

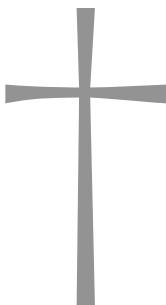
My Prayer Book

Presented to

By



My Prayer Book





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PREFACE

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

HEBREWS 4:16

What comfort it is to know that we have a gracious Lord who receives our sighs, our groans, our concerns, and yes, our prayers. The wording of our prayer is of secondary importance. Indeed, Jesus once indicated that words are not even necessary for an acceptable prayer. “Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8).

St. James writes, “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working” (James 5:16). This is more than a striking sentence or a beautifully phrased paragraph. Faith in God, to whom we pray, is more important than the

wording of the prayer. “Let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord” (James 1:6–7).

Words, however, give expression to what is in our hearts. When, therefore, Jesus’ disciples asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray,” the Master gave them the words of the model prayer, the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus Himself poured out His heart to His heavenly Father in words of a long prayer on the night in which He began His suffering for our redemption (John 17).

In adding this revised *My Prayer Book* to the abundance of devotional and prayer books published over the years, it is our hope not only to have provided acceptable, prepared prayers but also to have offered suitable prayer patterns to aid those who find it difficult to express what is in their hearts as they face the problems and temptations, the joys and sorrows, the successes and disappointments of life.



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 forever and ever. Amen.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come 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.

MORNING & EVENING
PRAYERS



LUTHER'S MORNING
AND EVENING PRAYERS

Morning Prayer

In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also 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 every evil, 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, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest.

Evening Prayer

In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also 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 that You would 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, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.

FIRST WEEK

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

Sunday Morning

“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth” (Ps 8:1)! When You proclaimed Your name to Your chosen people at Mount Sinai, You revealed Yourself as “merciful and gracious, slow to anger” and “forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin” (Ex 34:6–7). In the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You gave Him the name above every name: the name *Jesus*, the Lord saves. Heavenly Father, for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, forgive all my sins. Grant my heart a true contrition and repentance for all the times this week I have lived contrary to Your Holy Word. I have often dishonored the name of Christ, which was given me in my Baptism, and I do not deserve to be called Your child. Yet while I have not lived up to Your name, Jesus has lived up to His. He has died for my sins and risen from the dead to be my advocate, my friend, and my brother. So be merciful to me, Lord God. Help me receive Your Means of Grace this day in faith for

the salvation of my soul. Strengthen me through Your Word and Sacrament to strive after a holy life that brings glory to Your name. And teach me rightly to confess and proclaim the saving name of Jesus. I ask this in the name and for the sake of Your own Son, my dear Lord Jesus. Amen.

Sunday Evening

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, my Savior, I am called by Your name in Holy Baptism, through which I was made a Christian. By Your name and in my Baptism, I have been rescued from all my ills, delivered from the devil's domain, and granted victory over the grave. In the same way, Your apostles healed the sick, cast out demons, and raised the dead—all by the power of Your name. Here in this age, Your holy name unites Your Church on earth, and on the Last Day, Your holy, precious name will cause every knee to bow. In the life eternal that is mine through Your death and resurrection, I will join all my fellow believers in praising Your name. So I ask You to give me true peace this night. While others trust in rituals and superstitions to keep them safe, I rest alone

in the power of Your name. Protect and refresh my body, mind, and spirit through the hours I am asleep, and let me rise in the morning ready to bear Your name with all faithfulness. Send Your Holy Spirit to preserve and keep me in the true faith every day of the week to come that I may love and serve the neighbors I meet in all my callings. In Your most holy name I pray. Amen.

THY KINGDOM COME

Monday Morning

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of David, Your eternal throne in heaven fulfills the promise made to Your father David. The visions of Holy Scripture depict that throne in utmost glory, yet You arrived at Your heavenly coronation by way of humility, meekness, mercy, and grace. You were born not in a palace but in a low estate. You rode no war-horse into the city of Jerusalem but a humble donkey, as Solomon before You. In love for Your own people, You submitted to the earthly authority of Pontius Pilate and were crucified with a crown of thorns and purple robes of mockery. Yet how true were the words posted above Your crucified head,

“Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” Now You are risen, ascended and reigning with all authority in heaven and on earth. As my heavenly King, send Your Word and Spirit to conquer whatever regions of my heart I have withheld from the righteous reign of Your kingdom of grace. With Your wisdom that exceeds that of Solomon, rule over my mind, which is darkened by worldly thoughts. In Your goodness and love, direct and order all my ways that I may sincerely believe and live a godly life before You this and every day. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Monday Evening

O Lord Most High, You are “a great king over all the earth” (Ps 47:2). All our efforts to produce, protect, and provide for the land are futile and vain if You, Lord, do not bless them. In Your mercy and might, You uphold the earth and the sea and everything in them. You even direct the sun and the moon of the heavens to run their course. Even while we mortals sleep, You watch over us and give growth to the rich natural resources You have designed for our benefit. From the original

six days of creation until the Last Day when Your Son returns in glory, You uphold all things in Your righteous right hand. Protect me during the hours of this night from all physical harm. In mercy, forgive all my transgressions of Your Holy Law. Draw me close to Your Son, whose death on the cross has vanquished all my foes. Deliver me from temptation and any danger to my soul. Reign supreme in my heart and life through Your Holy Word. As You have rescued me from the power of the devil through Holy Baptism, and if it be Your will, raise me up in the morning to serve You with joy and gladness, trusting You will direct and bless the end results, for the sake of Your dear Son, my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THY WILL BE DONE
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Tuesday Morning

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in perfect righteousness, You always do the will of Your Father. He desires no one be lost but that every sinner believe in Your redeeming death on the cross. As the very Lamb of God, You took

away my sins and carried them to Golgotha to pay the debt I owed. You graciously gave up Your life and took it up again, rising on Easter morning. In order to do Your Father's will, You sent Your apostles out with the command to baptize and teach the Word to the whole world. And You send Your Holy Spirit into the hearts of sinners like me to create faith by the hearing of the Good News. By Your mighty work, I am saved rather than lost. Enlighten my heart with Your Word and Spirit to recognize the snares of the devil that are in my path this day. Bind me to You and protect me from anyone and anything that desires to separate me from Your kingdom. Rescue me from my sin and the weakness of my flesh. Give me the will and desire to love You more. Rebuke, correct, and train my heart to reject the false gods that seek to usurp Your dominion over my life. As surely as Your will is done in heaven, let it be done in my life here and now. In Your most holy name I pray. Amen.

Tuesday Evening

O Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You” (Ps 16:2). Your good work of creation was motivated by love, not vanity. Out of love for Your creatures, You established the course of the sun, moon, and stars to order our days, months, and years. For our sake, You created fruit trees and vegetation to feed us with Your providence. All You designed was ordered for our benefit, “and behold, it was very good!” (Gen 1:31). Even after creation was corrupted by Adam and Eve’s fall into sin, You, in Your good will, planned for our salvation. You gave Your good and perfect Law to Your people so we would recognize our sin and be led by Your good Spirit to repentance. You gave Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to preach the Good News of our salvation. In faith, I cling to Him for rescue. Instead of being cruel, exacting, and vengeful, You are the God who “instructs sinners in the way” (Ps 25:8). So teach me, dear Lord, to see Your good will toward me. Instruct me in Your way of repentance and faith. Show me my sins committed this day and reveal all the ways I have failed to serve You. Work contrition

and repentance in my heart, for it is good for me to be afflicted in that way. Then, when my heart for sorrow breaks, send the liberating Word of my Savior to break the bondage of sin. In this way, restore to me the joy of Your salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Wednesday Morning

O Father in heaven, You make the “sun rise on the evil and on the good, and [send] rain on the just and on the unjust” (Mt 5:45). Despite the many sins and failures of Your chosen Israel, You mercifully provided for them during their whole forty years of wandering in the wilderness with Moses. And Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ, not only fed more than five thousand with bread and fish but He also taught them the truth that He is the bread of life. With the same loving mercy, You teach us not to worry or be anxious about anything, for even the birds of the air and the grass of the field are tended and nourished by Your fatherly hand. In Your eyes, I am more valuable than they, so calm my heart and mind, which

so often wander into anxiety, doubt, and fear. When I worry about the cares of this life, quiet my troubled soul and redirect me to You, who longs to hear such prayers. Remind me of Your love and providence for all people, even sinners such as me. Help me also learn the virtue of contentment, recognizing the many great blessings You have given me already and having a thankful and cheerful heart at all times. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Wednesday Evening

O Lord Jesus, true bread of life from heaven (Jn 6), whoever eats Your flesh in true faith will live forever. In Your death, You gave up Your flesh for the life of the world, and as a grain of wheat must die and be buried to become fruitful (Jn 12:24), so, too, You were killed and buried in a tomb only to be raised as the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Cor 15). Now that You have come into Your kingdom, You preserve Your Church on earth through the breaking of the bread in the Sacrament You instituted on the night when You were betrayed. In this breaking of the bread, we have

the very communion in Your body (1 Cor 10:16). Under the simple bread and wine, You give Your own body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. This evening, forgive me once more, dear Lord. For all the sins I have committed against You this day, cleanse me. Nourish my soul with Your Word of truth so my faith may grow stronger. Feed me with Your Holy Word so my hope may grow more secure. Satisfy my hunger and thirst for Your righteousness so my life may give daily evidence of the faith You have created. In Your name I pray. Amen.

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE
WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US

Thursday Morning

O God, “who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression” (Micah 7:18)? If my sins were few or insignificant, then Your merciful pardon would not be so remarkable, but I know they are many and great. Your Law shows me how many my sins are, and the price of their remission—the blood of Your only-begotten

Son—shows me how serious they are. Who else but You, the God of love and compassion, would sacrifice so much for poor, miserable sinners? Yes, the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus, shows the severity of my sin but also the great depth of Your love and grace. As surely as He is risen from the dead, I can be certain that the debt I owed was paid in full. As proof that I will stand before You on the Last Day justified, You have even provided the Means of Grace. Your Word and Sacraments comfort my terrified conscience when I begin to fear the eternal condemnation my sins deserve. As this new day begins, renew me with Your steadfast love. Wipe away my sin according to the promise You have made to me in my Baptism into Christ. Graciously give me newness of life this day that I may walk before You free of guilt and strive to serve You wholly. For Jesus' sake and in His name I pray. Amen.

Thursday Evening

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, You have graciously died for all my sins, but not mine alone. Yes, Your bloody death atones for the sins

of the whole world. As surely as You would have all nations baptized (Mt 28:19) and Your preachers go out into all creation (Mk 16:15), You Yourself show the universality of Your Gospel. The sins of every last sinner were paid for at Your cross. My sins were atoned for, and also the sins of those who have sinned against me. Oh, Lord Jesus, without the shining light of Your merciful face, I would perish in an instant, so be merciful to those who have wronged me, and teach me Your mercy. As You have promised to forgive all my sins, help me forgive others. Let me see their sins on Your cross so that I always see You as my Savior—and theirs. Take away from me all bitterness that would withhold Your grace from them. Extinguish in me the desire for revenge. Kindle within my heart a zealous hunger to see their repentance and faith. Unite my heart and will to Yours. Help me work and pray and speak in such a way that they, too, may know the same love You have shown me. Give us joy shared together in the communion of Your saints. In Your most precious name I pray. Amen.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Friday Morning

O Lord, faithful God, You gave Your Holy Law not to ensnare or torment us but to show us pure righteousness. Yet the sinful nature inherited from Adam seizes the opportunity in me to act on temptation and disobey. You promise in Your Word that You will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability and that You graciously provide a way out (1 Cor 10:13). In His earthly ministry, Your Son, our dear Lord Jesus, resisted the devil over forty long days and nights of fasting and struggle (Mt 4:1–11). By triumphing in perfect righteousness and then humbly suffering and dying on the cross, He has won for me and all believers the forgiveness of our many and grievous sins. He grants me new life through the water and Word of Holy Baptism. And in His Gospel, I find the power of God to my salvation (Rom 1:16). As this new day begins, increase my love for Your Word, for it is a light to my path and the way out of temptation's many snares. Through Your Means of Grace, increase my strength to stand

firm in the confession of Christ, for Your Holy Word and Sacraments alone can remove me from the darkness of the devil and the world and set me firm upon the rock that is Christ. Put to death all the sinful passions that remain in my flesh so that I may desire only those things pleasing to You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Friday Evening

O Jesus Christ, my teacher and friend, You know all things, and nothing I have thought, said, or done this day is hidden from You. I have given into temptation. I have done things I knew were wrong, and I have failed to do countless good deeds even when I recognized the need and had opportunity to help. I have spoken words I knew were impure and held my tongue when I should have spoken true and righteous words. I have thought only of myself and paid little concern to the needs of others. In all this, I have harmed my neighbors and failed to love You. Your Word has taught me what is good, right, and true, and yet I have gone astray countless times. Even worse than all this, by my words and deeds, I have

tempted others to sin. Have mercy on me, dear Lord. Rescue me from my sin. Protect my family and friends who have witnessed my sins that they may not be led astray by my failures but instead may follow Your Word, for Your Word is truth. Let us grow in faith and love for one another that sin may have no hold over us but that our lives, our families, and our communities may be filled with Christians who call one another to repentance and encourage one another with the most comforting words of Your forgiveness. In Your most holy name I pray. Amen.

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Saturday Morning

O Lord, You are “my rock and my fortress and my deliverer” (Ps 18:2). You gave Your servant David rest from Saul’s pursuit and delivered him from the hands of his many enemies. You rescued Your apostle Paul from many trials but also gave boldness to him and all Your holy martyrs who confessed the faith, suffered all, even death, and have received the crown of life. You are a mighty fortress for all who trust in You. When

I am afraid, You invite me to come to You for strong protection. When I am convicted of sin, You call me to repentance and offer grace, mercy, and peace for all offenses. When I am in any trouble, You bid me come to You for help. With great love and patience, You hear the prayers of all who call on You in faith. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and listen to my cries for mercy. Protect me this day from the devil and all his flaming darts. Deliver me from the dangers of this life that would afflict my body, and rescue me from any evil that would lead my soul away from You. Thwart the plans of the devil to destroy my faith and grant me even more of Your Word and Spirit so I may cling to You at all times. And finally, at my life's end, take me up from this valley of sorrow to Yourself in heaven. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Saturday Evening

Lord Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world, the days are very evil. Satan seems to have so many victories, both in the events I see unfolding around the world and among my close family and friends. Even my sins that I have committed this

day testify to his seeming triumph. Yet You are my Lord, and Your mighty arm has worked salvation already. Your death on the cross has crushed the head of the ancient serpent. You have conquered the grave in Your resurrection. As Your teaching and miracles show, You are the only true God, the one who rules with all authority in heaven and on earth, and in Your righteous reign, You have made my salvation from sin Your heartfelt desire. So Christ, my mighty Savior, deliver me this night from all the evils of my life. By the power of Your Holy Gospel, forgive my sins. By Your love, keep me in Your tender care. With Your Holy Spirit, awaken both my body and my soul in the morning to gladly hear and learn Your Word as my pastor preaches. Nourish my soul with the Sacrament of Your body and blood. By these gifts of Your infinite grace, cast down the mighty evil one from his throne and show Yourself once more to be our conqueror, our Redeemer, and the friend of sinners. In Your name I pray. Amen.

SECOND WEEK

Sunday Morning

Lord Jesus Christ, I thank and praise You for bringing me safely to the beginning of a new day. Today, as Your Word is being faithfully preached and Your Holy Sacraments are being given to Your people, grant me ears to hear Your Word. Grant me grace to see my sins and in repentance and faith confess them to You. Empty me of my pride, vanity, and arrogance. Then, as You have promised, create in me a new heart. Renew a spirit of faithfulness in me. Forgive me all my sins. Feed me and nourish me with Your very body and blood. Let me bask in the light of Your presence and depart in Your steadfast love, mercy, and peace, knowing my sins are forgiven, You are with me always, and I have eternal life in Your name.

Strengthen my faith, day by day, O Lord, that I may fervently trust in You alone. Turn my heart away from laziness and apathy of Your Holy Word. Create in me a hunger and thirst for Your righteousness so that I return to Your Word and Sacrament each week and there receive the fruits