



PRAYER BOOKLET

*Prayers compiled by the Hospitality Team
of the
Shared Lutheran Ministry of Fayette County*

PRAYERS FOR DAILY LIFE

Prayer for Schools

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

Lutheran Book of Worship

Prayer for Young People

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an uncertain 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 an opportunity for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you and to keep alive their joy in your creation; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Worship

Prayer for Elderly and Alone

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

Lutheran Book of Worship

Prayer for God's Protection

Dear Lord, watch with those who wake or watch or weep, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, rest the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. In your love, give us all this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Worship

O Most Loving Father, you want me to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing except losing you, and to lay all my cares on you. I trust that you care for me. Protect me from faithless fears and worldly anxieties. Give me peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer for Daily Work

Almighty God, our Lord Jesus toiled at his work as a carpenter and dignified our labor. Bless those who work in the fields, that the earth will be fruitful. Bless those who work in commerce and industry, that our nation will be productive. Bless those whose work is helping others, that all people may receive your care. Bless me in my job that I may do my work well, lifting my work up to your glory. May you be praised in all I do. Amen.



Prayer for Peace

O God, it is your will that we live in harmony with you and with others. Where there is conflict, hatred and discord, sow seeds of your love. Through your love bring peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts. Amen.



Prayer for Civil Authority

O Lord our governor, your glory shines throughout the world. We commend our nation to your merciful care, that we may live securely in peace and may be guided by your providence. Give all in authority the wisdom and strength to know your will and to do it. Help them remember that they are called to serve the people as lovers of truth and justice. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Worship



Prayer for the Church

Gracious Father, I pray for your holy church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Bless our bishop and pastors that they may lead the church according to the example of Christ. Bless our council members that they may make decisions for the good of the church and to glorify you. Bless each member to be the hands of Christ in the world. Lead me to do my part so that all may come to know the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYERS WHEN TIMES ARE DIFFICULT

Prayer in Anger

Lord, grant that anger or other bitterness does not reign over us, but that by your grace, genuine kindness, loyalty, and every kind of friendliness, generosity, and gentleness may reign in us. Amen. *Martin Luther*



Prayer for God's Strength

O Lord, whose power to heal was tested against the power which destroys, and proved stronger: open our eyes to the signs of your strength in this modern world, and open our hearts to the Kingdom of God, which has come upon us; through the power your Spirit. Amen. *Susan Williams*



Prayer for Peace

Lord, lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.
Peace. Peace. Peace.

Satish Kumar



Prayer When Forgiveness is Hard

Think of the person you wish to forgive and breathe this prayer slowly, bringing each image to mind:

Lord, help me see him/her as you do.

I find it hard to forgive this person.

Please enable me to forgive.

(Name) I bless you and release you to the Holy Spirit.

Lord, you have forgiven me. Help me to forgive.

Prayer for Facing Death

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and 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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Henry Newman



Prayer for Bearing Burdens

Give me, Lord, a stout heart to bear my own burdens, a tender heart to bear the burdens of others and a believing heart to lay all my burdens on you, for you care for us. Amen.

Lesslie Newbigin



Prayer for Renewal of Faith

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up the embers of my faith. Rekindle the joy I have known in you. Send your Spirit as a tongue of fire to burn brightly in me and through me. May I grow in love toward you and toward my neighbor. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference.

Reinhold Niebuhr

FAMOUS PRAYERS BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

Prayer of St. Augustine

God of our life,
There are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down;
When the road seems dreary and endless,
The skies gray and threatening;
When our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage.
Flood the path with light, we beseech Thee;
Turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise;
Tune our hearts to brave music;
Give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age;
And so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road to life, to Thy honor and glory.



Prayer of 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.

Luther's Morning Prayer

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you 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 you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.



Luther's Evening Prayer

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



Bonhoeffer's Morning Prayer

O God, early in the morning I cry to you.
Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you; I cannot do this alone.

In me there is darkness, but with you there is light;
I am lonely, but you do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;
I am restless, but with you there is peace.

In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;
I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me.

O heavenly Father, I praise and thank you for the peace of the night;
I praise and thank you for this new day;
I praise and thank you for all your goodness and faithfulness throughout my life.

You have granted me many blessings;
Now let me also accept what is hard from your hand...
You make all things work together for good for your children. Amen.

Albert Schweitzer's Prayer for Animals

Hear our humble prayer, O God,
For our friends, the animals, especially for those who are suffering;
For animals that are overworked, underfed, and cruelly treated;
For all the wistful creatures in captivity, that beat their wings against bars;
For any that are hunted or lost or deserted, or frightened or hungry;
For all that must be put to death.

We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,
And for those who deal with them,
We ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words.
Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals
And so to share the blessings of the Merciful. Amen.



Lord's Prayer (traditional)

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 forever and ever.
Amen.



Lord's Prayer (contemporary)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

BEDTIME PRAYERS

Dear Jesus, hear our prayer tonight.
Keep us safe 'til morning light.
You've done our care this day
At home, school, work and play.
Bless our home and friends so dear.
Help us know that you are near. Amen.



Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take. Amen.



Heavenly Father, I say a prayer for Your protection to send angels to me
with love and attention. Keep me safe and those I love, as You watch us
from above. Amen.



Dear God, In the darkness of this hour I praise You. For You make evening
flow. As I slip into a state of rest and renewal, bless me with sweet
dreams. Wake me in the morning to see your splendor another day. Amen.

TABLE PRAYERS

Table Grace (German)

Komm, Herr Jesu, sei unser Gast
Und segne, was Du uns Bescheret hast. Amen.



Table Grace (English)

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest
And let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.



Other Table Prayers

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest
And let these gifts to us be blessed.
And may there be a goodly share
On every table everywhere. Amen.



Be present at our table, Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless and grant that we
May strengthened for Thy service be. Amen.



For health and strength and daily bread
We give Thee thanks, O Lord. Amen.



God is great, God is good, And we thank Him for our food.
By His hand we all are fed, Give us, Lord, our daily bread. Amen.



Lord we thank you for the food before us,
The friends beside us, the love between us
And your presence among us. Amen.

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts
Which we are about to receive from Thy bounty;
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Luther's Table Prayer

How the Head of the Family, Should Teach the Household to Ask God's Blessing and to Give Thanks

The Table Blessing

The children and servants should present themselves before the table with folded hands and good manners and say:

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and gratify everything that lives with satisfaction.

Then they should say the Lord's Prayer and the following prayer:

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these gifts you have given us, which we enjoy from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



The Prayer of Thanks

So too after the meal they should likewise fold their hands and politely say:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is kind and his goodness endures forever. He gives food to all flesh. He gives the cattle their fodder, and feeds the young ravens who call on him. He does not take delight in the strength of the steed or take pleasure in the speed of a runner. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him and who wait upon his goodness.

Then they should say the Lord's Prayer and the following prayer:

We thank you, Lord God our Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all the favor you show us, you who live and reign forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF COMMITMENT AND THANKSGIVING

O God, You are my reason for being. You are why I wake up each day, and sleep peacefully each night. Every single second is a sacred moment as I live utterly devoted to You. Amen.



Dear God,
Work Your wonders. May the sun bring me new energy by day, and the moon softly restore my soul by night. Let rain wash away worry and the breeze blow new strength into my being. I will walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of my life. I give you thanks for your wonders. Amen.



Prayer of Personal Thanksgiving

For all the good things I do have and
For all the good things I have had and
For all the good things I will have,
For what I am, for what I have been, for what I can be, for what I shall be,
Thank you, God. Amen.

Joan Bel Geddes



Prayer of Well-being

My mind is happy today in the thought that I am God's child in God's world to do God's work within God's will.

This is to be a day of joy and optimism and courage. From all negative thoughts my mind resolutely turns away.

The spirit of God is working in my body to bring health, and in my mind to bring serenity, and I am one with that Spirit. I am not apart from, or disapproved of, or turned away by, God.

I affirm the reality of health and peace and love within me because God dwells therein.

Leslie Weatherhead

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS

Bedtime

Guard and keep me through the night and
Wake me with the morning light. Amen.



Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep
May God guard me through the night
And wake me with the morning light. Amen.



Father, we thank thee for the night,
And for the pleasant morning light;
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the day so fair.



Daily Prayer

Help us to do the things we should,
To be to others kind and good;
In all we do, in work or play,
To grow more loving every day. Amen.



God in heaven hear my prayer,
keep me in thy loving care.
Be my guide in all I do,
Bless all those who love me too. Amen.



Table Grace

We thank you Lord, for happy hearts,
For rain and sunny weather.
We thank you, Lord, for this our food,
And that we are together. Amen.

Table Grace (Johnny Appleseed)

Oh, the Lord is good to me
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need
The sun and the rain and the apple seed.
The Lord is good to me. Amen.



Morning Prayer

Now, before I run to play,
Let me not forget to pray
To God who kept me through the night
And woke me with the morning light.
Help me, Lord, to love you more
Than I ever loved before,
In my work and in my play
Please be with me through the day. Amen.



Prayer for Parents

Dear Jesus, You had a Mom and Dad who loved you and took care of you and you have given me loving parents, too. Bless my parents. Keep them healthy and strong. Give them patience and peace. Bless us with love. Amen.



Prayer for Family

Dear Jesus, I pray for everyone in my family – grandparents, parents, sisters/brothers. May we treat each other with love. May we bless each other as you bless us. Amen.



Prayer for Friends

Lord Jesus, I am glad that I have friends. We have fun and we care for each other. We laugh together and cry together. We stand up for each other. Help me be a good friend, one who can be trusted. And make my friends trustworthy, too. Amen.

Prayer for Bullies

Jesus, you told us to pray for those who hurt us but that's really hard. Take away the evil that bullies do. Make them nice. And help me to forgive. Keep me safe from words and actions that hurt me. I love you and trust you. Amen.



For a Lost Pet

Father in heaven,
We ask you to help us find _____,
Our dear pet who is now lost.
We know that you place animals on earth
For many reasons,
Including friendship for children and families.
We therefore ask you to help us find our lost friend,
And pray that You will keep him (her) safe
And protect him (her) from harm until he (she) is found.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pet Blessing

Dear God, protect and bless all beings that breathe, keep all evil from them, and let them sleep in peace. Amen.

Albert Schweitzer



Dear God, you take such good care of me. Help me to take good care of my pet. Bless its food and keep it safe from other animals. Keep it healthy. Bless us with many hours of fun together. Amen.



For Sick Pet

God of healing, please comfort and strengthen (pet's name) during his/her illness. Ease his/her fear and pain, and guide the vet and all caring for him/her, that he/she may recover fully. Comfort us, too, God, that we may better care for (name) and make decisions that are best for him/her. We pray for other animals in need, that they will have someone who loves them and cares for them; in Jesus' name, Amen.



Dear Jesus, we have done our best to care for (pet's name). Take care of him/her. Take care of us, too, because we are so sad and we love our pet. Please make him/her well and strong again. Amen.



When a Pet Dies

Dear Jesus, we are so sad. Our (pet) has died and we will miss him/her. Take him/her to heaven where he/she will be full of life again. Bless us with good memories and give us peace. Amen.



Prayer for Kindness

O God, Teach us to treat each other as carefully as a mother hen sits on her eggs, Or a cow nudges her newborn calf on wobbly legs. May our behavior, toward each other and toward You, Be woven with gentleness through and through. May our words be as comforting as a kitten's purr and as soft as a rabbit's fur. Amen.

