



Presented to

From

Date

Let this be for you an encouragement, that with all diligence and earnestness it may become your habit to pray. For next to the preaching of the Gospel, in which God speaks with us and gives us all His grace and blessings, the highest and foremost work we can do is to speak with Him through prayer and receive from Him what He gives us. We have this great need of prayer, for by it we are truly able to keep what we have and to defend it against our enemies—the devil and the world. By our prayer we seek and find what we are to receive. Therefore prayer becomes our comfort, strength, and consolation, as well as our protection against all enemies and our victory over them.

—Martin Luther

Exposition of John 16:23, 1537

Lutheran
BOOK of PRAYER





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Preface

This new edition of *Lutheran Book of Prayer* is issued with the conviction that prayers of Christians are not futile gestures or mere pious exercises, but mighty means by which we call upon God for help and strength for the various needs of faith and life. The words of promise "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15) are one of the foundation stones on which this work is based.

This collection of prayers is not published with the design of curtailing or stifling the praises and petitions that Christians formulate when they appear before God. Rather, it is intended to stimulate and aid such praying and to assist believers in making their whole life one of communion with the Father in heaven. Many Christians, when meditating on the situation in which they are placed, desire to have some thoughts, words, and phrases suggested in which their inmost longing can become definite and articulate. To meet such desires these prayers are offered.

This edition again includes a selection of psalms not only to place some of these divine gems directly

into your hands but also to draw attention to the prayer book of the Holy Scriptures, with which no child of God can become too familiar. Luther's Small Catechism is included in the hope that its constant prayerful perusal will keep alive in you the intimate acquaintance with the basic Christian truths that all disciples of Jesus desire to possess.

This new edition reflects the long tradition of *Lutheran Book of Prayer* and draws strongly on the prayers, resources, and topics seen from the earliest editions. Also included here for the first time are several newly written prayers as well as prayers and devotions freshly translated and adapted from a variety of beloved Lutheran prayer books from previous generations.

It is the publisher's hope that all who use this *Lutheran Book of Prayer* will find fulfilled for themselves the Savior's gracious promise "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

GOD'S COMMAND AND PROMISE
REGARDING PRAYER



Dear Lord! You know that I cannot come before You on account of my own self, my presumption or my worthiness. Just as I might desire to look upon You, yet in the same way I would not be permitted to do so and would not even know how I might begin to pray. Nevertheless I do come before You because You Yourself have commanded it and You earnestly encourage that we should call upon You. You have even pledged a promise. You sent Your own Son, He who teaches us what we should pray, and You have promised to give us the words that we use in prayer. Therefore I know that such prayer indeed pleases You, and that my claim, that I may commend myself as a child of God before You, as great as that may seem, comes from the fact that I must obey You as You would have it. May I never inflict lies upon You and through other and greater sins trespass against You, thereby despising Your command and rejecting the gift of faith in Your promise. (1)

—Martin Luther

Prayers
for
MORNING & EVENING

General Prayer

FOR MORNING*



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

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. (2)

—Martin Luther

*Let each day begin with prayer,
Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care,
He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night
Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might,
With His presence cheer you.
(LSB 869:2)*

General Prayer

FOR EVENING*



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

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. (3)

—Martin Luther

*My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may He send you
And bid His hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.*

(LSB 880:5)

*From Luther's Small Catechism.

Sunday

MORNING



Lord God, You are the Almighty One who fills all Eternity and whose name is holy. Yet You have assured us that You dwell with each baptized believer in Christ. On this first day of the week, I pray that all who hear Your holy Word would experience the fulfillment of that promise.

By Your holy Gospel enter my heart and make it Your own dwelling place. As Your holy Word is being preached and Your holy Sacraments given to me, let me receive Your grace with a believing heart, that being so strengthened I may be not only a hearer of Your Word, but also a doer of Your will to my neighbor.

Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation and give me the strength to put into practice what I have heard and confessed. Keep me a humble learner for as many days as You give me on earth, and then receive me into the heavenly home You have prepared for me; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer. Amen. (4)

Sunday

EVENING



I thank You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have again revealed to us Your grace and forgiveness in Christ Jesus by the preaching of Your holy Gospel. Bless Your Word everywhere it has been proclaimed, and let it be the power of salvation to all who have heard it. Open the eyes of those who are still blind and do not know You as the only true God or Your Son, Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. Send out Your light and Your truth to all who are without Christ, without God, without hope in this world, and lead them also to the knowledge of Your glory in the face of Jesus.

Forgive my sins for the sake of Your Son, my Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Let Your Word be a constant comfort in life and death. Let it guide me wherever I go, let it cheer me as I prepare for sleep, let me be mindful of it when I get up, so that, as I live, I live in You, and whenever I die, I die in You. Therefore, whether I live or die, I am Your own beloved child. Amen. (5)

Monday

MORNING



Lord, in this morning hour I come boldly to Your throne of grace in full assurance that there I shall obtain mercy and find grace and help in time of trouble. I need Your help and Your grace as I again return to the routine of my vocation and schedule. Grant me true faithfulness in the performance of my calling. Guard me against becoming selfish, careless, and lazy in carrying out my daily work, so that all I do has not only the appearance of being pleasing among men, but is also true service to my neighbor, that I may be a servant of Christ, doing the will of God.

Grant to all who are out of work useful employment. Feed us all with food necessary for our lives, and teach us to receive it with thanksgiving. Grant us the godliness and contentment without which there can be no true happiness, and let us so walk through the things temporal that we may not lose the things eternal; for Jesus' sake. Amen. (6)

Monday

EVENING



Lord, You have searched me and You know me! You know when I sit down and when I stand up; even from a distance You know my very thoughts. You know what I have put my hands to during the day and the content of my dreams at night. You are acquainted with all my ways. Alas, You know also how often I have sinned against You this day, how often I have transgressed Your holy Law, and how often I have failed to keep my promises of loyalty to You and Your Word. Lord do not enter into judgment against Your servant. Do not deal with me in accordance with my sin, and do not give me the just reward for my iniquities, but rather graciously blot out all my trespasses for the sake of Your own Son, in whose blood I have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. As the night darkens around me, I again come to You for Your gracious protection, firmly trusting that You will keep Your child safe from all danger of body and soul. Grant to me and all Your children refreshing sleep, so that with renewed energy we may awake to serve You in our daily vocation; in Jesus' name. Amen. (7)

Tuesday
MORNING



In Holy Baptism, O triune God, You entered into my heart and made it Your temple and dwelling-place. Keep me always mindful of this high distinction. Whenever Satan seeks to seduce me to sin, to neglect Your Word and will, to dishonesty, selfishness, and envy, help me to resist him in Your strength, to beat back his attacks and obtain the victory. Father in heaven, let me never forget that I am Your child and that Satan's only purpose is to separate me from You. O Savior, Jesus Christ, keep Your bitter suffering ever before me, so that I hate and abhor every sin, no matter how small it may seem. O Holy Spirit, who has regenerated me, keep me in this newness of life, and let not Satan lure me back into the way that leads to eternal damnation. Triune God, keep me constant in Your means of grace—the Word and Sacraments—that in the power of Your might I may be able to withstand in the evil day and, having done all, to stand. Hear me for Jesus' sake. Amen. (8)

Tuesday
EVENING



Almighty God, Ruler of heaven and earth, I thank You that You have preserved me from sickness and misfortune, from dishonor and shame, from famine and starvation, from hunger and thirst. You have given me food according to my need. You have granted me life, and in Your mercy You have blessed my life and preserved my spirit. Oh, give thanks to the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever. Lord, in this evening hour I come to You, confessing my many transgressions committed during the day. I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to You, O God. Yet trusting in the atoning sacrifice of Your Son, I ask You to forgive all my sins and to cover them with the righteousness of Jesus, our Savior, so that though they be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow. I come to You for Your continued protection this night and all the days of my life, until I arrive at the land where there is no night but everlasting day in the glory of Your presence. Hear me for the sake of my Redeemer, Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen. (9)

Wednesday

MORNING



Lord Jesus, You have chosen me out of the world to be Your own in time and in eternity. Though I am no longer of the world, You have not yet taken me out of this earthly tent into my eternal home. I am still in this world surrounded by dangers I cannot begin to number and exposed constantly to temptation. Let me never forget that this world will end with all its evil pleasures and only those who do the will of God will abide forever. Increase and preserve in me that faith in You and in Your redeeming work which is the victory that overcomes the world. Give me that fervent love that would not think of choosing the things of this world—its riches, its glories, and its pleasures—and on their account forgetting You and Your salvation. Teach me to despise the world's mockery, its hatred, and its threats, knowing that even if it should succeed in depriving me of some advantage in this life, it can never rob me of You and Your promise of life forever at Your side. While I yet travel through life, preserve me in the faith that claimed me as a child of Your heavenly household, until that time when You would receive me into my heavenly home. Amen. (10)

Wednesday

EVENING



Dear Savior, You have brought me safely to the end of this day. I did not know Your plan for me—what troubles and what joys would be part of my day; and now the day is done. Lord, grant that I may look back at all the things that You provided and recognize the good You have done for me. Let me view the successes of the day as encouragements and as undeserved gifts coming from Your gracious hands. Let me accept the pains and perplexities as reminders, chastening, and directions toward repentance and improvement. The day has gone, O Savior, and I am closer to the hour when I shall see You face-to-face. Let this passing of time make me more ready and watchful for the hour when You will come. Let me more eagerly prepare myself for that day. O Lord, it is better to depart this life and be with You; wash me in Your blood that I can stand before You. But if You would keep me here, then let me be steadfast in faith, abundant in service, warm in love, and unceasing in prayer. You have redeemed me, my great God and Savior; I am Yours. Amen. (11)

Thursday

MORNING



Lord Jesus, by Your regenerating grace given in Baptism, You have made me a new creature through Your redeeming blood. I confess to You, Searcher of hearts, that in me also, that is in my sinful flesh, dwells all manner of evil thoughts, wicked desires, and sinful wishes. This evil is with me constantly and tarnishes my best efforts to do Your will; it plagues my conscience with guilt and shame. I come to You this morning confessing my own weakness and asking You, for the sake of Your suffering and death, to forgive me, to overlook my shortcomings, and to help me in my daily struggle against the old sinful nature. Do not let my flesh direct my thoughts and actions. Lovingly strengthen me so that I can daily put off the old man and all that he works against me, and put on the new man born in Baptism and created after You in righteousness and holiness. Daily make me purer in my desires, cleaner in my speech, and holier in my actions, so that I may be blameless in Your sight and a shining light in the world until You call me home and to perfection. Amen. (12)

Thursday

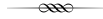
EVENING



My help, O Lord, comes from You, who made both the heavens and the earth. You have been my refuge and strength during this day, a very present help in all trouble. You have given Your angels charge over me to keep me in all my ways. As night approaches, I know that You are my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. Though I lay down to rest, You neither slumber nor sleep. Let Your eyes be open and Your protecting hands be spread over my home and the homes of my neighbors. Give to the sick restful, refreshing sleep and to all who are sorrowful the consolation of Your gracious presence. Our time, our life, our salvation, O mighty and merciful God, are in Your hands. If the time allotted to me in this world is ended, if my last hour shall come this night, abide with me and preserve me in true faith. I know in whom I have believed: in You, my Father; and in my Lord Jesus Christ, who died for me; and in the Spirit, who preserves me. To You I commit my body and soul for safekeeping in time and in eternity; in Jesus' name. Amen. (13)

Friday

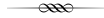
MORNING



Send me, O Lord, into the tasks of this day with a rejoicing heart. Teach me to labor diligently, to eat and drink to Your glory, and to think and plan to the ends You have laid out before me. That I may be truly fitted for the day, remind me again of the mighty work of my Savior, Jesus Christ, who redeemed me and in whom my sin is forgiven and my place with You forever assured. Impress upon my heart this day that while there is nothing holy about my life, my speech, or my faith without Your grace and mercy surrounding me, that with You I can faithfully help my neighbor and be of service to him. Teach me to look upon my life today as yet another opportunity to serve my fellowmen. Let me see in the routine of my daily tasks, in the need of my family and those who depend on me, in the want and struggle of the world about me, the good work You have prepared in advance for me to do. Grant that I be ready to forgive, earnest in rejoicing with those who are happy, quick in sympathy, and zealous in bearing the burdens of my fellowman; in Jesus' name. Amen. (14)

Friday

EVENING



Heavenly Father, I am Your child. Through Word and Sacrament I have been born anew. By Jesus' blood and sacrifice I have been received and adopted into Your family. Dear God, I admit I have not lived every moment of this day as becomes a child of Yours. There were times when I strayed, and self-will, negligence, lovelessness, and impurity found a resting place in my heart. I confess to You not only these sins but every sin with which I have offended You. O Father, I am not worthy to be called Your child. But I pray that You would, out of fatherly divine goodness and mercy, for the sake of Jesus' blood, forgive me my transgressions. Let my faith in this forgiveness be unwavering and sure. Let my gratitude to You be expressed in truth and in deed. Without Your peace I struggle under the burden of my sin and am lost, but with the joy of Your forgiveness I have all things. Comfort me in Your forgiving love, and preserve me steadfast in this faith now and forevermore. Amen. (15)

Saturday

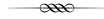
MORNING



I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me! Protected by Your mighty hand, I have passed the night. Lord, I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies You have shown me. As I thank You for all the gracious protection, I think of all those who are in sorrow and tribulation, in sickness, in poverty, in shame, in anguish of soul. I beseech You, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, to comfort my brothers and sisters with the assurance of Your unchanging grace and loving-kindness. Strengthen their faith. Preserve them from misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Teach them to humble themselves under Your mighty hand by recognizing Your gracious purpose to work through tribulation patience, through patience experience, through experience hope that will not make them ashamed. Help all sufferers to best their trials until at last Your kingdom comes. Deliver us all from every evil work and preserve us unto Your heavenly kingdom; in the name of Jesus. Amen. (16)

Saturday

EVENING



Another week of life has passed. As I look back, how swiftly have the hours gone by! Certainly You have numbered our days and hold them in Your hand. Therefore, Lord, keep me in mind of my life's end, the measure of my days, and what my life is, that I may know just how frail I am. We poor dying mortals come to You, eternal Lord, who has been our dwelling-place in all generations. From year to year You remain unchanged—the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. I come to You in this evening hour. I thank You that during the previous week Your compassion did not fail, that Your mercies were new every morning, and that You kept me in Your Word and grace. Shield me with Your mercy during the coming night so that I may again go to the house of God, receive Your Word and Sacrament, and with the voice of thanksgiving praise You and tell of all Your wondrous works; for Jesus' sake. Amen. (17)