

Daily Prayer

Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6 (Today's New International Version)

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Daily Prayer - Introduction

Introduction

Many people have difficulty with prayer. This has been true throughout Christian history. On one occasion, his disciples asked Jesus: "Teach us to pray." As much as we feel that we are in the dark about prayer, at least we know we're in good company. Here's the full account from the Gospel of Luke:

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say:

" Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.' "

Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'

"Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (NIV)

First Instruction In Christian Prayer

In these verses from the Gospel of Luke, we find our first instruction in prayer from the Lord himself (also see Matthew 6:5-15). As observed by L. D. Bevan, the prayer includes adoration, supplication for the Kingdom, for personal needs, for forgiveness, for deliverance from temptation and the ascription of glory. It is at once individual and universal; it sets the recognition of divine things first, and yet clearly asserts the

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ethical and social relations of life. See the rest of this excellent article “Prayers of Christ,” L. D. Bevan, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE) (1939),

<<http://www.internationalstandardbible.com/P/prayers-of-christ.html>>

In a similar vein, Russell Benjamin Miller, in his essay on prayer, had this observation:

The Lord's Prayer was given as a lesson in prayer. As such this simple model surpasses all precepts about prayer. It suggests to the child of God the proper objects of prayer. It supplies suitable forms of language and illustrates the simple and direct manner in which we may trustingly address our heavenly Father. It embraces the elements of all spiritual desire summed up in a few choice sentences. For those who are not able to bring their struggling desires to birth in articulate language it provides an instructive form. To the mature disciple it ever unfolds with richer depths of meaning. Though we learn these words at our mother's knee, we need a lifetime to fill them with meaning and all eternity to realize their answer.

“Prayer”, Russell Benjamin Miller, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE) (1939), Bible.org <<http://net.bible.org/dictionary.php?word=LORD%27S%20PRAYER,%20THE>> and <<http://www.internationalstandardbible.com/L/lords-prayer-the.html>>

Prayer in the Bible

Prayer was a common theme that rippled throughout the Old Testament from the earliest times. Genesis 4:26 records “Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.” (NIV) From beginning to end, we see God's children coming to Him with intercessions for others and with petitions for oneself. Likewise, adoration and confession and thanksgiving also find a place. The Psalms, in particular, are a rich source of the many forms that prayer can take. When we wonder what we should pray for, looking at the hundreds of occurrences of the word “pray” in the Old Testament will provide the beginnings of a road map. A good concordance and index of subjects will help in searching out the multitude of prayers that can be found.

Likewise, in the New Testament, we see numerous examples of prayer. In the Gospel of Luke, our Lord tells his disciples a parable explaining why “...they should always pray and not give up.” (NIV) St. Paul likewise emphasizes prayer in the life of the saints. For example, in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, he writes “pray without ceasing.” (KJV) (The Old Testament equivalent is: "Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws." Psalm 119:164). Likewise, in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit.” Christian prayer in its full New Testament meaning is prayer addressed to God as Father, in the name of Christ as Mediator, and through the enabling grace of the indwelling Spirit.

Traditionally, prayer was offered three times a day: morning, noon, and evening (“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud, and he shall hear my voice.” - Psalm 55:17). Although the monastic practice was for prayer up to seven times a day, most Christians prayed at Matins (the 3rd hour, or 9 AM), Sext (the 6th hour, or noon), and Vespers (the 9th hour, or 3 PM). Many would also offer a prayer just before retiring for the day; this prayer is known as Compline. As the structure and pace of the day has evolved, the times for prayer have been changed to accommodate the need to work outside of the home. Hence, “morning” and “evening” prayer not tied to the clock. For a more complete description, you may wish to refer to the Wikipedia article, “Liturgy of the Hours” (together with the many links to exterior web sites).

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Luther On Prayer

It is clear that Martin Luther was a prayerful man. Considering that he was both an Augustinian monk and an ordained priest (obligated to pray the Daily Office), it should come as no surprise to us that he emphasizes prayer in the Christian life. There is a quotation attributed to Luther to the effect that because he is so busy, there is no way that he can proceed unless he spends three hours in prayer. Lutheran scholars have never been able to find that quotation in the 40-plus volumes of collected works.

Still, prayer was important to Luther, and has been important throughout the life of the church.

Luther's Way of Praying

The following discussion is from the Prayer Resources section of the website of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, <http://archive.elca.org/prayer/resources/luther.html>

When Martin Luther's barber and friend Peter Beskendorf asked him how to pray, Martin Luther responded with a brief treatise published in the spring of 1535 under the title *A Simple Way to Pray, for a Good Friend*. Luther explained his own practices of prayer. The following are some of the suggestions Luther gave to his barber:

1. There is need for concentration

Let prayer be the first business of the morning and last in the evening. Do not be sidetracked. Luther writes, "So, a good and attentive barber keeps his thoughts, attention, and eyes on the razor and hair and does not forget how far he has gotten with his shaving or cutting. If he wants to engage into much conversation or let his mind wander or look somewhere else he is likely to cut his customer's mouth, nose, or even his throat. Thus if anything is to be done well, it requires the full attention of all one's senses and members. . ." (p. 32-33).

2. There is a sequence of prayer

Luther writes ". . . kneel or stand with your hands folded and your eyes toward heaven and speak or think as briefly as you can. . ." (p.20). Offer a brief prayer "O Heavenly Father, dear God, I am a poor unworthy sinner, I do not deserve to raise my eyes or hands toward thee or to pray. . ." (p. 21) Begin to pray one petition of the Lord's Prayer or one of the Ten Commandments. Never doubt you are alone in your prayer. "Do not leave your prayer without having said or thought, 'Very well, God has heard my prayer, this I know as a certainty and a truth.' This is what Amen means" (p. 29).

3. The heart must be ready for prayer

Keep prayers meaningful. Unclutter your mind by focusing on one thought, perhaps one petition of the Lord's Prayer or one of the Ten Commandments.

4. Prayer is like a garland of four twisted strands

This garland is especially true when using Holy Scripture, Lord's Prayer, or Ten Commandments.

Each strand can be posed as a question:

- a. What is the (petition, commandment, etc) teaching/meaning for me?
- b. What prayer of thanksgiving does this prompt?
- c. What confession or lament does it evoke?
- d. What is the prayer petition?

Luther said, "Nothing can be said here about the part of faith and Holy Scriptures [in prayer] because there would be no end to what could be said. With practice one can take the Ten Commandments on one day, a psalm or chapter of Holy Scripture the next day, and use them as flint and steel to kindle a flame in the heart" (p.56).

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Quotes are from Martin Luther, A Simple Way to Pray, Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster Knox Press, 2000.

This work has been printed numerous times, but I have not yet seen an older copy at Google Books. An article with the same name is found at the website of Holy Trinity Church, New Rochelle, NY. "A Simple Way To Pray,"

<http://www.holytrinitynewrochelle.org/ASIMPLEWAYTOPRAY.html>

Holy Trinity has an large number of articles about prayer. See:

<http://www.holytrinitynewrochelle.org/prayer.html>

Our First Steps Towards A Daily Prayer Life

In your life as a Christian, there are numerous ministries that you can embrace. The prayer ministry is one of many. But at a minimum, our spiritual leaders recommend at least some time in prayer, as a family, every day. As we have seen above, it is appropriate, when we first begin to pray, to begin with the Lord's Prayer. From there, we can continue as the Holy Spirit leads us. A good next step is to give thanksgiving to God for His many blessings (many of the Psalms are prayers of thanksgiving). Then, perhaps, prayers for our selves, our families, our church, and our nation. The prayers listed in the weekly Worship Bulletin are a good place to start, supplemented by other prayer needs that we are aware of (our immediate family, neighbors, co-workers and friends). Many pray the scripture (there is a suggested Bible readings in our weekly Worship Bulletin), and many others find that hymns are a good starting point for prayer, as many are based on scripture.

Daily Prayerful Reading of Scripture

An important way to pray that is practiced by many Christians involves the daily reading of scripture (in addition to the many other sources, our weekly Worship Folder has a list of daily scripture readings). Among others, much of Luther's prayer life was centered around the Bible. Pastor Julian Freeman in "Luther On Prayer" noted that "...Luther's *Personal Prayer Book*, *Booklet for Laity and Children*, and *A Simple Way to Pray* are specifically centred around the concept that one should be praying sections of the Bible."

When we read scripture, it is important to read it slowly. As Rick Warren points out in his *40 Days of Purpose*, many of us are so familiar with the Bible, that as we read, we sometimes skim over familiar verses, losing much of the content. But by slowly savoring each word, and then each phrase, and then each verse, we are able to more fully grasp the message that God is giving us. Verses that previously made little sense can become vivid images of God's intent.

Also we're better able to connect that portion of Scripture with other verses in other books. For example, it was only recently that while reading Matthew 7:6 ("Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs."), that I was able to connect the story of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:27 ("...even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."). When we read Scripture in this way, new connections and a better understanding can be made in the Word which God has given us.

It is at that point, then, that we can more fully and profitably pray the Scripture. We can see how it connects us, our families, our congregation, our community and our nation to the will of God, and how we can better make those teachings a part of our lives, engraving them in our hearts. As Luther noted in his letter to Peter Beskendorf, the Master Barber, "I want your heart to be stirred and guided concerning the thoughts which ought to be comprehended" (LW 40, 189-211)

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In the *40 Days of Purpose* program, reference is made to meditation on scripture and devotional writings. This raises a red flag in the minds of many Lutherans of the Missouri Synod. The Commission on Theology and Church Relations office addressed issues relating to meditation in their discussion of “Centering Prayer” <<http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=13877>>. In that discussion, they noted that “There are aspects of Christian mysticism that Lutherans have affirmed (e.g., the importance of daily prayer, meditation on God's Word, prayer as a response to God's Word [as well as aspects of *lectio divina*].”

Thus, in addition to daily prayer, and prayer as a response to God's Word, we can perform (1) simple meditation on God's Word, and (2) the structured meditation known as “Divine Reading” (*lectio divina*). The Commission's link to *lectio divina* was to an article at Wikipedia, “Lectio Divina.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 16 Sep 2009, 20:03 UTC. 16 Sep 2009 <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lectio_Divina&oldid=314406813>. Many of the following points are from that article. The quotations from Dom Guigo are from “The Ladder of Four Rungs – Guigo II On Contemplation,” <<http://www.umilta.net/ladder.html>>, translation adapted by Julia Bolton Holloway.

“Divine Reading” (*lectio divina*) comes from a method of reading the Bible that originated in medieval times. It began with the practice of slowly reading the Bible, pausing to carefully consider the deeper meaning of each word, phrase and verse as it was read and re-read. This slow, thoughtful reading evolved into a type of Scriptural meditation.

This process was first described by Dom Guigo II (d. 1193), a Carthusian monk and ninth prior of the Grande Chartreuse in his 12th century book “The Monk’s Ladder” (*Scala Claustralium*). The four steps of this “ladder” of prayer were reading (*lectio*), meditation (*meditatio*), praying (*oratio*), and contemplation (*contemplatio*).

Before beginning the “Divine Reading,” however, one must first pick out a section of Scripture to study, and then take these three preparatory steps:

- 1. Time.** Selecting a time for *lectio divina* is important. Typical methods are to pray for one hour in the morning, or to divide it into two half-hour periods, one in the morning and one in the evening. The key is to preselect the time that will be devoted to the prayer and to keep it. Using the same time every day leads to a daily habit of prayer that becomes highly effective.
- 2. Place.** The place for prayer is to be free from distractions. This means it should be isolated from other people, telephones, visual distractions, etc. The same place should be used for reading if possible, especially as one first begins to practice it. Familiarity with a location reduces the possibility of distraction away from the prayer. Or, one may wish to pray in an unaccustomed place, for the express purpose of finding a place that will be dedicated to prayer alone and not other daily activities.
- 3. Preparation.** Prior to reading, it is important to engage in a transitional activity that takes one from the normal state of mind to a more contemplative and prayerful state. A few moments of deep, regular breathing and a short prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to guide the prayer time helps to set the tone and improve the effectiveness of the Reading.

After taking these steps, the practice of “Divine Reading” can then proceed. Dom Guigo wrote:

Reading ... is busily looking on Holy Scripture with all one's will and wit. **Meditation** is a studious in searching with the mind to know what was before concealed through desiring proper skill. **Prayer** is a devout desiring of the heart to get what is good and avoid what is evil. **Contemplation** is the lifting up of the heart to God tasking somewhat of the heavenly sweetness and savor. Reading seeks, meditation finds, prayer asks, contemplation feels.

In slightly more detail, these four steps are:

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1. Reading. (*Lectio*). This first moment consists in reading the scriptural passage slowly, attentively several times. Many write down or underline words in the scripture that stick out to them or grasp their attention during this moment. Dom Guigo wrote: “Reading is the first ground that precedes and leads one into meditation...”

2. Meditation. (*Meditatio*). The Christian, gravitating around the passage or one of its words, takes it and ruminates on it, thinking in God’s presence about the text. He or she benefits from the Holy Spirit’s ministry of illumination, i.e. the work of the Holy Spirit that imparts spiritual understanding of the sacred text. It is not a special revelation from God, but the inward working of the Holy Spirit, which enables the Christian to grasp the revelation contained in the Scripture. As Dom Guigo noted: “... meditation seeks busily, and also with deep thought digs and delves deeply to find that treasure ...”

3. Praying. (*Oratio*). This is a response to the passage by opening the heart to God. It is not an intellectual exercise, but an intuitive conversation or dialogue with God. Dom Guigo observed that meditation “because it cannot be attained by itself alone, then he sends us into prayer that is mighty and strong. And so prayer rises to God, and there one finds the treasure one so fervently desire, that is the sweetness and delight of contemplation.”

4. Contemplation. (*Contemplatio*). This moment is characterized by a simple, loving focus on God. In other words, it is a beautiful, wordless contemplation of God, a joyful rest in His presence. “And then contemplation comes and yields the harvest of the labor of the other three through a sweet heavenly dew, that the soul drinks in delight and joy,” concludes Dom Guigo.

In short, “... reading without meditation is idle, meditation without prayer is without effect, but prayer with devotion wins contemplation.” And in that contemplation, we perceive God in his His Word.

Hymns as a Means of Prayer

Many of the hymns that we find in our hymnals are based on Scriptural passages (both the *Lutheran Hymnal* and the new *Lutheran Service Book* are examples of the practice is listing the Scriptural basis of the hymn). In many cases, these hymns restate with great beauty passages of Scripture, and the means by which we may incorporate those messages in our lives. Christians have profitably prayed the hymns of the Church for many centuries. One on-line source that you might want to check out is [Hymn of the Day](http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=11836) <<http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=11836>> from the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

There is this important note, however. We should exercise care when praying the hymns. Although many are based on Scripture, sometimes the personal opinions of the hymn writer are interjected as well, and not all of those personal opinions may necessarily coincide with the teachings of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, or of your own personal beliefs. A member of our congregation recently cautioned that we should carefully read through the entire hymn before affirmatively praying that hymn to God, lest we pray for – and receive – certain unintended results.

Daily Devotionals

Many Christians make use of pamphlets that are published containing daily devotions, including “Portals In Prayer” and “Our Daily Bread.” For the busy dad, mom or student, these pocket-sized devotionals are a great way to start the day. Both of these can be mailed to your home. “Portals in Prayer” is a quarterly publication, available from Concordia Publishing House for \$9 per year

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(<http://www.cph.org/cphstore/pages/forms/portals.asp>). “Our Daily Bread” is a free monthly publication from RBC ministries (a non-denominational Christian organization, <http://www.rbc.org/odb/odb.shtml>).

Along these same lines, daily devotions can be received as an email. Among the many that are available is the daily devotion from Pastor Ken Klaus of Lutheran Hour Ministries (<http://www.lutheranhour.org/>); the Lutheran Hour, which began in 1930, is the world's longest-running, Christian outreach radio program. These are available on-line at Lutheran Hour Ministries' Daily Devotions, <http://www.lhm.org/calendar.asp>, and the email version can be ordered from that location (<http://www.lhm.org/email/login.asp?code=dd1014>). Note that “Our Daily Bread” is also available by email (<http://www.rbc.org/odb/email/>).

Praying For Your Needs

It is important to note that we should not be hesitant to bring petitions for ourselves to God. Some are hesitant to do so, feeling that they are being selfish. But it is clear that it is appropriate to do so. Our Lord prayed for Himself in Gethsemane; in times of trouble, you too should pray to God for help. In Hebrews 4:16, we read “Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace *to help us in our time of need.*” (TNIV) Likewise in James 5:13 we are told “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.” (TNIV)

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray for ourselves in requesting our daily bread, forgiveness from sins, and deliverance from evil. In his “Table Talk,” Luther wrote: “Our Savior Christ ... comprehends in the Lord's prayer all things needful and necessary. Except under troubles, trials, and vexations, prayer cannot rightly be made. God says: ‘Call on me in time of trouble....’” In paragraph CCCXXXIX of “Table Talk,” Luther continues:

Prayer preserves the church, and hitherto has done the best for the church; therefore we must continually pray. Hence Christ says: “Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” [Matthew 7:7]

First, when we are in trouble, he will have us pray; for God often, as it were, hides himself, and will not hear; yea, will not suffer himself to be found. Then we must seek him; that is, we must continue in prayer. When we seek him, he often locked himself up, as it were, in a private chamber; if we intend to come in unto him, then we must knock, and when we have knocked once or twice, then he begins a little to hear. At last, when we make much knocking, then he opens, and says: What will ye have? Lord, say we, we should have this or that; then, says he, Take it with you. In such sort must we persist in praying, and waken God up.

In short, pray for yourself, be specific in your requests (Mark 10:46-52), and be persistent in your requests just like the widow in Luke 18:1-8 and the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:21-28..

Forms of Daily Prayer

In no case should any Christian feel bound to any specific form of prayer. Many Christians are capable of praying extemporaneously with ease. Others find that a structured prayer more fits their needs. Many will find that some combination of these two options works best for them, and that the forms below *can be adapted* to fit your needs. My personal prayer pages are based on a combination of these forms, and undergo constant change, reflecting my changing needs, and the changing needs of my family, our church, our community, and our nation.

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The purpose of this document is to provide a small resource for morning and evening prayer. Many of our hymnals since 1941 – and a few before that time – have several morning and evening prayer options. If you have copies at home, you can readily find those resources. Because these hymnals are copyright, however, they can't be directly used in this pamphlet. See Appendix A. *Prayer Resources in Lutheran Hymnals*.

However, there are several options. Some prayers and texts have been retrieved from older hymnals and prayer books. In addition, the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) from the Episcopal Church in the United States (1979) is not under copyright and is available as an electronic text <<http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/bcp.htm>>. A number of prayers are from the BCP; many of those prayers and orders of prayer are also found (modified) in the recent hymnals the Lutheran Church and other denominations.

On-line Resources

There are several excellent on-line options for daily prayer. Steve Benner's *Oremus* web site can provide a complete daily prayer formula, but can tend to be long, which is a draw-back for those who must put in the normal work day, plus fulfill all other family and community requirements. A few examples of daily prayer available on the World Wide Web include:

The Daily Prayer & Readings from the Lectionary

- **Oremus Office**, <http://www.oremus.org/oremus.cgi?f>
Published daily since 1993 by Steve Benner and Simon Kerchaw.
- **Today's Readings**
US Conference of Catholic Bishops, <http://www.usccb.org/nab/today.shtml>
- **The Office of Readings**, <http://www.universalis.com/-800/readings.htm>
Mass Readings, <http://www.universalis.com/-800/mass.htm>
From Universalis
- **Presbyterian Church of the USA**, <http://www.pcusa.org/lectionary/>
- **Pray As You Go**, <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/>
A 10 minute devotion including music, scripture and reflective questions; download to your MP3 player, or burn to a CD, for prayer wherever you go. Good for the car CD player during the commute to work (*always exercise care in such situations to ensure that your attention to driving is not impaired*). Source: Jesuit Media Initiatives, London
- **Today's reflection from Our Daily Bread**, <http://www.rbc.org/odb/odb.shtml>
- **Daily Prayer Online at Sacred Space**, <http://sacredspace.ie/>
A few minutes of peaceful and fulfilling prayer from the Irish Jesuits.
- **Three-Year Lectionary** <<http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=863>>, Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; The Daily Lectionary is found on page 299 in the pew edition of *Lutheran Service Book*.

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- **Revised Common Lectionary**
<<http://www.commontexts.org/publications/RCLdownloads.html>>, Consultation on Common Texts <<http://www.commontexts.org/>> (PDF files of each of the three years in the cycle)
- **Daily Readings** (RTF Format)
<<http://www.commontexts.org/publications/dailyreadingsB.rtf>> from the *Revised Common Lectionary* for Year B, Consultation on Common Texts <<http://www.commontexts.org/>>

The Treasury of Daily Prayer

I recently discovered a new offering from Concordia Publishing House titled *Treasury of Daily Prayer* (General Editor: Scot A. Kinnaman, 2008). The product description from Concordia:

Cultivate an enriching devotional life with a book that nourishes your time with God. This comprehensive Lutheran resource brings together Scripture readings, prayers, psalms, hymns, and devotional readings from the church fathers to guide daily prayer and meditation on God's Word.

Organized around the Christian Church Year, *Treasury of Daily Prayer* is designed to be an all-in-one resource for daily devotions for individuals, families, and small groups.

At a hefty 1600 pages, this volume is an excellent choice as a resource for daily prayer. In addition to several daily prayer formats, the book also includes a daily reading for each day of the year based on the daily lectionary that appeared in the *Lutheran Service Book* (2006).

The *Treasury of Daily Prayer* also include a complete psalter as well as a small assortment of occasional prayer, which I supplement with the 5th Edition of the *Lutheran Book of Prayer* (177 prayers plus selected psalms; 259 pages; 2005).

I would recommend *Treasury of Daily Prayer* for those seeking both a format for daily prayer as well as a well-proportioned daily reading. Please note that I do not have any affiliation of any sort with Concordia Publishing House, or with any of the products that they offer.

Choosing a Format For Daily Prayer

This pamphlet will provide several examples of daily prayer, each increasingly longer. While most of us would like to spend a good deal of time of prayer, many simply do not have enough hours in the day to accomplish all that they *must* accomplish, let alone what they would *like* to accomplish. The longest forms of daily prayer, Matins and Lauds, are omitted from this pamphlet due to their length, but are readily available in hymnals, prayer books, and on-line.

The recommendation for daily devotions presented in the Grace Class at St. Paul's include:

- Pick a time and place
- Use the Bible
- Use Christian music
- Journal your thoughts and revelations

Family devotions are strongly recommended as well:

- Pick a time and place

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- Involve everyone
- Make it fit your family
- “The family that prays together stays together” – really!

The prayer goal for St. Paul's is: Every day in every home. And if you have the opportunity, plan to attend Bill Klein's excellent presentation to the Grace Class concerning prayer. His “The Privilege of Prayer” provides a great background and framework for daily prayer.

As it relates to your choices of prayer forms, remember that these words are printed on paper, not stone. Copy and paste. Modify a prepared prayer to more fully meet your prayer needs or the prayer needs for another. Seek out other resources. Ask God for help, and listen as He speaks, in what ever form that might be. Luther wrote in his letter to Peter, the Master Barber: “... the Holy Spirit preaches here.... Many times I have learned more from one prayer than I might have learned from much reading and speculation.”

Finally, each of these forms offers prayers for both morning and evening. Some find it easiest to pray early in the day, others prefer mid-day, while others prefer to pray late in the day. A few pray both morning and evening.

I hope that this pamphlet will be a helpful source in accomplishing your personal goal of prayer.

Doug Anderson
Decatur, Alabama
September 25, 2009

Psalm 34: 17-19

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

A righteous man may have many troubles,
but the LORD delivers him from them all;

I. Luther's Morning and Evening Prayer

I. Luther's Morning and Evening Prayer

Source: "Luther's Small Catechism," *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*. Second Edition (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006) p. 344. See also *Lutheran Worship* (1982), p. 305. Also available at Project Gutenberg, <http://www.gutenberg.org>

Luther's Morning Prayer

In the morning, when you rise, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say,

In the name of + God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and all evil, so that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things, Let Your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen

Then go to your work with joy, singing a hymn, like one on the Ten Commandments, or what your devotion may suggest.

Luther's Evening Prayer

In the evening, when you go to bed, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say:

In the name of + God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. And I pray, forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things, Let Your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep immediately and cheerfully.

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II. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

II. The Morning and Evening Suffrages

Source: The Book of Worship (Philadelphia, PA: The United Lutheran Publication House, 1899), pp. 134-7. These prayers occur in numerous other hymnals and prayer books. While these prayers can be incorporated into other prayer forms, they can also stand alone as morning and evening devotions.

The Morning Suffrages

To be used at Matins, or at the Morning Prayer of the Household.

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

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who, was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Unto thee have I cried, O Lord:

And in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.

Let my mouth be filled with thy praise:

And with thine honor all the day.

O Lord, hide thy face from my sins:

And blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me, O God, a clean heart:

And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence:

And take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation:

II. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

And uphold me with thy free Spirit.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day:
 To keep us without sin.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord:
 Have mercy on us.
O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us:
 As our trust is in thee.
Hear my prayer, O Lord:
 And let my cry come unto thee.

Then shall be said the Prayer here following, or No. 46, or No. 60 of the Collects and Prayers, or any other suitable prayer.

Collect No. 46, For Protection During The Day:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: defend us in the same with thy mighty power, and grand that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect No. 60:

O almighty and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

We give thanks unto thee, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ thy dear Son, that thou hast protected us through the night from all danger and harm; and we beseech thee to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil; that in all our thoughts, words, and deeds, we may serve and please thee. Into thy hands we commend our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let thy holy angels have charge concerning us, that the wicked one have no power over us. *Amen.*

The Evening Suffrages

To be used at Vespers, or at the Evening Prayer of the Household.

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

Then all shall say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it

II. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who, was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers:

And greatly to be praised and glorified forever.

Bless we the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost:

We praise and magnify him forever.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:

And greatly to be praised, and glorified, and highly exalted forever.

The mighty and merciful Lord bless and preserve us.

Amen.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this night:

To keep us without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us:

Have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us:

As our trust is in thee.

Hear my prayer, O Lord:

And let my cry come unto thee.

Then shall be said the Prayer here following, or No. 47 of the Collects and Prayers, or any other suitable prayer.

Collect No. 47, For Protection During The Night:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thine only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We give thanks unto thee, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, thy dear Son, that thou hast this day so graciously protected us, and we beseech thee to forgive us all our sins, and the wrong which we have done, and by thy great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into thy hands we commend our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let thy holy angels have charge concerning us, that the wicked one have no power over us. *Amen.*

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III. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

III. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

This set of prayers fits the needs of many, and can be expanded as needed. Source: Book of Common Prayer, Episcopal Church in the United States (1972). See also The Lutheran Service Book (2006), pp. 294-298.

Notes from the Book of Common Prayer:

These devotions follow the basic structure of the Daily Office of the Church.

When more than one person is present, the Reading and the Collect should be read by one person, and the other parts said in unison, or in some other convenient manner. (For suggestions about reading the Psalms, see page 582 of the BCP.)

For convenience, appropriate Psalms, Readings, and Collects are provided in each service. When desired, however, the Collect of the Day, or any of the Collects appointed in the Daily Offices, may be used instead.

The Psalms and Readings may be replaced by those appointed in

a) the Lectionary for Sundays, Holy Days, the Common of Saints, and Various Occasions, page 888 of the BCP

b) the Daily Office Lectionary, page 934 of the BCP

c) some other manual of devotion which provides daily selections for the Church Year.

In the Morning

From Psalm 51

Open my lips, O Lord, *

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, *

and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence *

and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again *

and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a

III. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

A period of silence may follow.

A hymn or canticle may be used.

The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

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

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers may be offered for my self, my family, my church and my nation, followed by

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Collect

III. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

At Noon

From Psalm 113

Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
praise the Name of the LORD.
Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
from this time forth for evermore.
From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the LORD be praised.
The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.

A Reading

O God, you will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on you; for in returning and rest we shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be our strength. *Isaiah 26:3; 30:15*

Prayers may be offered for my self, my family, my church and my nation, followed by

The Lord's Prayer

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

The Collect

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the

III. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. *Amen.*

or this

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

In the Early Evening

This devotion may be used before or after the evening meal.

The Order of Worship for the Evening may be used instead.

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

A Reading

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation — the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2
Corinthians 4:5-6

Prayers may be offered for my self, my family, my church and my nation, followed by

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those

III. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Collect

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

At the Close of Day

Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.
Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

A Reading

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God.
Jeremiah 14:9,22

The following may be said

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

Prayers may be offered for my self, my family, my church and my nation. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included, followed by

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,

III. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Collect

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen.*

Additional Notes from the Book of Common Prayer

Morning and Evening Prayer

Any of the opening sentences of Scripture, including those listed for specific seasons or days, may be used at any time according to the discretion of the officiant.

The proper antiphons on pages 43-44 and 80-82 may be used as refrains with either of the Invitatory Psalms.

Antiphons drawn from the Psalms themselves, or from the opening sentences given in the Offices, or from other passages of Scripture may be used with the Psalms and biblical Canticles.

Gloria Patri is always sung or said at the conclusion of the entire portion of the Psalter; and may be used after the Invitatory Psalm or the Canticle "Christ our Passover," after each Psalm, and after each section of Psalm 119.

The Gloria printed at the conclusion of certain Canticles may be omitted when desired.

The following pointing of the Gloria may be used:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

In Rite One services of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, the following form of the Gloria may be used:

III. Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

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

Metrical versions of the Invitatory Psalms, and of the Canticles after the Readings, may be used.

In special circumstances, in place of a Canticle, a hymn may be sung.

The Apostles' Creed is omitted from the Office when the Eucharist with its own Creed is to follow. It may also be omitted at one of the Offices on weekdays.

The Lord's Prayer may be omitted from the Office when the Litany or the Eucharist is to follow immediately.

In the Intercessions and Thanksgivings, opportunity may be given for the members of the congregation to express intentions or objects of prayer and thanksgiving, either at the bidding, or in the course of the prayer; and opportunity may be given for silent prayer.

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IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

This is the longest form of prayer in this pamphlet. While it is a complete form, it has been shortened so that, for example, it will include one Psalm rather than three or four. Likewise, the Canticles are not included within the text, but are available in Appendix C. When fully expanded, these prayers become very similar to the prayers of Matins and Lauds.

Source: Book of Common Prayer, Episcopal Church in the United States (1972). See also The Lutheran Service Book (2006), pp. 235-252.

Daily Morning Prayer

Concerning the Service

This is Rite Two from the *Book of Common Prayer*, adapted for individual use.

In the Daily Office, the term “Officiant” is used to denote the person, clerical or lay, who leads the Office. This form has been modified for individual, rather than group, prayer.

It is appropriate that other persons be assigned to read the Lessons, and to lead other parts of the service not assigned to the officiant. The bishop, when present, appropriately concludes the Office with a blessing.

Invitatory and Psalter

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come and adore him.

“Venite” (Psalm 95:1-7)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving;
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God;

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth;
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Additional psalms may be recited, for example, Psalm 100.

Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done, and by what we have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I am truly sorry and I humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on me and forgive me; that I may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God has had mercy on me, has forgiven me all my sins through the Lord Jesus Christ, will strengthen me in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit will keep me in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Lessons

One or two Lessons may be read, such as those listed in St. Paul's Weekly Worship Bulletin, a lectionary, or perhaps from a book such as "The One Year Bible." After each Lesson:

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

If a gospel lesson is read, the following is usually recited after the gospel is read:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the readings, one or more canticles may be read, such as

- *"The Song of Moses - Cantemus Domino" (a selection from Exodus 15),*
- *"The First Song of Isaiah - Ecce, Deus" (Isaiah 12:2-6),*
- *"The Second Song of Isaiah, Quaerite Dominum" (Isaiah 55:6-11),*
- *"The Third Song of Isaiah - Surge, illuminare" (a selection from Isaiah 60),*
- *"A Song of Creation - Benedicite, omnia opera Domini" (Song of the Three Young Men, Isaiah 60:35-65),*
- *"A Song of Praise - Benedictus es, Domine" (Song of the Three Young Men, Exodus 60:29-34),*

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

- “A Song of Penitence – Kyrie Pantokrator” (Prayer of Manasseh),
- “The Song of Mary – Magnificat”. (Luke 1:46-55).
- “The Song of Zechariah - Benedictus Dominus Deus” (Luke 1: 68-79)
- “The Song of Simeon - Nunc dimittis” (Luke 2:29-32)
- “A Song to the Lamb - Dignus es” (Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13)
- “The Song of the Redeemed - Magna et mirabilia” (Revelation 15:3-4)
- “Glory to God - Gloria in excelsis”
- “You are God - Te Deum laudamus”

These canticles are reproduced in Appendix C. Canticles.

The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

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

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

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

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

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

The Prayers

Prayers as listed in the Weekly Bulletin, together with any personal prayers for yourself, your family, co-workers, etc. Some also recite specific prayers for the country, the church, and other various needs. These prayers are concluded with:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

A Hymn may be sung or read.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have 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, 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.*

Then may be said the Benedicamus:

Bless we the Lord. Thanks be to God.

From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to the preceding versicle and response.

Then may be said the Benediction:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with me this and all the days of my life. Amen.

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

Daily Evening Prayer

*The Officiant begins the service with one or more of the sentences of Scripture, or with the versicle
“O God, make speed to save us.”*

Invitatory & Psalter

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Except in Lent, add Alleluia.

Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God has had mercy on me, has forgiven me all my sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, will strengthen me in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit will keep me in eternal life. *Amen.*

The following, or some other suitable hymn, or an Invitatory Psalm, may be sung or said

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

Then follows

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Psalm 34

I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.
The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.
Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.
The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
Come, children, and listen to me; *
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
Who among you loves life *
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?
Keep your tongue from evil-speaking *
and your lips from lying words.
Turn from evil and do good; *
seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, *
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, *
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them *
and delivers them from all their troubles.
The LORD is near to the broken-hearted *
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.
He will keep safe all his bones; *

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

not one of them shall be broken.
Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

One or two Lessons may be read, such as those listed in St. Paul's Weekly Worship Bulletin, a lectionary, or perhaps from a book such as "The One Year Bible." After each Lesson:

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept after each Reading. One of the following Canticles, or one of those on pages 47-52, or 85-95 of the BCP, is sung or said after each Reading. If three Lessons are used, the Lesson from the Gospel is read after the second Canticle.

The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis*

Luke 2:29-32

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Here may be offered up prayers for myself, my family, my church and my nation after which is said:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

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

The Collect of the Day

A Collect for the Presence of Christ

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

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

Here may be sung a hymn or anthem.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have 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, 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.*

IV. The Morning and Evening Prayers

Then may be said the Benedicamus:

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to the preceding. Then conclude with the following Benediction:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

2 Corinthians 13:14

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Daily Prayer – Appendix A

Appendix A. Prayer Resources in Lutheran Hymnals

The Book of Worship (1899)

Page	Description
9	Morning Service
14	Evening Service
19	The Common Service, With Music (1888)
29	A Table of Lessons for Morning and Evening
63	Vespers / Evening Service
68	Matins / Early Service
115	Collects and Prayers
129	General Prayers
132	The Suffrages (Morning and Evening)
134	Morning Suffrages
136	Evening Suffrages
187	Family Prayers (Morning & Evening for a 7 day period)

The Concordia Hymnal (1932)

Page	Description
397	Orders of Service
399	Morning Service 1
408	Morning Service 2
420	Afternoon or Evening Service
422	Evening Service
426	The Church School Service
446	Prayers for Private Worship (Sunday through Saturday)

The Lutheran Hymnal (1941)

Page	Description
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Daily Prayer – Appendix A

32	Matins
41	Vespers
102	The Prayers
115	The Morning & Evening Suffrages
116	The Bidding Prayer
118	Prayers for Various Occasions (includes Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers)
120	Canticles
123	Psalms
159	Table of Lessons for Sundays, Feasts and Chief Festivals
161	Lessons for Morning and Evening
166	Table of the Psalms

The Service Book and Hymnal (1958)

Page	Description
75	The Proper of the Service (Introits, Collects, Lessons, Epistles, Graduals and Gospels)
129	Matins
141	Vespers
149	Invitories, Antiphons, and Responsories
154	The Morning Suffrages
155	The Evening Suffrages
162	The Psalms
215	The Canticles
218	Collects and Prayers
236	The Bidding Prayer
238	General Prayers
274	General Rubrics for Matins and Vespers

The Lutheran Book of Worship (1978)

Page	Description
13	Prayers of the Day, Psalms, and Lessons
42	Petitions, Intercessions, and Thanksgivings
126	Service of the Word
131	Morning Prayer (Matins)
142	Evening Prayer (Vespers)

Daily Prayer – Appendix A

154	Prayer at the Close of the Day
161	Responsive Prayer 1 (Suffrages for Morning)
164	Responsive Prayer 2 (Suffrages for other times of day)
174	Propers for Daily Prayer
215	The Psalms
293	Canticles

Lutheran Worship (1982)

Page	Description
121	Propers of the Day
124	Petitions, Intercessions and Thanksgivings
208	Matins
224	Vespers
236	Morning Prayer
250	Evening Prayer
263	Prayer at the Close of Day (Compline)
276	The Bidding Prayer
276	Suffrages (Responsive Prayers) for Morning and Evening
293	Daily Devotions for Family or Individual Use
295	Daily Lectionary
976	Hymn of the Day

The Lutheran Service Book (2006)

Page	Description
	The Psalms (pointed for singing, if desired)
219	Matins
229	Vespers
235	Morning Prayer
243	Evening Prayer
253	Compline
282	Responsive Prayer 1 (Suffrages for morning and evening)
285	Responsive Prayer 2
294	Daily Prayer – For Individuals and Families, including Prayers for Morning, Noon, Early Evening and Close of Day

Daily Prayer – Appendix A

299	Daily Lectionary
304	Table of Psalms for Daily Prayer
305	Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgivings
326	Daily Prayers – Morning and Evening, from Luther's <i>Small Catechism</i>

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Appendix B. Occasional Prayers

The Lutheran Book of Prayer (5th Edition) is an excellent source for occasional prayers. Since it is under copyright, no prayers from that book have been reproduced here. Many Lutheran hymnals also contain a large number of prayers and thanksgivings.

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Source: *Book of Common Prayer* (1979).
See also *The Lutheran Service Book* (2006), pp. 305-318.

Prayers

Prayers for the World

1. For Joy in God's Creation
2. For all Sorts and Conditions of Men
3. For the Human Family
4. For Peace
5. For Peace among the Nations
6. For our Enemies

Prayers for the Church

7. For the Church
8. For the Mission of the Church
9. For Clergy and People
10. For the Diocese
11. For the Parish
12. For a Church Convention or Meeting
13. For the Election of a Bishop or other Minister
14. For the Unity of the Church
15. For those about to be Baptized or to renew their Baptismal Covenant
16. For Monastic Orders and Vocations
17. For Church Musicians and Artists

Prayers for the Ordained Ministry are on pages 205 and 256.

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

Prayers for National Life

18. For our Country
19. For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority
20. For Congress or a State Legislature
21. For Courts of Justice
22. For Sound Government
23. For Local Government
24. For an Election
25. For those in the Armed Forces of our Country
26. For those who Suffer for the sake of Conscience

Prayers for the Social Order

27. For Social Justice
28. In Times of Conflict
29. For Agriculture
30. For the Unemployed
31. For Schools and Colleges
32. For the Good Use of Leisure
33. For Cities
34. For Towns and Rural Areas
35. For the Poor and Neglected
36. For the Oppressed
37. For Prisons and Correctional Institutions
38. For the Right Use of God's Gifts
39. For those who Influence Public Opinion

Prayers for Industry and Labor are on pages 208, 210, 259, and 261.

Prayers for the Natural Order

40. For Knowledge of God's Creation
41. For the Conservation of Natural Resources
42. For the Harvest of Lands and Waters
43. For Rain
44. For the Future of the Human Race

Prayers for Family and Personal Life

45. For Families
46. For the Care of Children
47. For Young Persons
48. For Those Who Live Alone
49. For the Aged
50. For a Birthday
51. For a Birthday
52. For the Absent

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

53. For Travelers
54. For those we Love
55. For a Person in Trouble or Bereavement
56. For the Victims of Addiction
57. For Guidance
58. For Guidance
59. For Quiet Confidence
60. For Protection
61. A Prayer of Self-Dedication
62. A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Prayers for the sick are on pages 458-461.

Prayers for the dying are on pages 462-465.

Prayers for the dead are on pages 202, 253, 487, and 503.

Other Prayers

63. In the Evening
64. Before Worship
65. For the Answering of Prayer
66. Before Receiving Communion
67. After Receiving Communion
68. After Worship
69. On Sunday
70. Grace at Meals

Prayers for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and for morning and evening, are on pages 56, 69, 98, and 123.

Thanksgivings

General Thanksgivings

1. A General Thanksgiving
 2. A Litany of Thanksgiving
- The General Thanksgiving is on pages 58 and 101.*

Thanksgivings for the Church

3. For the Mission of the Church
4. For the Saints and Faithful Departed

Thanksgivings for National Life

5. For the Nation

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

6. For Heroic Service

Thanksgiving for the Social Order

7. For the Diversity of Races and Cultures

Thanksgivings for the Natural Order

8. For the Beauty of the Earth

9. For the Harvest

Thanksgivings for Family and Personal Life

10. For the Gift of a Child

11. For the Restoration of Health

Thanksgivings for the departed are on pages 487-489 and 503-504.

The term “Various Occasions” in the following pages refers to the numbered Collects beginning on pages 199 and 251.

Page numbers refer to the 1979 edition of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

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Prayers

For use after the Collects of Morning or Evening Prayer or separately.

Prayers originally composed in traditional idiom have not been modernized; but, except in certain classical prayers which do not lend themselves to modernization, pronouns and verbs have been put in italics to assist in rendering them into contemporary speech.

Prayers for the World

1. For Joy in God’s Creation

O heavenly Father, *who hast* filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold *thy* gracious hand in all *thy* works; that, rejoicing in *thy* whole creation, we may learn to serve *thee* with gladness; for the sake of

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

him through whom all things were made, *thy* Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. For All Sorts and Conditions of Men

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; [especially those for whom our prayers are desired]; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

3. For the Human Family

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 which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

4. For Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

5. For Peace Among the Nations

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

6. For our Enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them 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 Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers for the Church

7. For the Church

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen.*

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

8. For the Mission of the Church

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

9. For Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

10. For the Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop(s) *N.* [and *N.*], and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

11. For the Congregation

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this congregation family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

12. For a Church Convention or Meeting

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel [in _____] for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

13. For the Election of a Bishop or other Minister

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese (*or*, rector for this parish), that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

14. For the Unity of the Church

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify *thee*; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

15. For those about to be Baptized or to renew their Baptismal Covenant

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

16. For Monastic Orders and Vocations

O Lord Jesus Christ, you became poor for our sake, that we might be made rich through your poverty: Guide and sanctify, we pray, those whom you call to follow you under the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, that by their prayer and service they may enrich your Church, and by their life and worship may glorify your Name; for you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

17. For Church Musicians and Artists

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers for National Life

18. For our Country

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

19. For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to *thy* merciful care, that, being guided by *thy* Providence, we may dwell secure in *thy* peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State (*or* Commonwealth), and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do *thy* will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in *thy* fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who *liveth* and *reigneth* with *thee* and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

20. For Congress or a State Legislature

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: We beseech *thee* so to guide and bless our Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled (*and* in the Legislature of this State), that they may enact such laws as shall please *thee*, to the glory of *thy* Name and the welfare of this

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

21. For Courts of Justice

Almighty God, *who sittest* in the throne judging right: We humbly beseech *thee* to bless the courts of justice and the magistrates in all this land; and give *unto* them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of *thee* alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, *thy* Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

22. For Sound Government

The responses in italics may be omitted.

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

23. For Local Government

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State (Commonwealth, City, County, Town, _____) the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

24. For an Election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States (*or* of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

25. For those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

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 which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

26. For those who suffer for the sake of Conscience

O God our Father, whose Son forgave his enemies while he was suffering shame and death: 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; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge. *Amen.*

Prayers for the Social Order

27. For Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

28. In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

29. For Agriculture

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

30. For the Unemployed

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

31. For Schools and Colleges

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities [and especially _____], that they may be lively centers 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 Lord. *Amen.*

32. For the Good Use of Leisure

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

33. For Cities

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

34. For Towns and Rural Areas

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the kingdom of God in villages, towns, and lonely places: Grant that your presence and power may be known throughout this land. Have mercy upon all of us who live and work in rural areas [especially _____]; and grant that all the people of our nation may give thanks to you for food and drink and all other bodily necessities of life, respect those who labor to produce them, and honor the land and the water from which these good things come. All this we ask in your holy Name. *Amen.*

35. For the Poor and the Neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

36. For the Oppressed

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

37. For Prisons and Correctional Institutions

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. *Amen.*

38. For the Right Use of God's Gifts

Almighty God, whose loving hand *hath* given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor *thee* with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of *thy* bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

39. For those who Influence Public Opinion

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers for the Natural Order

40. For Knowledge of God's Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

41. For the Conservation of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

42. For the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Father, *who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness*: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let *thy* Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show *thy* loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what *thou givest*, that men and women everywhere may give *thee* thanks; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

43. For Rain

O God, heavenly Father, who by *thy* Son Jesus Christ *hast* promised to all those who seek *thy* kingdom and its righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life: Send us, we entreat *thee*, in this time of need, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to *thy* honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

44. For the Future of the Human Race

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers for Family and Personal Life

45. For Families

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Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families: We commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

46. For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

47. For Young Persons

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

48. For Those Who Live Alone

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

49. For the Aged

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

50. For a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

51. For a Birthday

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

52. For the Absent

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

O God, whose fatherly care *reacheth* to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech *thee* graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to *thee*, may be bound together by *thy* love in the communion of *thy* Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of *thy* saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

53. For Travelers

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

54. For those we Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to *thy* never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that *thou art* doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

55. For a Person in Trouble or Bereavement

O merciful Father, who hast taught us in thy holy Word that thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity upon the sorrows of thy servant for whom our prayers are offered. Remember *him*, O Lord, in mercy, nourish *his* soul with patience, comfort *him* with a sense of thy goodness, lift up thy countenance upon *him*, and give *him* peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

56. For the Victims of Addiction

O blessed Lord, 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 from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. *Amen.*

57. For Guidance

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with *thy* most gracious favor, and further us with *thy* continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in *thee*, we may glorify *thy* holy Name, and finally, by *thy* mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

58. For Guidance

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

59. For Quiet Confidence

O God of peace, *who hast* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *thy* Spirit lift us, we pray *thee*, to *thy* presence, where we

Daily Prayer – Appendix B

may be still and know that *thou art* God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

60. For Protection

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of *thy* servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by *thy* gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

61. A Prayer of Self-Dedication

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

62. A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

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.*

Other Prayers

63. In the Evening

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in *thy* mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen.*

64. Before Worship

O Almighty God, *who pourest* out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to *thee*, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship *thee* in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

65. For the Answering of Prayer

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

66. Before Receiving Communion

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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67. After Receiving Communion

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy passion: Grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

68. After Worship

Grant, we beseech *thee*, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through *thy* grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of *thy* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

69. On Sunday

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

70. Grace at Meals

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all *thy* mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

or this

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

or this

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

or this

For these and all his mercies, God's holy Name be blessed and praised; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Other Prayers for the Sick

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

For Those Who Are Sick and Those Who Watch Over Them

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over

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those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

20. For the Sick

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servants, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those (or N., or NN.) for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Or this

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;
For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed
For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair
For the sorrowful and bereaved
For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

For a Sick Person

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly beseech thee to behold, visit, and relieve thy sick servant N. for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon him with the eyes of thy mercy; comfort him with a sense of thy goodness; preserve him from the temptations of the enemy; and give him patience under his affliction. In thy good time, restore him to health, and enable him to lead the residue of his life in thy fear, and to thy glory; and grant that finally he may dwell with thee in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Recovery from Sickness

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to your servant N. the help of your power, that his sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or this

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant N., that his weakness may be banished and his strength restored; and that, his health being renewed, he may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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For a Sick Child

Heavenly Father, watch with us over your child N., and grant that he may be restored to that perfect health which it is yours alone to give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or this

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

Before an Operation

Almighty God our heavenly Father, graciously comfort your servant N. in his suffering, and bless the means made use of for his cure. Fill his heart with confidence that, though at times he may be afraid, he yet may put his trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or this

Strengthen your servant N., O God, to do what he has to do and bear what he has to bear; that, accepting your healing gifts through the skill of surgeons and nurses, he may be restored to usefulness in your world with a thankful heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Strength and Confidence

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

For the Sanctification of Illness

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

For Health of Body and Soul

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

For Doctors and Nurses

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Sanctify, O Lord, those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and to the prevention of disease and pain. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that by their ministries the health of the community may be promoted and your creation glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving for a Beginning of Recovery

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

Prayers for use by a Sick Person

For Trust in God

O God, the source of all health: So fill my heart with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Pain

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

For Sleep

O heavenly Father, you give your children sleep for the refreshing of soul and body: Grant me this gift, I pray; keep me in that perfect peace which you have promised to those whose minds are fixed on you; and give me such a sense of your presence, that in the hours of silence I may enjoy the blessed assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

In the Morning

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

For All Who Mourn

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Almighty God, look with pity upon the sorrows of your servants for whom we pray. Remember them, Lord, in mercy; nourish them with patience; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon them; and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Thanksgivings

General Thanksgivings

1. A General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

2. A Litany of Thanksgiving

For optional use on Thanksgiving Day, in place of the Prayers of the People at the Eucharist, or at any time after the Collects at Morning or Evening Prayer, or separately.

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord.

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For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Thanksgivings for the Church

3. For the Mission of the Church

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. *Amen.*

4. For the Saints and Faithful Departed

See also the prayer "O God, the King of Saints," page 489 and 504.

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past: for Abraham, the father of believers, and Sarah his wife; for Moses, the lawgiver, and Aaron, the priest; for Miriam and Joshua, Deborah and Gideon, and Samuel with Hannah his mother; for Isaiah and all the prophets; for Mary, the mother of our Lord; for Peter and Paul and all the apostles; for Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene; for Stephen, the first martyr, and all the martyrs and saints in every age and in every land. In your mercy, O Lord our God, give us, as you gave to them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first-born of many from the dead. *Amen.*

Thanksgivings for National Life

5. For the Nation

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Almighty God, giver of all good things:

We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.
Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.
Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.
Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.
Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.
Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. *Amen.*

6. For Heroic Service

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving for the Social Order

7. For the Diversity of Races and Cultures

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thanksgivings for the Natural Order

8. For the Beauty of the Earth

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.

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Amen.

9. For the Harvest

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seedtime and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all the other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. *Amen.*

Thanksgivings for Family and Personal Life

10. For the Gift of a Child

See also the Thanksgiving for a Child on page 439.

Heavenly Father, you sent your own Son into this world. We thank you for the life of this child, *N.*, entrusted to our care. Help us to remember that we are all your children, and so to love and nurture *him*, that *he* may attain to that full stature intended for *him* in your eternal kingdom; for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

11. For the Restoration of Health

Almighty God and heavenly Father, we give *thee* humble thanks because *thou hast* been graciously pleased to deliver from *his* sickness *thy* servant *N.*, in whose behalf we bless and praise *thy* Name. Grant, O gracious Father, that *he*, through *thy* help, may live in this world according to *thy* will, and also be partaker of everlasting glory in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Appendix C. Canticles

The Contents:

- “*The Song of Moses - Cantemus Domino*” (a selection from Exodus 15),
- “*The First Song of Isaiah - Ecce, Deus*” (Isaiah 12:2-6),
- “*The Second Song of Isaiah, Quaerite Dominum*” (Isaiah 55:6-11),
- “*The Third Song of Isaiah - Surge, illuminare*” (a selection from Isaiah 60),
- “*A Song of Creation – Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*” (Song of the Three Young Men, Isaiah 60:35-65),
- “*A Song of Praise – Benedictus es, Domine*” (Song of the Three Young Men, Exodus 60:29-34),
- “*A Song of Penitence – Kyrie Pantokrator*” (Prayer of Manasseh),
- “*The Song of Mary – Magnificat*”. (Luke 1:46-55).
- “*The Song of Zechariah - Benedictus Dominus Deus*” (Luke 1: 68-79)
- “*The Song of Simeon - Nunc dimittis*” (Luke 2:29-32)
- “*A Song to the Lamb - Dignus es*” (Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13)
- “*The Song of the Redeemed - Magna et mirabilia*” (Revelation 15:3-4)
- “*Glory to God - Gloria in excelsis*”
- “*You are God - Te Deum laudamus*”

8 The Song of Moses *Cantemus Domino*

Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18

Especially suitable for use in Easter Season

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.
This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been
drowned in the Red Sea.
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

9 The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce, Deus*

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

10 The Second Song of Isaiah *Quaerite Dominum*

Isaiah 55:6-11

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *

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call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

11 The Third Song of Isaiah *Surge, illuminare*

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

Daily Prayer – Appendix C

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

12 A Song of Creation *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

One or more sections of this Canticle may be used. Whatever the selection, it begins with the Invocation and concludes with the Doxology.

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

I The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.
Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

II The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Daily Prayer – Appendix C

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

III The People of God

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Doxology

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

13 A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine*

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Daily Prayer – Appendix C

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

14 A Song of Penitence *Kyrie Pantokrator*

Prayer of Manasseh, 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

Especially suitable in Lent, and on other penitential occasions

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

Daily Prayer – Appendix C

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

16 The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Luke 1: 68-79

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

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

Daily Prayer – Appendix C

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

17 The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis*

Luke 2:29-32

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

18 A Song to the Lamb *Dignus es*

Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13

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

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

19 The Song of the Redeemed *Magna et mirabilia*

Revelation 15:3-4

Daily Prayer – Appendix C

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, *
O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

20 **Glory to God** *Gloria in excelsis*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.

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.

21 **You are God** *Te Deum laudamus*

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:

Daily Prayer – Appendix C

All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

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Appendix D. Julian L. Freeman, “Luther On Prayer”

Luther on Prayer

Pastor Julian L. Freeman

<http://julianfreeman.ca/articles/martin-luther-prayer>

Version 3, Jul 30, 2008 8:57 AM

An analysis of Luther's writing as they relate to prayer.

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