

Prayer for Unity of the Church

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace to take serious the dangers of unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and harmony; 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 You; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who created family: We commend to Your continual care the homes in which Your people dwell. Put far from us, every root of bitterness, the desire of personal glory, and the pride of life. Fill us 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 stir in us, fervent charity among us all, that we may always be kindly affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, who has 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.

Prayer for our Young People

God our heavenly Father, look with mercy upon Your children growing up amidst the confusion of the world: Show them that Your way gives more life than the ways of the world, and that following You is better than seeking selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a time for a new beginning. Give them strength to hold their faith in You, and to keep alive their joy in Your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those that 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.

Prayer for the Elderly

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

Prayer after the study of God's Word

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

Prayer on Sunday

God our Father, who by the resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, did conquer sin, put death to flight, and give us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive us our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise You, to be generous for You and to do Your will; and strengthen us to wait for the consummation of Your kingdom on the last great Day, through the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Joy in God's Creation

Heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold Your gracious hand in all Your works; that, rejoicing in Your whole creation, we may learn to serve You with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer 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 Your people may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for our Enemies

God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead us all from prejudice to truth; deliver us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in Your good time enable each of us to stand reconciled before You; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Mission of the Church

Almighty God, who has given unto Your Son Jesus Christ the Name which is above every name, and has taught us that there is salvation in none other: Mercifully grant that as Your faithful people have comfort and peace in his Name, we may ever labor to publish this unto all nations; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for the Poor and Neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before You all who are poor and neglected. Help us to be ever mindful of the needs of the homeless and the destitute, the aged and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Lay Your healing power upon those who are broken in body, mind or spirit, and turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, O Father, for the love of Your only Son, who for our sake became poor, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for Prisons and Correctional Institutions

Lord Jesus, who for our sake was condemned and put to death on the cross: Visit, we ask You, all jails and prisons with Your mercy and judgment. Remember all prisoners; 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 and teach us Your justice. Grant to those who work in these institutions compassion and mercy, and save them from hardness of heart. Help us to remember that what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for You. All this we ask for Your tender mercy's sake. Amen.

Prayers for the Right Use of God's Gifts

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

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that 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 Holy 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.