

GRACE
for
EVERY
SEASON



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SEASON



365 Prayers
for Retirees and Older Adults



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Contributors to this collection are Carol Geisler, Peter Jurchen, Wilfred Karsten, Amanda Nicks, and Julie Riddle. Content is drawn from previously published issues of *Portals of Prayer*.

To the reader:

God's grace is abundant in every season of the Christian's life. We receive it in the gifts of our Baptism and the Lord's Supper. God speaks His grace to us in His Word, the Bible. The Bible assures us that our heavenly Father listens to us:

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer.

1 Peter 3:12

God's Word also tells us that He responds to us:

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. *1 John 5:14*

You may be in a season that allows you more time for things you want to do. More time to be with your family, travel, volunteer, start a hobby, take a class, or simply rest. You have more time to read the Bible. More time to pray. This book will help guide that time with short prayers on a broad range of topics. You may follow it through the calendar year or mark specific prayers to come back to again and again. You are encouraged to supplement these short prayers with specific petitions of your own and to write in this book, making it your personal prayer book, your unique conversations with God.

However you use this prayer book, may it be a blessing to you as you grow in your understanding of and appreciation for God's abundant grace. To Him be the glory!



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***





JANUARY 1

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed
on Him the name that is above every name, so
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Philippians 2:9-10

New Year's Day

Heavenly Father, You have brought me to the beginning of a new year. Thank You for all the undeserved blessings I've received from You in the year just past. Forgive me all my wrongs for Jesus' sake and fill me with Your Spirit, that I may show Your love and grace to a world lost in sin. Deepen my love of Your Word and Sacraments, that gathering with Your people I may shine in this dark world of sin. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 2



Mark 1:14-15

A Good Beginning

Jesus, when You came to earth, You had so much to do and teach. With so much to accomplish, where did You start? You began with the most basic message of all: “Repent and believe in the gospel.” Lord, that is where I need to start each day. I am sorry for my sins. I know that You died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. My sins are forgiven. That is the Gospel truth, and I believe it! Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 3

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

That Others Will Hear the Good News

God the Father, Your Son is the only way to You. I pray that others may hear this wonderful news and learn about Jesus' love and sacrifice. I pray that others come to know this. Keep me focused on Jesus. May I never stray from the path to You. Hear me, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 4



Luke 11:28

O Lord, all good gifts come from Your loving hand. You sustain the earth in its provision of the gifts of creation. You also sustain Your church through the blessing of Your Word. I thank You for all You have revealed to me in the Bible. Most especially, I thank You for the clear teaching of Scripture that You have redeemed me from sin and given me everlasting life. I pray that I would always abide in these teachings and be blessed through the Word of mercy for Your beloved people. Through Christ I pray. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 5

He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:2

Life Change

Your Word reminds me, Lord, that there is a time for everything. That truth also highlights the changes as times come and go. As the year changes, I come to You seeking Your direction and presence, for if You do not go with me, how would I move forward? Strengthen all those who counsel and encourage others with Your truth, and keep me true to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 6



John 8:12

Epiphany

Dear Father in heaven, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, not only for Your chosen people Israel but also for all the people of the world. As a steady light led the Wise Men to view and worship the Christ, so may this season of lights illuminate my way to see Him more clearly in all His glory. Send Your Holy Spirit that I may also appear daily as a light in this world to people who still live in spiritual darkness. Use me as Your witness to turn them toward their Redeemer. I pray this in the name of Your Son. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 7

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:1

Thank God for My Home

Loving Father in heaven, You are the provider for all living things. I thank You for the home You have given me, not merely the abode in which I live but also for the people who share life with me. Wherever You direct me to live in years to come, keep me grateful for the dwelling I call home and make it a place of love and peace, a foretaste of my eternal life with You; through Jesus, in whose name I pray. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 8



Psalms 139:13

Jesus, thank You for identifying with sinners like me at Your Baptism in the waters of the Jordan. Even more so, thank You for giving me Your holy identity in the waters of my Baptism. As a sinner now declared holy, help me live my life so people might see You and be drawn to their own cleansing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 9

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

Intercession for Workers

For some people, dear God, a workday means a sore body or too much time away from their family. Some barely earn enough to make ends meet, have a profession that puts them in danger, or are just plain tired. Care for the workers all around me, who bless me and so many others with their labor. Give them energy, strength, and joy in their work, and bless the fruit of their hands that it may help create a world more ready to see Your power at work. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 10



John 14:27

The Peace of Christ

Heavenly Father, I am surrounded by Your love and care. No matter where I am or what I am doing, You are with me, as You have promised You would be. Thank You for the blessings You have given me, including friends, family, and neighbors. I confess that I do not always think of You or look to You for the guidance and strength I need. Instead of letting You be in charge, I worry and focus on concerns over which I have no control. Forgive me for these sins. Renew my heart and draw me close to You. Give me Your peace and rest throughout this coming night. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 11

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . .
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

Grant Us Grace

Almighty Father, You have given Your church the means of grace that they may be distributed throughout the world. Grant Your Holy Spirit to each member of Your church. Give us all a rich measure of Your wisdom and strength, that we might stand firm in the world with Your truth, relying on its power to accomplish what You would have done. Through Your omnipotence, grant us grace. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 12



Matthew 11:28

Father in heaven, my heart is heavy with grief. Yet, I confess that this is not my only emotion. I am also experiencing confusion, doubt, denial, and even anger at times. Help me to look to You for comfort, assurance, and even joy in the midst of my sorrow. For You have promised that nothing in this world, even death itself, can separate me from Your love in Christ Jesus. Hear me and sustain me in His name. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

By the Homebound

Father, You withhold no good thing from those who love You and place their trust in You. Grant me grace to find joy and peace in each day, not focusing on my limitations or mourning the past but seeing Your hand and Your wisdom in all things. Open the eyes of my spirit to discover how I can serve others through my prayers. And grant me the grace to worship You with a heart of thanks and praise. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Reflections

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GRACE FOR EVERY SEASON

JANUARY 14



And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

The Baptism of Our Lord

Lord Jesus, You did not need the Baptism of repentance that John gave; I did. Yet You stood in my place to perform for me the repentance that I needed. Then You began Your ministry, which was completed when You died on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins. Turn me daily to remember my Baptism, where You joined the work of Your cross to my life. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Reflections

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JANUARY 15

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12

For Deliverance from Sin

Lord Jesus, You know my heart. You know the struggles I face when dealing with temptation. You know how easily I give in to evil desires. Lord, forgive me. Strengthen my spirit, that I may live in the victory You have already won over the devil. Through the power of Your shed blood, deliver me from the bondage of sin. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Reflections

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