



The Classic Edition
**A CHILD'S GARDEN
OF BIBLE STORIES**

By Arthur W. Gross
Illustrated by Marilyn Barr

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FOREWORD



It is important for children to know Bible stories as early as possible. The stories in this book have been adapted so children will be able to read them with fluency and enjoyment. Vocabulary and sentence lengths have been taken into account and are on the level of the young reader.

Parents and teachers of children not yet able to read will find *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* a valuable aid. The Bible stories may be read as is or used as a basis for storytelling. Biblical accuracy has been maintained in the adaptation.

The 60 stories (28 Old Testament and 32 New Testament) provide a progressive, unified account of man in his relationship to God—man in the state of innocence, man in the state of sin, and man reclaimed through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God.

May this book delight the hearts of many young children and awaken in them a lifelong interest in the timeless truths of the Bible.

ARTHUR W. GROSS



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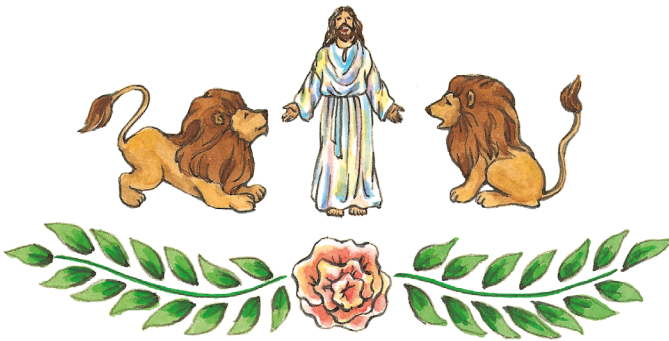


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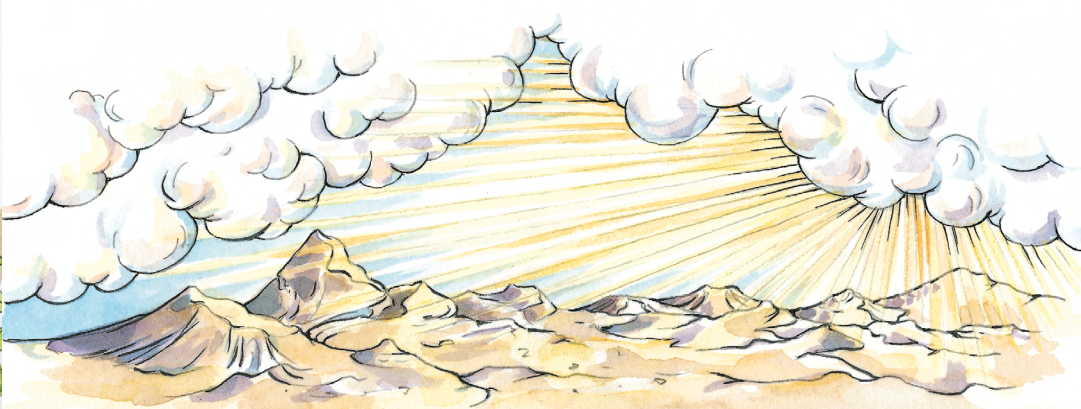




THE OLD TESTAMENT







God Makes the World

Long, long ago there was no world. There were no birds and bees, no fields and flowers, no lakes and rivers, no sun, no moon, and no stars. There were no people either. There was nothing at all. Only God was there.

Then God made the world. He made the heavens and the earth. He made all there is out of nothing. God made the world in six days. He made a part of it each day.

Whenever God made something, He just said, “Let it be made,” and it was made.

At first it was dark all around. So God said, “Let there be light.” As soon as God said this, there was light. It was as bright as day.

The next day God spoke again and made the blue sky high above us, just as we see it now.

After this God told the water to gather in certain

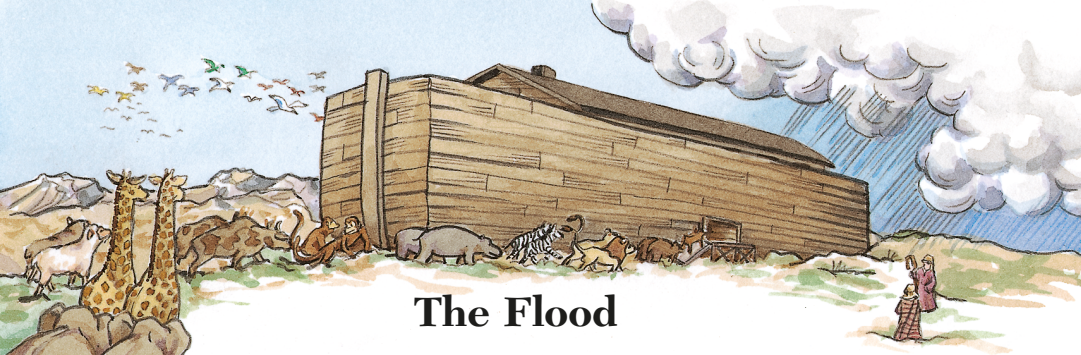
places. In this way, He made the rivers, the lakes, and the oceans. In between was the dry land.

But nothing grew on the land. There were no trees, bushes, or flowers anywhere. So God spoke and made the plants. Green grass covered the fields. Pretty flowers of many colors grew out of the ground. There were also bushes and trees of every kind. Many of the bushes had berries, and many of the trees had fruit. God gave the plants seeds so more could always grow.

God made still more. He spoke again, and at once the sky was filled with lights. He made the sun and the moon, and all the stars that twinkle at night.

The earth was beautiful now, but God made it even better. God spoke once more and made fish to swim in the waters and birds to sing in the trees. Then, on





The Flood

Many more people were born and filled the earth God had made. Some of the people loved and obeyed God. Others did not love and obey God. Soon many of the people who loved God started to sin, just like everyone else. God was very angry because of their sin. He said, “I will have to punish the people. I will send a flood to cover the earth and everyone in it.”

There was one man who stayed faithful to God. His name was Noah. God wanted to save Noah and his family. He told Noah to build a large boat called an ark. He told him to put food in the ark and to fill it with animals of every kind.

When all of the animals and everyone in Noah’s family were on board, God shut the door.

It began to rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Every day the water became deeper. At last the water was so deep that it covered all the hills. Everyone and



everything on the earth was destroyed. Only the people and the animals on the ark were safe.

After many days the water began to go away. At last the ground was dry. Then Noah and his family and all of the animals came off the ark. Noah thanked God for saving him and his family.

God put a rainbow in the sky and said, “This is a sign of My promise. Never again will I send a flood to cover the earth. Remember My promise every time you see a rainbow.”

God blessed Noah and said, “Many children will be born in your family so the earth can be filled with people again.” God’s blessing came true.

took his sling and five smooth stones. Then he went out to fight the giant.

Goliath saw that David was just a boy. He laughed and said, “Do you think I am a dog that can be beaten with sticks?”

David said, “God is on my side. He will help me.”

Then David put a stone into his sling and threw it at the giant. The stone sank into his forehead. The giant fell down. David took Goliath’s sword and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they ran away. Saul’s men ran after them and defeated them.



to the idol. They went to the king and said, “O king, there are three men from the land of Israel who do not obey you. They do not bow down.”

The king came to the three men and said, “If you do not pray to my god, you will be put into a hot furnace. Do you think your God can save you from the fire? Who is your God?”

“Our God is able to save us,” they answered. “But we would not pray to your idol even if our God would let us burn.”

The king was very angry. He said to his men, “Make the fire seven times hotter.” He commanded soldiers to





The New Testament





The Birth of John the Baptist

A short time before Jesus was born, there lived a priest named Zechariah. His wife's name was Elizabeth. Zechariah and Elizabeth were very old, and they had no children.

One day a wonderful thing happened. While Zechariah was at work in the temple, an angel suddenly stood before him. Zechariah was afraid.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel. “God has heard you pray. He will give you a son. You shall call your son John. John will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will prepare people for the coming of the Lord.”

Zechariah did not believe the angel. So the angel said, “I have been sent by God. Because you did not believe



Shepherds Find the Savior

On the night when Jesus was born, shepherds were watching their sheep in a field near Bethlehem. It was quiet and dark.

Suddenly a bright light shone around them. The shepherds saw an angel in the light and were afraid.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel. “I bring you good news. The news is for all people. Jesus the Savior is born. You will find Him in Bethlehem in a stable.”

Suddenly the sky was filled with thousands of angels.



Jesus took Peter by the hand and said, “Peter, did you suddenly think that I would let you go down?”

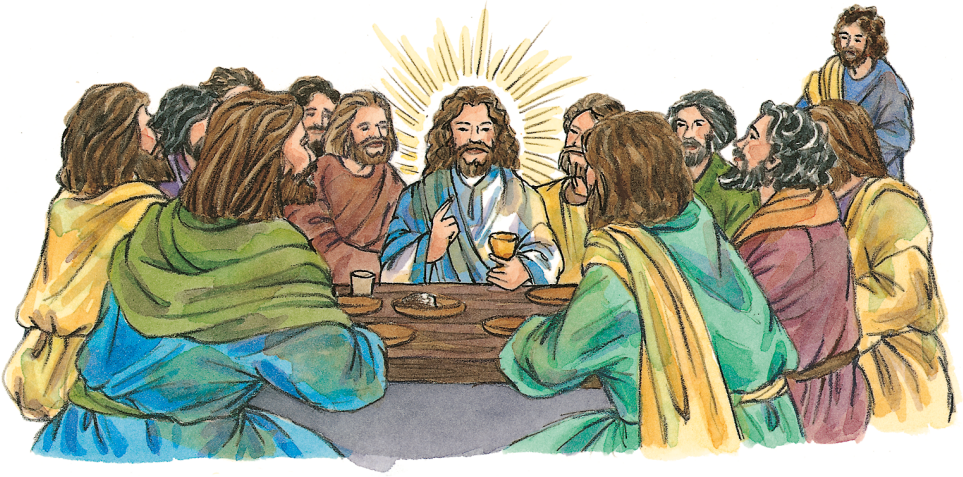
Jesus and Peter stepped into the boat. At once the wind stopped. Everyone in the boat said to Jesus, “Surely, You are the Son of God.”



They said, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”

There were enemies of Jesus in the crowd. They became angry when they heard the friends of Jesus honoring Him. They called a meeting and made plans to kill Jesus.





Judas Turns against Jesus

The enemies of Jesus made a friend named Judas. He was one of Jesus' disciples. One day Judas met with the enemies of Jesus.

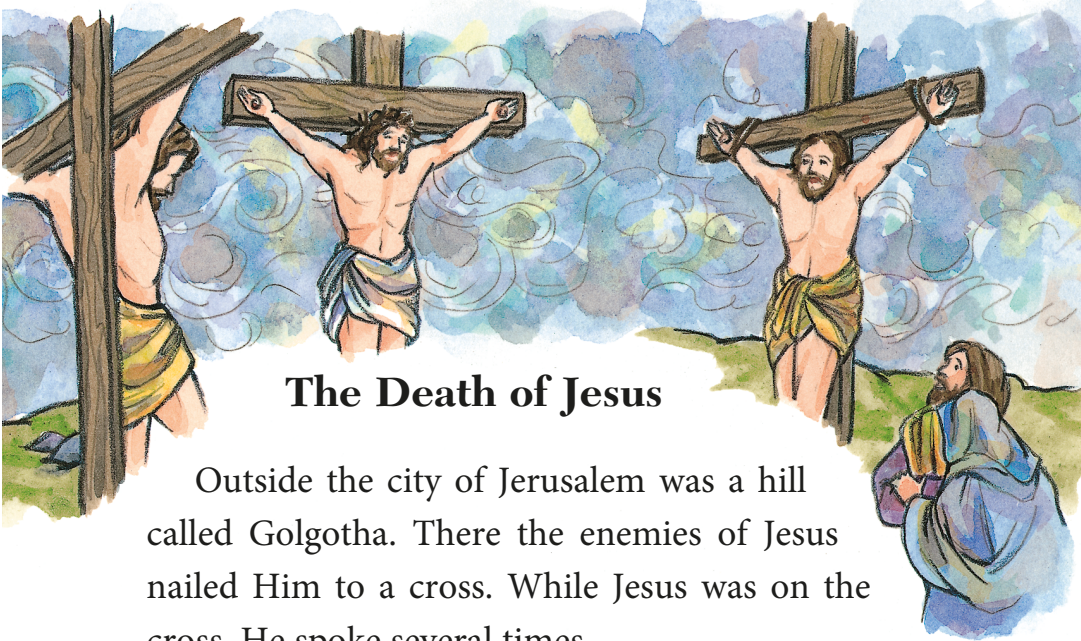
He said, "What will you give me if I tell you when and where to capture Jesus?"

"We will give you 30 pieces of silver," they answered.

Judas took the offer. He watched for a chance to capture Jesus. The time came right after Jesus and His disciples ate their last meal together.

On Thursday night, Jesus sent Peter and John to find a place for them to eat their Passover meal. They found a room and got the meal ready.

Jesus and His 12 disciples went to the room and sat



The Death of Jesus

Outside the city of Jerusalem was a hill called Golgotha. There the enemies of Jesus nailed Him to a cross. While Jesus was on the cross, He spoke several times.

He prayed for His enemies. He said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Two thieves were crucified with Jesus. One of them was sorry for his sins and believed in Jesus.

Jesus said to him, “Today you will be with Me in heaven.”

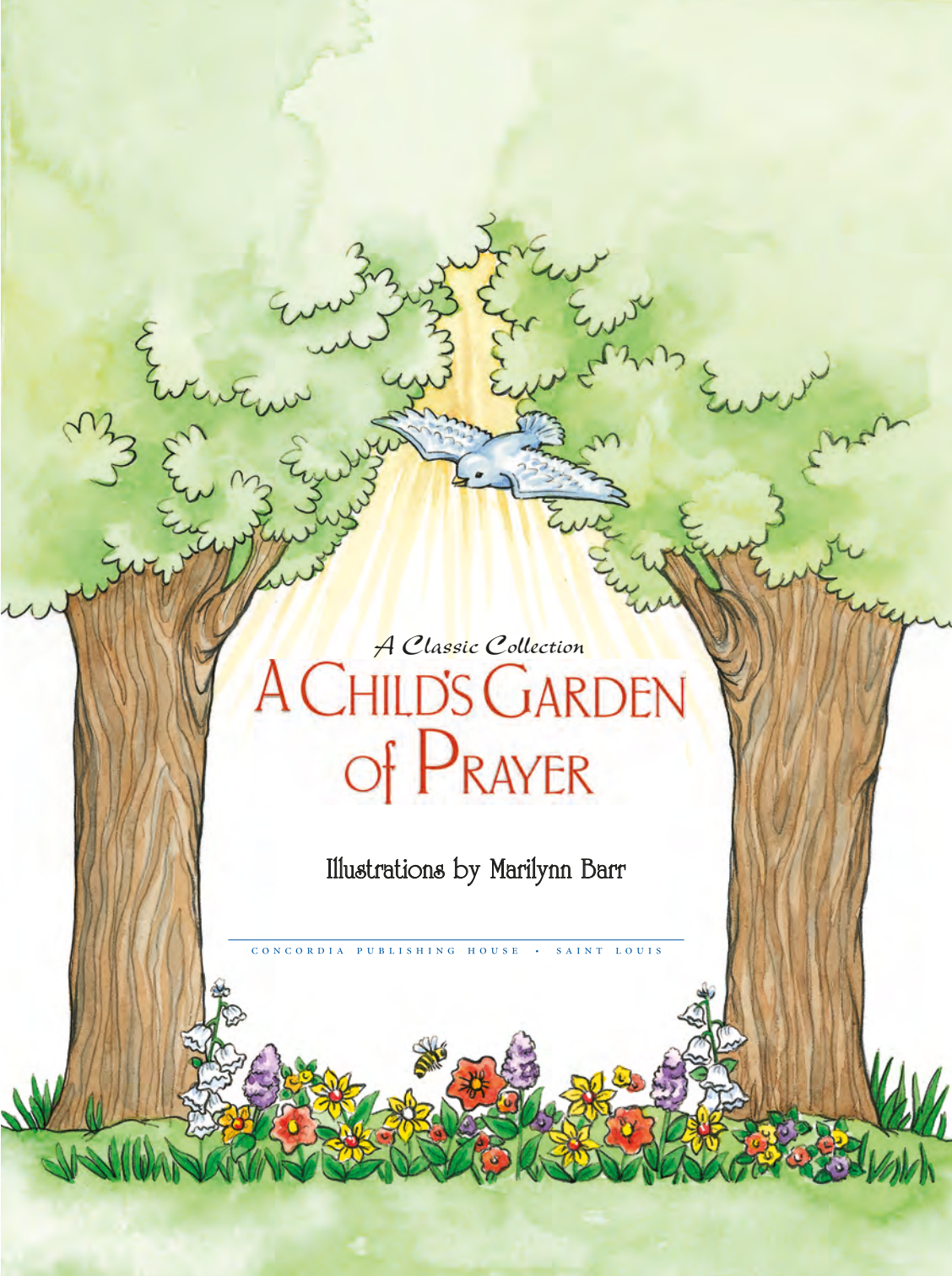
Jesus looked down from the cross and saw Mary, His mother. He also saw His disciple John.

He said to his mother, “John will take care of you like a son takes care of his mother.”

To John, He said, “See, this is your mother.”

Jesus was very thirsty. He said, “I thirst.” Some soldiers gave Him vinegar to drink.

Then Jesus said, “It is finished.”



A Classic Collection

A CHILD'S GARDEN of PRAYER

Illustrations by Marilyn Barr

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I am a child of God.

My name is







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 flow-
ers 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)

