today along the road, wherever my travels may take me. Open my eyes to see you, and let my heart burn with joy, knowing your near presence and your unfailing love. **Amen.**

Vocational disappointment

Holy God, I thought I had a clear vision of that to which you were calling me, yet it seems at every turn doors are closed and advancement is denied. In my anger and disappointment it is easy to wonder if you have forsaken me. Remind me of your care for me since before I was born. You have nurtured and blessed me throughout my life. Even death cannot separate me from your embrace. May the hope that comes from your steadfast love give me eyes to see opportunities to serve you even now, for the sake of Jesus Christ my Lord. **Amen.**

Intercession—general

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

Life Passages and Circumstances

Birth of a child

O Lord our God, creator of all that exists, we thank you for the joy of watching new life begin and for the privilege of sharing with you in your continuing creation. In your mercy grant that these blessings may continue to us and even to our children's children, that generations yet unborn may bless your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, giver of life and love, bless name of spouse, our newborn child, name, and me. Grant us wisdom and devotion in our life together, that each of us may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. So knit our wills together in your will and our spirits in your Spirit, that we may live together in love and peace all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Adoption of a child

Merciful God, because of your love for us in Jesus Christ we have become brothers and sisters, daughters and sons in your family, the church. We thank you for the love which welcomes child's name into this household. As you have blessed name/s of parent/s with this child, give *them* the joy of caring for *her/him*, and increase our joy as members of your family in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remembrance of the faithful departed

Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those whom you have drawn into your eternal embrace. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every people and nation gathered before your throne in your ceaseless praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Those preparing for marriage

We praise you, O God, that your children names have been drawn together in love for one another. Strengthen their hearts, so that they will keep faith with each other, please you in all things, and come to the joy of celebrating their marriage; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Marriage

Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure. Strengthen names with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of your Spirit, so that they may fulfill the vows they have made. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home of peace and welcome. Guide them by your word to serve you all their days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Those entering retirement

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant name who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family. Now bless and preserve *her/him* at this time of transition. Day by day, guide *her/him* and give *her/him* what is needed, friends to cheer *her/his* way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling *her/him*. By your Holy Spirit be present in *her/his* pilgrimage, that *she/he* may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pregnancy loss

Creating God, you formed us in our mother's womb and, in Jesus, welcomed children to come to you. Today we grieve the untimely end to a life that would have delighted you and us. Our hearts are torn, and we are burdened by our grief. Be with us as we walk this shadowed valley. Receive our tears. Hold space within us for hope's return. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Death of a child

Heavenly God, the Rock of Ages, you sustain the universe with the power of your love and hold us in the tenderness of your unfailing care. Support name/s, who *mourn* the loss of *their* child. Comfort *them* in *their* pain and heal *them* in your grace. Hold *their* little one in your everlasting arms. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows from death to eternal life. **Amen.**

Following a difficult decision

Dear God, in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus agonized in prayer about the difficult path that lay before him and asked you to "take this cup from me." We, too, wish for different circumstances, ones that could have spared us from needing to make this decision. Our hearts are heavy. Be with us as we travel this path, guide those who accompany us, and give us peace. With watchful hope, we lean on your mercy and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

At the end of a marriage

Holy God, fount of grace, you are the source of our being and the wellspring of our redemption. Pour out your Spirit upon us this day, and especially upon name and name. Where hearts are broken, grant your healing. Where trust is eroded, restore good faith. Where bitterness has taken root, plant seeds of forgiveness. Do not let anger destroy us, but teach us to love as you have loved us, even after marriage ends. Look upon name and name as a new phase of life begins. Uphold them [*and their children / their families*] with your grace. Strengthen them by your Spirit, and renew in them the hope of your new creation, where peace will reign and all people will be reconciled to you and to one another. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, we pray. **Amen.**

The elderly

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

O God, you love us throughout life, even to the grave. Bless all who offer compassionate care for your beloved ones nearing the end of their earthly journey. Stir up your Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with your love, patience, and vitality for the days ahead. Embolden your church to be faithful sojourners as we accompany name/s to the gate of *their* eternal home. We pray in the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life. **Amen.**

Loss of memory

God our strength, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we adjust and grieve the memory loss afflicting name, remind us that name is well known to you, even as we become strangers. Bless us with the memories we carry of our life together. Sustain us when we are forgotten, and give us courage and strength to care for name in the difficult months ahead. Hold name in your gracious embrace, loved and known to the end. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Prayer of a person encountering memory loss

Holy God, you have known me since before I was born. You have been with me throughout my life. Protect me and keep me safe through all the changes that may come. In Christ you made me your own. Help me to trust that who I am will never be lost to you. **Amen.**

Moving to a new place

Compassionate One, you know when we rise up and when we sit down. You know our comings and goings. All that we do, all that we are, matters to you. Be with us as we move to a new place. Reassure us that nothing can separate us from your lavish love poured out in Jesus Christ, our friend. **Amen.**

Loss of independent living

Shepherding God, look with mercy on those whose diminished capacity to care for themselves now requires the care of others. Assure them of their enduring value. May they be cared for with dignity and peace wherever they call home. May those who love them see in them the wonder of your creation, affirming their worth as your children, in gratitude for all they have been and are. We pray this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hospice care

Holy and life-giving God, whose mercy is without end, look with grace upon name [and name's family and friends] as they face the future. Guide those who will accompany name in the days to come, so that name will be cared for and comforted. Uphold them all in your abiding love, and sustain them with your peace, which surpasses all understanding; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Times of financial stress

O God, we pray for daily bread. We are overwhelmed by debt and seek your wisdom. Help us to be good stewards of the resources that you have already placed in our care. Send the resources and support we need to turn this situation around. Allow your justice and mercy to prevail. Generous God, hear our prayer. **Amen.**

O God, be with farm families in times of economic insecurity. Give farmers courage when stressed to their limits by the challenges of weather, economic policies, reduced income, and increased debt. Guard them against the feelings of failure or despair. Grant them rest, peace, and a supportive community as they labor upon the land you have entrusted to us. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Death of a pet

Gracious God, we grieve the death of our friend and companion name. We offer gratitude for the blessing name was in our lives, and for the joy and love name brought to us. Receive name into your embrace, and continue to bless us with memories of name's life and affection. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Society, Justice

The human family

O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Social justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The unemployed

God of justice, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our wealth and resources that all people may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labor; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we call to mind before you all whom it is easy to forget: those who are homeless, destitute, sick, isolated, and all who have no one to care for them. May we bring help and healing to those who are broken in body or spirit, that they may have comfort in sorrow, company in loneliness, and a place of safety and warmth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The poor

God of compassion, whose Son became poor for our sake: Help us to see the face of Christ in those who are poor, and in serving them to serve you. Give us generous hearts so that those living in poverty may have adequate food, clothing, and shelter. By your Spirit move us to affirm the dignity of all people and to work for just laws that protect the most vulnerable in society, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The oppressed

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prisons and correctional institutions

God of justice, for our sake your Son was condemned as a criminal. Visit our jails and prisons with your judgment and mercy. Remember all prisoners; bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will; and give hope for the future. When any are held unjustly, raise up for them advocates to bring them release, and give us the wisdom to improve our system of justice. Watch over those who work in these institutions; give them strength and compassion, and keep them from becoming brutal or callous. Lead us to do for those in prison what we would do for Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Those who are incarcerated

O God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name, we pray for all who are incarcerated, those rightly convicted and those falsely accused. Help those in prison to sense your presence with them. Heal brokenness, cure addictions, and provide for their needs. Comfort them in despair, restore their hope, and protect them from violence and abuse. We pray through Jesus Christ, in whom we are claimed and freed for new life.

Amen.

Mighty God, merciful and just: we pray for our jails, prisons, and detention centers, that they be places of fair and humane treatment for all. Lead us to end solitary confinement and other cruel and demeaning practices. Guide police and corrections officers, attorneys and judges to use wisely the power entrusted to them. Inspire prison worshiping communities and chaplains. Rouse us to eradicate racism, corruption, and greed in the criminal justice system. By your Spirit, transform our society, that the dignity and worth of every incarcerated person be honored. We ask this through your resurrected Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Those who suffer for the sake of conscience

God of faithfulness, you bless those who are persecuted. Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience. When they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair. Give us grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened; for the sake of our merciful and righteous judge, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our enemies

Gracious God, your Son called on you to forgive his enemies while he was suffering shame and death. Lead our enemies and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Stewardship

Stewardship of natural resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us coworkers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Renewal of mind and body

O God, we thank you for times of refreshment and peace in the course of this busy life. Grant that we may so use our leisure for the renewal of our bodies and minds that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The proper use of wealth

O God, in your love you have given the people of this land gifts of abundance beyond what our forebears knew or could imagine. Mercifully grant that we may not be so occupied with material things that we forget spiritual gifts, and thus, even though we have gained the whole world, lose our souls; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prejudice, racism

O God, you form all humanity to bear your divine image, and you intend for everyone to live together in harmonious dignity. We pray for all people, whether ourselves or others, who suffer the cruelties of racial or ethnic prejudice. Grant your Spirit of power to all who are oppressed. Give healing to victims of violence, protection to the vulnerable and abused, better housing and worthy employment to the mistreated, courage to the fearful, a remedy for rage, strength to parents and caregivers, and hope to children and youth. Purge the privileged of their sense of superiority, and lead church and society to foster communities of equity and diversity; through Jesus Christ, our loving Savior. **Amen.**

O God, in your divine mystery you embrace difference in unity, and you call your people to live in peace with all. We pray for an end to racial and ethnic prejudice. Free us from the dread of difference. Free the church from constricting traditions. Free our society from centuries of violence against the other. Break down the walls that separate your people by color, culture, or religion. Call us to repentance for our sins of racism and prejudice, known and unknown. Transform discrimination into a passion for justice. Guide us to nurture a society that embodies reconciliation and cooperation among all, for the sake of the one who embodies your love, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world, and ourselves. **Amen.**

O God, your divinity transcends distinctions of gender, and through the generations you widen our awareness of human diversity. We gather here before you in our various expressions of gender identity, all of us one in Christ Jesus. Bring our society to peacefulness concerning a wider understanding of gender. Give courage and healing to those who express outwardly the gender they testify as gift from you. Open the church to their witness. We ask that with your creative Spirit you cultivate new relationships, mend old wounds, and nurture communities of respect, for the sake of the one who embraces all persons in love, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Those oppressed because of religious identity

God of mercy and new life, you love all people, whom you have made in your image. Empower your faithful people to stand in solidarity with all those oppressed because of religious identity. Deepen respect, community, and love among all those who seek justice and peace. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Interreligious cooperation and understanding

O God, whose name is above all names, your grace cannot be contained within human limits. We offer our thanks for holy wisdom that comes in other voices, in religions and worldviews different from our own, and in prayers offered in the wideness of your love. Move us more deeply into understanding and partnership, willing to work together in mutual respect, always open to the grace that we have experienced in Christ Jesus, our light and our life. **Amen.**

God of creation, we give you thanks for our wonderfully diverse human family. We pray for the well-being of all people, including our neighbors of other religions and worldviews. Grant that, together with them, we will find ways to cooperate for the common good of all, as you desire. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Refugees, migrants, immigrants

O God, as you guided the Israelites to a new land by pillars of cloud and fire, now travel alongside all people who seek safety from persecution and a better life. (*Especially we pray for _____.*) Provide them with what they need as they travel, and guide them to places of welcome and sanctuary. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Holy God, as you have accompanied your people through times of captivity, wilderness, and exile, shelter and sustain all those who flee persecution, oppression, warfare, violence, hunger, and poverty. Open our hearts and homes, our gates and doors, so that they find safety, peace, and welcome—a place to live in freedom and without fear; through Jesus Christ, our refuge and our hope. **Amen.**

Spiritual life

Enlightenment of the Holy Spirit

God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Grant us, we pray, to be grounded and settled in your truth by the coming of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. That which we know not, reveal; that which is wanting in us, fill up; that which we know, confirm; and keep us blameless in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commitment

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours. Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling. Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless world of light eternal, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Answer to prayer

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time to make our common prayer to you, and you have promised through your Son that where two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be in the midst of them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us, in this world, knowledge of your truth and, in the age to come, life everlasting. **Amen.**

Guidance

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of Thomas à Kempis

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly graven that no prosperity, no adversity, shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. **Amen.**

A prayer of Augustine of Hippo

O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help; in all our uncertainties your guidance; in all our dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we 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.**

A prayer of Catherine of Siena

Power of the eternal Father, help me. Wisdom of the Son, enlighten the eye of my understanding. Tender mercy of the Holy Spirit, unite my heart to yourself. Eternal God, restore health to the sick and life to the dead. Give us a voice, your own voice, to cry out to you for mercy for the world. You, light, give us light. You, wisdom, give us wisdom. You, supreme strength, strengthen us. **Amen.**

A prayer of Julian of Norwich

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss. In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and savior. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper. Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. **Amen.**

A prayer of Martin Luther

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; 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 treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came 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.**

A prayer of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow human beings throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. **Amen.**

Praying at Meals

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let *thy/your/these* gifts to us be blessed. Blessed be God, who is our bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, O Lord God, ruler of the universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bless, O Lord, your gifts to our use and us to your service; for Christ's sake. **Amen.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to you, O Lord, for you have refreshed me with food and drink. Help me always live to your praise. **Amen.**

