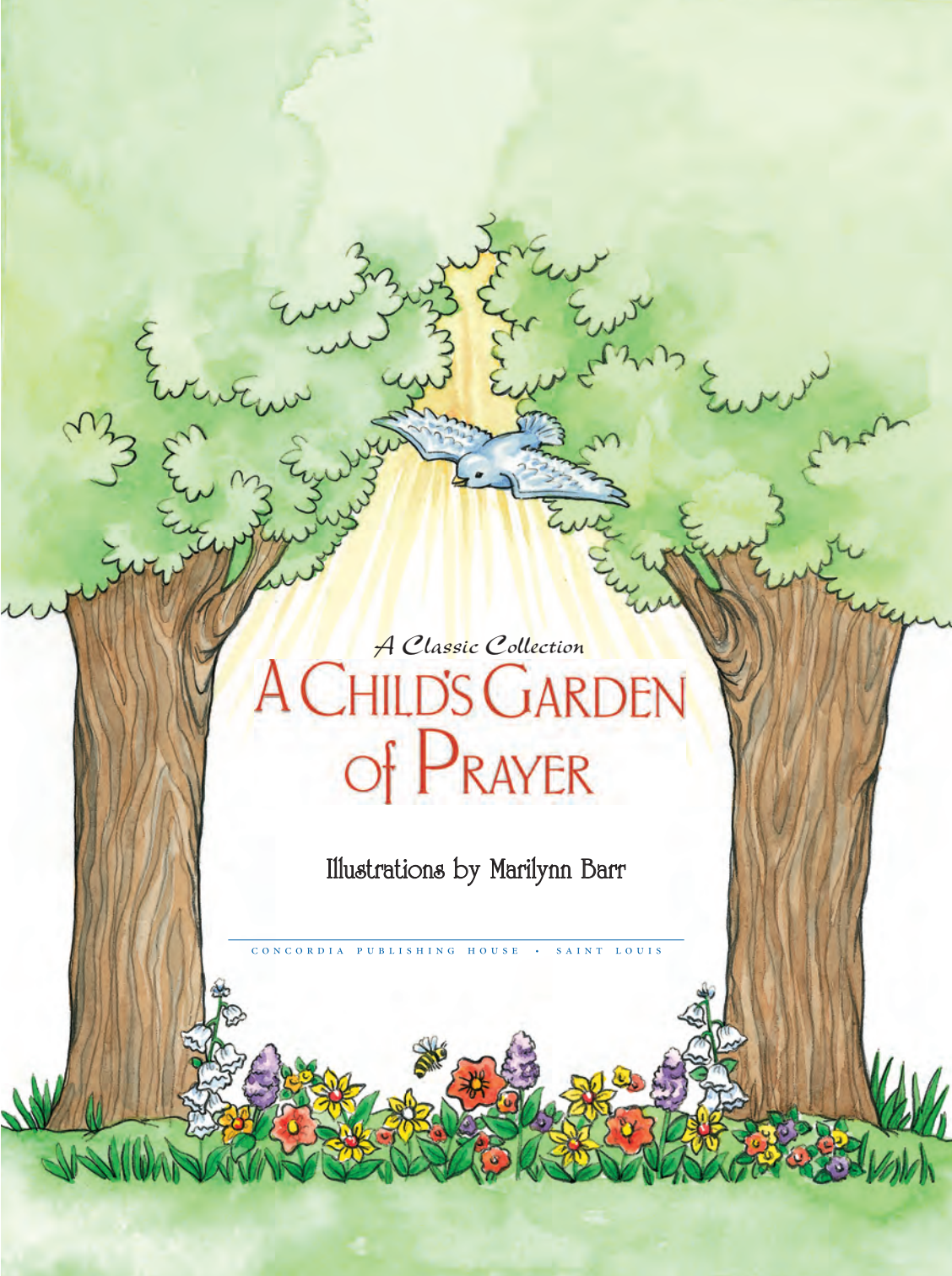

A Classic Collection

A Child's Garden of Prayer

Illustrations by Marilynn Barr

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS

Copyright © 2005 Concordia Publishing House
Published by Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • cph.org

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Original prayers in this book are by John Paquet for Concordia Publishing House. Other prayers taken from the following:
Lutheran Worship, Copyright © 1982 Concordia Publishing House.
All God's People Sing, Copyright © 1992 Concordia Publishing House.
The Children's Hymnal, Copyright © 1955, 1983 Concordia Publishing House.
Prayers for Little People, Copyright © 1974 Concordia Publishing House.
God's Children Pray, Copyright © 1989 Concordia Publishing House.
A Child's Garden of Prayer, Copyright © 1948, 1975 Concordia Publishing House.
Little Folded Hands, Copyright © 1959, 1987 Concordia Publishing House.
Prayer: Learning How to Talk to God, Copyright © 1983, Concordia Publishing House.
Little Visits vol. 1, Copyright © 2002 Concordia Publishing House.
Little Visits vol. 2, Copyright © 2003 Concordia Publishing House.
God, I've Gotta Talk to You!, Copyright © 1974 Concordia Publishing House.
God, I've Gotta Talk to You … Again!, Copyright © 1985 Concordia Publishing House.
More Songs of Gladness, Copyright © 1987 Concordia Publishing House.
My Happy Easter Book, Copyright © 1996 Concordia Publishing House.
My Happy Birthday Book, Copyright © 1995 Concordia Publishing House.
My Christmas Prayer Book, Copyright © 1998 Concordia Publishing House.
God, I Need to Talk to You about series, Copyright © 1984, 2004 Concordia Publishing House.
Children's Hymnal © 1955, 1983 Concordia Publishing House.

Manufactured in Odenton, MD/027570/416995

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A child's garden of prayer
p. cm.
ISBN 0-7586-0785-7
1. Prayers - - Juvenile literature. I. Concordia Publishing House.
BV212.C47 2005
242' . 82 - - dc22 2004009899

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23

I am a child of God.
My name is

Place
Your Photo
Here

Preface

Praying is a special way people talk to God. There are many different kinds of prayers. You can talk to Him about anything—anywhere—anytime. What do you talk to God about?

Some prayers praise God. One way to show praise is to tell God you love Him.

Most kind and loving Father in heaven,
I love You. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Some prayers ask God to forgive you for the wrong things you do. We all sin. But God loves you and will forgive you for Jesus' sake.

Forgive me, heavenly Father, for the wrong I
have done. I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Some prayers thank God for all His wonderful gifts. There is so much to thank God for ... the world, the seasons, loved ones, homes, food, good weather, everything! But the best thing God gave was His only Son, Jesus, so we might have life with Him in heaven.

Thank You for everything, God—especially our
Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Some prayers ask God for help. God knows your needs, even before you know them. He knows when you are in trouble and is always willing to help. Ask God for help.

Protect me, God, from all harm. In the name of
Jesus I pray. Amen.

Some prayers ask God for guidance. Every day you are faced with decisions. Should I do this or that? Ask God to lead you in the right direction.

God, help me to do the right things and make the choices that will please You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Some prayers ask God for things that you need. Sometimes you want something very much. But God decides, like any good parent, what is best for you to have. You ask God, but you have to wait patiently for His answer. Remember, God will give you everything you need, but not everything you want.

God, help me want what's good for me. Let Your will be done. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

You can also talk to God about others.

You can pray for a friend.

You can pray for an enemy.

You can pray for your loved ones.

You can pray for people you haven't met but know that they need help.

You can pray for other Christians.

You can pray for those who haven't come to know the meaning of God's plan for them.

You can pray about anything, anywhere, anytime. You can pray alone or with someone. At the table your family might say a prayer of thanks before eating a meal. You might pray with your friends in church or Sunday school. You might pray at special times set aside by the family, called devotions.

Sometimes you pray all alone. Some people kneel beside their bed. Some people talk to God outside in the sunshine.

It doesn't matter where you are, how you are dressed, or how you look. God listens to every prayer. So pray whenever you like; pray as long as you like; pray as often as you like. If prayers are said with faith in Jesus, that is enough for God.

(from *Prayer: Learning How to Talk to God*)

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.

Prayers for Morning

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.

(Luther's Morning Prayer)

In the early morning,
With the sun's first rays,
All God's little children
Thank and pray and praise.
Always in Thy keeping,
Jesus, Savior dear,
Whether waking, sleeping,
Be Thou ever near. Amen.

(from *God's Children Pray)*

For this new morning and its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Your goodness sends
I thank You, heavenly Father. Amen.

(from *Little Folded Hands)*

Prayers for Evening

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray 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.

Luther's Evening Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep;
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take;
And this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(from *Little Folded Hands*)

Be near me, Lord Jesus!
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there. Amen.

(from *Lutheran Worship*, 64:3)

Table Prayers

Before Meals

Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest,
And let Thy gifts to us be blessed. Amen.
God is great, and God is good,
And we thank Him for our food;
By His hand we all are fed;
Give us, Lord, our daily bread. Amen.

(from *Little Folded Hands*)

Prayers for Others

Bless me, dearest Lord; I pray
That I may bless someone today.
Show me how to share Your joy
With every girl and every boy. Amen.
(from *God's Children Pray*)

O Jesus, so kind; O Jesus, so mild;
You care for me, a little child.
Your love surrounds me day to day;
You bend and listen when I pray.

O Jesus, so kind; O Jesus, so mild;
Be always near Your little child.
Protect all other children, too,
And help us grow to be like You.
O Jesus, so kind; O Jesus, so mild. Amen.
(from *God's Children Pray)*

Dear Father in heaven,
Look down from above,
Bless Papa and Mama
And all whom I love.
May angels guard over
My slumbers, and when
The morning is breaking,
Awake me. Amen.
(from *A Child's Garden of Prayer)*

There are so many people
who show me love and care
It's for all those special people
That I come to You in prayer.
Dear Lord, I ask Your blessing
Upon these people that I love.
Watch over them, and guide them;
Lead them in Your path of love.
Amen.

Prayers for Special Days

Birthdays

O Jesus, send Thy tender love
Upon me, please, today.
On this, my birthday, give me grace
A special prayer to say.
Few are my candles, few are my years;
So let my promise be
That all the years that I may live
I'll love and worship Thee. Amen.
(from *Little Folded Hands*)

We thank the Lord who kept you
All through the passing year;
He put His arms around you
And gave you health and cheer.

Now we will pray together
That He will keep you still
And make the next year happy
And help you do His will. Amen.
(from *Little Folded Hands*)

Dear Jesus, now my thanks I say
For giving me this nice birthday. Amen.
(from *God's Children Pray*)

Thank You, God, for sky and sea.
Thank You, God, for making me.

You gave me lungs so I could breathe.

General Prayers

Jesus, help my eyes to see
All the good Thou sendest me.
Jesus, help my ears to hear
Calls for help from far and near.
Jesus, help my feet to go
In the way that Thou wilt show.
Jesus, help my hands to do
All things loving, kind, and true.
Jesus, may I helpful be,
Growing daily more like Thee. Amen.
(from *Little Folded Hands*)

Lord, bless the little children
In all the world, we pray;
Help everyone to love Thee,
And keep them in Thy way. Amen.
(from *Little Folded Hands*)

You made the tiny grains of sand;
You made the big tall trees.
And then, Lord, with Your loving hands
You made a child named me. Amen.

(from *God, I've Gotta Talk to You ... Again!*)

My Creator, You give us everything in due season. Thank You for showing us Your love in the sun and the rain, the flowers and the snow, the blowing winds and the falling leaves. Thank You most of all for Jesus. Amen.

(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions.*Volume 2.)

Dear Jesus, thank You for the gift of friendship. Help me appreciate the differences between my friends and me. Thank You for being my best Friend. Amen.

(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions* Volume 2.)

When I'm Happy

Lord God, thank You for all the things that made us happy today. Fill our hearts with joy each day and help us be mindful of the blessings You surprise us with each day. In Your name we pray. Amen.

(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions.* Volume 1)

[You are] giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Oceandepth of happy rest!
[You] our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,

Lift us to the joy divine! Amen.
(from *All God's People Sing,* 147:3)

In You is gladness
Amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By You are given
The gifts of heaven.
You the true Redeemer are. Amen.
(adapted from *Lutheran Worship,* 442:1)

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24). Amen.

When I'm Sad

It's not so easy growing up
When things don't go my way.
Remind me patience and a smile
Will brighten up my day.

But even when I make mistakes,
I know You'll always be
My Jesus, my forgiving Lord,
Because You do love me. Amen.
(from *God's Children Pray)*

Sometimes I sit and worry
When I've done something bad.
I hide my tears and try to smile,
But worries make me sad.

Help me remember, Jesus,
That You will care for me

Through loving people, angels, too.
With me You'll always be. Amen.

(from *God's Children Pray*)

Dear Jesus, You know that sin brings so much sadness into the world. That's the whole reason You came—to live a life without sin and to suffer and die for all sins. Thank You for being our friend. Help us follow Your example and reach out to others who are hurting because of sin. In Your name we pray. Amen.

(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions*. Volume 1)

Dear Jesus, thank You for cheering us up when we're feeling sad. Teach us what we need to know about You and Your love for us so we can deal with the disappointments and problems we face. We pray in Your powerful name. Amen.

(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions*. Volume 1)

Dear Jesus, help us look to You in times of sorrow. Help us remember Your promise of love and support. We trust that in You we will find the joy that lasts. Amen.

(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions*. Volume 1)

O Lord, we give thanks unto You
For all the good things that You do.

The winter You turn into springtime.
The rainstorm You turn into sunshine.
The tadpoles You turn into green frogs.
Small puppies You make into dogs.

The night You turn into the day.
Our sad times You turn into gay.

Boxes and strings become toys.
It's playtime for girls and boys.

How happy we are! How glad!
You turn into joy what is sad! Amen.
(from *More Songs of Gladness*)

Draw us to You, Each day anew.
Let us depart with gladness That we may be
Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness. Amen.
(from *Lutheran Worship,* 153:2)

When I'm Frightened

Jesus, I'm a little frightened.
I don't know what to do.
Help me know You're with me.
Help me, Lord, to trust in You. Amen.
(from *Prayers for the Very Young Child)*

Dear Father, often we're afraid when bad things happen. Because You gave Your only Son for us, You will freely give us everything else we need. Help us remember that You are always with us, always helping us. In Jesus' name. Amen.
(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions.* Volume 1)

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus, who gives us hope in the middle of problems and who promises to come again to take away all pain and problems. In His name. Amen.
(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions.* Volume 1)

Dear God, thank You for loving us. When we feel afraid, help us remember that You forgive us and protect us. We are safe in Your care. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.
(from *Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions.* Volume 1)