



# PASTORAL MINISTRATIONS

*of the Priest*



**PASTORAL MINISTRATIONS**  
*of the*  
**PRIEST**

*being a collection of*

Devotional Materials *for the* Priest,  
Priestly Prayers,  
Blessings,  
Pastoral Ministry *to the* Sick,  
Prayers *for* Liberation from Evil,  
*and* Ministry *at the* Time of Death

*compiled by*

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This book began simply as an attempt to put in one place the materials that would make the liturgical and ritual pieces of pastoral ministry easy to execute. Friends and students began to hear about it and so some more work was done to make it a bit more widely useful to others. This sort of book stands in a long tradition of Priest Handbooks amongst Anglicans, going back to the late nineteenth century.

Many materials in this book are not the sort of thing that require citations. They are ancient and found in many books. Many are taken from the Latin liturgical books before Vatican II and there was a proliferation of English translations of them. There are many items that I was just not able to remember or find from where I drew them. Many items are also drawn from and adapted from the authorized that I use, the American *Book of Common Prayer* (1979) and the books related to it, particularly *The Book of Occasional Services* (2003) and two of the volumes of *Enriching our Worship*. Bibliography information for these and other sources from which materials are drawn can be found at the end of this book. I have attempted to note the source of materials when possible. Sometimes, texts have been amended and adapted so that they are not identical to what is found in the original source. Materials are also drawn from the older American and English BCP traditions, which exist in many printings and editions.

Finally, this resource is provided simply as a help to priests and others engaged in pastoral ministry. It was not created as a money-making venture and I do not receive any money or royalties from the sale of the book.

The cost is only for the materials and printing.

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# DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR THE PRIEST



THE EXHORTATION & EXAMINATION TO THE PRIEST  
*1928 Book of Common Prayer*

YE have heard, Brethren, as well in your private examination, as in the exhortation which was now made to you, and in the holy Lessons taken out of the Gospel, and the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity, and of how great importance this Office is, whereunto ye are called. And now again we exhort you, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye have in remembrance, into how high a Dignity, and to how weighty an Office and Charge ye are called: that is to say, to be Messengers, Watchmen, and Stewards of the Lord; to teach, and to premonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this naughty world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Have always therefore printed in your remembrance, how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ, which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The Church and Congregation whom you must serve, is his Spouse, and his Body. And if it shall happen that the same Church, or any Member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, ye know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider with yourselves the end of the Ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ; and see that ye never cease your labour, your care and diligence, until ye have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge, unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life.

Forasmuch then as your Office is both of so great excellency, and of so great difficulty, ye see with how great care and study ye ought to apply yourselves, as well to show yourselves dutiful and thankful unto that Lord, who hath placed you in so high a dignity; as also to beware that neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit, ye cannot have a mind and will thereto of yourselves; for that will and ability is given of God alone: therefore ye ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for his Holy Spirit. And seeing that ye cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work, pertaining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same; consider how studious ye ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners both of yourselves, and of them that specially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the same Scriptures; and for this self-same cause, how ye ought to forsake and set aside, as much as ye may, all worldly cares and studies.

We have good hope that ye have well weighed these things with yourselves, long before this time; and that ye have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly to this Office, whereunto it hath pleased God to call you: so that, as much as lieth in you, ye will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way; and that ye will continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Saviour Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that, by daily reading and weighing the Scriptures, ye may wax riper and stronger in your Ministry; and that ye may so endeavour yourselves, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the Rule and Doctrine of Christ, that ye may be wholesome and godly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

*1928 American BCP, p. 539-43*

**R**ECEIVE the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the Imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins thou dost retain, they are retained. And be thou a faithful Dispenser of the Word of God, and of his holy Sacraments; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

¶ **The Communion being done, after the last Collect, and immediately before the Benediction, shall be said this Collect.**

**M**OST merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon these thy servants thy heavenly blessing; that they may be clothed with righteousness, and that thy Word spoken by their mouths may have such success, that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also, that we may have grace to hear and receive what they shall deliver out of thy most holy Word, or agreeable to the same, as the means of our salvation; that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory, and the increase of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

# THE VIRTUES OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

## The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

## The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead



## Cardinal Virtues

- Justice
- Temperance
- Fortitude
- Prudence

## Theological Virtues

- Faith
- Hope
- Charity

## Prayer

This looking to God is contemplation. It is an inward gaze into the depths of the soul and, for that very reason, beyond the soul to God. The more the soul finds God, the more it forgets itself and yet finds itself in God. It is an unwavering “gaze”, where “looking” is always “hearing”; for what is looked at is the free and infinite Person who, from the depths of his freedom, is able to give himself in a manner ever new, unexpected and unpredictable. That is why the Word of God is never something settled once and for all that can be surveyed like a clearly defined landscape, but something that comes forth ever new, like water from a spring or rays from a light.

Hans Urs von Balthasar  
*Prayer*, p. 24

# The Silence of the Heart

Be still and know that I am God

If we really want to pray we must first learn to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks. And to be able to see that silence, to be able to hear God, we need a clean heart, for a clean heart can see God, can hear God, can listen to God.

When it is difficult to pray we must help ourselves to do so. The first means to use is silence, for souls of prayer are souls of great silence. We cannot put ourselves directly in the presence of God if we do not practice internal and external silence.

God is the friend of silence.

Let us adore Jesus in our hearts, who spent thirty years out of thirty-three in silence, who began His public life by spending forty days in silence, who often retired alone to spend the night on a mountain in silence. He who spoke with authority, now spends His earthly life in silence. Let us adore Jesus in the Eucharistic silence.

We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. See how nature, the trees, the flowers, the grass grow in perfect silence – see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. Is not our mission to give God to the poor in the slums? The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life.

Silence gives us a new outlook on everything.

Mother Teresa

## ANGELUS

*From 1<sup>st</sup> Evensong of Trinity Sunday through Wednesday Evensong of Holy Week*

℣. Angelus Domini nuntiavit  
Mariae.

℞. Et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.

Ave Maria, gratia plena; Dominus  
tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et  
benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei ora pro  
nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora  
mortis nostrae. Amen.

℣. Ecce ancilla Domini,

℞. Fiat mihi secundum verbum  
tuum.

Ave Maria...

℣. Et Verbum caro factum est,

℞. Et habitavit in nobis.

Ave Maria...

℣. Ora pro nobis, sancta Dei  
Genetrix,

℞. Ut digni efficiamur  
promissionibus Christi.

Oremus.

Gratiam tuam, quæsumus, Domine,  
mentibus nostris infunde; ut qui,  
Angelo nuntiante, Christi Filii tui  
incarnationem cognovimus, per  
passionem eius et ✠ Crucem ad  
resurrectionis gloriam perducamur.

Per eundem Christum Dominum  
nostrum. Amen.

℣. The angel of the Lord  
announced unto Mary,

℞. And she conceived by the Holy  
Ghost.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is  
with thee; blessed art thou amongst  
women, and blessed is the fruit of  
thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother  
of God, pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

℣. Behold the handmaid of the  
Lord,

℞. Be it unto me according to Thy  
word.

Hail Mary...

℣. And the Word was made flesh,

℞. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

℣. Pray for us, O holy Mother of  
God,

℞. And we shall be made worthy of  
the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy  
grace into our hearts, that we who  
have known the incarnation of thy  
Son Jesus Christ announced by an  
angel to the blessed Virgin Mary,  
may by His ✠ cross and passion  
may we be brought unto the glory  
of His resurrection; through the  
same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## REGINA CAELI



Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.

Quia quem meruisti portare,  
alleluia.

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

℣. Gaude et laetare, Virgo  
Maria, alleluia.

℞. Quia surrexit Dominus vere,  
alleluia.

Oremus

Deus, qui per resurrectionem  
Filiū tui, Domini nostri Iesu  
Christi, mundum laetificare  
dignatus es: praesta,  
quaesumus; ut per eius  
Genetricem Virginem Mariam,  
perpetuae capiamus gaudia  
vitae. Per eundem Christum  
Dominum  
nostrum.  
Amen



O Queen of heaven, be joyful,  
alleluia.

Because he whom so meetly  
thou bearest, alleluia.

Hath arisen as he promised,  
alleluia.

Pray for us to the Father,  
alleluia.

℣. Rejoice and be glad, O  
Virgin Mary, alleluia.

℞. For the Lord is risen indeed,  
alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the  
resurrection of thy Son Jesus  
Christ didst vouchsafe to give  
gladness unto the world: Grant,  
we beseech thee, that we, being  
holpen by the Virgin Mary, his  
Mother, may attain unto the  
joys of everlasting life; through  
Christ our  
Lord.  
Amen

## Cries of the Heart

O Lord, come to my assistance.  
O God, make haste to help me.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God.  
Abide in my love.  
My God and My All.  
My Jesus, mercy.  
I belong to you, O Lord.  
Open my heart to your love.  
Lord, I give myself to you.  
My Lord and my God.  
Bless the Lord, my soul.  
Lord, increase my faith.  
Not my will but thine be done.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.  
Open my heart to Your love.  
Jesus, my light and my love.  
May my being praise you, Lord.  
Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
Holy Spirit, pray in me.  
Lord, do with me what You will.  
Speak Lord, Your servant is listening.  
To you oh Lord, I lift my prayer.

# Prayers upon rising from bed

**On awaking make the signs of the cross, and say,**

✠ Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, both now and for evermore.

In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ✠ crucified for me, I arise: may he lead me safely through the dangers and the toils of this day, and at last bring me to the rest which remains for the people of God. Amen.

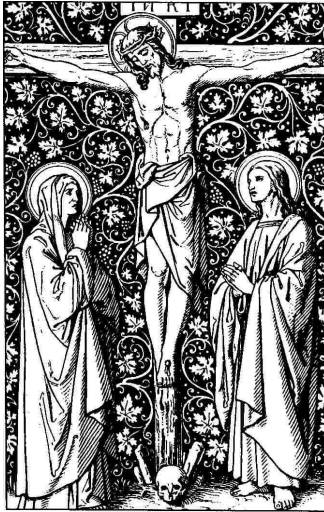
**While you wash and dress, pray mentally**

Create in me a clean heart, O God:

and renew a right spirit within me.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.



# Morning Personal Devotions

## Opening Prayers

✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ Blessed be the Holy and Undivided Trinity,  
now and for evermore. Amen.

Our Father...

Hail, Mary...

*Gloria Patri...*

*Prayer of Abandon from Blessed Charles de Foucault*

Father, I abandon myself into Your hands. Do with me what You will. Whatever You may do, I thank You. I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only Your will be done in me and in all Your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into Your Hands I commend my soul. I offer it to You with all the love of my heart. For, I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into Your hands without reserve and with boundless confidence. For You are my Father. Amen.

✠. I belong to thee, O Lord.

℞. Open my heart to thy love.

✠. To thee, O Lord, I lift up my prayer.

## The Holy Scriptures and Spiritual Reading

“Seek and read from the book of the LORD”

(Is. 34:16)

“Thy words were found, and I ate them, and thy words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart;”

(Jer. 15:16)

“...continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

(II Tim. 3:14-15)

“Charity, and not eloquence, is to be taught in Holy Scripture, and it should be read in the same spirit with which it was first made. We ought also to seek in Holy Scripture spiritual profit rather than elegance of style...Men pass lightly away, but the truth of God endures forever.

Almighty God speaks to us in His Scripture in various manner, without regard for persons, but our curiosity often hinders us in reading Scripture when we reason and argue things we should humbly and simply pass over. If you will profit by reading Scripture, read humbly, simply, and faithfully, and never desire to gain by your reading the name of ‘learned.’ Ask gladly and heed humbly the sayings of the saints, and do not disdain the parables of the ancient Fathers, for they were not spoken without great cause.”

St Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*, 1.5

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## The Structure

- a. Read and meditate on the Word (and other spiritual writings), “burning as an inner light.”
- b. Be attentive to and journal the *oratio*, the “responsive speech born of God’s word aflame within us,” directing you’re writing to the Lord.
- c. Prayer through the *Our Father*, using the corresponding sections of the notebook to keep lists for prayer, as well as quotations from your reading that are an encouragement in that aspect of your prayers.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,

**Thanksgiving**

thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Intercession**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**Petition**

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**Reconciliation**

- d. Listening Prayer

This structure is adapted from Leanne Payne, *Listening Prayer: Learning to Hear God’s Voice and Keep a Prayer Journal* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1994).

# Thanksgiving

**“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name...”**

“If we first hallow God’s Name...we are delivered from all evil and all things are ours.”

P.T. Forsyth

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.”

(Heb 13:15)

“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

(Phil 4:6-7)

✠. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

✠. All that is within me, bless his holy Name.

- Journal Scriptures, hymns and quotations that serve to aid in praise and thanksgiving.
- List things for which I am thankful and that inspire thankfulness.
- List answers to prayer.

*Hymns of praise (from The Hymnal 1982)*

- 57 "Lo, he comes with clouds descending"  
66 "Come, thou long expected Jesus"  
158 "Ah, holy Jesus"  
174 "At the Lamb's high feast we sing"  
282 "Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels"  
307 "Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor"  
366 "Holy God, we praise thy Name"  
368 "Holy Father, great Creator"  
372 "Praise to the living God!?"  
376 "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"  
383 "Fairest Lord Jesus"  
388 " O worship the King"  
390 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"  
400 "All creatures of our God and King"  
401 "The God of Abraham praise"  
404 "We will extol you, ever-blessed Lord"  
410 "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven"  
423 "Immortal, invisible, God only wise"  
439 "What wondrous love is this"  
446 "Praise to the holiest"  
450 "All hail the power of Jesus Name!"  
458 "My song is love unknown"  
460 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"  
474 "When I survey the wondrous cross"  
477 "All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine"  
493 "O for a thousand tongues to sing"  
494 "Crown him with many crowns"  
618 "Ye watchers and ye holy ones"  
636 "How firm a foundation"  
653 "Dear Lord and Father of mankind"  
657 "Love divine, all loves excelling"  
662 "Abide with me"  
685 "Rock of ages"  
699 "Jesus, lover of my soul"



## Intercession

**“...thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...”**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men... This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

(I Tim 2:1, 3-5)

“The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

(Rom 8:26-27)

§ Ask the Lord for the Gifts of the Spirit  
so as to intercede faithfully

### *Family*

For N., my spouse, and for all his/her needs, especially \_\_\_\_\_; may she grow in thy knowledge and love and be given grace to be made ever more into the image of likeness of Christ. Through thy grace, may I always treasure her as my wife/husband, love and comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as we both shall live.

Protect and guide my children, \_\_\_\_\_, and keep them ever in thy grace and favor.

### *Godchildren*

For \_\_\_\_\_, that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God and of his Church, and that we may be faithful by our prayers and witness to help them grow into the fullness of Christ.

Protect and guide my children's godparents, \_\_\_\_\_.

*The holy Catholic Church and my parish*

Remember, O Lord, thy Holy Catholic Church throughout the world.

✠. Turn thee again, thou Lord of Hosts;

℞. Look down from heaven, behold and tend this vine.

Remember, O Lord, our spiritual fathers and brethren, the bishop, priests, and deacons, who throughout the world rightly divide the word of truth.

✠. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness,

℞. And thy saints sing with joyfulness.

*For the Unity of the Church*

Dissipate, we meekly beseech thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, every self-willed opinion which tends by subversion of the faith to counteract the truth; that as thou art acknowledged in heaven and in earth to be the one and only God, so thy people, gathered from all nations, may glorify thee in the unity of the faith handed down from the beginning; through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For ordinands*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast purchased to thyself an universal Church by the precious blood of thy dear Son; Mercifully look upon the same, and at this time so guide and govern the minds of thy servants the Bishops and Pastors of thy flock, that they may lay hands suddenly on no one, but faithfully and wisely make choice of fit persons, to serve in the sacred Ministry of thy Church, And to those who shall be ordained to any holy function, give thy grace and heavenly benediction; that both by their life and doctrine they may show forth thy glory, and set forward the salvation of all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (1928 American BCP, p 38)

*For the Spread of the Church*

Enlarge thy kingdom, O God, and deliver the world from the dominion and tyranny of Satan. Hasten the time, which thy Spirit hath foretold, when all nations whom thou hast made shall worship thee and glorify thy Name. Bless the good endeavors of those who strive to propagate thy truth, especially \_\_\_\_\_, and prepare the hearts of all men to receive it; to the honor of thy holy Name. *Amen.*

*The Parish*

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of us thy servants, and grant unto this parish all things needful for its spiritual and temporal welfare; we pray that Thou wouldest enlighten and guide \_\_\_\_\_ the Bishop of Rome and Pope, \_\_\_\_\_, the Archbishop of Canterbury, \_\_\_\_\_ our Primate, \_\_\_\_\_ our Bishop, [\_\_\_\_ his suffragan], and all the bishops in thy holy Church, and the clergy of this Parish: \_\_\_\_\_, the deacons; \_\_\_\_\_, the priests; for all those preparing for Holy Orders, and for their families, especially \_\_\_\_\_; strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of Thy Truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and one mind within the fold of Thy Holy Church; to the honor and glory of Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Remember, O Lord, all those who travel, all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, bonds, imprisonment, and who from their affliction call upon thee, and have none else to help them, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

*The departed*

Remember, O Lord, our God, the spirits of all flesh who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, whom we remember, and who are forgotten upon the earth, from Abel, thy just servant, until this present day, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light, and peace, in the land of the living, in thy kingdom, in the bosom of Abraham, where sorrow and pain and sighing are banished away, where the light of thy countenance ever shineth, and thou dost wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
✠ May they rest in peace. Amen.

## Petition

**“...Give us this day our daily bread...”**

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

(Mt 7:7-8)

Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

(Jn 16:23-24)

“To you, O Lord, I lift up my prayer.”

### **Vocation:**

To know and love the truth that I am God's beloved son.

## Reconciliation

**“...And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.”**

If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart :  
the Lord will not hear me.

But God hath heard me :  
and considered the voice of my prayer.

Praised be God, who hath not cast out my prayer :  
nor turned his mercy from me.

(Psalm 66:16-18)

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

(Mt 6:14-15)

- a. “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”
  - a. Pray about those whom you need to forgive
  - b. Pray through your list of besetting sins
- b. “Lead us not into temptation” – journal about those events, instances, scenarios that are sources of temptation to sin
- c. “But deliver us from evil”
  - 1) Seek the protection of God from those people who have and continue to do evil against me
  - 2) Pray for our enemies

Save, O Lord, and have mercy upon those that envy and affront me and do me mischief, and let them not perish through me, a sinner.

*From Byzantine Morning Prayer*

## Listening Prayer

**“For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.”**

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

Return to the “Word” section – listen for the response of God to my cries for

Intercession

Forgiveness

Guidance

Healing

## Concluding Prayers

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith. *1 Peter 5:8-9a*

Save me, O Lord, from a sudden death, that I may end my life in the communion of the Catholic Church, fortified by thy Sacraments, without suffering and without reproach; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope; in favour with thee our God; and in perfect charity with all men. Gather us under the feet of thine elect, when thou wilt, only without shame and sin.

### *Memorare*

Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, My Mother, to thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful, O Mother of the word incarnate! Despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me! Amen.

*In Praise of the Virgin*

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Hail, O dwelling place of light. Hail, O immaculate shrine of God uncontained. Hail, O vessel containing the Wisdom of God. Hail, O support of him who bears the world. Hail, O Virgin in whom creation is renewed. Hail, O Mother in whom the Creator is a child. Hail, O faithful one, whose joy is silence. Hail, O monstrance of Christ, Lord and Savior. Hail, O fulfillment of the Plan beyond description. Hail, O Queen, who are become a kingly throne.

*From the Akathist Hymn*

*Actiones nostras.*

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us in thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1662 BCP

*Suscipe, Domine*

Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and all my will, all I have and possess. Thou hast given all to me; to thee, O Lord, I restore it; all is thine, dispose of it entirely according to thy will. Give me thy love, and thy grace, for this is enough for me.

*St. Ignatius of Loyola*

*Prayers to St. Michael*

Holy Michael Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, the Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Prince most glorious, Michael the Archangel,  
keep us in remembrance;  
here and everywhere, and always,  
entreat the Son of God for us.

*Prayer to the Guardian Angel*

O Holy Guardian Angel, to whose care God, in his mercy, has committed me, stand by me now and at my last hour; protect me against all the powers of darkness; defend me from all my enemies, and conduct my soul to the mansions of bliss.

*The Divine Praises*

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most faithful spouse.

Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

✠. Lord, hear our prayer.

✠. And let our cry come unto thee.

✠. Let us bless the Lord.

✠. Thanks be to God.

✠. May the ✠ souls of the faithful,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

✠. Amen.

*At the conclusion, the following is always said:*

The ✠ grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

✠. May the divine assistance remain with us always.

✠. Amen.



## Litany of Humility

**Cardinal Merry del Val, who composed this litany, often recited it after the celebration of the Mass.**

O Jesus! Meek and humble of heart, *Hear me, precious Lord.*  
From the desire of being esteemed, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being extolled, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being honored, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being praised, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being preferred to others, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being consulted, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being humiliated, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being despised, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of suffering rebukes, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being calumniated, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being forgotten, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being ridiculed, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being wronged, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being suspected, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
That others may be loved more than I,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be esteemed more than I,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That in the opinion of the world others may increase and I may  
decrease, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be chosen and I set aside,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be praised and I unnoticed,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be preferred to me in everything,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others become holier than I, provided that I may become as  
holy as I should, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*



# Evening Personal Devotions

✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Blessed be the Holy and Undivided Trinity,  
now and for evermore. Amen.

Our Father...

Hail, Mary...

*Gloria Patri...*

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit, and kindle in me the fire thy love.

## Self-Examination

Suffer not, O God of Truth, the self-love where with I am  
possessed to hide from me my real condition. Take away the veil  
which it puts before my eyes, and let nothing hinder me from  
knowing, and from making known, to Him whom thou hast  
commissioned to act in thy Name, all my guilt.

1. How have I spent this day?
2. Have I striven to remember the presence of God, and to do all things as in His sight?
3. What has been the character of my private devotions?
4. How have my ministrations been performed—in church? —in my household? —among my parishioners, the sick and the whole? —what has been the nature of my interactions with them, and with others?
5. What time have I wasted?
6. What duties have I neglected towards God, my family, my neighbor, or myself?
7. Of what sins am I conscious, in thought, word and deed?
8. Have I fallen today into my besetting sin?

## Confession of Sin

Confíteor Deo omnipoténti,  
beátæ Mariæ semper Vírgini,  
beáto Michaéli Archángelo,  
beáto Joánni Baptístæ, sanctis  
Apóstolis Petro et Paulo,  
ómnibus Sanctis, quia peccávi  
nimis cogitatióne, verbo et  
ópere: mea culpa mea culpa, mea  
máxima culpa. Ideo precor  
beátam Mariám semper  
Vírginem, beátum Michaélem  
Archángelum, beátum Joánnem  
Baptístam, sanctos Apóstolos  
Petrum et Paulum, omnes  
Sanctos, oráre pro me ad  
Dóminum Deum nostrum.

I confess to God Almighty, to  
Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to  
blessed Michael the Archangel,  
to blessed John the Baptist, to  
the holy Apostles Peter and Paul,  
and to all the Saints, that I have  
sinned exceedingly in thought,  
word, and deed, through my  
fault, through my own fault,  
through my own most grievous  
fault; therefore I beg Blessed  
Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed  
Michael the Archangel, blessed  
John the Baptist, the holy  
Apostles Peter and Paul, and all  
the Saints, to pray for me to the  
Lord our God.

May Almighty God have mercy upon me, forgive me my sins,  
and bring me to everlasting life.

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant me pardon, ✠  
absolution, and remission of all my sins. Amen.

### *A General Intercession*

Almighty and everlasting God, I make my humble supplication  
unto thee on behalf of all my relations... friends...and all who  
have claim on my prayers, particularly... Let thy fatherly hand, I  
beseech thee, ever be over them; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with  
them, and so lead them to the knowledge and obedience of thy  
Word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life.

Have mercy upon my parish and those where I have served, and bless the work of those whom thou hast set over it. Enlighten the ignorant; restore the backsliding; comfort the sorrowful, and succour all who are afflicted in mind, body or estate...Heal the sick,...and the dying to thy rest...Look with an eye of pity on all whom pain, or anxiety, or danger, shall keep from sleep. Be merciful to all the faithful, who have departed this life, especially my own relations,...to all those whose sick beds I have attended...or who I have known and loved. Grant them remission of their sins, rest in peace, a joyful resurrection, a merciful judgment at the last day, and perfect consummation and bless both in body and soul, in thy everlasting glory. Hear, Lord, and answer these my prayers for Jesus Christ sake, who, with thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth, and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen.

Visit, we beseech thee O Lord, this place and drive from it all the snares of the enemy. Let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace, and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Keep me as the apple of thine eye;  
Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

**When you lie down, commit yourself with the holy sign to the care of him who neither slumbers nor sleeps, saying,**

✠ I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest:  
for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

**And before you sleep,**

Into thy hands, I commend my spirit:  
for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

## Prayers before the Divine Office

Open thou my lips, O Lord, to bless thy holy Name; cleanse my heart from all vain, evil and wandering thoughts; enlighten my understanding and enkindle my affection, that I may say this Office worthily, attentively, and devoutly, and may be counted meet to be heard in the presence of thy divine majesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, in union with that divine intention wherewith thou didst offer praise to God on earth, I offer this service unto thee.

*Prayer of Abandon from Blessed Charles de Foucault*

Father, I abandon myself into Your hands. Do with me what You will. Whatever You may do, I thank You. I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only Your will be done in me and in all Your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into Your Hands I commend my soul. I offer it to You with all the love of my heart. For, I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into Your hands without reserve and with boundless confidence. For You are my Father. Amen.

### **A Morning Offering**

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer unto Thee all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all apostles of prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father. Amen.

### **A Daily Offering of St. Therese of Lisieux**

Oh my God! I offer unto Thee all my actions of this day for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, my every thought, and my simplest works by uniting them to His infinite merits; and I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them in the furnace of His merciful love. Oh my God! I ask of Thee for myself and for those dear to me the grace to fulfill perfectly Thy holy will, to accept for love of Thee the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we may one day be united together in Heaven for all of eternity. Amen.

## Prayers at the Conclusion of the Divine Office

To the holy and undivided Trinity, to the manhood of our crucified Lord Jesus Christ, to the fruitful virginity of the most blessed and glorious Mary, the ever-virgin Mother of God, to the whole company of saints, be everlasting praise, honor, power, and glory, from all things created; and unto the remission of all our sins, for ever and ever. Amen.

**V.** Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary,  
which bore the Son of the eternal Father.

**R.** And blessed are the breasts  
which nourished Christ the Lord.

O most gracious Jesus, I give thanks unto thee with my whole heart. Be merciful to me, a most wretched sinner. I offer this act of worship to thy divine heart: that thou would correct whatever is amiss, and supply whatever is lacking, to the praise and glory of thy most holy Name, and to that of thy most blessed Mother; for the salvation of my soul and for that of all thy Church. Amen.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

I Believe...

# THE MARIAN ANTIPHONS

## Advent I until the Purification

*Alama Redemptoris Mater*


Alama Redemptoris Mater,	Mother of Christ our
Quae pervia caeli porta manes,	Redeemer,
et stella maris:	Thou who are call'd the portal
succurre cadenti,	of heavin, the star of the ocean;
surgere qui curat populo.	Still as we fall we struggle to
Tu quae genuisti,	rise; then help us we pray thee.
natura mirante	Nature in wonder stood
tuum sanctum Genitorem:	when birth thou gavest thy
Virgo prius ac posterius,	Maker.
Gabrielis ab ore surmens	Thou who, Virgin before thou
illud Ave,	didst bear, art a Virgin for ever,
peccatorum miserere.	Hearest Gabriel's <i>Ave</i> ,
	Look down with pity upon us
	sinners.

**One of the following concludes the anthems.**

### *In Advent*

Ÿ. The Angel of the Lord announced unto Mary.

Ŕ. And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that we who have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ announced by an angel to the blessed Virgin Mary, may by His  cross and passion may we be brought unto the glory of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### *After Christmas*

Ÿ. After child-bearing thou didst remain a pure Virgin.

Ŕ. Mother of God, intercede for us.

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary hast bestowed upon mankind the rewards of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech thee; that we may ever perceive that she intercedeth for us, through whom we have received the author of life, even Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.



## After the Purification to Wednesday in Holy Week

### *Ave Regina coelorum*

Hail, thou Queen of heavenly regions,  
Mistress of angelic legions:  
Root of Jesse, heaven's portal,  
Whence hath risen the light immortal:  
Joy be thine, O virgin blessed,  
Fairest of our race confessed,  
Thee we hail, O glorious Maiden;  
Plead to Christ for souls sin-laden.

✠. Vouchsafe to receive my praises, O hallowed Virgin.

✠. Strengthen me to resist all thine enemies.

Grant us, O merciful God, support in our weakness: that, as we keep the holy Mother of God in devout remembrance; so with the help of her intercession we may be raised up from all iniquities. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

## In Eastertide

### *Regina coeli*

O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia.  
Because he whom so meetly thou bearest, alleluia.  
Hath arisen as he promised, alleluia.  
Pray for us to the Father, alleluia.  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

O God, who by the resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ didst vouchsafe to give gladness unto the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, being holpen by the Virgin Mary, his Mother, may attain unto the joys of everlasting life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Trinity Sunday to Advent

### *Salve Regina*

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy; hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile show until us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

✠. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

℞. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Almighty and everlasting God, who by the cooperation of the Holy Spirit didst prepare the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mary to become a habitation meet for thy Son; grant that as we rejoice in her commemoration, so by her fervent intercession we may be delivered from our present evils and from everlasting death; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Daily Office *during the* Sacred Triduum

## Maundy Thursday—Morning Prayer

**The People stand as the Officiant enters.**

**Standing, the Officiant silently says,**

✠ O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

**Then all sit and the Office begins without introduction, beginning directly with the appointed Antiphon and Psalm.**

**The Psalter** (seated)

**Note: A slight pause (enough time to say the Name of Jesus) is observed at the asterisk in the midst of each psalm.**

*First Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

The Lord was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and he opened not his mouth.

Psalm 56 (1979 BCP page 662)

*Second Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

Thou hast comforted us, O Lord, in thy strength : and refreshed us in thine holiness.

Psalm 64 (1979 BCP page 671)

*Third Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

He was offered up because he himself willed it : and he bare our sins.

Psalm 102 (1979 BCP page 731)

**At the conclusion of the recitation of all the Psalms, the Glory be is not said.**

**First Lesson**—Jeremiah 20:7-11 (from Year 1)

**All stand.**

**A Song of Penitence**    *Kyrie Pantokrator*                      **(said in unison)**  
*Prayer of Manasseh, 12, 4, 67, 1115*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \*  
    God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
    and of all their righteous offspring:  
Thou madest the heavens and the earth, \*  
    with all their vast array.  
All things quake with fear at thy presence; \*  
    they tremble because of thy power.  
But thy merciful promise is beyond all measure; \*  
    it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.  
O Lord, thou art full of compassion, \*  
    longsuffering, and abounding in mercy.  
Thou holdest back thine hand; \*  
    Thou dost not punish as we deserve.  
In thy great goodness, O Lord,  
Thou hast promised forgiveness to sinners, \*  
    that they may repent of their sin and be saved.  
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \*  
    and make my appeal, sure of thy gracious goodness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
and I know my wickedness only too well.  
Therefore I make this prayer to thee: \*  
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.  
Do not let me perish in my sin, \*  
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.  
For thou, O Lord, art the God of those who repent, \*  
and in me thou wilt show forth thy goodness.  
Unworthy as I am, thou wilt save me,  
in accordance with your great mercy, \*  
and I will praise thee without ceasing all the days of my life.  
For all the powers of heaven sing thy praises, \*  
and thine is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

**All sit.**

**Second Lesson**—John 17:1-26 (from Year 1)

**All stand.**

**Benedictus** – Song of Zechariah (said in unison)

*Antiphon*

Christ for us became obedient unto death.

✠ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, \*  
that he would give us,

That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high  
hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**The Glory be is omitted.**

*Antiphon said in unison*

Christ for us became obedient unto death.

**All kneel.**

**The Our Father is then said is silence.**

**Psalm 51**      *Miserere mei, Deus* (**said in unison in a low voice**)

1. HAVE mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness\*  
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine  
offences.
2. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness\*  
and cleanse me from my sin.
3. For I acknowledge my faults\* and my sin is ever before me.
4. Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight\*  
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying,  
and clear when thou art judged.
5. Behold, I was shapen in wickedness\*  
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

6. But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts\*  
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
7. Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean\*  
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8. Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness\*  
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
9. Turn thy face from my sins\* and put out all my misdeeds.
10. Make me a clean heart, O God\*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
11. Cast me not away from thy presence\*  
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
12. O give me the comfort of thy help again \*  
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
13. Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked\*  
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
14. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God,  
thou that art the God of my health\*  
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
15. Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord\*  
and my mouth shall shew thy praise.
16. For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee\*  
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.
17. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit\*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
18. O be favourable and gracious unto Sion\*  
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
19. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,  
with the burnt-offerings and oblations\*  
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

**The Officiant then says**

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross;

**The conclusion is said silently.**

who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. *Amen*

# Maundy Thursday—Evening Prayer

The People stand as the Officiant enters.

Standing, the Officiant silently says,

✠ O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Then all sit and the Office begins without introduction, beginning directly with the appointed Antiphon and Psalm.

**The Psalter** (seated)

**Note: A slight pause (enough time to say the Name of Jesus) is observed at the asterisk in the midst of each psalm.**

*First Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks unto thy name.

Psalm 142 (1979 BCP page 798)

*Second Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

Deliver me from mine enemies, O Lord, for I flee unto thee.

Psalm 143 (1979 BCP page 798)

**At the conclusion of the recitation of all the Psalms, the Glory be is not said.**

**First Lesson**—Lamentations 2:10-18 (from Year 2)



**All stand.**

*Magnificat* - The Song of Mary (*standing*)

*Antiphon*

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and break it, and gave it to his disciples.

✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath  
holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

**The Glory be is omitted.**

*Antiphon said in unison*

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and break it, and gave it to his disciples.

**All sit.**

## The Second Lesson—I Cor. 10:14-17; 11:27-32 (Yrs 1 & 2)

**All stand.**

*Nunc dimittis* – The Song of Simeon (*standing*)

✠ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, \*  
according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, \*  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \*  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**The Glory be is omitted.**

**All kneel.**

**The Our Father is then said is silence.**

**Psalm 51**      *Miserere mei, Deus* (**said in unison in a low voice**)

**The Officiant then says**

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross;

**The conclusion is said silently.**

who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. *Amen*

# Good Friday—Morning Prayer

The People stand as the Officiant enters.

Standing, the Officiant silently says,

✠ O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Then all sit and the Office begins without introduction, beginning directly with the appointed Antiphon and Psalm.

**The Psalter** (seated)

**Note: A slight pause (enough time to say the Name of Jesus) is observed at the asterisk in the midst of each psalm.**

*First Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

They parted my garments among them, and cast lots for my clothing.

Psalm 22 (1979 BCP page 610)

*Second Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it.

Psalm 40 (1979 BCP page 640)

*Third Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

Strangers also are risen up against me, and tyrants seek after my soul.

Psalm 54 (1979 BCP page 659)

**At the conclusion of the recitation of all the Psalms, the Glory be is not said.**

**First Lesson**—Wisdom 1:16-2:1, 12-22 (from Year 1)

**All stand.**

**A Song of Penitence**    *Kyrie Pantokrator*                    **(said in unison)**  
*Prayer of Manasseh, 12, 4, 67, 1115*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \*  
    God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
    and of all their righteous offspring:  
Thou madest the heavens and the earth, \*  
    with all their vast array.  
All things quake with fear at thy presence; \*  
    they tremble because of thy power.  
But thy merciful promise is beyond all measure; \*  
    it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.  
O Lord, thou art full of compassion, \*  
    longsuffering, and abounding in mercy.  
Thou holdest back thine hand; \*  
    Thou dost not punish as we deserve.  
In thy great goodness, O Lord,  
Thou hast promised forgiveness to sinners, \*  
    that they may repent of their sin and be saved.  
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \*  
    and make my appeal, sure of thy gracious goodness.  
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
    and I know my wickedness only too well.  
Therefore I make this prayer to thee: \*  
    Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.  
Do not let me perish in my sin, \*  
    nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.  
For thou, O Lord, art the God of those who repent, \*  
    and in me thou wilt show forth thy goodness.

Unworthy as I am, thou wilt save me,  
in accordance with your great mercy, \*  
and I will praise thee without ceasing all the days of my life.  
For all the powers of heaven sing thy praises, \*  
and thine is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

**All sit.**

**Second Lesson**—John 13:36-38 (from Years 1 & 2)

**All stand.**

**Benedictus** – Song of Zechariah  
(**standing & in unison**)

*Antiphon*

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.

✠ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather  
Abraham,\*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high  
hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**The Glory be is omitted.**

*Antiphon said in unison*

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on the  
cross.

**All kneel.**

**The Our Father is then said is silence.**

**Psalm 51**      *Miserere mei, Deus* (**said in unison in a low voice**)

**The Officiant then says**

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy  
family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be  
betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to  
suffer death upon the cross;

**The conclusion is said silently.**

who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy  
Ghost ever, one God, world without end. *Amen*

# Good Friday—Evening Prayer

The People stand as the Officiant enters.

Standing, the Officiant silently says,

✠ O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Then all sit and the Office begins without introduction, beginning directly with the appointed Antiphon and Psalm.

**The Psalter** (seated)

**Note: A slight pause (enough time to say the Name of Jesus) is observed at the asterisk in the midst of each psalm.**

*First Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

Save me, O God, for the water are come in, even unto my soul.

Psalm 69 (1979 BCP page 679)

*Second Antiphon*

**(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)**

Let my prayer, Lord, enter into thy presence.

Psalm 88 (1979 BCP page 712)

**At the conclusion of the recitation of all the Psalms, the Glory be is not said.**

## First Lesson—I Peter 1:10-20 (from Years 1 & 2)

**All stand.**

*Magnificat* - The Song of Mary (*standing*)

*Antiphon*

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.

✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination  
of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath  
holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

**The Glory be is omitted.**

*Antiphon said in unison*

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.

**All sit.**



## The Second Lesson—John 19:38-42 (from Years 1 & 2)

**All stand.**

*Nunc dimittis* – The Song of Simeon (*standing*)

✠ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, \*  
according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, \*  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \*  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**The Glory be is omitted.**

**All kneel.**

**The Our Father is then said is silence.**

**Psalm 51** *Miserere mei, Deus* (**said in unison in a low voice**)

**The Officiant then says**

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross;

**The conclusion is said silently.**

who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. *Amen*

# Holy Saturday—Morning Prayer

Standing, the Officiant silently says,

The People stand as the Officiant enters.

Standing, the Officiant silently says,

✠ O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Then all sit and the Office begins without introduction, beginning directly with the appointed Antiphon and Psalm.

## The Psalter (seated)

Note: A slight pause (enough time to say the Name of Jesus) is observed at the asterisk in the midst of each psalm.

### *First Antiphon*

(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)

They shall mourn for him as one mourneth for his only son : for the Lord, who is without sin, is slain.

Psalm 23 (1979 BCP page 612)

### *Second Antiphon*

(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)

All ye my people, behold and see my sorrow.

Psalm 30 (1979 BCP page 621)

### *Third Antiphon*

(The Officiant says this before the psalm; then all say it in unison at the conclusion of the psalm)

From the gate of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul.

Psalm 142 (1979 BCP page 798)

**At the conclusion of the recitation of all the Psalms, the Glory be is not said.**

**First Lesson**—Job 19:21-27a (from Year 1)

**All stand.**

**A Song of Penitence**    *Kyrie Pantokrator*                    **(said in unison)**  
*Prayer of Manasseh, 12, 4, 67, 1115*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \*  
    God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
    and of all their righteous offspring:  
Thou madest the heavens and the earth, \*  
    with all their vast array.  
All things quake with fear at thy presence; \*  
    they tremble because of thy power.  
But thy merciful promise is beyond all measure; \*  
    it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.  
O Lord, thou art full of compassion, \*  
    longsuffering, and abounding in mercy.  
Thou holdest back thine hand; \*  
    Thou dost not punish as we deserve.  
In thy great goodness, O Lord,  
Thou hast promised forgiveness to sinners, \*  
    that they may repent of their sin and be saved.  
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \*  
    and make my appeal, sure of thy gracious goodness.  
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
    and I know my wickedness only too well.  
Therefore I make this prayer to thee: \*  
    Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.  
Do not let me perish in my sin, \*  
    nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.  
For thou, O Lord, art the God of those who repent, \*  
    and in me thou wilt show forth thy goodness.  
Unworthy as I am, thou wilt save me,  
in accordance with your great mercy, \*  
    and I will praise thee without ceasing all the days of my life.  
For all the powers of heaven sing thy praises, \*

and thine is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

**All sit.**

**Second Lesson**—Hebrews 4:1-16 (from Years 1 & 2)

**All stand.**

**Benedictus** – Song of Zechariah

**(standing & in unison)**

*Antiphon*

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on the cross; wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every Name.

✠ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, \*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the  
prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high

hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**The Glory be is omitted.**

*Antiphon said in unison*

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on the  
cross; wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given  
Him a Name which is above every Name.

**All kneel.**

**The Our Father is then said is silence.**

**Psalm 51** *Miserere mei, Deus*      **(said in unison in a low voice)**

**The Officiant then says**

Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of thy  
blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying  
our corrupt affections we may be buried with him; and that,  
through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful  
resurrection; for his merits, who died, and was buried, and rose  
again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The conclusion is said silently.**

who liveth and reigneth, world without end. *Amen.*

# Holy Saturday —Evening Prayer

Said like on a normal day with the assigned readings and the following collect:

**Psalm**

27

**First Lesson**—Lamentations 3:37-58 (from Year 2)

**Second Lesson**—Romans 8:1-11 (from Years 1 & 2)

Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with him; and that, through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his merits, who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth, world without end. *Amen.*

# THE OFFICE OF THE DEAD

## *Matins*

### PRAYERS BEFORE DIVINE OFFICE

Open thou my lips, O Lord, to bless thy holy Name; cleanse my heart from all vain, evil and wandering thoughts; enlighten my understanding and enkindle my affection, that I may say this Office worthily, attentively, and devoutly, and may be counted meet to be heard in the presence of thy divine majesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, in union with that divine intention wherewith thou didst offer praise to God on earth, I offer this service unto thee.



Enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. *Psalm* cxliiii. 2.

### Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our  
own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to  
have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to  
have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name.

Amen.

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord *Amen.* [Collect for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity]

## Invitatory and Psalter

Ÿ. ✠ O Lord, open thou our lips.  
Ṛ. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Ÿ. ✠ O God, make speed to save us.  
Ṛ. O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ÿ. Praise ye the Lord.  
Ṛ. The Lord's name by praised.

### *Antiphon*

The King to whom all things live: \*  
O come let us worship him.

### **Venite** *Psalm 95*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \*  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, \*  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, \*  
and the strength of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his and he made it, \*  
and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the lord our God, \*  
and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.



Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts \*  
as in the provocation,  
and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;  
When your fathers tempted me, \*  
proved me, and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, \*  
It is a people that do err in their hearts,  
for they have not known my ways.  
Unto whom I swear in my wrath, \*  
that they should not enter into my rest.

✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

### *Antiphon*

The King to whom all things live: \*  
O come let us worship him.

## **Psalms**

### *Antiphons for the Psalms*

- 1 Make thy way plain, \*  
O Lord, before my face. Ps. 5
- 2 Turn thee, O Lord, and deliver my soul:\*  
for in death no man remembereth thee. Ps. 6.
- 3 Lest he devour my soul like a lion, and tear it in pieces,\*  
while there is none to help. Ps. 7.

### *Said at the conclusion of each, in place of the Gloria Patri*

✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

## **The First Lesson – Wisdom 4.7-20**

But the righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, nor measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil

change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

The righteous man who had died will condemn the ungodly who are living, and youth that is quickly perfected will condemn the prolonged old age of the unrighteous man. For they will see the end of the wise man, and will not understand what the Lord purposed for him, and for what he kept him safe. They will see, and will have contempt for him, but the Lord will laugh them to scorn.

After this they will become dishonored corpses, and an outrage among the dead for ever; because he will dash them speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations; they will be left utterly dry and barren, and they will suffer anguish, and the memory of them will perish.

They will come with dread when their sins are reckoned up, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

### *Antiphon*

From the gate of hell \*  
deliver my soul, O Lord.

### **The Song of Hezekiah**

1 I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: \* I am deprived of the residue of my years:

2 I said I shall not see the Lord, even the Lord, in the land of the living: \* I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world:

3 Mine age is departed, \* and is now removed from me as a shepherd's tent:

4 I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness: \* from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.

5 I reckoned till morning, that as a lion so will he break all my bones: \* from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.

6 Like a crane or a swallow so did I chatter: \* I did mourn as a dove.

7 Mine eyes fail with looking upward: \* O LORD I am oppressed; undertake for me.

8 What shall I say? he hath both spoken unto me and himself hath done it: \* I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.

9 O LORD by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: \* so wilt thou recover me and make me to live.

10 Behold for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: \* for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

11 For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee: \* they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

12 The living, the living, he shall praise thee as I do this day: \* the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

13 The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments \* all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.

✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

### *Antiphon*

From the gate of hell \*  
deliver my soul, O Lord.

## **The Second Lesson – I Corinthians 15.35-58**

<sup>35</sup> But some one will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup> You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and

to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup> For not all flesh is alike, but there is one kind for men, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup> There are celestial bodies and there are terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. <sup>41</sup> There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup> So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. <sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brethren: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

<sup>51</sup> Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Ÿ. I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me.  
R. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

*Antiphon for Benedictus*

I am \* the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.

**Canticum Zachariae** – *Luc. 1:68-79*

✠ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, \*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*

✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

*Antiphon*

I am \* the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me,  
though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and  
believeth in me, shall never die.

**The following is said silently**

Our Father ...

**The following Psalm is not said on the day of death or burial,  
nor when the Office is said under the double rite.**

130 *De profundis*

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
  - 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O LORD, who could stand?
  - 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.
  - 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.
  - 5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
  - 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;
  - 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.
- ✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ÿ. From the gate of hell.  
R̄. Deliver *his soul*, O Lord.  
Ÿ. May *he* rest in peace.  
R̄. Amen.  
Ÿ. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
R̄. And let my cry come unto thee.

### *1 Day of Burial*

Absolve, we beseech thee, O Lord, the soul of thy servant (handmaid) N., that being dead unto the world *he* may live unto thee: and whatsoever *he* hath done amiss in *his* earthly life through the frailty of the flesh, do thou in the pitifulness of thy great goodness pardon and purge away; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### *2 On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> days after burial*

We beseech thee, O Lord that the soul of thy servant (handmaid) N., whose body *three* days since we did commit unto the ground, may be made partaker of the fellowship of thine elect; and that thou wouldest pour upon *him* the continual dew of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### *3 On the Anniversary*

O God, to whom alone belongeth the forgiveness of sins: grant, we pray thee, to the souls of thy *servants (and handmaidens)*, the anniversary of whose burial we now commemorate, to find a place of refreshing, and the blessedness of thy rest, and to enjoy the glory of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### *4 For a Bishop or Priest*

O God, who didst cause thy servant, N. for whom we pray, to enjoy the office of *bishop (priest)* after the order of thine Apostles: grant unto him, we beseech thee; finally to rejoice in the company of those thy Saints in heaven whose ministry he did sometime share on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### *5 For a Man Departed*

Incline thine ear, O Lord, unto the prayers wherewith we humbly entreat thy mercy: that the soul of thy servant N., which thou hast bidden to depart this life, may by thee be set in the abode of peace

and light, and made partaker of the eternal fellowship of thine elect; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*6 For a Woman Departed*

We beseech thee, O Lord, of thy loving kindness to have mercy on the soul of thine handmaiden N.: that being purged from all defilements of our mortal nature, she may be restored to the portion of everlasting felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord..

*7 For Brethren, Kinsfolk and Benefactors—the second Collect under 9*

*8 For Father and Mother*

O God, who didst command thy people, saying, Honour thy father and thy mother: of thy loving kindness have mercy on the *souls of my father and mother*, and forgive *them* all *their* sins; and I humbly pray thee that thou wouldest grant unto *me* to behold *their faces* in the glory of everlasting felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*9 In the Office of the Dead through the Year*

O God, who didst cause thy servants, for whom we pray, to enjoy the dignity of the priesthood, and some to be bishops after the order of thine Apostles: grant unto them, we beseech thee, finally to rejoice in the company of those thy Saints in heaven whose ministry they did sometime share on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that all mankind should be saved: we beseech thee mercifully to grant that the brethren, kinsfolk and benefactors of our congregation who have passed out of this world, may by the intercession of blessed Mary ever Virgin and of all thy Saints come to enjoy with them everlasting blessedness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all thy faithful people: grant unto the souls of thy servants and handmaids the remission of all their sins: that as they have ever desired thy merciful pardon, so by



the supplications of their brethren they may receive the same:  
Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

Ÿ. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.  
R̄. And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
Ÿ. ✠ May they rest in peace.  
R̄. Amen.

# THE OFFICE OF THE DEAD

*Evensong*

## PRAYERS BEFORE DIVINE OFFICE

Open thou my lips, O Lord, to bless thy holy Name; cleanse my heart from all vain, evil and wandering thoughts; enlighten my understanding and enkindle my affection, that I may say this Office worthily, attentively, and devoutly, and may be counted meet to be heard in the presence of thy divine majesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, in union with that divine intention wherewith thou didst offer praise to God on earth, I offer this service unto thee.



Enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. *Psalm cxxliii. 2.*

## Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our  
own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to  
have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to  
have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord  
*Amen.* [Collect for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity]

## Invitatory and Psalter

- ℣.      ✠ O Lord, open thou our lips.  
℞.      And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
- ℣.      ✠ O God, make speed to save us.  
℞.      O Lord, make haste to help us.
- Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.
- ℣.      Praise ye the Lord.  
℞.      The Lord's name by praised.

## Psalms

### *Antiphons for the Psalms*

- 1 I will walk \* before the Lord in the land of the living. Ps. 116  
2 Woe is me, O Lord, \* that I am constrained to dwell with  
Mesech. Ps. 120.  
3 The Lord shall preserve thee \* from all evil: yea, it is even he  
that shall keep thy soul. Ps. 121.  
4 If what is done amiss \* thou wilt be extreme to mark, O Lord:  
O Lord, who may abide it? Ps. 130.  
5 Despite not, \* O Lord, the works of thine own hands. Ps.138.

### *Said at the conclusion of each, in place of the Gloria Patri*

- ✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

## First Lesson – Job 19.21-27

<sup>21</sup> Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,  
for the hand of God has touched me!

<sup>22</sup> Why do you, like God, pursue me?

Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?

<sup>23</sup> “Oh that my words were written!

Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

<sup>24</sup> Oh that with an iron pen and lead  
they were graven in the rock for ever!

<sup>25</sup> For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at last he will stand upon the earth;

<sup>26</sup> and after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
then from my flesh I shall see God,

<sup>27</sup> whom I shall see on my side,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

My heart faints within me!

*V.* I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me.

*R.* Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

*Antiphon to Magnificat*

All \* that the Father hath given me shall come to me: and him that  
cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.

**Magnificat** *Luc. 1:46-55*

✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

*Antiphon to Magnificat*

All \* that the Father hath given me shall come to me: and him that  
cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.

**The Second Lesson – I Thess. 4.13-18**

<sup>13</sup> But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; <sup>17</sup> then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Nunc dimittis** *Luc. 2:29.*

✠ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, \*  
according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, \*  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \*  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.\*  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

**The following is said silently**

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.

**The following Psalm is not said on the day of death or burial,  
nor when the Office is said under the double rite.**

*Antiphon*

✠ Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O Lord.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

146 *Lauda, anima mea*

- 1 Hallelujah!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul! \*  
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- 2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \*  
for there is no help in them.
- 3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \*  
and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.

- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

*Antiphon*

- ✠ Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O Lord.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

**The conclusion is the same as at Matins.**

*Drawn from J. P Chilcott-Monk,  
The English Office Book (Norwich: Canterbury, 2006).*



**PRIVATE PRAYERS** *of PREPARATION for the* **PRIEST**  
*before* **MASS**

✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Ant.*

Remember not, Lord, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers, neither take thou vengeance of our sins. [Alleluia]

**One or more of the following Psalms is said as time allows.**

84 *Quam dilecta!*

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find  
it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than

a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O LORD of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!

## 85 *Benedixisti, Domine*

1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.

3 You have withdrawn all your fury \*  
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

4 Restore us then, O God our Savior; \*  
let your anger depart from us.

5 Will you be displeased with us for ever? \*  
will you prolong your anger from age to age?

6 Will you not give us life again, \*  
that your people may rejoice in you?

7 Show us your mercy, O LORD, \*  
and grant us your salvation.

8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*

and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

## 86 *Inclina, Domine*

- 1 Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me, \*  
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; \*  
save your servant who puts his trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O LORD, for you are my God; \*  
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, \*  
for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, \*  
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, \*  
and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, \*  
for you will answer me.
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD, \*  
nor anything like your works.
- 9 All nations you have made will come and  
worship you, O LORD, \*  
and glorify your Name.
- 10 For you are great; you do wondrous things; \*  
and you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; \*  
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.
- 12 I will thank you, O LORD my God, with all my heart, \*  
and glorify your Name for evermore.

- 13 For great is your love toward me; \*  
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.
- 14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,  
and a band of violent men seeks my life; \*  
they have not set you before their eyes.
- 15 But you, O LORD, are gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; \*  
give your strength to your servant;  
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; \*  
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

## 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of  
my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever  
I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”
- 4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The LORD watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*  
for the LORD has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

- 8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living.
- 9 I believed, even when I said,  
“I have been brought very low.” \*  
In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD’s house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

### 130 *De profundis*

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O LORD, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Gloria Patri...

*Ant.*

Remember not, Lord, our offenses, nor the offenses of our  
forefathers, neither take thou vengeance of our sins. [Alleluia]

Kyrie eleison.

*Christe eleison.*

Kyrie eleison.

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.

℣. I said: Lord, be merciful unto me.

℞. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee.

℣. Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last.

℞. And be gracious unto thy servants.

℣. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be shewed upon us.

℞. As we do put our trust in thee.

℣. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness.  
℞. And thy Saints sing with joyfulness.  
℣. Cleanse thou me, O Lord, from my secret faults.  
℞. And keep thy servant from presumptuous sins.  
℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

Most gracious God, incline thy merciful ears unto our prayers, and enlighten our hearts with the grace of the Holy Ghost, that we may worthily celebrate thy holy mysteries, and love thee with an everlasting love.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name.

Kindle, O Lord, our hearts and minds with the fire of thy Holy Spirit: that we may serve thee in chastity of body, and please thee in purity of soul.

May the Comforter, who proceedeth from thee, we beseech thee, O Lord, enlighten our minds: and lead us, as thy Son hath promised, into all truth.

O Lord, we beseech thee, may the power of the Holy Ghost be with us, and most mercifully cleanse and purge our hearts, and defend us from all adversities.

Cleanse our consciences, we beseech thee, O Lord, by thy visitation: that thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, when he cometh, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself: Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

O God, who didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort.

## Sunday

O great High Priest and true Bishop, Jesus Christ, who didst offer thyself to God the Father a pure and spotless Victim upon the altar of the Cross for us miserable sinners, and who didst give us thy Flesh to eat and thy Blood to drink, and didst ordain this mystery in the power of thy Holy Spirit, saying: As oft as ye shall do this, do it in remembrance of me: I pray thee, by the same thy Blood, the great price of our redemption, I pray thee by that wonderful and unspeakable charity, wherewith thou deignedst so to love us, miserable and unworthy, as to wash us from our sins in thine own Blood. Teach me, thine unworthy servant, whom thou hast vouchsafed, among thine other gifts, to call to thy priestly service, not for any merits of mine, but by the condescension of thy loving-kindness alone; teach me, I beseech thee, by thy Holy Spirit, to treat so great a mystery with that reverence and honor, that devotion and fear, which is due and fitting. Make me through thy grace always so to believe and understand, to conceive and firmly to hold, to think and to speak, as shall please thee and be good for my soul. Let thy good Spirit enter my heart, and there be heard without utterance, and without the sound of words speak all truth. For thy mysteries are exceeding deep, and hid beneath a sacred veil. For thy great mercy's sake grant me to celebrate thy holy mysteries with a clean heart, and a pure mind. Free my heart from all defiling and unholy, from all vain and hurtful thoughts. Defend me with the loving and faithful guard and most mighty protection of thy blessed Angels, that the enemies of all good may go away ashamed. By the virtue of this great mystery, and by the hand of the holy Angel, drive far from me and from all thy servants the obstinate spirit of pride and vain-glory, of envy and blasphemy, of fornication and uncleanness, of doubting and mistrust. Let them be confounded that persecute us, let them perish that make haste to destroy us.



## **Monday**

King of Virgins and lover of chastity and innocence, extinguish in my body, by the heavenly dew of thy blessing, the fuel of evil desire, that so a calm purity of body and soul may remain in me. Mortify in my members the urgings of the flesh, and wrongful emotions, and grant me true and abiding chastity, with thy other gifts, which are truly pleasing unto thee; that I may be able with chaste body and pure heart to offer unto thee the sacrifices of praise. For with what contrition of heart and flow of tears, with what reverence and awe, with what chastity of body and purity of soul should that divine and heavenly Sacrifice be celebrated, wherein the Flesh is indeed received and thy Blood indeed is drunk; wherein the lowest and the highest, things earthly and things heavenly, are joined together; where is present the company of thy holy Angels; where in a wonderful and unspeakable way thou thyself are appointed both Sacrifice and Priest.

## **Tuesday**

Who can worthily celebrate this Sacrifice, unless thou, O God almighty, makest him worthy to offer it? I know, O Lord, yea, truly do I know, and confess it to thy loving-kindness, that I am not worthy to approach so great a mystery, by reason of my grievous sins and my manifold negligences. But I know, and truly believe with my whole heart, and confess with my mouth, that thou canst make me worthy, who alone canst make him clean, that is conceived of sinful stock, and sinners to be righteous and holy. By this thine almighty power, I pray thee, O my God, that thou wouldest grant to me, a sinner, to celebrate this Sacrifice with fear and trembling, with purity of heart and a fount of tears, with a spiritual gladness and heavenly joy. May my mind feel the sweetness of thy most blessed presence, and the guard of thy holy Angels, keeping watch about me.

## **Wednesday**

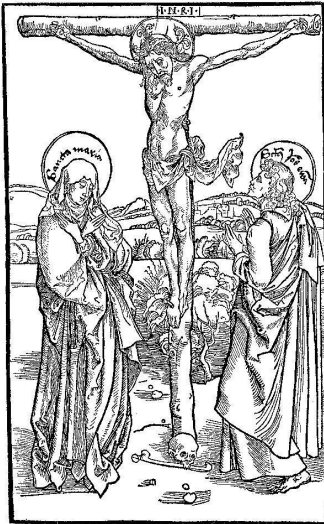
I then, O Lord, mindful of venerable passion, draw unto thine altar, sinner though I am, to offer unto thee the Sacrifice which thou hast instituted and commanded to be offered in remembrance of thee, for our salvation. Accept it, I beseech thee, O God most High, for the holy Church, and for the people that thou hast purchased with thine own Blood. And because thou hast willed to set me a sinner between thee and this thy people, although thou dost not perceive in me any testimony of good works, yet do thou not refuse the service committed unto me by thine own ordinance; nor do thou let the price of their salvation fail through my unworthiness, since for them thou hast designed to be the saving Victim and their Redemption. Moreover, I bring before thee, O Lord, if thou wilt vouchsafe to look down in mercy, the tribulations of the peoples, the perils of the nations, the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners, the miseries of the orphans, the needs of travelers, the helplessness of the weak, the despair of them that are sick, the weakness of the aged, the aspirations of the young, the vows of virgins, the lamentations of widows.

## **Thursday**

For thou hast mercy upon all, O Lord, that hatest nothing that thou hast made. Remember whereof we are made: forasmuch as thou art our Father, thou art our God, be not angry with us exceedingly, nor shut thou up the multitude of thy tender mercies towards us. For we do not pour forth our supplications before thy face trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold mercies. Take away from us our iniquities, and mercifully kindle in us the fire of thy Holy Spirit. Take away the stony heart out of our flesh, and give us a heart of flesh, a heart to love and cherish thee, to delight in thee, to follow thee and enjoy thee. We implore, O Lord, thy mercy, that thou wouldest vouchsafe to look with a favorable countenance upon this thy family, paying due service to the honor of thy sacred Name; and, that the desires of none may be in vain, do thou self inspire our prayers, that they may be such as thou in thy mercy dost delight to hear and answer.

## Friday

We pray to thee also. O Lord, holy Father, for the souls of the faithful departed, that this great sacrament of thy love may be to them salvation and health, joy and refreshment. O Lord my God, grant them this day greatly and abundantly to feast on the living Bread, who camest down from heaven and gavest life for the world; on thy holy and blessed Flesh, who art the Lamb without spot, that takest away the sins of the world; on the Flesh that was taken of the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary and conceived by the Holy Ghost; and on that fountain of mercy, which, by the soldier's lance, was opened in thy most sacred side; that they may thereby be nourished and satisfied, refreshed and comforted; and may rejoice in thy praise and glory. I pray thy clemency, O Lord, that the fullness of thy blessing and the hallowing of thy Godhead may come down on the bread to be offered unto thee. May the unseen majesty of the Holy Spirit, passing all comprehension, come down on it, as of old it came down on the offerings of the fathers; so that it may make our oblations thy Body and Blood, and teach us so to assist at thy mysteries with purity of heart and tears of devotion with reverence and awe, that thou mayest with grace and favor receive the sacrifice of our hearts, and through the hands of thy priests, for the salvation of all thy people, living and departed.

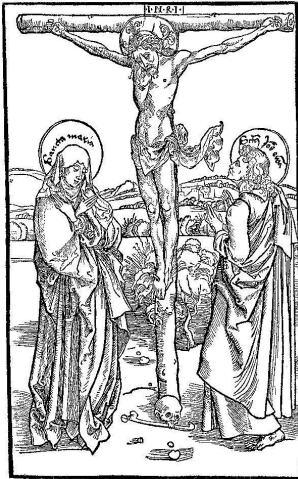


## Saturday

I pray thee also, O Lord, by the same most holy mystery of thy Body and Blood, whereby in thy Church we are daily given food and drink, and we are washed and sanctified and are made partakers of the one supreme divinity. Grant me thy holy virtues, that being filled thereby I may with a good conscience go unto thine altar, so that these heavenly sacraments may become my salvation and life. For thine own holy and blessed lips thou hast said: the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world; I am the living Bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat this Bread, he shall live for ever. O Bread most sweet, heal thou the palate of my heart, that I may perceive the tenderness of thy love, Heal it of every sickness, that I may perceive no other sweetness than thyself. O Bread most fair, having every delight and every taste, that ever refreshest us and never failest, may my heart feed on thee, and may my inmost soul be filled with the sweetness of thy savor. On thee the angels feed and are satisfied; on thee may man feed in his pilgrimage, according to his measure, that being refreshed with such food for his journey, he may not faint by the way. O holy Bread, living Bread, purist of Bread, who didst come down from heaven, and givest life unto the world, come into my heart, and cleanse it from every defilement of flesh and spirit. Enter into my soul, heal and cleanse me within and without. Be thou the defense and abiding salvation of soul and body. Drive from me all snares of the enemy, let them be driven far from the presence of thy might, that being both outwardly and inwardly guarded by thee, I may by a straight course attain to thy kingdom; where no more in mysteries, as in the present time, but face to face we shall see thee; when thou shalt have delivered up to the Kingdom of God, even the Father, and thou, God, shalt be all in all. For then thou shalt wondrously satisfy me with thyself, so that I shall never hunger nor thirst any more; who with the same God the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

## Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas

Almighty and everlasting God, behold I come to the sacrament of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: I come as one sick to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of eternal brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and of earth. I therefore implore the abundance of thine infinite goodness, that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal my sickness, to wash my foulness, to enlighten to my blindness, to enrich my poverty, and to clothe my nakedness; that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, such contrition and devotion, such purity and faith, such right purpose and intention, as is expedient for the salvation of my soul. Grant me, I beseech Thee, to receive not only the Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood, but also the effect and virtue of the Sacrament. O most gracious God, grant me so to receive the Body of thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took of the Virgin Mary, that I may worthily be incorporated into His mystical Body and to be numbered among its members. O most loving Father, grant that as I purpose to receive thy beloved Son now in this earthly pilgrimage, when he is veiled from our sight, so at last I may behold him with unveiled face: who liveth and reigneth the Holy world



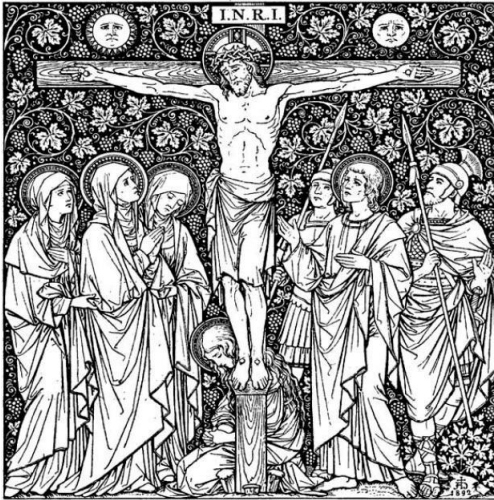
with thee in the unity of Ghost, ever one God, without end. *Amen.*

## Declaration of Intention

I desire to celebrate the Holy Mass according to the rites of the Catholic Church, and to consecrate the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the praise of Almighty God, and the honor of all the Church Triumphant; for my own benefit and that all the Church Militant; for all those who have commended themselves to my prayers; and for the prosperity of the Holy Catholic Church. Amen.

O Sacred Feast! wherein Christ is received; the memory of His Passion is brought to our remembrance; our souls are filled with grace, and the pledge of eternal glory is given unto us. Alleluia.

Joy with peace, amendment of life, time for true repentance, the grace and comfort of thy Holy Spirit, perseverance in the good works, grant me, O Almighty and Merciful Lord. Amen.



## Vesting Prayers

### **The priest places the amice over the head**

Place, O Lord, the helmet of salvation upon my head, that all the assaults of the devil may be overcome.



### **As the priest puts on the alb**

Cleanse me, O Lord, and purify my heart: that being made white in the blood of the Lamb I may have the fruition of everlasting joys.



### **As priest ties the girdle**

Gird me about with the girdle of purity, O Lord, and extinguish in my loins the desire of concupiscence: so that the virtue of continency and chastity may ever abide within me.



### **As the priest places the maniple over the left arm**

Enable me, O Lord, so to wear this maniple of tears and sorrow, that I may with joy receive the reward of my labour.



### **As the priest puts the stole around the neck**

Restore to me, O Lord, the robe of immortality lost by the transgression of my first parents: and although I am not worthy to approach thy holy mysteries, yet grant me to obtain life everlasting.



### **As the priest puts on the chasuble**

O Lord, who saidst: my yoke is easy and my burden light: make me so to bear it that I may attain unto thy grace.



PRAYERS *at the FOOT OF THE ALTAR before*  
MASS—RITE I

*Celebrant* In the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Ghost.

*People* **Amen.**

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*Psalm 43 w/ antiphon is expressly omitted in Requiems  
and Palm Sunday—Maundy Thursday*

*Celebrant* I will go unto the Altar of God.

*People* **Even unto the God of my joy  
and gladness.**

*Celebrant* Give sentence with me, O God, and defend my  
cause against the ungodly people: O deliver me  
from the deceitful and wicked man.

*People* **For Thou art the God of my strength, why hast  
Thou put me from thee? And why go I so  
heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?**

*Celebrant* O send out Thy light and Thy truth, that they may  
lead me and bring me unto Thy holy hill, and to  
Thy dwelling.

*People* **And that I may go unto the Altar of God, even  
unto the God of my joy and gladness, and  
upon the harp will I give thanks unto Thee, O  
God, my God.**

*Celebrant* Why art thou so heavy, O my soul? And why art  
thou so disquieted within me?

*People* **O put thy trust in God, for I will yet give Him  
thanks, which is the help of my countenance,  
and my God.**

*Celebrant* (*bow*) Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost; (*rise*)

*People* **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever  
shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Celebrant* I will go unto the Altar of God.

*People* **Even unto the God of my joy  
and gladness.**



*Celebrant*  
*People*  
*Celebrant*

Our help ☩ is in the Name of the Lord;  
**Who hath made heaven and earth.**

*(priest bows)* I confess to God Almighty, to Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and to all the Saints, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my *(strike breast thrice)* fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; therefore I beg Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John the Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

*People*

**May Almighty God have mercy upon thee, forgive thee thy sins, and bring thee to everlasting life.** *(priest rises)*

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Amen.

*(priest bows)* I confess to God Almighty, to Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and to all the Saints, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my *(strike breast thrice)* fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; therefore I beg Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John the Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

*Celebrant*

May Almighty God have mercy upon thee, forgive thee thy sins, and bring thee to everlasting life.

*(people rise)*

*People*

**Amen.**

*Celebrant*

The Almighty and most merciful Lord grant us pardon, ☩ absolution, and remission of all our sins.

*People*

**Amen.**

*Celebrant*

Wilt Thou not turn again and quicken us,  
O Lord?

*People*

**That Thy people may rejoice in Thee.**

*Celebrant*

O Lord, shew Thy mercy upon us.

*People*

**And grant us Thy salvation.**

*Celebrant*

Lord, hear our prayer.

*People*

**And let our cry come unto Thee.**

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray:

Put away from us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, our iniquities: that we may be accounted worthy to enter with pure hearts and minds into the Holy of holies; through Christ our Lord.

*People*

**Amen.**

PRAYERS *at the FOOT OF THE ALTAR before*  
MASS—RITE II

*Celebrant* In the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

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*Psalm 43 w/ antiphon is expressly omitted in Requiems  
and Palm Sunday—Maundy Thursday*

*Celebrant* I will go unto the Altar of God.

*People* **Even unto the God of my joy  
and gladness.**

*Celebrant* Give judgment for me, O God, and defend my  
cause against an ungodly people; deliver me from  
the deceitful and the wicked.

*People* **For you are the God of my strength; why have  
you put me from you? \* and why do I go so  
heavily while the enemy oppresses me?**

*Celebrant* Send out your light and your truth, that they may  
lead me, \* and bring me to your holy hill and to  
your dwelling;

*People* **That I may go to the altar of God, to the God  
of my joy and gladness; \* and on the harp I  
will give thanks to you, O God my God.**

*Celebrant* Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and  
why are you so disquieted within me?

*People* **Put your trust in God; \* for I will yet give  
thanks to him, who is the help of my  
countenance, and my God.**

*Celebrant* (*bom*) Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit; (*rise*)

*People* **As it was in the beginning,  
is now and will be forever. Amen.**

*Celebrant* I will go unto the Altar of God.

*People* **Even unto the God of my joy  
and gladness.**

---

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Our help ✠ is in the Name of the Lord;  
**The Maker of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant*

*(priest bows)* I confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, before the whole company of heaven, and you, my brethren, that I have sinned exceedingly, in thought, word, and deed, through my *(strike breast thrice)* fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God to have mercy upon me and forgive me my sins, and you, brethren, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

*People*

**May Almighty God have mercy upon your, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.** *(priest rises)*

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Amen.

*(people bow)* I confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, before the whole company of heaven, and you, my father, that I have sinned exceedingly, in thought, word, and deed, through my *(strike breast thrice)* fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God to have mercy upon me and forgive me my sins, and you, father, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

*Celebrant*

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.

*People*

*(people rise)*

**Amen.**

*Celebrant*

The Almighty and most merciful Lord grant us pardon, ✠ absolution, and remission of all our sins.

*People*

**Amen.**

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Will you not give us life again?

**That your people may rejoice in you.**

*Celebrant*  
*People*

O Lord, show your mercy on us.  
**And grant us your salvation.**

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Lord, hear our prayer.  
**And let our cry come to you.**

*Celebrant*  
*People*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray:

Put away from us, O Lord, we pray, our iniquities:  
that we may be counted worthy to enter with pure  
hearts and minds into the Holy of holies; through  
Christ our Lord.

*People*

**Amen.**



## The Priest's Prayers in the Sacristy after Mass

Hail Mary... (thrice)

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy; hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile show until us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

✠. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

℞. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, the Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Prince most glorious, Michael the Archangel,  
keep us in remembrance;  
here and everywhere, always,  
entreat the Son of God for us.

## THANKSGIVING AFTER MASS

*To be said in private after divesting*

Let us sing the song of the three young men,\*  
which they sang as they blessed the Lord in the fiery furnace.  
[Alleluia]

### **A Song of Creation** *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

#### I *Invocation*

O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; \*  
praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; \*  
praise him and magnify him for ever.

#### IV *The People of God*

O ye people of God, bless ye the Lord; \*

O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;

O ye servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; \*  
praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the Lord; \*

O ye holy and humble men of heart, bless ye the Lord.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; \*  
praise him and magnify him for ever.

### Psalm 150 *Laudate Dominum*

1 Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy temple; \*  
praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts; \*  
praise him for his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the blast of the ram'shorn; \*  
Praise him with lyre and harp.

4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; \*  
praise him with strings and pipe.

5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; \*  
praise him with loudclanging cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath \*  
praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

*Gloria Patri...*

Let us sing the song of the three young men,\*  
which they sang as they blessed the Lord in the fiery furnace.  
[Alleluia]

Kyrie eleison.

*Christe eleison.*

Kyrie eleison.

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.

Ÿ. All thy works praise thee, O Lord

Ŕ. And thy saints give thanks unto thee.

Ÿ. Let the Saints be joyful in glory.

Ŕ. Let them rejoice in their beds.

Ÿ. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us.

Ŕ. But unto thy Name give the praise.

Ÿ. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Ŕ. And let my cry come unto thee.



*Anima Christi* (St Ignatius of Loyola)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me;

Blood of Christ, inebriate me;

Water from the side of Christ, wash me;

Passion of Christ, strengthen me;

O good Jesus, hear me;

Within thy wounds, hide me;

Suffer me not to be separated from thee;

From the malicious enemy defend me;

In the hour of my death call me, and bid me come unto thee;

That with thy Saints I may praise thee for ever and ever. Amen.



*The Divine Praises*

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

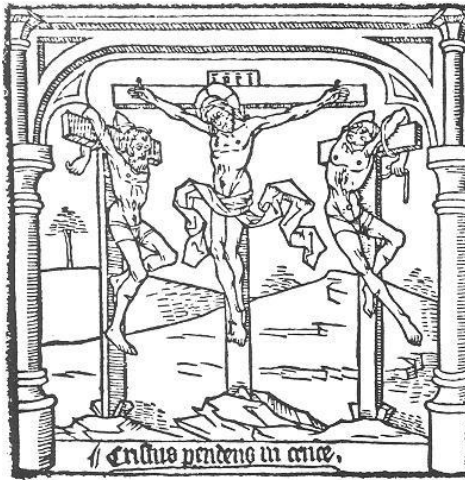
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most faithful spouse.

Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

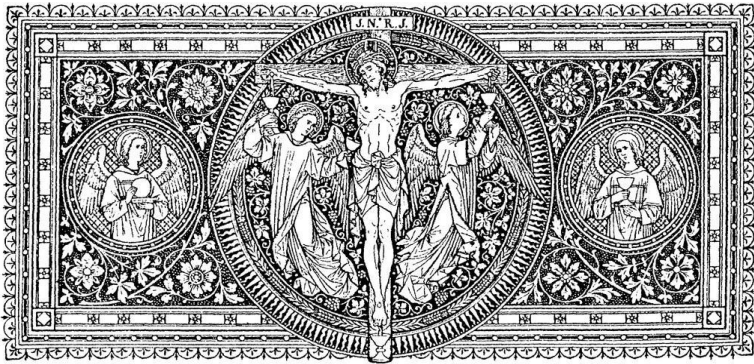
## A Prayer of St Thomas Aquinas

I give thanks to thee, O holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who hast deigned, not for any merit of mine, but only out of the goodness of thy mercy, to feed me, a sinner, thine unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; and I pray thee that this holy Communion may not bring upon me guilt unto my condemnation, but that it may be a saving intercession for my pardon. May it be to me as the armor of faith and the shield of good will. May it avail to deliver me from all my sins, to destroy in me all evil desires and wantonness, to increase in me charity and patience, humility and obedience, and every virtue; may it give me a sure defense against the wiles of all my enemies, visible and invisible; a perfect quieting of all my impulses, whether of soul or of body; a firm adherence to thee, the only true God; and a blessed end to my whole life. And I pray thee that thou wouldst vouchsafe to bring me, although I am a sinner, unto that heavenly feast where thou with thy Son and the Holy Ghost, art to thy Saints true light, full satisfaction, everlasting joy, endless happiness and perfect felicity; through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## A Prayer of St Bonaventure

O fairest Lord Jesus, transfix the affections of my inmost soul with that most sweet and healthful wound of thy love, with true, serene, most holy, apostolic charity; that my soul may ever languish and melt with entire love and longing for thee. Let me ever desire thee, and faint for thy courts, and long to be dissolved and to be with thee. Grant that my soul may hunger after thee, the Bread of Angels, the Refreshment of holy souls, our daily and supersubstantial Bread, who hast all sweetness, and every pleasurable delight. Thee, whom the Angels desire to look into, my heart ever hunger after and feed upon; and may my soul be filled with thy sweetness. May I ever thirst for thee, the Fountain of life, the Fountain of wisdom and knowledge, the Fountain of eternal light, the Torrent of pleasure, the Richness of the House of God. Let me ever compass thee, seek thee, stretch towards thee, arrive at thee, meditate upon thee, speak of thee, and do all things to the praise and glory of thy holy Name, with humility and discretion, with love and delight, with readiness and affection, with perseverance even unto the end. And be thou ever my hope and my whole confidence; my riches, my delight, my pleasure, and my joy; my rest and tranquility; my peace; my sweetness; my food and refreshment; my refuge and help; my wisdom, my portion, my possession, and my treasure; in whom my mind and heart may firmly and unchangeably be fixed and rooted, henceforth and for



evermore. Amen.



## To the Blessed Virgin Mary

O Mary, Virgin and Mother most holy, who was worthy to bear in thy womb the Creator of all things, and to feed as thy breast him whose true, real and most holy Body and Blood I have now received: intercede for me, that I may henceforth render him more faithful service and persevere to the end in loving companionship with him, so that, at last, I may, with thee, praise and adore him throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that we who are thy soldiers here may enjoy thy peace hereafter; that the eyes which have looked upon thee in thy Sacrament of love may also behold the fruition of thy blessed hope; that the tongues which have sung thy praises may also speak the truth; that the feet which have stood in thy sanctuary may walk in the land of light; and that the bodies which have feasted on thy living Body may be restored in newness of life, to dwell with thee where thou reignest with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, in the Unity of the Godhead, King for evermore. Amen.

The mystery of thy dispensation, O Christ, our God, hath been accomplished as far as in us lies.

We have seen the memory of thy death;

We have seen the type of thy resurrection;

We have been filled with thine endless life;

We have enjoyed thy heavenly delights,

of which we pray thee make us worthy hereafter;

Through the grace of God the Father, and of thy holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, let us depart in peace. *Amen.*

*Liturgy of St Basil*

## Litany of Humility

**Cardinal Merry del Val, who composed this litany, often recited it after the celebration of the Mass.**

O Jesus! Meek and humble of heart, *Hear me, precious Lord.*  
From the desire of being esteemed, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being extolled, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being honored, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being praised, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being preferred to others, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the desire of being consulted, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being humiliated, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being despised, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of suffering rebukes, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being calumniated, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being forgotten, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being ridiculed, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being wronged, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
From the fear of being suspected, *Deliver me, Lord Jesus.*  
That others may be loved more than I,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be esteemed more than I,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That in the opinion of the world others may increase and I may  
decrease, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be chosen and I set aside,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be praised and I unnoticed,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be preferred to me in everything,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others become holier than I, provided that I may become as  
holy as I should, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*

# The Great Litany with the Litany of the Saints

To be said or sung, kneeling, standing, or in procession; before the Eucharist or after the Collects of Morning or Evening Prayer; or separately; especially in Lent and on Rogation days.

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*  
Holy Mother of God,  
Holy Virgin of virgins,

Saint Michael, *pray for us.*

Saint Gabriel,

Saint Raphael,

All ye holy angels and archangels,  
All ye holy orders of blessed spirits,

Saint John the Baptist, *pray for us.*

Saint Joseph,

All ye holy patriarchs and prophets,

Saint Peter, *pray for us.*

Saint Paul,

Saint Andrew,

Saint James,

Saint John,

Saint Thomas,

Saint James,

Saint Philip,

Saint Bartholomew,

Saint Matthew,

Saint Simon,

Saint Thaddeus,

Saint Matthias,

Saint Barnabas,

Saint Luke,

Saint Mark,

All ye holy apostles and evangelists,

All ye holy disciples of the Lord,

All ye holy innocents,

Saint Stephen, *pray for us.*

Saint Lawrence,

Saint Vincent,

Saints Fabian and Sebastian,

Saints John and Paul,

Saints Cosmos and Damian,

Saints Gervase and Protase,

All ye holy martyrs,

Saint Sylvester, *pray for us.*

Saint Gregory,

Saint Ambrose,

Saint Augustine,

Saint Jerome,

Saint Martin,

Saint Nicholas,

All ye holy bishops and confessors,

All ye holy doctors,

Saint Anthony, *pray for us.*

Saint Benedict,

Saint Bernard,

Saint Dominic,

Saint Francis,

All ye holy priests and Levites,

All ye holy monks and hermits,

Saint Mary Magdalene,

Saint Agatha,

Saint Lucy,

Saint Agnes,

Saint Cecilia,

Saint Catherine,

Saint Anastasia,

Saint Clare,

All ye holy virgins and widows, *pray for us.*

|All ye holy men and women, saints of God, *make intercession for us.*

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever.

*Spare us, good Lord.*

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*



That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States (*or of this nation*), and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of Blessed Mary ever-Virgin, [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.  
*Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*Grant us thy peace.*

O Christ, hear us.  
*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.                      Kyrie eleison.  
*Christ, have mercy upon us.      or      Christe eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy upon us.                      Kyrie eleison.

**When the Litany is sung or said immediately before the Eucharist, the Litany concludes here, and the Eucharist continues with the Salutation and the Collect of the Day.**

**On all other occasions, the Officiant and People say together**

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. Amen.

Ÿ. O Lord, let thy mercy be showed upon us;  
R̄. As we do put our trust in thee.

**The Officiant concludes with the following or some other Collect**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have asked faithfully according to thy will, may be obtained effectually, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Officiant may add other Prayers, and end the Litany, saying**

The ✠ grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

*1979 American BCP, 148-53*

# The Supplication

**For use in the Litany in place of the Versicle and Collect which follows the Lord's Prayer; or at the end of Morning or Evening Prayer; or as a separate devotion; especially in times of war, or of national anxiety, or of disaster.**

O Lord, arise, help us;  
*And deliver us for thy Name's sake.*

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared unto us, the noble works that thou didst in their days, and in the old time before them.

*O Lord, arise, help us;  
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*O Lord, arise, help us;  
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.*

℣. From our enemies defend us, O Christ;  
℞. Graciously behold our afflictions.

℣. With pity behold the sorrows of our hearts;  
℞. Mercifully forgive the sins of thy people.

℣. Favorably with mercy hear our prayers;  
℞. O Son of David, have mercy upon us.

℣. Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ;  
℞. Graciously hear us, O Christ; graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.

**The Officiant concludes**

Let us pray.

We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of thy Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**If the Litany of the Saints has been used, this collect is said at the conclusion**

Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, who hast dominion over both the living and the dead and art merciful to all who, as Thou foreknowest, will be Thine by faith and works; we humbly beseech Thee that they for whom we intend to pour forth our prayers, whether this present world still doth detain them in the flesh or the world to come hath already received them stripped of their mortal bodies, may, by the grace of Thy fatherly love and through the intercession of all the saints, obtain the remission of all their sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth God, world without end. Amen.

*1979 American BCP, 154-55*

## BENEDICTION *of the* BLESSED SACRAMENT

The People kneel as the Ministers enter.

The Priest and Server go to the Altar and prepare incense.

Then, taking the Blessed Sacrament from the aumbrey, the Priest places it in the Monstrance.

Hymn 311, "O Saving Victim," *Verbum supernum prodiens*

The choir and people sing Hymn 311; while the hymn is sung, the Blessed Sacrament is censed.

1 O sav - ing and Vic - tim, o - pening wide  
2 All praise and thanks to thee a - scend

the gate of heaven to us be - low,  
for ev - er - more, blest One in Three;

our fons press on from ev - ery side,  
O grant us life that shall not end


thine aid sup - ply, thy strength be - stow.  
in our true na - tive land with thee.

A time of silent adoration is kept.

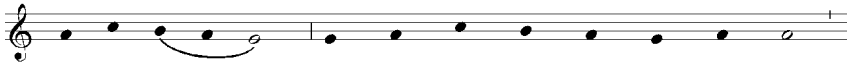
Hymn 329, verse 5-6, "Now my tongue the mystery telling,"

*Pange lingua*


**During the second line of verse 5, all bow at the words "This great Sacrament revere." The Blessed Sacrament is censed during the second verse.**




1 Now, my tongue, the mys - tery tell - ing of the glo - rious  
 2 Given for us, and con - de - scend - ing to be born for  
 3 That last night at sup - per ly - ing mid the twelve, his  
 4 Word made flesh, the bread he tak - eth, by his word his  
 \*5 There - fore we, be - fore him bend - ing, this great Sac - ra -  
 \*6 Glo - ry let us give and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



1 Bo - dy sing, and the Blood, all price ex - cell - ing,  
 2 us be - low, he with us in con - verse blend - ing  
 3 cho - sen band, Je - sus, with the Law com - ply - ing,  
 4 Flesh to be; wine his sa - cred Blood he mak - eth,  
 5 ment re - vere; types and sha - dows have their end - ing,  
 6 and the Son, hon - or, thanks, and praise ad - dress - ing,



1 which the Gen - tiles' Lord and King, once on earth a -  
 2 dwelt, the seed of truth to sow, till he closed with  
 3 keeps the feast its rites de - mand; then, more pre - cious  
 4 though the sens - es fail to see; faith a - lone the  
 5 for the new - cr rite is here; faith, our out - ward  
 6 while e - ter - nal a - ges run; ev - er too his



1 mong us dwell - ing, shed for this world's ran - som - ing.  
 2 won - drous end - ing his most pa - tient life of woe.  
 3 food sup - ply - ing, gives him - self with his own hand.  
 4 true heart wak - eth to be - hold the mys - ter - y.  
 5 sense be - friend - ing, makes our in - ward vi - sion clear.  
 6 love con - fess - ing who from both with both is One.

**The versicle and response, along with the collect, are then chanted**

**V.** Thou didst give them bread from heaven. [Alleluia]

**R.** Containing within itself all sweetness. [Alleluia]

Let us pray.

God our Father, whose Son our Lord Jesus Christ in a wonderful Sacrament hath left unto us a memorial of his passion: Grant us so to venerate the sacred mysteries of his Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of his redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Priest receives the humeral veil on his shoulders. Then, going up to the Altar, takes the Monstrance in the folds of the veil, and turns towards the People. The Priest gives the Benediction, making the sign of the cross over the kneeling congregation in silence, during which the bells are run three times. Placing the Monstrance back on the Altar and giving up the humeral veil, the Priest kneels again.**

**The Divine Praises**

**The Priest speaks the Divine Praises, which the People repeat, line by line.**

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most faithful spouse.

Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.



## Psalm 117

**The Psalm is chanted by the choir, during which the Priest removes the Blessed Sacrament from the Monstrance and replaces it in the Tabernacle.**

### **Antiphon**

Let us forever adore the most Holy Sacrament.

Praise the Lord, all you nations\*

praise him, all your peoples.

For his loving kindness towards us is great:\*

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Hallelujah!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning it now and ever shall be;

world without end. Amen.

### **Antiphon**

Let us forever adore the most Holy Sacrament.

## VISIT *to the* BLESSED SACRAMENT

**When making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, you may say thrice**

**V.** Let us forever adore

**R.** The most Holy Sacrament.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

*Gloria Patri...*

I wish, my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility, and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints. Amen.

O most loving Jesus, O most blessed Savior, come to me, I beseech thee, and unite me to thyself. Though I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, yet I believe that thou art able, even when received only by faith and desire, to sanctify, fill, and heal me. Come to my heart, O blessed Savior. With all the affections of my soul, I desire to be united unto thee. Possess me wholly; let the consuming fire of thy love absorb me, and thy presence abide so intimately in me, that it will no longer be I that live, but thou who livest in me. Amen.

# SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

## I

O my most loving Savior, since I cannot have the happiness of receiving thee this day, suffer me to gather up the crumbs under thy table, and to unite myself to thy divine Heart by faith, hope and charity.

I confess that I do not deserve the children's bread, but I venture humbly to declare that away from thee my soul is dried up for thirst, and my heart cast down with faintness.

Come, then unto me, O my divine Jesus, come into my mind to illuminate it with thy light; come into my heart to enkindle in it the fire of thy love, and to unite it so ultimately with thine own that it may be no more I that live but thou that livest in me, and reignest in me for ever. Amen.

## II

O eternal Father, look here upon thy beloved Son in whom thou art well pleased, and turn away thy face from my sins; for he bare our sins in his own body on the tree, and with his stripes we are healed.

With the publican would I smite my breast in deepest sorrow for those sins which drew down on him such heavy punishment. For his sake be merciful to me a sinner. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, who by thy death hast given life unto the world, deliver me from all my sins, and keep me from evil. Make me to abide always in thy commandments, and never suffer me to be separated from thee, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest one God, world without end. Amen.

Hear me, O Lord Jesu, who sittest on high with the Father, and art here invisibly present with us, and since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, enter spiritually into my soul, cleanse it from its sins and imperfections . . . adorn it with heavenly gifts and graces . . . and make me worthy with all thy people to partake of thy spotless Body and precious Blood. Amen.

### III

O my sweet Saviour, Jesus Christ, thou art my Sovereign Good, the Fountain of all good, my God and my all. I most firmly believe that for us sinners and for our salvation thou was pleased to come down from heaven, to take upon thee, by the mystery of thine Incarnation, our human nature, and to become one of us, that so thou might be our High Priest and our Victim. I most firmly believe that thou doest offer thyself upon the cross a sacrifice for us all, after having suffered many cruel torments; and that, by thy glorious resurrection and ascension, thou hast opened the gates of heaven for us. I most firmly believe that in these sacred mysteries thou are truly are really present, and that thy sacred Body and Blood are here presented in sacrifice, and verily and indeed received by the faithful in remembrance of thy death.

O how happy are those souls who worthily receive thee in this divine sacrament. O what grace, what sanctity, do they receive from this fountain of all sanctity. O merciful Savior, have compassion on me, and suffer me at least to sigh after thee, and, though I am unworthy of thine embraces, permit me, like the penitent Magdalene, to present myself at least before thy feet, and wash them in spirit with my tears. O may thy sacred Blood, which thou hast shed for all sinners, cleanse my sinful soul this day from all its guilt.

O come to me, dear Lord, in spirit, and take possession of all the powers of my soul. Enlighten mine understanding, and inflame my will with thy love. O let me be thine and be thou mine from henceforth and for ever; and grant that nothing, in life or death, may ever separate me from thee any more. In this one prayer hear me, O Lord, and in all things else do with me as thou wilt. Amen.

#### IV

In union, O dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of thy Church [*especially at . . .*] where thy death and passion are pleaded before the Father, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving; I present unto thee my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may be ever united to thee. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from thee, let me live and die in thy love. Amen.

## DEVOTIONS TO THE HOLY ANGELS

Angels, Archangels, Thrones and Dominations, Principalities and Powers, Virtues of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, bless the Lord for ever.

Ÿ. O ye Angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.  
Ř. Praise him, and magnify him for ever.

Let us pray.

O Everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succor and defend us on earth. Through Christ our Lord.

Ye holy Angels, our Guardians, defend us in the time of battle, lest we perish in the dreadful day of judgment.

### **Invocation of the Nine Choirs of Angels**

O holy Angels, watch over us at all times during this perilous life; O holy Archangels, be our guides on the way to heaven; O heavenly choir of the Principalities, govern us in soul and body; O mighty Powers, preserve us against the wiles of the demons; O celestial Virtues, give us strength and courage in the battle of life; O powerful Dominations, obtain for us dominion over the rebellion of our flesh; O sacred Thrones, grant us peace with God and man; O brilliant Cherubim, illumine our minds with heavenly knowledge; O burning Seraphim, enkindle in our hearts the fire of charity. Amen.

### **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Holy Guardian Angel, to whose care God, in his mercy, has committed me, stand by me now and at my last hour; protect me against all the powers of darkness; defend me from all my enemies, and conduct my soul to the mansions of bliss.

### **Prayers to St. Michael**

Holy Michael Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, the Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Prince most glorious, Michael the Archangel,  
keep us in remembrance;  
here and everywhere, always, entreat the Son of God for us.

*St Augustine's Prayer Book* (1967), 278-80

## THE ITINERARY

Into the way of peace and prosperity direct us, almighty and merciful Lord, and may the Angel Raphael go with us on our journey; that we may return to our homes in peace, safety and joy.

### **The Song of Zechariah** – *Luke 1:6879*

✠ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham,\*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.  
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



Into the way of peace and prosperity direct us, almighty and merciful Lord, and may the Angel Raphael go with us on our journey; that we may return to our homes in peace, safety and joy.

Kyrie, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Our Father... *silently until*

Ÿ. And lead us not into temptation.

Ř. But deliver us from evil.

Ÿ. O Lord, save thy servants.

Ř. Who put their trust in thee.

Ÿ. Be unto us, O Lord, a tower of strength.

Ř. From the face of our enemy.

Ÿ. Let the enemy have no occasion against us.

Ř. Nor the son of wickedness approach to hurt us.

Ÿ. Blessed be the Lord daily.

Ř. And may the God of our salvation make our journey  
prosperous.

Ÿ. Show us thy ways, O Lord.

Ř. And teach us thy paths.

Ÿ. O that our ways were made so direct.

Ř. That we might keep thy statutes.

Ÿ. The crooked ways shall be made straight.

Ř. And the rough places plain.

Ÿ. God shall give his Angels charge concerning thee.

Ř. To keep thee in all thy ways.

Ÿ. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Ř. And let my cry come unto thee.

O God, who didst cause the children of Israel to go dryshod through the midst of the sea, and who by the leading of a star didst guide the Wise Men on their way to thee: grant us, we beseech thee; a prosperous journey and a quiet time; that, attended by thy holy Angel, we may now safely reach the place whither we are going, and at last come to the haven of eternal salvation.

O God, who didst lead thy servant Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees, and preserve him unhurt throughout all the paths of his pilgrimage: we beseech thee; that thou wouldest vouchsafe to guard us thy servants: be unto us, O Lord, a support in setting out, a solace on the way, a shadow in the heat, a shelter from rain and cold, a chariot in weariness, a protection in danger, a staff in slippery places, a harbor in shipwreck; that by thy guidance we may happily reach the place whither we go, and at length come safely home.

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may ever be defended by thy most gracious and ready help.

Grant, we beseech thee, almighty God: that thy family may walk in the way of salvation; and by following the counsels of blessed John the Forerunner, may come in safety unto him whom he foretold, even Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord: Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *R.* Amen.

*V.* Let us go forth in peace.  
*R.* In the name of the Lord. Amen.

## THE ROSARY

✠ In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen

**Credo in Deum**, Patrem omnipotentem,  
creatorem caeli et terrae;

Et in Iesum Christum Filium eius unicum Dominum nostrum;

Qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto,

natus ex Maria Virgine,

passus sub Pontio Pilato,

crucifixus, mortuus, et sepultus.

Descendit ad inferos.

Tertia die resurrexit a mortuis.

Ascendit ad caelos,

sedet ad dexteram Dei Patris omnipotentis.

Inde venturus est iudicare vivos et mortuos.

Credo in Spiritum Sanctum,

sanctam Ecclesiam catholicam,

sanctorum communionem,

remissionem peccatorum,

carnis resurrectionem,

✠ et vitam aeternam. Amen.

**Pater noster**, qui es in caelis,

sanctificetur nomen tuum,

adveniat regnum tuum,

fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo et in terra.

Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie,

Et dimitte nobis debita nostra,

sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.

Et ne nos inducas in tentationem,

sed libera nos a malo. Amen.

**Ave Maria**, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.

Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

**Gloria Patri**, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,

et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

**The Joyful Mysteries** – *Sundays of Advent; Mondays & Thursdays*

1. The Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)
3. The Birth of Our Lord (Luke 2:1-21)
4. The Presentation of Our Lord (Luke 2:22-38)
5. The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

**The Sorrowful Mysteries** – *Sundays of Lent; Tuesdays and Fridays*

1. The Agony of Our Lord in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-56)
2. Our Lord is Scourged at the Pillar (Matthew 27:26)
3. Our Lord is Crowned with Thorns (Matthew 27:27-31)
4. Our Lord Carries the Cross to Calvary (Matthew 27:32)
5. The Crucifixion of Our Lord (Matthew 27:33-56)

**The Glorious Mysteries** – *Sundays from Christmas until Lent and from Easter until Advent; Wednesdays and Saturdays*

1. The Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord (John 20:1-29)
2. The Ascension of Our Lord (Luke 24:36-53)
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-41)
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 12:1)

**Salve Regina**, Mater  
misericordiae. Vita, dulcedo, et  
spes nostra, salve. Ad te  
clamamus exsules filii Hevae.  
Ad te Suspiramus, gementes et  
flentes in hac lacrimarum valle.  
Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos  
tuos misericordes oculos ad  
nos converte. Et Iesum,  
benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exsilium  
ostende. O clemens, o pia, o  
dulcis Virgo Maria.

**Hail, holy Queen**, Mother of  
mercy; hail life, sweetness, and  
hope to us. To thee do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve;  
to thee do we send up our  
sighs, mourning and weeping in  
this vale of tears. Turn then, O  
advocate, thine eyes of mercy  
towards us; and after this our  
exile show until us the blessed  
fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O  
gentle, O loving, O sweet  
Virgin Mary.

Ÿ. Ora pro nobis, Sancta Dei Genetrix.  
R. Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi.

Deus, cujus Unigenitus per  
vitam mortem et  
resurrectionem suam nobis  
salutis aeternae praemia  
comparavit: concede,  
quaesumus, ut, haec mysteria  
sanctissimo beatæ Mariæ  
Virginis Rosario recolentes, et  
imitemur quorum continent, et  
quod promittunt, assequamur.  
Per eundem Dominum. *Amen.*

O God, whose only-begotten  
Son, by his life, death, and  
resurrection, hath purchased  
for us the rewards of  
everlasting life; grant, we  
beseech thee, that we who  
meditate on these mysteries of  
the most holy Rosary of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, may  
imitate what they contain, and  
obtain what they promise;  
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*or*

Sub tuum praesidium  
confugimus, sancta Dei  
Genetrix; nostras deprecationes  
ne despicias in necessitatibus  
nostris sed a periculis cunctis  
libera nos semper, Virgo  
gloriosa et benedicta.

We fly to thy patronage, O holy  
Mother of God;  
despise not our petitions in our  
necessities,  
but deliver us from all dangers,  
O ever-glorious and blessed  
Virgin.

*This may be added*

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known  
that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, and  
sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this  
confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to  
thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother  
of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions; but in thy  
clemency hear and answer me; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

## SELF-EXAMINATION

O God of holiness, who art at all times disposed favourably to receive and to pardon a sinner, look down with an eye of mercy on me thy minister coming to thee to be cleansed from his stains in the blood of our dear Son. Be thou in my mind that I may know all my sins, in my heart that I may sincerely detest them, and in my mouth that I may truly confess them, and obtain their pardon; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Holy Spirit, Fountain of all light, vouchsafe to pour thy beams into my soul, that I may have my sins as clearly before me as I shall see them when I stand to be judged before the tribunal of Jesus Christ. Teach me, O holy God, both the evil I have done, and of which I have been the occasion. Make me to see, in its full extent, my unfaithfulness in thy service, and in the exercise of my spiritual functions. Make me to know how often and to what extent I have offended thee, the wrong which I have done to my neighbour and to myself, my omissions of sin.

Suffer not, O God of Truth, the self-love where with I am possessed to hide from me my real condition. Take away the veil which it puts before my eyes, and let nothing hinder me from knowing, and from making known, to Him whom thou hast commissioned to act in thy Name, all my guilt.

### *Prayer of St Augustine*

I have sinned, O Lord, against thee and in thy sight. The multitude of my offences crieth for judgment against me: yet, O Lord, thou hast promised that, where sin hath abounded, grace shall yet more abound. And thy promise forbids me to despair, for he who despairs of a pardon denied thee to be a God of mercy. The multitude of my offenses abaseth me to the dust, but the thought of thy most pitiable passion raiseth me; the nail and spear cry aloud that thou hast reconciled me by thy blood. The soldier opened the wounded side, wherein, as in a cleft of the Rock of Ages, I hide myself from the foe and rest secure. Thou inclinest thy head, O crucified Love, even in death as if to greet me; thou openest thy arms as if to embrace me. In that embrace I am willing to live, yet fain would died. Amen.

## A Brief Examin for the Priest

*For use before ordinary confessions.*

- I. My daily prayers? meditation? preparation and thanksgiving when celebrating? office? spiritual reading? daily examination of conscience? first and last thoughts of the day?
- II. My rule of confession? preparation for confession? contrition? amendment?
- III. Profit from my communions? remembrance of them during the day?
- IV. Administration of sacraments: punctual? exact? edifying?
- V. Sermons? care of children? visiting the parish?
- VI. Temperance: in food? in drink? in sleep? In recreation? charity? envy? detraction? sharpness in rebuke? chastity? thought? repelling first suggestions? desires? looks? words? deeds?
- VII. Have I kept my rule of life?
- VIII. What about my besetting sin?

*PBPD, 428-434*

## A General Examin

*Drawn from St. Augustine's Prayer Book*

**PRIDE** *is at the root of all sins; it is putting oneself rather than God at the center of our lives and trying to make God and others put us at their center.*

Have I intentionally failed to

- Worship God every Sunday and holy day of obligation in his Church?
- Trust God in day-to-day life?
- Accept my work as part of my vocation from God and to seek to glorify him by my exercise of it?
- Make time in my life for personal attentiveness to God (a discipline of prayer) and for my own spiritual growth (e.g. through a discipline of study)?
- Refrain from abusing God's holy Name?

Have I been caught up in getting more and more of anything for myself instead of giving from what God has given me of time, talent, and treasure to his glory and for the good of others?

Have I been vain, arrogant, snobbish? Or have I demeaned myself in any way, considering myself of much less worth or value than others? Have I lied for any reason?

Do I admit my own need for help and ask for it? Do I accept myself, despite my limitations and my weaknesses?

**ENVY** *results from fear of not having or losing something I want for myself and is expressed in dissatisfaction with my own life and begrudging others their gifts and good fortune.*

Have I been annoyed when other people were praised? Have I taken pleasure in the misfortune of others? Have I been malicious or contemptuous...shown prejudice in any respect?



**ANGER** *blinds my judgment and tries to eliminate any obstacle to making myself the center of all life.*

Have I tried to create a pleasant, constructive environment in all the places and among all the people I live my life? Have I been thoughtless and cruel towards others? Have I tried to foster and maintain friendships and given genuine respect and support to their people? Have I been fair and honest in my relationships? Have I respected the rights and sensitivities of others? Do I tend to categorize people unfairly or ignore them because they are different?

Have I been angry at the faults of others...of myself? Have I given into resentment...been cynical? Attacked another in thought, word or deed? Have I refused to forgive others, sought to make them "pay" for what I think they "did" to me? Have I been hostile, nagging, rude, pouting? Refused to pray for or do good to those I feel are my "enemies?"

**SLOTH** *is not merely laziness; it includes indifference and extends to the refusal of joy by making no attempts to combat boredom.*

Have I neglected my spiritual life because it seemed so "dry?" Have I procrastinated, wasted time, or failed to do my best? Have I ignored those who are needy, unpopular, or difficult to get along with? Have I spent too much time on TV or other forms of self-entertainment? Have I neglected the duties which a constructive and responsible person should render to my home, my parish, my community and society? Am I trying to improve the quality of life around me, or do I foul up the environment and waste the good things I have? Am I working at becoming a better person and better Christian? Am I making the most of my talents, my education and my opportunities?

**AVARICE** (or *Covetousness*) is the inordinate love of material things and the status, power, or sense of security they bring.

Have I made “the good life” or “a higher standard of living” into my god? Have I been domineering, patronizing, extravagant, stingy? Have I stolen, cheated, given bribes? Am I a good steward of my time, talent and treasure, obedient to what God expects of me in each of these areas of his gifts to me?

**GLUTTONY** is an undue attention to physical pleasure or comfort; it includes being fussy or fastidious, as well as a lack of discipline.

Have I over-indulged in food or drink? Have I refused to discipline my body by fasting or practicing abstinence? Have I neglected my health? Have I failed to get enough rest, exercise, recreation? Have I condemned various pleasures in life as evil in themselves? Have I been fussy about my person or any matter?

**LUST** is misuse of our gift of sexuality for selfish ends and in violation of how God intends us to use it in accordance with our state of life (married or single).

Am I grateful for having been created by God a sexual creature, a creature with a body who relates to him and others through my body? Am I desirous of growing in sexual maturity and responsibility so that I use my body in a way which is pleasing to God and do not misuse my sexual powers in selfish or exploitative ways?

Have I been unfaithful in any way to my spouse? Have I engaged in sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage? Have I lured others into sexual sins? Have I been immodest? Have I been prudish? Have I condemned or repressed the legitimate use of my being a sexual creature, whether in marriage, or in the expression of friendship or affection by such as a chaste hug or kiss or touch? Have I been deliberately cruel to persons or to animals?

## A Longer Examin for the Priest

*For occasional use.*

- I. Have I good rule of life, and am I faithful in keeping it? If I live without rule, I live my own caprice: from morning till night my life is on the natural plane, and I am doing my own will instead of the will of God.
- II. Do I arise early in the morning at a fixed time? Do I sanctify my awakening by making the sign of the cross at once, and lifting up my heart to God?
- III. Do I carefully say my morning prayers? Do I regularly make my meditation? What time do I spend on this?
- IV. Do I celebrate every morning when I can? For what reasons do I sometimes refrain from doing so? Do I carefully prepare? Do I begin at the appointed time, and is the time such as suits my parishioners best? Do I celebrate always holy and clean, with a pure conscience, with piety and attention, without haste or dallying? Do I carefully observe the rubrics and read accurately the words of the rite? Am I careful never to speak without serious need in the sacristy? How long do I spend in thanksgiving?
- V. Do I say Mattins and Evensong every day? Do I say the divine office worthily, attentively, devoutly, and completely? Do I read the psalter and the Holy Scriptures as being spiritual food for my soul?
- VI. In the middle of the day, do I recollect myself in the presence of God? To recall my communion in the morning? To examine myself about besetting sin?

- VII. Have I been faithful in the performance of other religious exercises? The study of the Bible with prayer? Spiritual reading? What time do I give to intercession?
- VIII. Do I examine my conscience at the end of every day? Do I compose myself to sleep with the sign of the cross and prayer? Do I go to bed in a good time?
- IX. Do I say grace before meals? Do I observe the fasts appointed by the Church?
- X. Is my household such as befits a priest? Is all perfectly clean and well-ordered, and as well simple and frugal? Do I live in the continual practice of mortification, about food, drink, smoking, expenditure of money, etc.?
- XI. What time do I waste in vain conversations, in useless visits, in frivolous amusements, in light reading? Do I spend too much time in recreation? In my garden?
- XII. Do I aim at offering to God all my actions? Is my life dominated by supernatural motives? Do I remember that a priest is a man consecrated to God?
- XIII. What is my relation to venial sin? To commit venial sin often, with deliberation and without remorse, is the surest sign of luke-warmness.
- XIV. Do I repress the first movements of my passions? Pride, vanity, sensuality, impatience, gluttony, sloth? Do I know my besetting sin, and do I set myself vigorously to fight it? Growth in grace means growth in self-conquest.
- XV. Have I a real desire for my sanctification?
- XVI. Have I a strong and simple faith in God? In the holy Church? Do I endanger my faith by lightly reading infidel books?

- XVII. Is there in my heart any undisciplined affection? For a particular person? For money? For promotion?
- XVIII. Have I been guilty of uncharity towards my neighbor? Have I the habit of speaking kindly of others? What are my relations to other priests? Towards the bishop?
- XIX. Have I done my duty in relation to a priest suspected of wrong doing? By warning him? By praying for him?
- XX. Has my conduct in church been edifying? Or have I given scandal by looking about, by talking, by laughing in my seat?
- XXI. Is my church and all apparatus of worship perfectly clean and in perfect order? The vessels? The linen? The frontals? The font?
- XXII. Is the blessed Sacrament reverently and safely reserved? The holy oil?
- XXIII. Am I respectful towards my ecclesiastical superiors?
- XXIV. Do I keep the spirit of order in all my affairs? Do I answer my letters at once? and pay my bills? Are all parish accounts for which I am responsible in perfect order? Am I tidy about my clothes, about my study, in the sacristy?
- XXV. Have I done my duty about study? Of the holy scriptures? Of dogma? Of moral and ascetic theology? Do I spend at least one hour daily in serious study? What first rate books have I read during the past year?
- XXVI. Have I done my duty about preaching? Have I prepared carefully? Have I tried to instruct my people in the whole

faith? By careful arrangement of the subjects of my sermons?

XXVII. Have I been diligent in visiting? Do I keep a list of the houses I visit, so as to ensure regularity in my visits?

XXVIII.

If I have the opportunity, do I teach frequently and regularly in my school? Have I done my duty about the religious training of the children? About the care of them after their first communion?

XXIX. Have I been diligent in hearing confessions? Is the sacrament of penance very accessible to every one in my parish? Have I tried to learn how to direct souls whom God is leading towards perfection? By reading such books on ascetic theology, etc., as would help me in this?

XXX. Have I made good use of grace received in sacraments? What has been the result in my life of my communions? of my confessions? Have I sometimes thought of a perfunctory confession as a substitute for amendment?

XXXI. Have I bravely borne witness against what is evil?

XXXII.

Have I administered the sacrament of baptism very reverently? With great care about saying the words? With great care that sufficient water shall be poured on the infant's forehead?

XXXIII.

Have I made my will? If I were to die suddenly, would all my affairs be found in perfect order?

*PBPD, 428-434*

## Steps in looking at besetting sins:

- 1) Describe the situation factually.
- 2) Lists my own thoughts and feelings during the event itself.
- 3) Describe as honestly as possible the larger context (what was going on with me and with any of the people involved).
- 4) List any good in the situation (or a good I was seeking).
- 5) Name the point at which I leapt to wrong.

From the Rev'd Fr. Dwight Duncan,  
sometime rector, St. Matthias, Dallas

## Concluding Prayers after Self-Examination

I resolve henceforth, O my God, by thy grace carefully to avoid sin, and specially those sins to which by habit, inclination, or weakness I have been most addicted; and, with tem, those opportunities and occasions which have caused me to fall into them.

I have indeed grievously offended thee, but I would hope in thy mercy, through the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ my Saviour. In this hope, O God of goodness, I present myself at thy mercyseat, in full assurance that, if I fully confess my sins with sincerity and humility, thou wilt confirm in heaven the absolution which shall be pronounced over me on earth. Amen.



## PRIESTLY PRAYERS





## Prayers Before Hearing Confessions

**These may be said according to the opportunity of the Priest**

O God, who by thy Holy Spirit perfectest the elect, pour thy heavenly light into the hearts of these thy penitent servants, that they may know and acknowledge all their sins against thee, and, confessing and forsaking them, may obtain mercy. And upon me, thy ministering servant, bestow thy grace, that I may rightly heal that which is broken, and bind up that which is wounded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O LORD Jesus, I desire to administer this Sacrament of Penance with that same surpassing love with which thou didst hallow this ordinance, when with most earnest desire for our salvation thou didst institute it, to be administered by the Apostles and their successors, to the praise of God the Father, and the salvation of all mankind: I beseech thee that it may profit me, and all and each unto whom I shall minister it, in union with that love of thine, to the increase of our salvation, and of our everlasting happiness. Let the grace of the Holy spirit so enlighten and kindle my senses and my heart, that according to thy good pleasure I may fulfill the ministry laid upon me, and may be counted worthy to be defended and preserved from every assault of temptation; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who didst say to thine Apostles, Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain they are retained: look mercifully upon me thy servant; enlighten my understanding, give me a right judgment in all things, fill my heart with divine love. Grant me so to minister this thy gift of Absolution, that the hearts of these thy children may be truly turned to thee, that together with them I may attain to everlasting life. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

GRANT me, O Lord, the wisdom that sitteth at thy right hand, that I may judge thy people according to the right, and the poor with equity. Grant that I may so wield the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, that I may open to none to whom it should be shut, nor shut it to any to whom it should be opened. Give purity to my intention, sincerity to my zeal, patience to my charity, and fruit to my labors. Grant that I may be mild, yet not remiss, stern, yet not cruel. Let me neither despise the poor nor flatter the rich. Give me gentleness to draw sinners unto thee, prudence in examination, wisdom in instruction. Grant me, I pray thee, skill to turn men aside from evil, perseverance to confirm them in good, zeal to persuade them to better things: give wisdom to my answers, rightness to my counsels: give me light in darkness, a good understanding in confusion, victory in difficulties. Let no vain conversations entangle me, nor evil defile me: let me save others and not myself be cast away. Amen.

# THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

## The Penitent begins

Bless me, [Father/Mother,] for I have sinned.  
[It has been \_\_\_\_\_ since my last confession].

## The Priest says

The Lord be in your heart and upon your lips that thou mayest worthily confess all thy sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

## Penitent

I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to you, Father/Mother, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed, in things done and left undone; especially \_\_\_\_\_ . For these and all other sins which I cannot now remember, I am truly sorry. I pray God to have mercy on me. I firmly intend amendment of life, and I humbly beg forgiveness of God and his Church, and ask you, Father/Mother, for counsel, direction, and absolution.

## Here the Priest may offer counsel, direction, and comfort.

## The Priest then pronounces this absolution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive your all your offenses; and by his authority committed to me, I absolve your from all your sins: In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## The Priest may add

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merits of his holy Mother the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of all the Saints, whatsoever good thou hast done or evil thou has endured be unto thee for the forgiveness of sins, the increase of grace, and the reward of eternal life: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon thee and remain with thee always.  
*Amen.*

**The Priest adds**  
**Penitent**

The Lord has put away all thy sins.  
Thanks be to God.

**The Priest**

Go in peace, and of you charity, pray for me, a sinner.

## Prayers after hearing Confessions

O Lord God, who willest not the death of a sinner, but that he should be converted and live, have regard to the sacrifice of a troubled spirit, a broken and contrite heart, offered to thee by *this penitent*, promising to keep hereafter the judgements of thy righteousness. Strengthen that which thou has wrought in us, loosing in heaven what in thy Name we have loosed on earth, and perfecting more and more in the fear and love of thee the sanctification of *him* whom the Good Shepherd hath sought in *his* wanderings, and laid on his shoulders, and brought back rejoicing. Let not *his* last state, through the return of the devil, be worse than the first, but make *him* to walk henceforth in newness of life. Forgive me also, O Lord, all the failings and imperfections of guilt which I have now been guilty. Grant that what I have heard may not be to me the occasion of sin, but that considering myself, seeing that I am compassed with infirmity, I may ever watch unto prayer, that I fall not into temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, accept this my ministry and service, with that exceeding love wherewith thou didst absolve blessed Mary Magdalene, and all sinners who fled unto thee. And whatsoever I have done carelessly or unworthily in the administration of this Sacrament, do thou be pleased to supply and to make satisfaction for by thyself. I commend to thy most loving Heart all and each who have now confessed unto me, beseeching thee to keep them, to preserve them from backsliding, and after the trials of this life to lead them to everlasting gladness with thee. Amen.

Be present, O Lord, with our supplications, and graciously hear me, who am the first to need thy mercy; and also grant unto me, whom not for mine own merit, but of thy grace, thou hast appointed minister of this work, faithfulness in executing my commission; and do thou through my ministry perform that which cometh only of thy goodness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Sarum Encheiridion.*

### **Before Preaching**

O FATHER of Lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, look down from the throne of thy Majesty upon me, thy unworthy servant, and bestow upon me the spirit of wisdom and understanding to enlighten my mind and guide my tongue, that I may speak the things which shall be for thy glory and for the salvation of those who hear me. Deliver me from all pride and vainglory, and grant that in all I say I may have regard to thee alone. And lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway, make me first to have pity on my own soul, and to render it fit for thy service. For what will it profit me to have gained the whole world and lost my soul?

O Lord, I entreat thee mercifully, to forgive me whereinsoever I have already sinned, and to grant me thy grace that what I shall say in word, I may indeed fulfill, and be of the number of those who, filled with thy word and doctrine, are counted worthy of double honour – honour from thee, O Lord, who wilt reward what I do, and honour from men, who, hearing my words and seeing my good works, may glorify thee, my Father, who art in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Before Teaching**

In the humility of my spirit do I approach thee, who hast given unto me hope and ghostly strength. Do thou, therefore, O Son of David, who hast come to us in the flesh, revealed in mystery, open with the key of thy cross the secrets of my heart, sending one of the seraphim, who with a burning coal, taken from thine altar on high, may purify my unclean lips: O enlighten my mind, and minister matter of teaching, so that my tongue, which should minister in love to the edification of the hearer, may not give occasion of error, but be ever a preacher of eternal truth; through thee, O my God, who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

### **Before Administering Holy Baptism**

Blessed Lord, who of thy great mercy hast brought me out of darkness into thy marvelous light, and made me minister of the Sacrament of Regeneration, make me ever mindful of thy unspeakable blessings, and grant that, with *this child*, I may again renounce the devil and all his works, may be inseparably united to Christ my Savior, and by him, our great High Priest, who himself baptizes by the hand of his ministers, may offer myself to thee a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **After Administering Holy Baptism**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who, when thou camest into the world, saidest to thy Father, 'Lo, I come to do thy will, O God! And willedst to be presented by thy parents in the temple; write thy law on the heart of *this child* that *he* may always keep it; receive at the hand of *his* parents and godparents *him* whom thou hast saved by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost, whom they now present to thee, and through thee to the most Holy Trinity, not as their own, but as thy *brother* and *member*, to be the temple of the Holy Ghost. Grant that, receiving *him* back from thee as a precious trust, for which they must give a strict account, they may bring *him* up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and that, being protected by the holy angels, *he* may grow in grace and wisdom, may keep undefiled the faith and innocence of *his* baptism, and be found by thee at thy appearing with that white robe of holiness, and the burning lamp of charity.

Receive and sanctify me also, O Lord, Almighty Father, for the sake of thy dear Son; and impart to me the continual aid of thy Holy Spirit, that I may do thy will in all things, and faithfully discharge the duties of a Christian and a priest, to thy glory, and the salvation of myself and of those entrusted to me; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Before or After a Funeral**

O ALMIGHTY God, with whom do live the spirits of just men made perfect, after they are delivered from their earthly prisons; I humbly commend the soul of thy servant, our dear *brother*, whose body, in hope of the resurrection, we are about commit to the ground, (or have now committed to the ground) into the hands, as into the hands of a faithful Creator, and most merciful Savior; most humbly beseeching thee that it may be precious in thy sight. Wash it, I pray thee, in the blood of that immaculate Lamb, that was slain to take away the sins of the world; that whatever defilements it may have contracted in the midst of this miserable and naughty world, through the lusts of the flesh or the wiles of Satan, being purged and done away, it may appear pure and without spot before thee. And Teach us to survive in this and other like daily spectacles or mortality, to see how frail and uncertain our own condition is, and so to number our days, that we may seriously apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom, whilst we live here, which may in the end bring us to life everlasting; through the merits of Jesus Christ, thine only Son, our Lord. Amen.

### **On the Anniversary of Baptism**

O MERCIFUL God, who of thine infinite goodness didst vouchsafe that I should, as on this day, be born again of water and of the Holy Ghost, and thereby become the child of thy adoption, graciously pardon whatever I have done unworthy of that adoption, and renew within me the spirit of holiness which was then poured out upon me at the holy font, that, having my heart sprinkled from an evil conscience, I may hold fast the profession of my faith without wavering. Let the gift of the priesthood, O Lord, which I have since received, strengthen in me what was wrought by Holy Baptism, that, being made a partaker of the Divine Nature, I may avoid the corruption which is in the world through lust, and obtain the reward of everlasting incorruption; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### **On the Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast vouchsafed to call me, thy unworthy servant, to minister at thine altar, be merciful to my sins, and make me a fit minister to thee, that thou mayest graciously receive sacrifice at my hands, and number me amongst thy faithful priests. Let the holy office with which I have been invested, render me acceptable in thy sight, O Lord; and grant that, trusting in thy mercy, through in myself most unworthy, I may worthily partake of those holy mysteries, which I presume to celebrate; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord my God, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; yet thou hast called thy servant to stand in thy house, and to serve at thine altar. To thee and to thy service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit. Fill my memory with the record of thy mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of thy Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of my heart and will center in what thou wouldst have me do. Make me an instrument of thy salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer thy holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my ministry. In prayer, quicken my devotion; in praises, heighten my love and gratitude; in preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of thy holy Word, all the world may be drawn into thy blessed kingdom. All this I ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Taken from PBPD*

**Prayer before Study** (*from St Thomas Aquinas*)

O infinite Creator, who in the riches of Thy wisdom didst appoint three hierarchies of Angels and didst set them in wondrous order over the highest heavens, and who didst apportion the elements of the world most wisely: do Thou, who art in truth the fountain of light and wisdom, deign to shed upon the darkness of my understanding the rays of Thine infinite brightness, and remove far from me the twofold darkness in which I was born, namely, sin and ignorance. Do Thou, who givest speech to the tongues of little children, instruct my tongue and pour into my lips the grace of Thy benediction. Give me keenness of apprehension, capacity for remembering, method and ease in learning, insight-in interpretation, and copious eloquence in speech. Instruct my beginning, direct my progress, and set Thy seal upon the finished work, Thou, who art true God and true Man, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.





## BLESSINGS



## A FORM FOR MAKING HOLY WATER

### The Priest, vested in surplice with violet stole, first says

℣. ✠ Our help is in the name of the Lord:  
℞. Who hath made heaven and earth.

### Then he straightaway begins the exorcism of the salt.

I adjure thee, O creature of salt, by the living ✠ God, by the true ✠ God, by the holy ✠ God: by God who commanded thee to be cast by the prophet Elisha into the water to heal the barrenness thereof: that thou become salt exorcised for the health of them that believe: be thou to all them that take of thee for healing of soul and body: let all vain imaginations, wickedness, and subtlety of the wiles of the devil, let every unclean spirit flee and depart from the place where thou shalt be sprinkled, adjured by him who shall come to judge the quick and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen.*

### The Priest continues

Almighty and everlasting God, we humbly beseech thine infinite mercy: that thou wouldest vouchsafe of thy loving-kindness to bless ✠ and sanctify ✠ this creature of salt, which thou hast given for the use of mankind; that it may be unto all that take of it health of mind and body; and let all such things as shall be touched or sprinkled therewith be free from all uncleanness, and from all assaults of spiritual wickedness. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord, Who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

### Exorcism of the water: and straightway is said

I adjure thee, O creature of water, in the name of God ✠ the Father almighty, in the name of Jesus ✠ Christ His Son, our Lord, and by the power of the Holy ✠ Ghost: that thou become water exorcised for the putting to flight of all the power of the enemy, and that thou be enabled to root out and expel the enemy himself with his apostate angels by the power of the same Jesus Christ our Lord: who shall come to judge the quick and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen.*

### **The Priest continues**

O God, Who for the salvation of mankind hast ordained in thy chiefest sacraments the use of the substance of water: mercifully assist us who call upon thee, and pour the power of thy benediction ✠ upon this element, made ready by divers cleansings: that this thy creature, in the service of thy mysteries, may effectually receive thy divine grace for the casting forth of devils and the healing of diseases, that whatsoever in the dwellings or abodes of thy faithful people shall be sprinkled with this water may be free from all uncleanness and delivered from all evil: let not the spirit of pestilence abide therein, nor the breath of corruption; let all the snares of the unseen enemy depart from thence: and let all such things as are contrary to the health and peace of them that dwell therein be put to flight by the sprinkling of this water; that, as through the invocation of thy holy name we entreat for them thy saving health, so they may be defended against all assaults. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord, Who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

### **The priest thrice casts the salt into the water in the form of a cross, saying once**

Let this commingling of salt and water be wrought in the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the ✠ Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

O God, who art the author of strength invincible, the King of the empire that none may overcome, who art ever glorious in thy triumphs: who dost quell the might of the dominion that is against thee, who rulest the raging of the fierce enemy, who dost overthrow by thy power the wickedness of thy foes: we entreat thee, O Lord, and beseech thee in fear and lowliness: that thou wouldest graciously behold this creature of salt and water, and mercifully enlighten and sanctify it with the dew of thy loving-kindness; that, wheresoever it shall be sprinkled, all the snares of the unclean spirit may through the invocation of thy holy name be driven away, and the dread of the poisonous serpent be cast forth: and in all places let the presence of the Holy Ghost be vouchsafed unto us who call upon thy mercy. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord, Who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## A SIMPLE FORM FOR MAKING HOLY WATER

### The Priest, vested in surplice with violet stole, first says

☩.      ✠ Our help is in the name of the Lord:

℞.      Who hath made heaven and earth.

### The Exorcism of the Salt

I exorcize you, creature of salt, by the living God, so that you be fit for the healing of mind and body of all who use you. Wherever you are sprinkled may all evil and wicked thoughts depart, all works and deceits of the evil one be driven away, and all unclean spirits be cast out, by him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. Amen.

### The Blessing of the Salt

Almighty and eternal God, graciously bless and make holy this creature of salt. May it give health of body and mind to them that use it. Let all touched or sprinkled with it be protected against all that is sinful and against all attacks of spiritual wickedness. Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

### The Exorcism of the Water

I exorcize you, creature of water, in the Name of God the Father Almighty, in the Name of Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, that you be fit to put to flight all the power of Satan and to root out and expel Satan himself and his fallen angels: through the power of the same Lord Jesus Christ who shall come to judge the living and the dead. Amen.

### The Blessing of the Water

Almighty God. Father Eternal, hear our prayers and bless and make holy this creature of water, that it may serve you for the casting out of devils and the driving away of sickness of mind and body. Grant that whatever is sprinkled with this water may be cleansed from all that is foul or harmful. Let no sickness abide there, and cause all the power of the unseen enemy, with his cunning and deceits, to go away.

Through this water dispel all that is contrary to the health and peace of your people, so that, protected by the invocation of your Holy

Name, they may be secure against every adversary; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

**The Officiant then pours the salt into the water, saying:**

May this mixing of salt and water be done in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**After this mixing, the Priest then says:**

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this creature of salt and water and of your loving kindness sanctify it. Wherever it shall be sprinkled with the invocation of your holy Name may the attacks of evil spirits be repelled and the fear of evil be kept far away.

May the presence of the Holy Spirit be given to all who seek your mercy: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the same Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen



## BLESSING OF EPIPHANY WATER

on the Eve of Epiphany

This blessing comes from the East, where the Church has long emphasized in her celebration of Epiphany the mystery of our Lord's baptism, and by analogy our baptism. This aspect is not neglected in western Christendom, although in practice we have concentrated on the visit of the Magi. Many years before the Latin Rite officially adopted the blessing of Epiphany water, diocesan rituals, notably in lower Italy, had contained such a blessing. (Approved by the Congregation of Sacred Rites, Dec. 6, 1890)

1. At the appointed time the celebrant, vested in white cope (if a bishop, the mitre is worn but removed during the prayers), and the deacon and subdeacon, vested in white dalmatic and tunic respectively, come before the altar. They are preceded by acolytes, who carry the processional cross and lighted candles (which are put in their proper place), and by the other clergy. A vessel of water and a container of salt are in readiness in the sanctuary.

First the Litany of the Saints is sung, during which time all kneel.

Lord, have mercy upon us.	Kyrie eleison.
<i>Christ, have mercy upon us. or</i>	<i>Christe eleison.</i>
Lord, have mercy upon us.	Kyrie eleison.

O God the Father of heaven,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Holy Ghost,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*  
Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of virgins,  
Saint Michael, *pray for us.*  
Saint Gabriel,  
Saint Raphael,  
All ye holy angels and archangels,  
All ye holy orders of blessed spirits,  
Saint John the Baptist, *pray for us.*  
Saint Joseph,  
All ye holy patriarchs and prophets,  
Saint Peter, *pray for us.*  
Saint Paul,  
Saint Andrew,  
Saint James,  
Saint John,  
Saint Thomas,  
Saint James,  
Saint Philip,  
Saint Bartholomew,  
Saint Matthew,  
Saint Simon,  
Saint Thaddeus,  
Saint Matthias,  
Saint Barnabas,  
Saint Luke,  
Saint Mark,  
All ye holy apostles and evangelists,  
All ye holy disciples of the Lord,  
All ye holy innocents,  
Saint Stephen, *pray for us.*  
Saint Lawrence,  
Saint Vincent,  
Saints Fabian and Sebastian,  
Saints John and Paul,  
Saints Cosmos and Damian,  
Saints Gervase and Protase,  
All ye holy martyrs,  
Saint Sylvester, *pray for us.*  
Saint Gregory,  
Saint Ambrose,  
Saint Augustine,  
Saint Jerome,  
Saint Martin,  
Saint Nicholas,  
All ye holy bishops and confessors,

All ye holy doctors,

Saint Anthony, *pray for us.*

Saint Benedict,

Saint Bernard,

Saint Dominic,

Saint Francis,

All ye holy priests and levites,

All ye holy monks and hermits,

Saint Mary Magdalene,

Saint Agatha,

Saint Lucy,

Saint Agnes,

Saint Cecilia,

Saint Catherine,

Saint Anastasia,

Saint Clare,

All ye holy virgins and widows, *pray for us.*

┌ All ye holy men and women, saints of God, *make intercession for us.*

Be merciful,

*spare us, O Lord.*

Be merciful,

*graciously bear us, O Lord.*

From all evil, *deliver us, O Lord. (repeat after each line)*

From all sin,

From Thy wrath,

From a sudden and unprovided death,

From the deceits of the devil,

From anger, and hatred, and all ill-will,

From the spirit of fornication,

From lightning and tempest,

From the scourge of earthquakes,

From plague, famine and war,

From everlasting death,

By the mystery of Thy holy incarnation,

By Thy coming,

By Thy nativity,

By Thy baptism and holy fasting,

By Thy Cross and Passion,

By Thy Death and burial,  
By Thy holy Resurrection,  
By Thine admirable Ascension,  
By the coming of the Holy Ghost, the Paraclete.  
On the day of judgment.

We sinners,  
*we beseech Thee to hear us, Good Lord (repeat after each line)*

That Thou wouldst spare us,  
That Thou wouldst pardon us,  
That Thou wouldst bring us to true penance,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to govern and preserve Thy Holy Church,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to preserve our Apostolic Prelate, and all  
ecclesiastical orders in holy religion,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to humble the enemies of holy Church,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to give peace and true concord to Christian kings  
and princes,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to grant peace and unity to all Christian peoples,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to ring back to the unity of the Church all who  
have strayed away, and lead to the light of the Gospel all unbelievers,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to confirm and preserve us in Thy holy service,  
That Thou wouldst lift up our minds to heavenly desires,  
That Thou wouldst render eternal blessings to all our benefactors,  
That Thou wouldst deliver our souls, and the souls of our brethren, relatives,  
and benefactors from eternal damnation,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to give and preserve the fruits of the earth,  
That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to grant eternal rest to all the faithful departed,

**The celebrant rises and sings the following two invocations, the second  
on a higher note:**

That you bless ✠ this water,  
*we beseech Thee, hear us (repeat after each line)*

That you ✠ bless and ✠ sanctify this water  
*we beseech Thee, hear us (repeat after each line)*

**The Litanist continues**

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe graciously to hear us, Son of God,  
*we beseech Thee, hear us (repeat after each line)*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,  
*spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,  
*graciously bear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,  
*have mercy on us.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, graciously bear us.*

Lord, have mercy on us.

*Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father...

...deliver us from evil.

**2. Then the following psalms are sung, responsively by whole verse:**

**28** *Ad te, Domine*

- 1 O LORD, I call to you;  
my Rock, do not be deaf to my cry; \*  
lest, if you do not hear me,  
I become like those who go down to the Pit.
- 2 Hear the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you, \*  
when I lift up my hands to your holy of holies.
- 3 Do not snatch me away with the wicked or with the evildoers, \*  
who speak peaceably with their neighbors,  
while strife is in their hearts.
- 4 Repay them according to their deeds, \*  
and according to the wickedness of their actions.
- 5 According to the work of their hands repay them, \*  
and give them their just deserts.

- 6 They have no understanding of the LORD's doings,  
nor of the works of his hands; \*  
therefore he will break them down and not  
build them up.
- 7 Blessed is the LORD! \*  
for he has heard the voice of my prayer.
- 8 The LORD is my strength and my shield; \*  
my heart trusts in him, and I have been helped;
- 9 Therefore my heart dances for joy, \*  
and in my song will I praise him.
- 10 The LORD is the strength of his people, \*  
a safe refuge for his anointed.
- 11 Save your people and bless your inheritance; \*  
shepherd them and carry them for ever.  
Glory be to the Father...

#### 46 *Deus noster refugium*

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the  
depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.

- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \*  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 12 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
Glory be to the Father...

## 146 *Lauda, anima mea*

- 1 Hallelujah!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul! \*  
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- 2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \*  
for there is no help in them.
- 3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \*  
and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

Glory be to the Father...

### **The celebrant then chants:**

*Exorcism against Satan and the apostate angels*

In the name of our Lord Jesus ✠ Christ and by His power, We cast you out, every unclean spirit, every satanic power, every onslaught of the infernal adversary, every legion, every diabolical group and sect, in the name and by the power of our Lord Jesus ✠ Christ. We command you, begone and fly far from the Church of God, from the souls made by God in His image and redeemed by the precious blood of the divine ✠ Lamb.

No longer dare, cunning serpent, to deceive the human race, to persecute God's Church, to strike God's elect and to sift them as wheat.  
✠ For the Most High God commands you, ✠ He to whom you once proudly presumed yourself equal; He who wills all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.

God the Father ✠ commands you.

God the Son ✠ commands you.

God the Holy ✠ Ghost commands you.

Christ, the eternal Word of God made flesh, commands you, who humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, to save our race from the perdition wrought by your envy; who founded His Church upon a firm rock, declaring that the gates of hell should never prevail against her, and that He would remain with her all days, even to the end of the world.



The sacred mystery of the cross ✠ commands you, along with the power of all ✠ mysteries of Christian faith.

The exalted Virgin Mary, Mother of God, ✠ commands you, who in her lowliness crushed your proud head from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception.

The faith of the holy apostles Peter and Paul and the other apostles ✠ commands you.

The blood of martyrs and the devout prayers of all holy men and women command ✠ you.

Therefore, accursed dragon and every diabolical legion, we adjure you by the living ✠ God, by the true ✠ God, by the holy ✠ God, by God, who so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have everlasting life; to cease deluding human creatures and filling them with the poison of everlasting damnation; to desist from harming the Church and hampering her freedom.

Begone, Satan, father and master of lies, enemy of man's welfare. Give place to Christ, in whom you found none of your works. Give way to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, which Christ Himself purchased with His blood. Bow down before God's mighty hand, tremble and flee as we call on the holy and awesome name of Jesus, before whom the denizens of hell cower, to whom the heavenly Virtues and Powers and Dominations are subject, whom the Cherubim and Seraphim praise with unending cries as they sing: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth.

**Next the choir sings the Benedictus with following antiphon:**

### **Antiphon**

Today the Church is espoused to her heavenly bridegroom, for Christ washes her sins in the Jordan; the Magi hasten with gifts to the regal nuptials; and the guests are gladdened with water made wine, alleluia.

## **Benedictus Dominus Deus – Luke 1:6879**

✠ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham,\*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.  
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

### **Antiphon**

Today the Church is espoused to her heavenly bridegroom, for Christ washes her sins in the Jordan; the Magi hasten with gifts to the regal nuptials; and the guests are gladdened with water made wine, alleluia.

**The Magnificat may be used instead.**

**Then the celebrant sings**

**℣.** The Lord be with you.

**℟.** And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

**Next he blesses the water:**

**℣.** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**℟.** Who hath made heaven and earth.

**From here on, the exorcism of salt and the prayer that follows it, the exorcism of water and the two prayers that follow it, the mixing of the salt and water and then the concluding prayer—all are said as per usual.**

**At the end of the blessing the priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water.**

**The rite concludes with the singing of the *Te Deum*.**

## BLESSINGS OF OBJECTS

1. Of Sacerdotal Vestments. (R)
2. Of Altar Linen. (R)
3. Of Tabernacle or Ciborium. (R)
4. Of Corporals. (R)
5. Of a Cross or Crucifix.
6. Of a Monstrance. (R)
7. Of a Reliquary. (R)
8. Of an Image.
9. Of a Banner.
10. Of Rosaries.
11. Of Rosaries of The Seven Sorrows.
12. Of Holy Oil Stocks. (R)
13. Of Candles.
14. Of a Foundation Stone.
15. Of a School.
16. Of an Organ.
17. Of Crops or Harvest
18. Of a Car.
19. Of a Ship or Boat.
20. Consecration of a Paten and Chalice.
21. Of an Icon
22. Of Wedding Rings
23. The Oil of the Sick (OI – *Oleum Infirmorum*)
24. The Oil of Catechumens (Exorcism) (OC – *Oleum Catechumenorum*)
25. The Oil of Chrism (SC – *Sacrum Chrisma*)
26. Of Anything.

Taken from *TER*, 188-211

## Instructions for Blessings

1. The reserved blessings marked (R) above may only be given lawfully by the following :
  - a. All Bishops.
  - b. Ordinaries, not being Bishops, for Churches in their own territory, e.g., Deans of Cathedrals and Peculiars.
  - c. Parish Priests for Churches in their Parish, and Rectors of Churches for their Churches.
  - d. Priests delegated by the Ordinary of the place.
  - e. Religious Superiors and Priests delegated by them for their own Churches and for Churches of nuns subject to them.
2. Other blessings not marked (R) may be given by any Priest.
3. In all blessings outside Mass, the Priest must wear at least a surplice and a stole of the color of the Season, unless otherwise noted.
4. The priest is to stand and with head uncovered.

At the beginning of each blessing, unless otherwise noted, the priest says:

✠. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

℞. Who hath made heaven and earth.

✠. The Lord be with you.

℞. And with thy spirit.

After which the appropriate Prayer or Prayers are said.

Afterwards, the object is sprinkled with blessed Water, and if so noted, cense, saying nothing.

5. When the Priest is to bless anything, it is best to have a server with a vessel of blessed Water, and this book of the Ritual.

(1) **BLESSING OF SACERDOTAL VESTMENTS IN  
GENERAL.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

**ALMIGHTY** and everlasting God, who by thy servant Moses didst decree that high-priestly and priestly and levitical vestments should be made for the fulfilment of their ministry in thy presence, to the honor and glory of thy name : graciously assist our supplications : that thou wouldest vouchsafe to pour out the showers of thy grace, and by thy mighty benediction through our lowly service to ✠ purify, ✠ bless, and ✠ consecrate these priestly vestments : that they may be rendered fit for thy divine, service and thy holy mysteries, and blessed : and also may thy Bishops, Priests and Levites, clothed in these holy garments, be counted worthy to be strengthened and defended against all assaults or temptations of malignant spirits : and make them worthily and meetly to serve and cleave unto thy mysteries, and therein to persevere devoutly and acceptably unto thee. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

**O GOD**, the creator and sanctifier of all things, who dost triumph in might invincible : graciously give heed to our prayers, and vouchsafe with thine own mouth to ✠ bless, ✠ sanctify, and ✠ consecrate these garments of the levitical, priestly and pontifical dignity, for the use of thy ministers : and vouchsafe to render all who use them meet for thy mysteries, that they doing thee devout and laudable service may be found acceptable unto thee. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

**O** LORD God almighty, who didst bid thy servant Moses make for the High-priests, Priests and Levites vestments needful for the service of the tabernacle of the covenant, and didst replenish him with the spirit of wisdom for the accomplishment of the same : vouchsafe to ✠ bless, ✠ sanctify, and ✠ consecrate these ✠ vestments for the service and worship of thy mysteries : and vouchsafe that the ministers of thine altar who shall be clothed in them may be meetly filled with the grace of thy sevenfold Spirit, with the garment of chastity and with the fruit of good works in their ministry, which may win for them the bliss of everlasting life. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let them be sprinkled with holy Water.**

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**The following form is provided in *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979, p. 552 (Additional Directions for Ordinations).**

Ÿ. Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

℞. The maker of heaven and earth.

Ÿ. ✠ Our help.

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Everliving God, whose power is limitless, we place before you, with our praise and thanks, these tokens of your servant's ministry and dignity. Grant that *N.*, who has been called to leadership in your Church, and ✠ bears these signs, may faithfully serve you and share in the fullness of your life-giving Spirit; through the high priest and good shepherd of us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **(2) BLESSING OF ALTAR CLOTHS OR ALTAR LINEN.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O LORD, graciously hear our prayers, and vouchsafe to ✠ bless and ✠ sanctify this linen prepared for the service of thy holy Altar. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O LORD, God almighty, who for forty days didst teach thy servant Moses to make ornaments and linen : the which also Miriam wove and made for the service of the tabernacle of the covenant : vouchsafe to ✠ bless, ✠ sanctify, and ✠ consecrate these linen cloths for the covering and enveloping of the Altar of thy most gracious Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: Who with thee liveth and reigneth in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God : world without end. *Amen.*

**And let them be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## **(3) BLESSING OF A TABERNACLE OR VESSEL FOR RESERVING THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we humbly beseech thy majesty: that thou wouldest vouchsafe to hallow with the grace of thy ✠ benediction this tabernacle (or vessel) fashioned to contain the Body of thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the same. *Amen.*

**And let them be sprinkled with holy Water.**



#### (4) BLESSING OF CORPORALS.

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

MOST gracious Lord, whose power is unspeakable, and whose mysteries are celebrated with hidden wonders : grant we beseech thee that this linen cloth may be ✠ sanctified by thy merciful ✠ benediction, that thereon may be consecrated the Body and Blood of our Lord and God Jesus Christ, thy Son : Who with thee liveth and reigneth in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God : world without end. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, vouchsafe to ✠ bless, ✠ sanctify, and ✠ consecrate this linen cloth, that it may cover and envelop the Body and Blood of thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ: Who with thee liveth and reigneth in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God: world without end. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, shed upon our hands the help of thy blessing : that through our ✠ benediction this linen cloth may be sanctified, and may be made by the grace of thy Holy Spirit a new winding-sheet for the Body and Blood of our Redeemer. Through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord : Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, ... world without end. *Amen.*

**And let them be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## (5) THE BLESSING OF A CROSS OR CRUCIFIX.

**If the Crosses are solemnly blessed and exposed for the veneration of the faithful, this blessing is reserved to the Ordinary, who may, however, delegate the hallowing to another priest. But if the blessing is used privately, any priest may perform it.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

WE beseech thee, O Lord holy, Father almighty, everlasting God : that thou would vouchsafe to ✠ bless this sign of the Cross that it may be a saving remedy for mankind; that it may establish thy servants in faith, incite them to good works, and redeem their souls : and that it may be a solace, protection and defense against the fiery darts of their enemies. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

BLESS, O Lord Jesu Christ, this Cross whereby thou didst deliver the world from the power of devils, and didst by thy Passion overcome the tempter to sin, who rejoiced in the transgression of the first man through taking of the forbidden tree (**Here it is sprinkled with holy Water**). Be this sign of the Cross sanctified in the name of the ✠ Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy ✠ Ghost: and may all, who for the Lord's sake pray and bow themselves before this Cross, find health of body and soul. Through the same Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**Then shall the Priest and people, devoutly kneeling, venerate and kiss the Cross.**

**(6) (R) THE BLESSING OF A MONSTRANCE FOR  
EXPOSING THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT TO THE  
VENERATION OF THE FAITHFUL.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, vouchsafe to ✠ bless and ✠ sanctify this vessel made for the exposing to the veneration of the faithful of the Body of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: that all, who worship the same thine only-begotten Son in this world with godly affection, may in the world to come receive the everlasting reward of their piety. Through the same Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

**(7) (R) THE BLESSING OF A RELIQUARY.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

✠ BLESS, O Lord, this vessel made ready to contain the Relics of thy Saints : and grant ; that whosoever shall venerate them with the affection of their hearts may, at the intercession of the same thy Saints, obtain pardon of all their sins and ever be defended against all adversities. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

**(8) THE SOLEMN BLESSING OF AN IMAGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST OR THE B. V. MARY OR SOME OTHER SAINT.**

**If the images, being exposed to public veneration, are solemnly blessed, this blessing is reserved to the Ordinary, who may however delegate it to any Priest. But this blessing may be performed privately by any Priest without leave from the Ordinary.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost not forbid the painting or carving of the images (*or* likenesses) of thy Saints : to the end that as oft as we look upon them with the eyes of the body, so often, contemplating with the eyes of memory their deeds and sanctity, we may imitate the same: vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to ✠ bless and ✠ sanctify this picture (*or* image), fashioned to the honour and memory of thine only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ (*or* the most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, *or* blessed N. thine Apostle, *or* Martyr, *or* Bishop, *or* Confessor, *or* blessed N. thy Virgin, *or* Martyr): and grant ; that whosoever before it shall study humbly to venerate and honour thine only begotten Son (*or* the most blessed Virgin, *or* the glorious Apostles, *or* Martyr, *or* Bishop, *or* Confessor, *or* the glorious Virgin, *or* Martyr) may by *his* merits and intercession obtain in this world grace from thee, and in the world to come glory everlasting. Through (the same) Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## **(9) THE BLESSING OF A BANNER OF ANY SOCIETY.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℟. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O LORD Jesus Christ, whose Church is as an army set in array with banners: ✠ bless this banner ; that all who fight beneath it for thee, the Lord God of hosts, may, by the intercession of blessed N . . . , be made worthy to conquer their enemies, both visible and invisible, in this world, and after victory to triumph in the heavens. Through thee, Jesu Christ: Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest God, world without end. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## **(10) THE BLESSING OF ROSARIES.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℟. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

TO the praise and glory of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in memory of the mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of the same our Lord Jesus Christ, may this chaplet of the most sacred Rosary be ✠ blessed, and ✠ sanctified : in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

**Or, if a rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady:**

TO the praise and glory of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in memory of the Sorrows which she endured in the life and death of the same her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, may this chaplet be ✠ blessed and ✠ sanctified : in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

**(12) (R) THE BLESSING OF STOCKS TO CONTAIN  
THE HOLY OILS.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

HEARKEN unto our prayers, O Lord, most merciful Father: and vouchsafe to ✠ bless and ✠ sanctify these vessels now to be purified, made ready for use in the sacred ministry of thy Church. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, by whom all unclean things are purified, and in whom all things which have been purified are enlightened : we humbly call upon thine almighty power, that every unclean spirit may be confounded and depart far from these vessels which thy servants offer unto thee ; that by thy ✠ benediction they may abide holy for the use and ministry of thy Church. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

### (13) THE BLESSING OF CANDLES.

**All candles used in the church should be blessed before use.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O LORD Jesu Christ, Son of the living God, ✠ bless these candles at our supplication: pour upon them, O Lord, through the virtue of the holy ✠ Cross, thy heavenly benediction, who hast given them to drive away darkness from mankind: and let them receive such blessing by the sign of the holy ✠ Cross, that in whatsoever places they be kindled or set, the princes of darkness with all their ministers may depart, tremble and flee in terror from those habitations ; neither presume any more to disquiet or molest those who serve thee, the almighty God: Who livest and reignest, world without end. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

### (14) THE BLESSING OF A FOUNDATION STONE.

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O GOD from whom every good work takes its beginning, and going forward ever receiveth an increase of perfection : grant our petitions, we beseech thee ; that the undertaking which we begin to the praise of thy name may, by the everlasting bounty of thy fatherly wisdom, be brought to fulfilment. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## (15) THE BLESSING OF A SCHOOL.

**The Priest on entering shall sprinkle the rooms with holy Water, saying:**

☩. Peace be to this house.

☩. And to all that dwell in it.

☩. ☩ Our help is in the name of the Lord.

☩. Who hath made heaven and earth.

☩. ☩ Our help.

☩. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

### *Collect*

O LORD Jesu Christ, who didst command thine Apostles, that into whatsoever house they entered they should pray for peace upon it; ☩ sanctify, we beseech thee, by our ministry this house destined for the education of boys (*or* girls); pour thy ☩ benediction upon it, and abundance of peace ; let salvation come to it, even as it came to the house of Zacchreus, at thy entering; command thine Angels to keep it and to drive far from it all the power of the enemy ; fill with the spirit of knowledge, wisdom and thy fear them that teach therein; nourish with thy heavenly grace them that learn; and grant that they may understand those things which for their salvation they are taught, may keep them in their hearts and practice them in their works; and may all that dwell therein please thee by works of every virtue, that they may be worthy to be received hereafter to their everlasting home in heaven. Through thee, O Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, who livest and reignest God, world without end. *Amen.*



## (16) THE BLESSING OF AN ORGAN IN THE CHURCH.

℣. ✠ Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
℞. Who hath made heaven and earth.

PSALM 150. *Latedate Dominum.*

O PRAISE God in his holiness : \*  
praise him in the firmament of his power.  
Praise him in his noble acts : \*  
praise him according to his excellent greatness.  
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet · \*  
praise him upon the lute and harp. ·  
Praise him in the cymbals and dances : \*  
praise him upon the strings and pipe.  
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: \*  
praise him upon the loud cymbals.  
Let everything that hath breath : \*  
praise the Lord . ...,  
Glory be...  
As it was...

℣. Praise the Lord in the cymbals and dances.

℞. Praise him upon the strings and pipe.

℣. The Lord be with you.

℞. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O GOD, who through thy servant Moses didst command that trumpets should be made to sound over the sacrifices to be offered to thy name ; and who through the children of Israel didst will that the praise of thy name should be proclaimed in the trumpets and cymbals : ble ✠ ss we beseech thee, this instrument of the organ now dedicated to thy worship ; and grant that thy faithful, who praise thee on earth with spiritual songs, may be made worthy to attain unto everlasting joys in heaven. Through Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord: Who liveth. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## (17) THE BLESSING OF CROPS OR HARVEST.

Ÿ. ✠ Our help.

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O LORD GOD almighty, who ceasest not to bestow on men abundance of the dew of heaven and the substance of the fatness of the earth : we render thanks to thy most gracious majesty for the fruits that have been gathered, beseeching thy mercy ; that thou wouldest vouchsafe to ✠ bless, preserve and defend from all harm these crops, which of thy goodness we have received : and grant therewith ; that they, whose desire thou hast fulfilled with good things, may glory in thy protection, may continually praise thy mercies, and may so pass through good things temporal, that they lose not the things eternal. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## (18) THE BLESSING OF A CAR.

Ÿ. ✠ Our help.

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

ASSIST us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications, and ✠ bless this vehicle with thy holy right hand : join unto it thy holy Angels, that they may always deliver and defend all who ride therein from every peril ; and as thou didst give faith and grace by thy Levite Philip unto the man of Ethiopia as he sat upon his chariot and read thy sacred words; so unto thy servants shew the way of salvation, that they who by the help of thy grace are ever intent upon good works, may, after all the changes and chances of the journey of this life, be worthy to obtain eternal joys. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## (19) THE BLESSING OF A SHIP OR BOAT.

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

BE favourable, O Lord, unto our supplications, and with thy holy right hand bless this ship and all them that shall journey therein ; even as thou didst vouchsafe to bless the ark of Noe ; stretch forth unto them, O Lord, thy right hand, as thou didst stretch it forth unto blessed Peter when he walked upon the sea ; and send thy holy Angel from heaven to keep and deliver it always from every peril, together with all that shall be therein : and, all adversities being driven away, preserve thy servants in the haven where they would be, giving them peaceful voyaging : and, their business ended and rightly fulfilled, vouchsafe in due time to bring them again with all gladness to their homes : Who livest and reignest world without end. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

**(20) ORDER FOR THE CONSECRATION OF A PATEN  
AND CHALICE.**

**A Bishop, wishing to proceed to the consecration of a Chalice, or any vestment or ecclesiastical ornament, should always have a stole about his neck, and may wear a mitre, when, it is fitting.**

**This Blessing may be done in any place or at any time that the Bishop may appoint.**

**In the consecration of a Paten, for which the holy Chrism must be made ready, and a vessel of holy water with the sprinkler, the Bishop, standing and wearing the mitre, says:**

Ÿ. ✠ Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
R̄. Who hath made heaven and earth.

**LET** us pray, dearly beloved brethren, that the blessing of divine grace may consecrate and sanctify this Paten (these Patens), for the breaking thereon of the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, who endured the suffering of the Cross for the salvation of us all.

**Then, laying aside the mitre, the bishop says:**

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.  
R̄. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

**ALMIGHTY** and everlasting God, who didst institute the sacrifices of the law, and who didst command the finest wheat flour, scattered among them, to be borne to thy altar on patens of gold and silver : vouchsafe to ✠ bless, ✠ sanctify and ✠ consecrate this Paten (these Patens) for the ministration of the Eucharist of Jesus Christ thy Son, who for our salvation and for that of all willed himself to be sacrificed unto thee, O God the Father, on the altar of the Cross, and liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

*Amen.*

**Then the Bishop, receiving the mitre, dipping the thumb of his right hand in the Chrism, makes therewith a Cross over the Paten (each Paten) from rim to rim, and then anoints all the surface with his thumb, saying:**

VOUCHSAFE, O Lord God, to ✠ consecrate and ✠ sanctify this Paten through this anointing, and our ✠ benediction in Christ Jesu our Lord : Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost . . . *Amen.*

**Then, still standing with the mitre, he proceeds to the blessing of the Chalice, saying:**

LET us pray, dearly beloved brethren, that our God and Lord may sanctify by the inspiration of his heavenly grace this Chalice (these Chalices) to be consecrated to the use of his service : and that he may join the fulness of divine favour to this consecration by man. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**Then, laying aside the mitre, he says:**

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Ř. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

VOUCHSAFE, O Lord our God, to ✠ bless this Chalice (these Chalices), fashioned by the godly devotion of thy servants to the use of thy ministry, and to fill it (them) with that ✠ sanctification, wherewith thou didst fill the hallowed chalice of Melchizedech thy servant : and let that, which by art or the nature of metal cannot be worthy of thine altars, be sanctified by thy ✠ benediction. Through. *Amen.*

**Then, receiving the mitre, he makes a cross with the thumb of his right hand from the Chrism within the Chalice itself (each Chalice) from lip to lip, and then anoints the whole of the interior, saying:**

VOUCHSAFE, O Lord God, to ✠ consecrate and ✠ sanctify this Chalice through this anointing, and our ✠ benediction in Christ Jesu our Lord : Who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Then, laying aside the mitre, he says over the Chalices and Patens:**

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

℞. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, pour forth, we beseech thee, the power of thy benediction on our hands : that through our ✠ benediction this Vessel and Paten (these Vessels and Patens) may be sanctified, and be made by the grace of the Holy Ghost a new sepulchre for the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the same . . . in the unity of the same Holy Ghost . . . ℞.  
Amen.

**Lastly he sprinkles the Chalice and Paten (Chalices and Patens) with holy Water, which should be done after all blessings of any kind. Which done, he causes the Patens and Chalices to be wiped by some Priest with bread crumbs, and well cleansed; then the wipings are thrown into the fire or the sacrarium.**

## (21) THE BLESSING OF AN ICON.

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, Who didst create us after Thine own Image and Likeness; Who didst redeem us from our former corruption of the ancient curse through thine self-emptying Christ, Who didst take upon Himself the form of a servant and became man; Who having taken upon Himself our likeness hast remade the Saints of the first dispensation, and through Whom also we are refashioned in the Image of Thy pure blessedness; Thy Saints we venerate as being in Thine Image and Likeness, and we adore and glorify Thee as our Creator and Redeemer;

Wherefore we pray Thee, send forth Thy blessing upon this Icon, and with the sprinkling of hallowed water, Bless and make holy this Icon unto thine all-surpassing glory, in honor and remembrance of thine only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ (*or* thy Saint, the all-holy and ever-blessed Mary, the virgin Mother of God; *or* blessed N. thine Apostle, *or* Martyr, *or* Bishop, *or* Confessor, *or* blessed N. thy Virgin, *or* Martyr): And grant that this sanctification will be to all who venerate this Icon of our Lord Jesus Christ (*or* thy Saint, the all-holy and ever-blessed Mary, the virgin Mother of God; *or* blessed N. thine Apostle, *or* Martyr, *or* Bishop, *or* Confessor, *or* blessed N. thy Virgin, *or* Martyr), and send up their prayer unto thy divine Majesty as they stand before it; Through the grace and bounteous love of Thine Only-Begotten Son, with Whom thou are blessed together with thy All-Holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit; both now and for ever, and unto the ages of ages. *Amen.*

**Making signs of the cross with Holy Water on the sides of the icon, the Priest says:**

Hallowed and blessed is this Icon of our Lord Jesus Christ (*or thy Saint, the all-holy and ever-blessed Mary, the virgin Mother of God; or blessed N. thine Apostle, or Martyr, or Bishop, or Confessor, or blessed N. thy Virgin, or Martyr*); by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, through the sprinkling of Holy Water: in the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the ✠ Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

**(22) THE BLESSING OF WEDDING RINGS**

✠. ✠ Our help.

✠. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, this ring to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP, P. 434)



## (23) THE BLESSING OF THE OIL OF THE SICK

(OI – *Oleum Infirmorum*)

**Traditionally, this blessing is reserved to the bishops, through the BCP allows a priest to bless.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord, holy Father, giver of health and salvation: Send your Holy Spirit to ✠ sanctify this oil; that, as your holy apostles anointed many that were sick and healed them, so may those who in faith and repentance receive this holy unction be made whole; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The following anthem may be added**

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us; *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.*

## (24) THE BLESSING OF THE OIL OF CATECHUMENS (EXORCISM) (R)

(OC – *Oleum Catechumenorum*)

**This blessing is expressly served to the Bishop.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O God, strength and protection of your people, who have made the oil you created a sign of strength, graciously ✠ bless this oil, and grant courage to the catechumens who will be anointed with it, so that, receiving divine wisdom and power, they may understand more deeply the Gospel of your Christ, may undertake with a generous heart the labors of the Christian life, and, made worthy of adoption as your sons and daughters, may rejoice to be born anew and to live in your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## (25) THE BLESSING OF THE OIL OF CHRISM (R)

(SC – *Sacrum Chrisma*)

This blessing is expressly served to the Bishop.

Provision is made in the rite of Holy Baptism for the consecration of Chrism in local congregations for use by a priest at baptisms in that church which take place on subsequent occasions in the year.

The following form is intended for use when, because of the absence of candidates for Baptism, the consecration of Chrism takes place at the time of Confirmation (see the last rubric on page 419 of the Prayer Book), or at some other time. The rite takes place immediately after the postcommunion prayer, and before the bishop's blessing and the dismissal.

The olive oil to be consecrated should be prepared in an ampulla or other vessel large enough to be seen clearly by the congregation.

Traditionally, a small amount of oil of balsam or other fragrant oil is added to it, either before the service, or just before the consecratory prayer.

If desired, the vessel of oil may be brought forward in the offertory procession, received by a deacon or other minister, and then placed on a convenient side table until needed.

Immediately after the postcommunion prayer, the ampulla is brought to the bishop, who places it on a small table in the sight of the congregation, or on the altar (the communion vessels having already been removed).

Facing the People, the Bishop then says in these or similar words

Dear Friends in Christ: In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the creation; and, throughout history, God, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, has empowered his people to serve him. As a sign of that gift, the priests and kings of Israel were anointed with oil; and our Lord Jesus was himself anointed with the Holy Spirit at his Baptism as the Christ, God's own Messiah. At Baptism, Christians are likewise anointed by that same Spirit to empower them for God's service. Let us now set apart this oil to be the sign of that anointing.

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray. (**silence**)

Eternal Father, whose blessed Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Savior and servant of all, we pray you to ✠ consecrate this oil, that those who are sealed with it may share in the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *Amen.* (BCP, p. 307; BooS 2018, pp. 310-11).

**The Liturgy then concludes in the usual way with the Bishop's blessing and the dismissal.**

**(26) THE BLESSING OF ANYTHING FOR WHICH A  
SPECIAL FORM IS NOT PROVIDED.**

℣. ✠ Our help.

℣. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O GOD, by whose word all things are sanctified : pour thy ✠  
benediction upon this creature (these creatures) ; and grant that  
whosoever shall use it (them) with thanksgiving according to thy  
law and will, may, by the invocation of thy most holy name, receive  
from thee, who art its (their) maker, health of body and protection  
of soul. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it (or them) be sprinkled with holy Water.**

# THE BLESSING *of a* HOUSE

**A number of forms for blessing houses are provided here.**

1. The first is a simple form that appears in many older priest's manuals.
2. The second and third are from *The Book of Occasional Services 2003*, and are specific blessings for the seasons of Epiphany and Easter, both traditional times at which the parish priest may bless homes.
3. The fourth form is the lengthier form also from the BooS 2003, titled there "Celebration for a Home." This includes a blessing at the entrance, plus blessings for each particular room, along with directions for how the Mass may be celebrated at the conclusion.
4. The fifth form is longer than the opening forms but shorter than the lengthy form from the BooS.
5. The final form is to be used if there is any real concern of demonic or spiritual activity that is not of the Holy Spirit.

## A SHORT FORM FOR BLESSING HOMES

**Priest** Peace be to this house.  
**People** And to all who dwell in it.

**Priest** ✠ Our help is in the Name of the Lord.  
**People** Who hath made heaven and earth.

**Priest** The Lord be with you.  
**People** And with thy spirit.  
**Celebrant** Let us pray.

WE humbly beseech thee, O God the Father almighty, on behalf of this house, of them that dwell herein and of all things belonging to them; that it may please thee to ✠ bless and ✠ sanctify it and to replenish it with all good things; grant unto them O Lord, abundance of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth for their sustenance, and so direct the desires of their hearts that they may effectually obtain thy mercy. At our coming in, therefore, vouchsafe to ✠ bless and ✠ sanctify this house, even as thou didst vouchsafe to bless the house of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: and grant that within the walls of this house the Angels of thy light may dwell, and guard it and them that dwell therein. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And let it be sprinkled with holy Water.**

## ANOTHER SHORT FORM FOR BLESSING HOMES

**If it is desired to perform a short blessing of a home, the following form may be used.**

V. God shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

R. From this time forth for ever more.

Let us pray.

Bless and sanctify with your peace, O God, this home and those who live in it, that within these walls they may know the blessings of this life and to know the promise of the life to come in that heavenly home where with saints and angels you live and reign, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING OF HOMES AT EPIPHANY

Where it is customary to invite the parish priest to the homes of parishioners on the Feast of the Epiphany or during the week following, this blessing may be used.

**The Celebrant begins with the following or some other greeting.**

Peace be to this house, and to all who dwell in it.

**The Magnificat is then sung or said with one of the following antiphons:**

The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

**or this**

I saw water proceeding out of the temple; from the right side it flowed, alleluia; and all those to whom that water came shall be saved, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.

✠ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God by Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*



as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**The antiphon is then repeated.**

The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

**or this**

I saw water proceeding out of the temple; from the right side it flowed, alleluia; and all those to whom that water came shall be saved, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.

**Celebrant**        The Lord be with you.

**People**            And also with you.

**Celebrant**        Let us pray.

**The Celebrant says one of the following Collects.**

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**or this**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

**The Celebrant then says this prayer**

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever.

*Amen.*

**Other suitable prayers may be added.**

**The Celebrant may say one of the two following blessings:**

May God the Father, who by Baptism adopts us as his children, grant you grace. *Amen.*

May God the Son, who sanctified a home at Nazareth, fill you with love. *Amen.*

May God the Holy Spirit, who has made the Church one family, keep you in peace. *Amen.*

**or this**

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. *Amen.*

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. *Amen.*

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**The Peace may then be exchanged.**

## BLESSING OF HOMES IN EASTERTIDE

Where it is customary to invite the parish priest to the homes of parishioners during the Fifty Days of Easter, this blessing may be used.

The Celebrant begins with the following or some other greeting.

Peace be to this house, and to all who dwell in it.

Psalm 114 is then sung or said with one of the following antiphons:

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

or this

I saw water proceeding out of the temple; from the right side it flowed, alleluia; and all those to whom that water came shall be saved, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.

When Israel came out of Egypt, \*

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary \*

and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; \*

Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, \*

and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*

O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*

you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*

and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**The antiphon is then repeated.**

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

**or this**

I saw water proceeding out of the temple; from the right side it flowed, alleluia; and all those to whom that water came shall be saved, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.

**Another psalm, such as Psalm 118, may be used in place of Psalm 114, or a canticle may be substituted. Suitable canticles are Christ our Passover, the Song of Moses, and the Song to the Lamb.**

**Celebrant**      The Lord be with you.

**People**          And also with you.

**Celebrant**      Let us pray.

**The Celebrant says one of the following Collects, or some other Collect of the Easter Season.**

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with awe the Paschal feast may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**or this**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The Celebrant then says this prayer**

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever.

*Amen.*

**or this**

Graciously hear us, O Lord, holy Father almighty and everlasting God: and as thou didst guard from the destroying Angel the houses of the Hebrews, when they went out of Egypt, being sprinkled with the blood of the lamb, (which prefigured our Passover wherein Christ is sacrificed); so vouchsafe to send thy holy Angel from heaven to guard, cherish, protect, visit and defend all who dwell in this dwelling-place. Through the same Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Celebrant may say one of the two following blessings:**

May God the Father, who by Baptism adopts us as his children, grant you grace. *Amen.*

May God the Son, who sanctified a home at Nazareth, fill you with love. *Amen.*

May God the Holy Spirit, who has made the Church one family, keep you in peace. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**or this**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**The Peace may then be exchanged.**

# THE BLESSING OF A HOME (LONG FORM) “CELEBRATION OF A HOME”

## MATERIALS

- Aspergillum & Holy Water
- Exorcised salt (if desired)
- Thurible w/incense boat (if wanted)
- Booklets for the people
- Indelible pen to mark the door w/Jerusalem cross & year
- Candle
- Oil stock w/oil for marking the doorpost of each room
- If a Mass: chalice & paten, priest's host, hosts for the people, wine and water, corporal, purificator, a second candle

**If there is clear evidence of demonic or some other malevolent force at work in the house or building, the fifth form in this booklet shall be used.**

OPENING [*pp* 1]

**All gather at the entrance to the house.**

Dearly beloved brethren, let us pray our Lord God favorably to shine upon this dwelling, to fill this house with godly inhabitants, and ever to defend them with the protection of his divine Majesty.

**Priest** Peace be to this house.

**People** And to all who dwell in it.

**Priest** ✠ Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

**People** Who has made heaven and earth.

**Priest** The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, grant to this home the grace of your presence, that you may be known to be the inhabitant of this dwelling, and the defender of this household; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Antiphon*

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into the house, and eat with you, and you with me.

℣. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

℞. From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Sovereign Lord, you are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end: Send your servants out from this place on many errands, be their constant companion in the way, and welcome them upon their return, so that coming and going they may be sustained by your presence, O Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



**When appropriate, the Celebrant then says the following invocation**

Let the mighty power of the Holy God be present in this place to ✠ banish from it every unclean spirit, to ✠ cleanse it from every residue of evil, and to make it a ✠ secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The door is then sprinkled with Holy Water.**

**It is appropriate to mark the lintel of the door at this point, with a cross ✠ with a permanent pen, the numbers of the year going in each corner of the cross.**

**One or both of the following Lessons may follow. If there is no Mass, the Magnificat or Psalm 112:1-7 and one lesson is sufficient.**

## A Reading from the book of Genesis

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth, <sup>3</sup> and said, “My lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, <sup>5</sup> while I fetch a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds, and milk, and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. [18:1-8]

### **The Song of Mary** *Magnificat* [pp 1]

(in unison)

*Luke 1:46-55*

✠ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God by Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## 112 *Beatus vir*

- 1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!
  - 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
  - 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.
  - 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
  - 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.
  - 6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
  - 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **A reading from the third letter of St John** (*optional*)

<sup>1</sup>The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in health; I know that it is well with your soul. <sup>3</sup>For I greatly rejoiced when some of the brethren arrived and testified to the truth of your life, as indeed you do follow the truth. <sup>4</sup>No greater joy can I have than this, to hear that my children follow the truth.

<sup>5</sup> Beloved, it is a loyal thing you do when you render any service to the brethren, especially to strangers, <sup>6</sup> who have testified to your love before the church. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen God.

<sup>13</sup> I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink; <sup>14</sup> I hope to see you soon, and we will talk together face to face. <sup>15</sup> Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, every one of them. [1-6a, 11, 13-15]

## Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John [or Matthew].

*People*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment [John 12:1-3].

## Or

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying,

‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’<sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.<sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well [Matthew 6:25-33].

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**A homily or brief address may follow.**

**If convenient, prayers for the several rooms of the house are offered at this time.**

**The Celebrant, with members of the household (one of them carrying a lighted candle if desired), and others as convenient, move from room to room, concluding the procession in the living room.**

**If the procession does not take place here, the service continues with the Blessing of the Home [pp 17]. In that case, the prayers in the separate rooms are used before or after the service.**



In an Oratory or Chapel, or at a Shrine	pp 6
In a Study or Library	pp 7
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IN AN ORATORY OR CHAPEL, OR AT A SHRINE

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.**

Ÿ.      Lift up your hands in the sanctuary:

Ŕ.      And bless the Lord, the Lord who made heaven and earth.

[place of worship; where the concerns of this home are brought first to our Lord]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, from you comes every good prayer, and you pour out on those who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication: Deliver your servants when they draw near to you in this place from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections they may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.**

IN A STUDY OR LIBRARY [pp 3]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**Teach us, O Lord, where wisdom is to be found, and show us the place of understanding.**

V. Seek the Lord your God, and you will find him:

R. Search for him with all your heart and with all your soul.

[a place of quiet; a place where the important but mundane tasks for the sake of the family are done; a place where knowledge is sought and gained]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O infinite Creator, who art the fountain of light and wisdom; mercifully shed upon the darkness of our understanding the rays of your infinite brightness, and remove far from us the twofold darkness in which we were born, namely, sin and ignorance; Give those who study in this place keenness of apprehension, capacity for remembering, method and ease in learning, insight in interpretation, and copious eloquence in speech; instruct their beginnings, direct their progress, and set your seal upon their finished work; for it is you whom we seek, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. *Amen.*

**Teach us, O Lord, where wisdom is to be found, and show us the place of understanding.**

IN A BEDROOM [pp 4]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

V. I lie down and go to sleep:

R. I wake again, because the Lord, sustains me.

[a place where we are nursed in sickness; a place where new life is brought forth; a place where we are closest to the ones we love]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O Almighty Father, the true rest of your people: Sanctify to your servants their hours of rest and refreshment, their sleeping and their waking; and grant that, strengthened by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, they may rise to serve you all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**



IN A CHILD'S ROOM [pp 5]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to those like them belong the kingdom of heaven.”**

Ÿ. Praise the Lord, you children of the Lord.

Ŕ. Praise the Name of the Lord.

[place of stories and games; of naps; a space of their own]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Heavenly Father, thy Son our Savior took young children into his arms and blessed them: Embrace the *child* who here sleeps with your never-failing love, protect *him* from all danger, and bring *him* in safety to each new day, until *he greets* with joy the great Day of your coming; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to those like them belong the kingdom of heaven.”**

IN A GUEST ROOM [pp 5]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**Do not neglect to show hospitality, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

**V.** Open your homes to each other without a word:

**R.** Use the gifts you have received from God for the good of others.

[where the Gospel imperative of hospitality of expressed, where we serve Jesus in providing for the needs of others]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty Father, who hast taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us: Bless those who shall share the hospitality of this home; give them your Fatherly care as a shield about them, and may the wisdom of thy Holy Spirit keep them in the way that leads unto eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Do not neglect to show hospitality, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

IN A BATHROOM [pp 6]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be cleansed: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

℣. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering:

℞. Having our bodies washed with pure water.

[place where we see ourselves as we really are, the way God sees us all the time]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore the dignity of human nature: Give unto us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies, keeping them clean and fair, whole and sound; that by them we may glorify you and await that with confidence that Day when our bodies will put on immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be cleansed: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

IN A WORKROOM OR WORKSHOP [pp 7]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**Many there are who rely upon their hands and are skillful in their own work.**

Ÿ. Prosper, O Lord, the work of our hands:

℞. Prosper our handiwork.

[a place of work and creativity; of service to the rest of the household]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who did raise up from the family of your servant David the carpenter Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his Virgin Mother: grant that, encouraged by his example and aided by his intercession, those who labor in this place may find themselves co-laborers with Christ and heirs of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Many there are who rely upon their hands and are skillful in their own work.**

IN THE KITCHEN [pp 7]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**You shall eat and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.**

V. The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord:

R. And you give them their food in due season.

[where the most basic of our necessities is prepared; a place where one of life’s necessities is transformed into an experience of joy that serves the unity and fellowship of the family]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O Lord our God, who dost supply our every need according to your great riches in Christ Jesus: Bless the hands that work in this place, and give us grateful hearts for daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**You shall eat and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.**

IN A DINING ROOM OR AREA [pp 8]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**The living God gave you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.**

- Ÿ. He brings forth food from the earth,  
and wine to gladden our hearts:  
Ŕ. Oil to make a cheerful countenance,  
and bread to strengthen the heart.

[a place of communion and community, a picture of Jesus last meal gathered with his disciples; a space where hospitality is expressed]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Blessed art thou, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and to make our hearts glad: Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others; and may the food that is here consumed be to our bodies as the Sacraments are to our souls; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**The living God gave you from heaven rain and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.**

IN A TERRACE OR GARDEN [pp 9]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**As the earth puts forth its blossom, or bushes in a garden burst into flower, so shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations.**

Ÿ. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land:  
R. Indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

[space of quiet and respite; opportunity to see the marvels of the earth and how it brings forth life, beauty and food]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Companion on the Way, who in this earthly life withdrew to a quiet place in order to hear the voice of the Father; be present with your *servants* in this place, to which *they come* for prayer and quiet; and make it, we pray you, a place of serenity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**As the earth puts forth its blossom, or bushes in a garden burst into flower, so shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations.**

IN THE LIVING ROOM [*pp* 10]

**Before entering the room, the Priest may make the sign of the cross with holy water on the lintel of the door.**

*Antiphon*

**[this is said in unison, as the Priest sprinkles the room with Holy Water (and exorcised salt, if desired)]**

‘In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’]

**Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!**

Ÿ. Above everything, love one another earnestly:

Ŕ. For love covers over a multitude of sins.

[space dedicated to fellowship, community, conversation, openness, hospitality]

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Give your blessing, O Lord God, to all who share this room, that they may be knit together in fellowship here on earth, and joined with the communion of thy saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!**



THE BLESSING [pp 11]

**When the procession has returned to the living room, the Celebrant completes the blessing of the home as follows, using Holy Water for the blessings:**

**The effect of righteousness will be peace,  
the result of righteousness is tranquility and trust for ever.  
My people shall abide in secure dwellings  
and in quiet resting places.**

℣. Unless the Lord builds the house:

℞. Those who build it labor in vain.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever.

*Amen.*

**Or**

Graciously hear us, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God: as thou didst guard from the destroying Angel the houses of the Hebrews, when they went out of Egypt, being sprinkled with the blood of the lamb (which prefigured our Passover wherein Christ is sacrificed), vouchsafe to send thy holy Angel from heaven to guard, cherish, protect, visit and defend all who dwell in this dwelling-place; through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Or**

Lord Jesus Christ, Who said to Thine apostles, “In whatever home you enter, greet it, saying, 'Peace be in this home,’” let this same peace, we pray thee, abide in this place; Pour upon it Thine abundant blessings, and make it a place of peace; May salvation enter this abode as it entered the house of Zacchaeus, when Thou wast please to grace it with Thy Presence; Entrust Thy Holy Angels to guard it and banish from it every evil power, and grant that all who live in it may please Thee with their good works, and so receive from Thee, on the Day of Thine appearing, the reward of thy heavenly home; through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, who shall come to judge the quick and the dead and the world by fire. *Amen.*

**The effect of righteousness will be peace,  
the result of righteousness is tranquility and trust for ever.  
My people shall abide in secure dwellings  
and in quiet resting places.**

**If there is to be a Mass, the following Offertory Sentence is used.**

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also [John 14:2-3].

**If the Great Thanksgiving provides for a Proper Preface, the following may be used**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who grew to perfect manhood in his parents' home at Nazareth, and in the home of friends in Bethany revealed himself as Life and Resurrection

**If there is not to be a Mass, the service concludes as follows:**

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ hath taught us, saying

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Celebrant then blesses the family**

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon this house and all who dwell here, both now and forevermore. *Amen.*

*Priest* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## A SHORTER BLESSING OF A HOME

### Introduction

#### Priest

Peace be to this house, and to all who dwell in it.

Dearly friends in Christ, let us pray our Lord God favorably to shine upon this dwelling, to send all evil and wickedness to flight, and ever to defend them with the protection of his divine Majesty.

℣. God shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

℞. From this time forth for ever more.

℣. The Lord be with you.

℞. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, the Author of blessing and the Fount of Salvation, we earnestly pray and beseech you to grant to this home the grace of your presence, that you may be known to be the inhabitant of this dwelling, and the defender of this household; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

#### **When appropriate, the Celebrant then says the following invocation**

Let the mighty power of the Holy God be present in this place to ✠ banish from it every unclean spirit, to ✠ cleanse it from every residue of evil, and to make it a ✠ secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## The Sprinkling of Holy Water

**The Priest then goes throughout the house and sprinkles each room thrice with holy Water.**

**The following blessing may be said as each room is sprinkled**

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon this place and upon all here present, both now and forever. *Amen.*

## The Blessing

**After this has been completed, the Priest returns to the entrance of the home and continues**

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

Our Father,

**All** who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name ...  
but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

**V.** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**R.** Who has made heaven and earth.

Let us pray.

**The officiant then says both of the following prayers and gives the blessing**

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace, and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, the Father Almighty, we humbly entreat you for this house, for all who live here, and for all things in it; and grant, O Lord, to those living here such earthly and heavenly blessings as are necessary for the maintenance of their earthly life; and so control what they desire that they may be able to receive thy mercy. ✠ Bless and ✠ hallow this place, and may angels of light dwell within it to guard and keep it in peace; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

May St. Michael and all the Holy Angels guard and protect you; may all the Saints of God surround us with their love and prayers; may Our Lady Mary, the Mother of God, shelter us with her maternal intercession.

God the Father, ✠ God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you, now and for ever. *Amen.*

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

## THE EXORCISM AND BLESSING OF A PLACE

1. At all exorcisms, it is well to have one or two committed and instructed Christians present to help in prayer, since exorcism is an act of the Church and not simply of an individual.
2. If an outside site has to be exorcized and blessed, it is better that the assistants stand within sight of the exorcist, but do not walk round with him, as this might attract undesirable attention and publicity.
3. When a building is to be exorcized, the assistants would normally accompany the exorcist from place to place within it.

If the building is a house, then the congregation would normally include some members of the household. In such case all should be gathered into one room, which would be exorcized and blessed at the start. The congregation would remain in that room until the end of the operation.

4. When all is ready, the officiant will lead in prayers. These should include the Lord's Prayer, a confession and absolution, a short reading from the Gospels with a request to our Lord for his help, and an invocation of the Holy Spirit.

### Introduction

Priest

Peace be to this house, and to all who dwell herein.

Dearly friends in Christ, let us pray our Lord God favorably to shine upon this dwelling, to send all evil and wickedness to flight, and ever to defend them with the protection of his divine Majesty.

**The Priest continues**

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

**All**

Our Father...

deliver us from evil. Amen.

*If those present have not confessed their sins that day, the following is used*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Silence is kept.**

**Priest**

Most merciful God

**All**

we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

**The Priest says the absolution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has left power to his Church to  
absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his  
great mercy forgive you all your offenses; and by his authority  
committed to me, I ✠ absolve you from all your sins: In the  
Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

**The Priest continues**

May the Lord bless and sanctify this tabernacle of his servants and  
grant to them the riches of the kingdom of heaven. Amen.



The Exorcist next reads these selections from the Gospel, or at least one of them.

The beginning of the holy Gospel according to St. John [1.1-14]

✠ ✠ ✠ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

(Genuflect) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, (Rise) full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

and/or

A Lesson from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke [10.17-20]

At that time the seventy-two returned in high spirits. "Master," they said, "even the demons are subject to us because we use your name!" "Yes," He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall like lightning that flashes from heaven. But mind: it is I that have given you the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and break the dominion of the enemy everywhere; nothing at all can injure you. Just the same, do not rejoice in the fact that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice in the fact that your names are engraved in heaven."

The following Scripture passage may be added

## Christ Hymn (Phil 2:5-11)

Have this mind among yourselves,  
which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,  
but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men.  
And being found in human form  
he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God has highly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,  
[all in the room kneel as the priest continues]  
that **at the name of Jesus** every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [rise]  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. ✠ Amen.

## Prayers of Preparation

After this it may be useful to add some portion of the following prayers from the Mozarabic Rite:

O God, the Author of blessing and Fount of salvation, we earnestly pray and beseech you to pour the manifold dew of your grace and the abundance of your blessing upon this place. *Amen.*

May you grant it prosperity and drive out adversity. *Amen.*

May you drive out Satan, the author of evil. *Amen.*

May you place herein the angel of light, the guard and defender of good. *Amen.*

By the multitude of your mercies may peace abound for those who dwell in this place. *Amen.*

And may there always be present here, O Lord, those of your gifts which are profitable to all. *Amen.*

And/or

Send, O Lord, to this dwelling your good and holy angel. *Amen.*

As watchman, sentinel and guard. *Amen.*

To resist evil things and provide good things. *Amen.*

So that all disquiet and disaster may be banished from this house. *Amen.*

May your presence always keep far from here, need, pestilence, sickness and the attacks of the evil ones. *Amen.*

So that, where your holy Name is invoked, abundant good may follow and the attacks of the demons be driven back and your protection and the help of the Saints take their place. *Amen.*

## 5. The Exorcism

The exorcist shall then pronounce the form of exorcism in this main room. The sign of the cross may be made with a crucifix.

God, the Son of God, who by death destroyed death, and overcame him who had the power of death, Beat down Satan quickly. ✠ [and/or exhale deeply] Deliver this place (room, house, church) from all evil spirits, all vain imaginations, projections, phantasms, and all deceits of the evil one; and bid them harm no one but depart to the place appointed them, there to remain for ever. God, the Incarnate Son, Jesus Christ, bring thou thy peace, both now and forever more.

6. Having said the form of exorcism, the exorcist then goes around the room sprinkling it with holy water. When he returns to his place, a blessing should be given on the congregation and the room by the exorcist before continuing with exorcising the rest of the house:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon this place and upon all here present, both now and forever. *Amen.*

7. The exorcist then goes around the rest of the house or building, repeating the form of exorcism in each room as he goes and sprinkling with holy water. The assistants should go with him, opening doors of rooms and cupboards, dealing with lights if need be, and helping to maintain a spirit of prayer.

God, the Son of God, who by death destroyed death, and overcame him who had the power of death, Beat down Satan quickly. ✠ [and/or exhale deeply] Deliver this place (room, house, church) from all evil spirits; all vain imaginations, projections and phantasms; and all deceits of the evil one; and bid them harm no one but depart to the place appointed them, there to remain for ever. God, Incarnate God, who came to give peace, bring peace.

It is important to pause a while at each room or passage to renew the awareness of the presence and power of God. If at any stage, some opposition makes itself known, there should be a period for such recollection lasting for one or two minutes.

## 8. Blessing of the House or Place

When the exorcism has been completed, all those in the house should be gathered together, either in the main hall or in the main room, the other door being left open.

The officiant then says either or both of the following prayers and gives the blessing:

Visit, we beseech you, O Lord, this place and drive far from it all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell herein to keep us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The following may also be used:

O God, the Father Almighty, we humbly entreat you for this house (place), for all who live here, and for all things in it; and grant, Lord, to those living here such earthly and heavenly blessings as are necessary for the maintenance of life; and so control what they desire that they may be able to receive thy mercy. Bless and hallow this place, and may angels of light dwell within it to guard and keep; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The officiant will then pronounce a blessing on the house

Lord Jesus Christ, Who said to your apostles, "In whatever home you enter, greet it, saying, 'Peace be in this home;'" let this same peace, we pray you, ✠ abide in this place; Pour upon it your abundant blessings, and make it a place of peace; May salvation enter this abode as it entered the house of Zacchaeus, when you were please to grace it with your holy Presence; Entrust your Holy Angels to guard it and banish from it every evil power, and grant that all who live in it may please you with their good works, and so receive from you, on the Day of your appearing, the reward of thy heavenly home; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who shall come to judge the quick and the dead and the world by fire.

*Amen.*

9. After the blessing, the officiant will again sprinkle the congregation and the room with holy water, and then, with his assistants, go around the rest of the house.

In each main section he will repeat the following blessing, and sprinkle with holy water.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon this place and upon all here present, now and always. Amen.

## 10. Conclusion

After all this is done, the whole group will meet together for a short act of thanksgiving, using one of the following:

**The Song of the Redeemed**    *Magna et mirabilia*  
*Revelation 15:3 4*

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done, \*  
surpassing human understanding.  
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, \*  
O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name? \*  
for you only are the Holy One.  
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, \*  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**A Song to the Lamb** *Dignus es*

*Revelation 4:11, 5:9 10, 13*

Splendor and honor and kingly power \*  
are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is, \*  
and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
for ever and for evermore.

**We Praise Thee** *Te Deum laudamus*

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud,  
the Heavens and all the Powers therein.  
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.  
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.  
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world  
doth acknowledge thee,  
the Father, of an infinite majesty,  
thine adorable, true, and only Son,  
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,

thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,  
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,  
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy saints,  
in glory everlasting.

**Glory to God** *Gloria in excelsis*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



11. If any of the inhabitants of the house has been seriously disturbed, frightened, or damaged by the past events in the place, it is of considerable value for them to receive the Laying on of hands.

**A Short Form** [*The Guild of St Raphael*]

In the Name of God most High, may release from your pain be given you, and your health restored according to his holy will.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of life, may new life surge through your mortal body.

In the name of God the Holy Spirit may you receive inward health and the peace that passes understanding.

And may God, who gives us peace, make you completely his, and keep your whole being, spirit and soul and body. free from all fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**A Long Form**

Laying his hands on the person, the Priest may say the following, or begin with the second prayer

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, let there be extinguished in you all power of the devil by the imposition of our hands, [and by the invocation of the blessed Mary and all the Angels & Saints]; and may the Lord in his mercy grant thee perfect remission of all thy sins. *Amen.*

The Priest lays hands upon head says,

N., I lay my hands upon in the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the ✠ Holy Ghost, beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain thee with His presence, to drive away all sickness of body and spirit, and to give unto thee that victory of life and peace which will enable thee to serve Him both now and evermore. *Amen.*

or this

N., I lay my hands upon thee and I anoint thee with oil in the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the ✠ Holy Ghost, beseeching him to uphold thee and fill thee with His grace and power, that thou may know the healing power of his love.

*Amen.*

The Priest may wish to extemporize here (or pray in tongues).

The Priest then continues

As thou art outwardly anointed with this holy oil, may our heavenly Father grant thee the inward anointing of the Holy Ghost. By His great mercy, may He forgive thee thy sins, preserve thee in all goodness, and bring thee to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The almighty Lord, who is a most strong tower to all those who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, in earth and under the death, do bow and obey; Be now and ever more thy defense; and make the know and feel, that there is none other Name under heaven given to man, in whom, and through whom, thou mayest receive salvation, but only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## Blessing of the Epiphany Fire

*at the burning of the Christmas greens*

In the Name of the ✠ Father...

### **The Priest addresses the People:**

Now do we celebrate a festival in honor of three days when Christ was made manifest: the day whereon a star led the Wise Men to the manger; the day whereon water was turned to wine at the wedding feast; the day whereon Christ was pleased to be baptized of John in the river Jordan that he might save: O all ye faithful Christians, worship this Lord in the beauty of holiness, bring offerings and come into his courts.

✠. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

✠. Who hath made heaven and earth.

✠. The Lord be with you.

✠. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son hath been made manifest in the substance of our flesh and didst reveal thy glory among the Gentiles: vouchsafe to bless and sanctify this Epiphany fire, that when we shall come to the Paschal Vigil, thy temple may resound with the glorious praises of thy people; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

We beseech thee Almighty God, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, that this blessed fire may banish from the Church of God every unclean spirit, every devlish power, every assault of the infernal enemy, every diabolical group and sect; begone and stay far from the Church of God, from all who are made in the image of God and redeemed by the precious blood of the divine Lamb. Give place to Christ; give place to the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church, which Christ Himself purchased with His blood.

May you tremble and flee as we call upon the holy and awesome name of Jesus, before whom hell quakes, and to whom the virtues, powers, and dominations are subject; whom the cherubim and seraphim praise with unwearied voices, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts! Through him who shall come to judge the quick and the dead and the world by fire, even Jesus Christ, the Lord. *Amen.*

**The fire is then lit. The choir may sing the *Benedictus Dominus Deus* or *Nunc dimittis* as the fire is lit and burns.**

THE BLESSING of CHALK for the HOUSE BLESSINGS in  
EPIPHANYTIDE

- ℣. Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
℞. Who hath made heaven and earth.  
℣. The Lord be with you.  
℞. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord God, this creature of chalk and render it helpful to thy faithful people; through the invocation of Thy most Holy Name grant that whoever shall take of this chalk and write with it upon the doors of his house the names of Thy saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, may through the grace of thy Son Jesus enjoy health of body and protection of soul; through the Light of the world, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The chalk is sprinkled with Holy Water.**

## A Family Liturgy for The Blessing of a Home with Blessed Chalk

**Leader** Peace be to this house.

**Response** And to all that dwell herein.

**The Leader says the following Antiphon before the *Magnificat***

From the east the Magi came to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures, they offered costly gifts: gold to the great King, incense to the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia!

**The Song of Mary** *Magnificat*

✠ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**The father or head of the house inscribes the following over the lintel of the main door of the house:**

20 ✠ C ✠ M ✠ B ✠ 11

### All repeat the Antiphon

From the east the Magi came to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures, they offered costly gifts: gold to the great King, incense to the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia!

Our Father...

**Leader** O Lord, hear our prayer.

**Response** And let our cry come unto thee.

**Leader** Let us pray.

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy onlybegotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Leader** Nations shall walk in thy light, and kings in the splendor of thy birth.

**Response** And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Let us pray.

O Lord, holy Father, Almighty everlasting God, we beseech thee to hear us: and vouchsafe to send thy holy Angel from heaven, to guard and cherish, protect and visit, and evermore defend all that dwell in this house. I call upon thy Saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, to protect my family and my home from every harm and danger, and I place this mark over my door to remain as a constant reminder to us and all who enter here that my house is truly a house of the Lord. O God, make the door of my house the gateway to thine Eternal Kingdom. All this we ask through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

*Leader* Let us bless the Lord.

*Response* Thanks be to God.

## The History and Meaning of Epiphany Chalk

Epiphany is the traditional season for the blessing of homes. And it is customary, especially in Central Europe, for the faithful to bless their houses at the Epiphany with blessed chalk, since the priest could not get to every home. They write over their front door: 20 ✕ C ✕ M ✕ B ✕ 11.

- The digits, which appear at the beginning and end of the line, designate the new year.
- The crosses represent the protection of the greatest gift of Christ's sacrifice, as well as the holiness of the Three Magi who were sanctified by their adoration of the Infant Christ.
- The letters 'CMB' have two meanings: they are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—and they also abbreviate the Latin prayer *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, "May Christ bless this house."
- The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

The inscription is made above the front door or porch, so that all who enter and depart the home may be reminded of the Lord and His blessing which has been invoked over the house. It also provides a very public witness to the Faith. The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, whom the Romans said was the doorkeeper of heaven and protector of the beginning and end of things. This blessing was a way to "christen" the pagan observance of the first month. The Church has traditionally interpreted the gifts of the Magi as symbols of Christ's Kingship (gold), His Divinity (frankincense because it was used for worship in the temple) and His coming death on the cross (myrrh was used in the burial of the dead).



## Anniversary of a Marriage

**This form is intended for use in the context of a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. When the form is used at a principal service on a Sunday or Major Holy Day, the Proper of the Day is used. When it is used at other times, the Psalm and Lessons are selected from those recommended for use at the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, and one of the following Collects is used for the Collect of the Day.**

O gracious and everliving God, look mercifully on N. and N., who come to renew the promises they have made to each other. Grant them your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**or this**

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon N. and N., who come to renew their promises to each other, and grant them your grace, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their lives together may be a witness to your love and forgiveness, and that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**or this**

Grant, O God, in your compassion, that N. and N., having taken each other in marriage, and affirming again the covenant which they have made, may grow in forgiveness, loyalty, and love; and come at last to the eternal joys which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Immediately after the Sermon (and the Creed if appointed), the Husband and Wife present themselves before the celebrant, who stands facing the people.**

**All stand, and the Celebrant addresses the congregation with these or similar words**

Friends in Christ, we are gathered together with N. and N., who have come today to give thanks to God for his blessing upon their marriage, and to reaffirm their marriage covenant.

**The Celebrant then asks the man**

N., do you here, in the presence of God and of this congregation, renew the promises you made when you bound yourself to N. in holy matrimony?

**The Man answers**

I do.

**The Celebrant then asks the woman**

N., do you here, in the presence of God and of this congregation, renew the promises you made when you bound yourself to N. in holy matrimony?

**The Woman answers**

I do.

**The Husband and Wife, kneeling or standing, say together**

We thank you, most gracious God, for consecrating our marriage in Christ's Name and presence. Lead us further in companionship with each other and with you. Give us grace to live together in love and fidelity, with care for one another. Strengthen us all our days, and bring us to that holy table where, with those we love, we will feast for ever in our heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Celebrant then blesses them, saying**

May God the Father, who at creation ordained that man and woman become one flesh, keep you one. *Amen.*

May God the Son, who adorned this manner of life by his first miracle, at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, be present with you always. *Amen.*

May God the Holy Spirit, who has given you the will to persevere in your love and in your covenant with each other, strengthen your bond. *Amen.*

And may God the Holy Trinity, the source of all unity, bless you this day and for ever. *Amen.*

**The service continues with the Peace, or, at a principal service, with the Prayers of the People.**

**The husband and wife may present the bread and wine at the Offertory.**

**If there is not to be a Communion, the service concludes with the Lord's Prayer and the Peace.**

**When this form is used as an act of reconciliation, the celebrant may adapt it in consultation with the parties.**

*BooS 2003, 163-65*



# PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE SICK



### **Before Visiting the Sick**

O LORD and Savior, who when upon earth didst go about doing good, and willest that we should rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep. I, thy unworthy minister, am now about to visit thy sick servants, in order to comfort them in their sickness and pain. Regard not, O merciful God, my sins, but at the office which I fulfill; and impart to me abundantly of thy grace, that through my words they may be confirmed in faith, hope, and charity; and if any of them should be departed from thee, they may be brought back to thy service, and so their present sickness may promote their everlasting salvation; for thine own merits' sake. Amen.

### **Before Administering Holy Unction**

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast the keys of life and death, look down with favour upon this our *brother*, for whom thou hast died, and who hath called for me an unworthy elder of thy Church, that in obedience to thy command, I should pray over *him*, anointing *him* with oil in thy Name. Grant, therefore, O Lord, that the prayer of faith may save *him*. Do thou raise him up; and whatever sins he may have committed, let them be forgiven *him*, that whether in health or sickness, in life or death, *he* may praise and love thee forever.

And to myself, O Lord, impart a heart of true compassion, that I may sorrow with thy servant in *his* necessity, and that my prayer in *his* behalf may proceed from a lively faith. Give me grace to mourn both for *his* sins and for my own.

Arouse *him* by my words to offer to thee the sacrifice of a troubled spirit; and grant that those who stand by may, in pity to *his* soul, devoutly pray for *his* salvation, and, ever seeking to please God, and to keep themselves from all sin, may prepare for themselves a death precious in thy sight, through that which thou didst suffer for the sins of the world. Amen.

## BLESSING OF A PREGNANT WOMAN

**This blessing may be offered at any time and in any place. If the blessing is to include friends and family, the priest may begin with these or similar words:**

We have gathered today to implore God's grace upon N., and to seek divine mercy for her and her expected child.

- ℣. God is our refuge and strength  
℞. A very present help in trouble.
- ℣. She shall not be overthrown  
℞. God shall help her at the break of day.
- ℣. Hear our prayer O God.  
℞. Let our cry come to you.
- ℣. The Lord be with you.  
℞. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Most gracious and merciful Father, by your grace the virgin mother of your incarnate Son visited her cousin Elizabeth in their pregnancies. May this visitation encourage N. in her pregnancy and give her confidence in your mercy and loving-kindness, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen. (After the collect for the Visitation, BCP p. 240)*

### **or this**

Eternal God, creator of all, and source of all goodness and hope; hear the prayer of N., who bids your blessing for the preservation of the child you have given her to conceive. Continue your care for her, that by your mercy her child may come safely to birth in good time, and be whole and healthy, so that they both may come to rejoice in your loving-kindness, who holds all our souls in life and sealed the salvation of your world in the gift of the birth of Jesus Christ. *Amen. (SSJE Manual)*

**Here the woman may be sprinkled with holy water and/or anointed**

**Then may be said one or more of the following Psalms: 67, 113, or 117**

**67** *Deus misereatur*

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

**113** *Laudate, pueri*

- 1 Hallelujah!  
Give praise, you servants of the LORD; \*  
praise the Name of the LORD.
- 2 Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its going down \*  
let the Name of the LORD be praised.
- 4 The LORD is high above all nations, \*  
and his glory above the heavens.

- 5 Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, \*  
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?
- 6 He takes up the weak out of the dust \*  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.
- 7 He sets them with the princes, \*  
with the princes of his people.
- 8 He makes the woman of a childless house \*  
to be a joyful mother of children.

## 117 *Laudate Dominum*

- 1 Praise the LORD, all you nations; \*  
laud him, all you peoples.
- 2 For his lovingkindness toward us is great, \*  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.  
Hallelujah!

- ℣. Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
℞. Let us praise and magnify our God for ever.
- ℣. The Lord be with you.  
℞. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, visit your daughter *N.*, as she waits the birth of her child. Protect her from all that might threaten her and her child; let your holy angels be with them to preserve them in your peace, and let your blessing be ever upon them, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. *Amen*

### **or this**

O Lord and giver of life, receive our prayer for *N.* and for the child she has conceived, that they may happily come to the time of birth, and serving you in all things may rejoice in your loving providence. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



**When appropriate, any or all of the following may be added:**

Blessed are you, Lord God. You have blessed the union of N. and N. *Amen.*

Blessed are you, Lord God. May your blessing be upon N. and the child she carries. *Amen.*

Blessed are you, Lord God. May this time of pregnancy be for N. and N. months of drawing nearer to you and to one another. *Amen.*

Blessed are you, Lord God. May N. and N.'s experience of birth be full of awe and wonder and the joy of sharing in your creation. *Amen.*

Blessed are you, Lord God. Let the fullness of your blessing be upon those whom we bless in your Name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

**The anticipation of birth is an appropriate time for the Minister of the Congregation to discuss with expectant parents the meaning of Holy Baptism.**

*Taken from EOW5, 19-21; SSJE Manual, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 1970;  
and BooS 2003, 157-58*

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS BEFORE CHILDBIRTH

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in thy bosom: We commend [*mother's name*] and the child that is about to be delivered into your loving care: Preserve them through the trial of the coming hours and bless the means by which this child is to be delivered; Graciously comfort them with your presence, guard them from all dangers, and keep them in complete health and strength. Through the strong Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask your to behold and visit [*parent's names*]; fill their hearts with your peace and confidence that, though at times they may be afraid, they yet may put their trust in you; Hear us, we pray, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O eternal God, you have promised to be a father to a thousand generations of those who love and fear you: Bless [*child's name*] and preserve *his* life; receive him and enable *him* to receive you, that through the Sacrament of Baptism he may become the child of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Priest then blesses the family**

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, may God the Holy Ghost give you strength; may God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to His heavenly country, where He lives and reigns, now and ever. *Amen.*

## THE THANKSGIVING AFTER CHILDBIRTH

*What used to be called the Churching of Women*

As soon as convenient after the birth of a child, or after receiving a child by adoption, the parents, with other members of the family, should come to the church to be welcomed by the congregation and to give thanks to Almighty God. It is desirable that this take place at a Sunday service. In the Eucharist it may follow the Prayers of the People preceding the Offertory. At Morning or Evening Prayer it may take place before the close of the Office.

When desired, a briefer form of this service may be used, especially in the hospital or at home; in which case the Celebrant may begin with the Act of Thanksgiving, or with the prayer "O God, you have taught us." A passage from Scripture may first be read. Either Luke 2:41-51, or Luke 18:15-17, is appropriate.

During the prayers, some parents may wish to express thanks in their own words. At the proper time, the Celebrant invites the parents and other members of the family to present themselves before the Altar.

## For the Birth of a Child

**The Celebrant addresses the congregation in these or similar words**

Dear Friends: The birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family. It is also an occasion for rejoicing in the Christian community. I bid you, therefore, to join *N.* [and *N.*] in giving thanks to Almighty God our heavenly Father, the Lord of all life, for the gift of *N.* to be their son (daughter) [and with *N.* (and *NN.*), for a new brother (sister)]. Let us say together:

**The service continues with the Magnificat or one of the Psalms that follow.**

## For an Adoption

**The Celebrant addresses the congregation in these or similar words**

Dear Friends: It has pleased God our heavenly Father to answer the earnest prayers of *N.* [and *N.*], member(s) of this Christian family, for the gift of a child. I bid you join with *them* [and with *N.* (and *NN.*), who now *has* a new brother (sister)] in offering heartfelt thanks for the joyful and solemn responsibility which is *theirs* by the coming of *N.* to be a member of *their* family. But first, our friends wish us, here assembled, to witness the inauguration of this new relationship.

**The Celebrant asks the parent or parents**

*N.* [and *N.*], do you take this child for your own?

**Parent(s)** I do.

**Then if the child is old enough to answer, the Celebrant asks**

*N.*, do you take this woman as your mother?

**Child** I do.

**Celebrant** Do you take this man as your father?

**Child** I do.

**Then the Celebrant, holding or taking the child by the hand, gives the child to the mother or father, saying**

As God has made us his children by adoption and grace, may you receive *N.* as your own son (daughter).

**Then one or both parents say these or similar words**

May God, the Father of all, bless our child *N.*, and us who have given to him our family name, that we may live together in love and affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Holy Scripture**

#### **Luke 2:41-51**

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; <sup>43</sup>and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; <sup>47</sup>and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

**Or this**

## Luke 18:15-17

<sup>15</sup>Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

## Act of Thanksgiving

### The Celebrant says

Since it has pleased God to bestow upon N. [and N.] the gift of a child, let us now give thanks to him, and say together:

### *The Song of Mary*

✠ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God by Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

or this

*Psalm 116*

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my  
supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called  
upon him.

Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.

How shall I repay the LORD \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people.

In the courts of the LORD'S house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**or this**

*Psalm 23*

The LORD is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; \*

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me; \*

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the  
days of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**Then the Priest shall say,**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.

Our Father, which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon this family in giving them a child. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



### **For the parents**

Almighty Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, bless *N.* & *N.*: Grant them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. And so knit their wills together in thy will and their spirits in thee, that they may live together in love and peace all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

### **For a child not yet baptized**

O eternal God, you have promised to be a father to a thousand generations of those who love and fear you: Bless *N.* and preserve *his* life; receive him and enable *him* to receive thee, that through the Sacrament of Baptism he may become the child of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Priest then blesses the family**

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, may God the Holy Ghost give you strength; may God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to His heavenly country, where He lives and reigns forever and ever. *Amen.*

*Taken from BCP 1979, 439-45*

# The VISITATION of the SICK

## Opening

✠ Peace be to this house (place), and to all that dwell in it.

## One or more of the following Sentences may be added

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

*Deuteronomy 33. 27.*

They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength.

*Isaiah 40. 31.*

In nothing be anxious: but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4. 6, 7.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father...

**Minister.** O Lord, save your servant;

**Answer.** Who puts *his* trust in you.

**Minister.** Send *him* help from your holy place;

**Answer.** And evermore mightily defend *him*.

**Minister.** Let the enemy have no advantage of *him*;

**Answer.** Nor the wicked approach to hurt *him*.

**Minister.** Be unto *him*, O Lord, a strong tower;

**Answer.** From the face of *his* enemy.

**Minister.** O Lord, hear our prayer.

**Answer.** And let our cry come unto thee.

**Minister.** The Lord be with you.

**Answer.** And with thy spirit.

**Minister.** Let us pray.

O LORD, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve this your servant. Look upon *him* with the eyes of your mercy, give *him* comfort and sure confidence in your, defend *him* in all danger, and keep *him* in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Holy Scripture**

¶ **Here, or between any of the sections below, one or more of the Psalms in the Last Rites of the Church may be used.**

**One or more of the following or other passages of Scripture may also be read. The full text of which are found beginning in the next section of this booklet.**

### **General**

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (God comforts us in affliction)  
Psalm 91 (He will give his angels charge over you)  
Luke 17:11-19 (Your faith has made you well)

### **Penitence**

Hebrews 12:1-2 (Looking to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith)  
Psalm 103 (He forgives all your sins)  
Matthew 9:2-8 (Your sins are forgiven)

### **When Anointing is to follow**

James 5:14-16 (Is any among you sick?)  
Psalm 23 (You have anointed my head with oil)  
Mark 6:7, 12-13 (They anointed with oil many that were sick)

### **When Communion is to follow**

1 John 5:13-15 (That you may know that you have eternal life)  
Psalm 145:14-22 (The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord)  
John 6:47-51 (I am the bread of life)

**One or more of the following collects may be said here or at any time the Priest deems fitting.**

Sanctify, we ask you, O Lord, the sickness of this your servant; that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith, and seriousness to *his* repentance; and grant that *he* may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear, O Lord, we pray you, these our prayers, as we call upon you on behalf of this your servant; and bestow upon *him* the help of your merciful consolation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers; Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to your servant the help of your power, that *his* sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ACCEPT, we prayer you, merciful Lord, the devout praise of your humble servant; and grant *him* an abiding sense of thy loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

If the individual is able to make a confession, the priest asks those present to leave. If this is not possible, the rite continues with the Anointing.

### The priest may say this prayer before the person makes their confession

O Merciful God, O gracious God, O God, who according to the multitude of your mercies blots out the sins of those who repent, and by pardon and remission puts away the guilt of their former offences : look mercifully on this your servant *N*, and graciously hearken unto *him*, who by sincere confession seeks remission of all *his* sins. Renew in *him*, most loving Father, whatever has been corrupted by earthly frailty, or decayed by the fraud of the devil : and join this member, which you have redeemed, to the unity of the body of the Church. Have mercy, O Lord upon *his* groaning, have mercy on *his* tears: forasmuch as *he* places *his* whole trust in your mercy, admit *him* to the Sacrament of your reconciliation. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord be in your heart and upon your lips that you may truly and humbly confess thy sins: In the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### Penitent

I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to you, [Father/Mother,] that I have sinned exceedingly by my own fault in thought, word, and deed, in things done and left undone, especially \_\_\_\_\_. For these and all other sins which I cannot now remember, I am truly sorry and I pray God to have mercy upon me.

### The Priest may offer counsel and then says

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive you your offenses; and by his authority committed unto me, I absolve you from all thy sins: In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

**Or, if it seems more appropriate, the General Confession may be used.**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins  
and wickedness,  
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
[especially in the following ways: \_\_\_\_\_]

We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**or this**

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
[especially in the following ways: \_\_\_\_\_]

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

### **The Priest, standing, gives the Absolution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive thee thine offenses; and by his authority committed unto me, I absolve thee from all thy sins: In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

### **ANOINTING—UNCTION**

#### **The Priest first says**

Savior of the world, by Thy cross and precious blood you have redeemed us;

*Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.*

#### **Laying his hands on the dying person, the Priest may say the following, or begin with the second prayer**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, let there be extinguished in you all power of the devil by the imposition of our hands, [and by the invocation of the blessed Mary and all the Angels & Saints]; and may the Lord in his mercy grant you perfect remission of all your sins. *Amen.*

#### **The Priest ✠ anoints and then with hands laid upon head says,**

N., I lay my hands upon you and I anoint you with oil in the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the ✠ Holy Spirit, beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain you with His presence, to drive away all sickness of body and spirit, and to give unto you that victory of life and peace which will enable thee to serve Him both now and evermore. *Amen.*

#### **or this**

N., I lay my hands upon you and I anoint you with oil in the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the ✠ Holy Spirit, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with His grace and power, that you may know the healing power of his love.

*Amen.*

**The Priest may wish to extemporize here (or pray in tongues).**

**The Priest then continues**

As you are outwardly anointed with this holy oil, may our heavenly Father grant you the inward anointing of the Holy Ghost. By His great mercy, may He forgive you your sins, preserve you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The almighty Lord, who is a most strong tower to all those who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, in earth and under the death, do bow and obey; Be now and ever more you defense; and make the know and feel, that there is none other Name under heaven given to man, in whom, and through whom, thou mayest receive salvation, but only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Before administering the Blessed Sacrament, the Priest first says,**

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that it may thankfully be received in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these Holy Mysteries giveth us the pledge of everlasting life; who lives and reigns, now and forever.

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ hath taught us:  
Our Father...

**The Sacrament is administered with the following words**

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. *Amen.*

**If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.**



**The Postcommunion prayer is said by the Priest, and others may join in.**

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.

*Amen.*

**or this**

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
[especially in the following ways: \_\_\_\_\_]

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

**or this**

Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Conclusion

### The Priest may conclude with the following prayer

O MOST merciful God, who, according to the multitude of thy mercies, dost so put away the sins of those who truly repent, that thou rememberest them no more; Open thine eye of mercy upon this thy servant, who most earnestly desireth pardon and forgiveness. Renew in *him*, most loving Father, whatsoever hath been decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by *his* own carnal will and frailness; preserve and continue this sick member in the unity of the Church; consider *his* contrition, accept *his* tears, assuage *his* pain, as shall seem to thee most expedient for *him*. And forasmuch as *he* putteth *his* full trust only in thy mercy, impute not unto *him* his former sins, but strengthen *him* with thy blessed Spirit; and, when thou art pleased to take *him* hence, take *him* unto thy favour; through the merits of thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Priest then blesses the person, saying

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided ✠ Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

**Minister.** Let us bless the Lord.

**Answer.** Thanks be to God.

*Adapted from 1979 BCP, 453-57,  
with additions drawn from various sources, including MPAC*

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**  
*that may be used in the*  
**VISITATION OF THE SICK**

**General**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5** (God comforts us in affliction)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

**Psalm 91** (He will give his angels charge over you) *Qui habitat*

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 He shall say to the LORD,  
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
my God in whom I put my trust."
- 3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter \*  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,  
and you shall find refuge under his wings; \*  
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, \*  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at midday.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, \*  
but it shall not come near you.

- 8 Your eyes have only to behold \*  
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, \*  
and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, \*  
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, \*  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent  
under your feet.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him; \*  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; \*  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, \*  
and show him my salvation.

**Luke 17:11-19** (Your faith has made you well)

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samar'ia and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

## Penitence

**Hebrews 12:1-2** (Looking to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith)  
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Psalm 103** (He forgives all your sins)

*Benedic, anima mea*

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever  
on those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant \*  
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, \*  
and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, \*  
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his,  
in all places of his dominion; \*  
bless the LORD, O my soul.

**Matthew 9:2-8** (Your sins are forgiven)

And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority

on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

## When Anointing is to follow

### **James 5:14-16** (Is any among you sick?)

Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

### **Psalms 23** (You have anointed my head with oil)

*Dominus regit me*

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running  
over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**Psalm 23** *King James Version*

The LORD is my shepherd; \*

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; \*

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; \*

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; \*

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; \*

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

\*

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**Mark 6:7, 12-13** (They anointed with oil many that were sick)

And he called to him the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ... So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.

## **When Communion is to follow**

**1 John 5:13-15** (That you may know that you have eternal life)

I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the



confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.

**Psalm 145:14-22** (The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord)

- 14 The LORD is faithful in all his words \*  
and merciful in all his deeds.
- 15 The LORD upholds all those who fall; \*  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.
- 16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, \*  
and you give them their food in due season.
- 17 You open wide your hand \*  
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
- 18 The LORD is righteous in all his ways \*  
and loving in all his works.
- 19 The LORD is near to those who call upon him, \*  
to all who call upon him faithfully.
- 20 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; \*  
he hears their cry and helps them.
- 21 The LORD preserves all those who love him, \*  
but he destroys all the wicked.
- 22 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; \*  
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.

**John 6:47-51** (I am the bread of life)

Jesus said: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the

life of the world is my flesh.”

## The BLESSING of a SICK CHILD

**The Priest, when he comes to the place where the Child is, shall say:**

✠ Peace be to this house, and to all that dwell in it.

**Then, in silence he sprinkles the Child, the bystanders, and the room, with holy Water, and this done, recites Psalm 113 (page 174).**

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

Our Father

Ÿ. And lead us not into temptation.

Ř. But deliver us from evil.

Ÿ. Our God is merciful.

Ř. The Lord who preserves the children.

Ÿ. Suffer little children to come unto me.

Ř. For of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Ÿ. O Lord hear our prayer.

Ř. And let my cry come unto you.

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Ř. And also with you.

Let us pray.

**The Priest then uses one or more of the following prayers**

Heavenly Father, watch with us over your child *N.*, and hear our yearning that *she/he* may be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

**or this**

Gentle Jesus, stay beside your child *N.* through this day/night. Take away *her/his* pain. Keep *her/him* safe. Help *her/him* in *her/his* fear. Make *her/his* body strong again and *her/his* heart glad. Thank you for your love which surrounds *her/him* always. *Amen.*

**or this**

Jesus, our Redeemer, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs and carry them in your arms: We entrust our child *N.* to your loving care. Relieve *her/his* pain, restore in *her/him* your gifts of joy and strength, and raise *her/him* up to a life in your service. Hear us, we pray, for your dear Name's sake. *Amen.*

**or this**

O God, in whom all things grow, and by whom all that which is come to full stature is made strong : stretch forth your right hand upon this your servant, who, at this tender age, is stricken with sickness ; and grant that, being restored to health and strength, *he* may attain to fullness of years and may serve you faithfully and thankfully all the days of *his* life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**or this**

O Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, who cares for your creation with great loving-kindness, and pours forth the grace of healing not only on the soul but also on the body; we beg you to look with mercy and to raise up this sick child from *his* bed of suffering, and restore *him* whole in mind and body to your holy Church and to *his* parents ; that, growing in wisdom and in favour with you and with all the world, *he* may serve you all the days that you shall add unto *his* life, in holiness and righteousness; through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**or this**

O Everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order ; mercifully grant, that as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succor and defend the life of this boy (girl) on earth. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**And laying the right hand upon the sick child's head, adds:**

They shall lay their hands upon the sick and they shall recover. May Jesus, the Son of Mary, the salvation and Lord of the world, by the merits and intercession of his holy Apostles Peter and Paul and all the Saints, be merciful and gracious unto you unto all strength and wholeness. *Amen.*

**Then, if time allow, may be read the following Gospel:**

℣. The Lord be with you.

℞. And with thy spirit.

℣. The Beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

℞. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**While the Priest says *The Beginning, etc.*, make the sign of the Cross as usual upon himself on forehead, mouth and breast; likewise on the sick Child, if he cannot sign himself.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him ; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **(Here genuflect.)** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

℞. Thanks be to God.

**And finally the Priest shall bless the Child, saying:**

The Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Ghost, descend upon thee, and remain with thee always. ℞. Amen.

**Then he sprinkles him with holy Water.**

# LITANIES *of* HEALING

**Pray for the World and the Church,  
particularly for God's healing grace**

**The Deacon or other leader introduces the Litany with these or similar words**

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

**The people offer names either silently or aloud.**

**The Leader continues with these or similar (any of the indicated petitions may be omitted)**

Let us offer our prayers for God's healing, saying, "Hear and have mercy" (*or* "Answer our prayer" *or* "Have mercy").

God the Father, source of health and salvation,

**Here and after each petition, the people respond**

Hear and have mercy

**or**

Answer our prayer

**or**

Have mercy.

God the Son, wellspring of abundant life,

God the Holy Spirit, protector of the faithful,

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, the source of all wholeness,

Blessed Jesus, your Holy Name is medicine for healing and a promise of eternal life,

Jesus, descendant of David, you healed all who came to you in faith,

Jesus, child of Mary, you embraced the world with your love,

Jesus, divine physician, you sent your disciples to preach the Gospel and heal in your name,

Jesus, Son of God, you take away our sin and make us whole,

Jesus, eternal Christ, your promised Spirit renews our hearts and minds,

Grant your grace to heal those who are sick, we pray to you, O God,

Give courage and faith to all who are disabled through injury or illness, we pray to you, O God,

Comfort, relieve, and heal all sick children, we pray to you, O God,

Give courage to all who await surgery, we pray to you, O God,

Support and encourage those who live with chronic illness, we pray to you, O God,

Strengthen those who endure continual pain, and give them hope, we pray to you, O God,

Grant the refreshment of peaceful sleep to all who suffer, we pray to you, O God,

Befriend all who are anxious, lonely, despondent, or afraid, we pray to you, O God,

Restore those with mental illness to clarity of mind and hopefulness of heart, we pray to you, O God,

Give rest to the weary, and hold the dying in your loving arms, we pray to you, O God,

Help us to prepare for death with confident expectation and hope of Easter joy, we pray to you, O God,

Give your wisdom and compassion to health care workers, that they may minister to the sick and dying with knowledge, skill, and kindness, we pray to you, O God,

Uphold those who keep watch with the sick, we pray to you, O God,

Guide those who search for the causes and cures of sickness and disease, we pray to you, O God,

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

Our Father...

**The following Collect may be added**

Most merciful God, who so loved the world that you sent us Jesus to bear our infirmities and afflictions and through acts of healing, revealed you as the true source of health and salvation; For the sake of your Christ who suffered and died for us, conquered death, and now reigns with you in glory, hear the cry of your people. Have mercy on us, make us whole, and bring us at last into the fullness of your eternal life; through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Adapted from EOW2, 30-32*



## A Litany of Healing

*BooS 2003, 167-69*

### **The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding**

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

### **The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.**

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;  
*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;  
*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;  
*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;  
*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

You are the Lord who does wonders:  
*You have declared your power among the peoples.*

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:  
*And in your light we see light.*

Hear us, O Lord of life:  
*Heal us, and make us whole.*

Let us pray.

**A period of silence follows. The Celebrant concludes the Prayers with one of the following or some other suitable Collect**

Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**or this**

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**or this**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Prayers for Those Who are Sick**

**Any of the following prayers may be adapted as needed.**

*For Health of Body and Soul*

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Amen.* 1979 BCP, 460

*For a Child*

Heavenly Father, watch with us over your child N., and hear our yearning that *she/he* may be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.* 1979 BCP, 458

*or this*

Gentle Jesus, stay beside your child N. through this day/night. Take away *her/his* pain. Keep *her/him* safe. Help *her/him* in *her/his* fear. Make *her/his* body strong again and *her/his* heart glad. Thank you for your love which surrounds *her/him* always. *Amen.*

*EOW2, 64*

*or this*

Jesus, our Redeemer, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs and carry them in your arms: We entrust our child N. to your loving care. Relieve *her/his* pain, restore in *her/him* your gifts of joy and strength, and raise *her/him* up to a life in your service. Hear us, we pray, for your dear Name's sake. *Amen.*

*EOW2, 64*

*For a Visit with Someone Who is Sick*

Gentle Jesus, though we are not worthy to have you come under our roof, you are God's word of healing to us. Be with us now, that we may know your presence in one another and rise up in joy to greet you. Grant this for your love's sake. *Amen.*

*EOW2, 64*

*For Release*

Blessed Jesus, Living Water, Solid Rock: Uphold your child *N.*; loose the fetters of sickness, break *her/his* yoke of pain, and from this land of affliction, lead *her/him* home. *Amen.* EOW2, 65

*For People with Diseases for Which There is No Cure*

Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all persons living with illness for which we have no cure, as well as their families and loved ones. Help them to know that you claim them as your own, deliver them from fear and pain, and send your archangel Raphael to minister to their needs; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. *Amen.* EOW2, 65

*For Those Who are Unconscious*

Merciful God, in your love and wisdom you know the needs and fears of your people before we can name them. Grant that *N.* and we who watch with *her/him* may be enabled to surrender all *her/his* cares to you, as you care for *her/him*. Give *her/him* peace of mind and unshakable trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.* EOW2, 65

*For the Dying*

Blessed Jesus, in your last agony you commended your spirit to your Father. We seek your mercy for *N.*, and all who are dying. May death become for them, as it was for you, a birth to everlasting life. Receive those whom we commend to you with the blessed assurance that whether we wake or sleep, we remain with you, one God, for ever. *Amen.* EOW2, 65

*For a Poor Prognosis*

In your tender mercies O God, remember, *N.* who [*expects/has just received*] a grave diagnosis. Help *her/him* to trust in your goodness and believe that after a time of trial *she/he* shall be established on the firm foundation of your deliverance. *Amen.* EOW2, 66

*For Those Who Mourn*

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus: look with compassion on all who are bound by sorrow and pain through the death of *N.* (*or a loved one*). Comfort them, grant them the conviction that all things work together for good to those who love you, and help them to find sure trust and confidence in your resurrection power; through Jesus Christ our deliverer. *Amen.* *EOW2, 66*

*In the Evening*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.* *1979 BCP, 134*

*For a Person Who is Sick*

God of all comfort, our very present help in trouble: be near to *N.* for whom our prayers are offered. Look on *her/him* with the eyes of your mercy; comfort *her/him* with a sense of your presence; preserve *her/him* from the enemy; and give *her/him* patience in *her/his* affliction. Restore *her/him* to health, and lead *her/him* to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* *EOW2, 66*

*For Protection*

Christ, light of light, brightness indescribable, the Wisdom, power and glory of God, the Word made flesh: you overcame the forces of Satan, redeemed the world, then ascended again to the Father. Grant *N.*, we pray, in this tarnished world, the shining of your splendor. Send your Archangel Michael to defend *her/him*, to guard *her/his* going out and coming in, and to bring *her/him* safely to your presence, where you reign in the one holy and undivided Trinity, to ages of ages. *Amen.* *EOW2, 66-67*

*For One Suffering from Mental Distress*

Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, we lay before you the memories that haunt *N.*, the anxieties that perplex *her/him*, the despair that frightens *her/him*, and *her/his* frustration at *her/his* inability to think clearly. Help *her/him* to discover your forgiveness in *her/his* memories and know your peace in *her/his* distress. Touch *her/him*, O Lord, and fill *her/him* with your light and your hope. *Amen.* EOW2, 67

*For Recovery from Sickness*

God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of those who suffer: Hear our prayers and grant *N.* the power of your grace, that *her/his* sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.* BCP 1979, 458

**or this**

Spirit of all healing, visit your child *N.*; in your power, renew health within *her/him* and raise *her/him* up in joy, according to your loving-kindness, for which we give thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* EOW2, 67

*For Strength and Confidence*

Heavenly Father, only source of life and health: Help, comfort, and relieve [*N.*], and give your power of healing to those who minister to *her/his* needs; that *her/his* weakness may be turned to strength and confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* BCP 1979, 459

*For the Sleepless*

Heavenly Father, shine on *N.*, who lies sleepless. Illumine *her/his* spirit and give *her/him* rest in you, so that *she/he* may recognize you as the true God who brings us out of darkness into our eternal light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* EOW2, 68

*For Rest*

O God our refuge and strength: in this place of unrelenting light and noise, enfold *N.* in your holy darkness and silence, that *she/he* may rest secure under the shadow of your wings. *Amen.* EOW2, 68

*For the Sanctification of Illness*

Sanctify, O Lord, the sickness of your servant N., that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith and seriousness to *his* repentance; and grant that *he* may live with you in everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* BCP 1979, 460

*Before an Operation*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, graciously comfort your servant N. in *his* suffering, and bless the means made use of for his cure. Fill *his* heart with confidence that, though at times *he* may be afraid, *he* yet may put his trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*or this*

Strengthen your servant N., O God, to do what *he* has to do and bear what *he* has to bear; that, accepting your healing gifts through the skill of surgeons and nurses, *he* may be restored to usefulness in your world with a thankful heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* BCP 1979, 459

*For an Extended Course of Treatment*

Strengthen your servant N., O God, to go where *she/he* has to go and bear what *she/he* has to bear; that, accepting your healing gifts at the hands of surgeons, nurses, and technicians, *she/he* may be restored to wholeness with a thankful heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.* EOW2, 68

*For Survivors of Abuse and Violence*

Holy One, you do not distance yourself from the pain of your people, but in Jesus bear that pain with us and bless all who suffer at others' hands. Hallow our flesh and all creation; with your cleansing love bring healing and strength to N.; and by your justice, lift *her/him* up, that in the body you have given *her/him*, *she/he* may again rejoice. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.* EOW2, 69

*In Times of Personal Distress*

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray. *Amen.* EOW2, 69

*Thanksgiving for Recovery*

O Lord, your compassions never fail and your mercies are new every morning: We give you thanks for giving our brother (sister) N. both relief from pain and hope of health renewed. Continue in *him*, we pray, the good work you have begun; that *he*, daily increasing in bodily strength, and rejoicing in your goodness, may so order *his* life and conduct that *he* may always think and do those things that please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For Those Who Fear Losing Hope*

Loving God, inspire by your Holy Spirit those who are afraid of losing hope, especially N. for whom we now pray. Give *her/him* a fresh vision of your love, that *she/he* may find again what *she/he* fears *she/he* has lost. Grant *her/him* your powerful deliverance; through the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.* EOW2, 69

*For Those Who are Developmentally Disabled*

Giver of all grace, we pray your peace, which passes all understanding, for those who are developmentally disabled. Grant that they may always be sustained in love, their gifts honored, and their difficulties understood, that none may add to their troubles. We ask this in the name of the one who comforted those who were troubled in mind, Jesus our Savior. *Amen.* EOW2, 70



*For the Caregivers and Others in Support of the Sick*

Almighty and everliving God, Lover of souls, we bless your Holy Name for all who are called to mediate your grace to those who are sick or infirm. Sustain them by your Holy Spirit, that they may bring your loving-kindness to those in pain, fear, and confusion; that in bearing one another's burdens they may follow the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen. EOW2, 93*

**or this**

Most gracious and merciful Father, support and strengthen all those who reach out in love, concern, and prayer for the sick and distressed. In their acts of compassion, may they know that they are your instruments. In their concerns and fears may they know your peace. In their prayer may they know your steadfast love. May they not grow weary or faint-hearted, for your mercy's sake. *Amen. EOW2, 93*

*For Companions to Those Who Are Chronically Ill*

O God, surround N. [and N.] with your compassion as *she/he/they* live[s] with N. in sickness. Help N. [and N.] to accept the limits of what *she/he/they* can do, that feelings of helplessness and frustration [and anger] may be transformed into serene acceptance and joyful hope in you. Let *her/him/them* remember the grief and love of Jesus over the affliction of his friends, know that God too weeps. Bring *her/him/them* gladness and strengthened love in *her/his/their* service; through Christ our companion. *Amen. EOW2, 93*

*At the Limits of Our Power to Help*

O Lord, we are at the limits of our power to help. For what we have left undone, forgive us. For what you have helped us to do, we thank you. For what must be done by others, lend your strength. Now shelter us in your peace which passes our understanding. *Amen. EOW2, 94*

*For Those Who Are Sick and Those Who Minister to Them*

Gracious God, source of life and health: Jesus came to our disordered world to make your people whole. Send your Spirit on those who are sick & all who minister to them; that when the sick enter your peace, they may offer thanks to your Great Name; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen. EOW2, 94*

*For Health Care Providers*

Give your blessing, gracious God, to those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and the prevention of disease and pain. Give them the wisdom of your Holy Spirit, that through their work the health of our community may be advanced and your creation glorified; through your Son Jesus Christ. *Amen. EOW2, 94*

*For Emergency Workers*

Almighty God our strong deliverer: when those charged with the urgent mediation of your healing power feel overwhelmed by the numbers of the suffering, uphold them in their fatigue and banish their despair. Let them see with your eyes, so they may know all their patients as precious. Give comfort, and renew their energy and compassion, for the sake of Jesus in whom is our life and our hope. *Amen. EOW2, 94*

**or this**

Gracious God, the Divine Physician, hear our prayers for those in emergency medicine. By your healing power, grant them quick minds and skillful hands. Strengthen them in times of trauma. In quiet times, give them rest and assurance of the value of their work. Keep them ever prepared for the work you have called them to do, for your mercy's sake. *Amen. EOW2, 95*

*For Relatives of an Organ Donor*

Blessed Jesus, who said "unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it shall not live," help us to release *N.* to everlasting life, and *N.*'s body to give new life to others you also love, as you have given your body that we might have life abundant, for which we give great thanks. *Amen. EOW2, 95*

**FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION OF INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES,  
FAMILIES, OR SMALL GROUPS WHO ARE IN THE MIDST OF  
SUFFERING**

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God. *Amen.*

*From Psalm 69*

- 1 Save me, O God, \*  
for the waters have risen up to my neck.
- 2 I am sinking in deep mire, \*  
and there is no firm ground for my feet.
- 3 I have come into deep waters, \*  
and the torrent washes over me.
- 4 I have grown weary with my crying; my throat is inflamed; \*  
my eyes have failed from looking for my God.
- 15 “In your great mercy, O God, \*  
answer me with your unfailing help.
- 16 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; \*  
let me be rescued from those who hate me  
and out of the deep waters.
- 17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,  
neither let the deep swallow me up; \*  
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.
- 18 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; \*  
in your great compassion, turn to me.”

*or this, from Psalm 46*

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the  
depths of the sea;

- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 12 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**One of the following, or some other suitable passage of Scripture**

Thus says the Lord: As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his servants.

*Isaiah 66:12a, 13-14a*

Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord.

*Jeremiah 28:11-14a*

The Lord waits to be gracious to you; he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any

more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." *Isaiah 30:18-21*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling-if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as guidance. So we are always confident, even though we know while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. *2 Corinthians 5:1-9*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. *1 Peter 1:3-9*

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! *Matthew 7:7-11*

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *Matthew 11:25-29*

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost." *Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14*

**Silence may follow the reading.**

**A hymn or canticle may be sung.**

**Additional prayers may be offered.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Collect**

God of Life, you give us life and hope. Be with us in the chaos of this time. Calm our fears, be the light for our path, and strengthen our trust in your promise never to leave or forsake us. We pray through Christ, in the power of your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## PRAYERS RELATED TO LOSS AND PREGNANCY

Adapted from *EW5, 54070*

**Some of these prayers are to be prayed for those named.  
Others are to be prayed by the specified individual or couple.**

### Prayers Surrounding Difficult Decisions

1. For Guidance in Decision-Making
2. Following a Difficult Decision

### Prayers Surrounding Unexpected or Unwanted Pregnancy

3. For Help in Accepting an Unplanned Pregnancy
4. For the Parent(s) of a Pregnant Child [*to be prayed by them*]
5. For the Parent(s) of a Boy Who Has Fathered a Child  
[*to be prayed by them*]
6. For an Unexpected Pregnancy [*for the woman/ or for her and her partner*]
7. For Discernment Regarding an Unexpected Pregnancy  
[*for an individual or couple*]

### Prayers Surrounding for Loss of a Child

8. Following a Miscarriage
9. Following a Stillbirth, or Death Shortly after Birth
10. For Use by a Woman Whose Child Has Died in the Womb  
[*for the woman*]
11. When Releasing a Child for Adoption

### Prayers Surrounding the Termination of Pregnancy

12. For Guidance in Decision-Making
13. Following an Abortion
14. For Unresolved Grief or Guilt, or on the Anniversary of an Abortion [*for the woman or couple*]

### Prayers Surrounding Infertility or Sterilization

15. For Help in Deciding Whether to Have a Child
16. For Help to Conceive or to Accept Infertility [*for the couple*]
17. For Those Trying to Conceive a Child in Mature Years  
[*for the couple*]
18. For Letting Go the Hope of Childbearing [*for the couple*]
19. When the Decision Has Been Made Not to Bear Children  
[*for the woman or couple*]
20. When Surgeries Will Prevent a Desired Conception  
[*for the woman*]
21. After a Hysterectomy [*for the woman*]



### **Prayers Surrounding Adoption**

22. For the Child Being Released for Adoption [*for the mother*]
23. For the Birth Parents [*to be prayed for the biological parents by the adopting parents*]
24. A Birth Mother's Prayer [*to be prayed by her*]
25. For Help in Selecting Adoptive Parents [*for the mother*]
26. Saying Good-Bye to a Child [*for the birth mother*]
27. For Help in Deciding Whether to Adopt [*for the couple*]
28. When the Decision Has Been Made to Adopt [*for the couple*]
29. Of Children or Birth Parents Seeking the Other  
[*for the individual*]

### **Prayers Surrounding Other Losses**

30. After Mastectomy [*for the woman*]
31. In a Difficult Pregnancy
32. After a Traumatic Birth
33. When a Child Has Been Born with Special Needs
34. Confession and Assurance of Pardon

## Prayers Surrounding Difficult Decisions

### 1. For Guidance in Decision-Making

Holy and gracious Father: you have blessed your people with the capacity for discernment. Fill our hearts and minds with your peace as you come to *N*. [*and N.*] now in *their* time of need.

Cleanse the thoughts of *their* hearts that *they* might perfectly love you in this moment. Grant *them* wisdom, grace, and courage as *they* listen for your voice. Fill *their hearts* with calm and strengthen them in the assurance of your never-failing love. Help *them* decide wisely. We ask this through Christ our Savior who, with you and the Holy Spirit, abides with us always. *Amen.*

### 2. Following a Difficult Decision

Lord Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and for ever: help *N* [*and N.*] accept with courage and grace the consequences of *her* choice. Grant *her* acceptance of your forgiveness, and sure confidence in your mercy. Stay with *her* now to uphold and guide *her* along with path ahead, for your tender mercy's sake. *Amen.*

Holy and gracious Father, *we* thank you for the love that sustained *us* through the difficult choice *we* have made. *We* bless your name for granting *us* courage, peace, and strength. Give *us* grace in the days ahead to recognize your boundless mercy. Strengthen *our* faith and support *us* with your love that your goodness and mercy may follow *us* all the days of *our* lives, through Christ, our Good Shepherd. *Amen.*

## Prayers Surrounding Unexpected or Unwanted Pregnancy

### 3. For Help in Accepting an Unplanned Pregnancy

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

*Jeremiah 29:11*

Holy and gracious Father, your providence offers each of us a future beyond anything we could dream or imagine. When our own plans fail, you strengthen us to face new challenges so that our faith may be strengthened and that we might become the people you created us to be. Help us see others with the mind of Christ and love them with your never-failing love. Especially, comfort *N.* [and *N.*] *who have* conceived a child *they* had not expected. Give *them* grace to welcome this little one with hope in your future and to trust in your eternal goodness; through Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

#### **4. For the Parent(s) of a Pregnant Child**

Holy and gracious Father, throughout the changes and chances of our lives your faithfulness is everlasting. Be with *us* now in the midst of the turmoil that surrounds *us*. *Our* child has conceived a child, and *we* cannot see the way before *us*. Help *us* entrust our daughter to you. Grant her wisdom in her choices and the courage to do what is best. Fill *us* with your Holy Spirit that *we* may believe in your never-failing goodness; through Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

#### **5. For the Parent(s) of a Boy Who Has Fathered a Child**

Your grace, O God, surpasses anything *we* can imagine. Surround and sustain *our* son with your love as he *and N.* discern how best to care for the child they have conceived. *We* pray for the mother, *N.*, and for her family. Grant all of us wisdom, strength, and courage for the living of this hour. Of your mercy, give *us* grace to see *our* son through the eyes of your unconditional love. *Amen.*

#### **6. For an Unexpected Pregnancy**

Come to *me*, loving Jesus, in *my* confusion. Calm *my* fears and give *me* the wisdom of the Holy Spirit so that *I* may discern what is best for *me*, [for *my* family,] and for the child I carry. Come to *me*, *my* Savior, and help *me*, for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

## 7. For Discernment Regarding an Unexpected Pregnancy

Holy and gracious Father, your grace is never-ending and your love unfailing. *We* have conceived a child *we* feel unable to welcome or provide for. Fill *us* with the comfort of your Holy Spirit. [*Make us faithful and tender to each other in this difficult time, and*] grant *us* knowledge of what you would have *us* do; through your Son Jesus Christ in whom all things are healed, restored, and redeemed. *Amen.*

## Prayers Surrounding the Loss of a Child

### 8. Following a Miscarriage

Heavenly God, the Rock of Ages, you sustain the universe with the power of your love and hold us in the tenderness of your unfailing care. Support *N.* [*and N.*] who mourn the loss of *their* child. Comfort them in *their* pain and heal *them* in your grace. Hold *their* little one in your everlasting arms. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows from death to eternal life. *Amen.*

O God, who gathered Rachel's tears over her lost children: Hear now the sorrow and distress of *N.* [*and N.*] for the death of the child *they* longed for; in the darkness of loss, stretch out to *them* the strength of your arm and renewed assurance of your love; through your own suffering and risen Child Jesus. *Amen.* (*From Enriching Our Worship 2*)

### 9. Following a Stillbirth, or Death Shortly after Birth

Heavenly Father, your love for all children is strong and enduring. We were not able to know *N.* as we had hoped. Yet you knew *her* growing in *her* mother's womb, and *she* is not lost to you. In the midst of our sadness, we thank you that *N.* is with you now. *Amen.* (*From Enriching Our Worship 2*)

Loving God, we thank you that in your mercy you brought your daughter *N.* through childbirth in safety. We pray that *N.* [*and N.*] will know your support in this time of trouble and enjoy your protection always; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.* (From *Enriching Our Worship 2*)

### **10. For Use by a Woman Whose Child Has Died in the Womb**

Holy and gracious Father, I cry out in anguish for this child of my body whose death has robbed me of hope and my joy. With your strong arm, uphold me in the sorrow of my labor to come. Do not leave me comfortless, but help me to trust that my beloved whom you have known in my womb now sees your face. As my child slides from my arms, hold *her/him* secure in your everlasting arms in that place of reunion and love, that dear, dear country of the blessed where your Child Jesus Christ reigns in eternal light. *Amen.*

### **11. When Releasing a Child for Adoption**

Gracious God, send your healing love to sustain *N.* [*and N.*] as *they* place *their* child with the parents who will raise *him*. Your strength carried *N.* through pregnancy and childbirth; surround her [*and N.*] now and in the days to come. Confirm in *them* the conviction that *their* courageous act of love comes in response to your love for *them* and for all your children. Help *them* know that *they*, together with this child and the parents who adopt *him* are all part of your family whom you love unceasingly. We pray in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

## **Prayers Surrounding the Termination of Pregnancy**

**The termination of a pregnancy is always a grave matter. The Church must do all that is possible to support and love, even as they always seek the preservation of human life.**

## 12. For Guidance in Decision-Making

Compassionate God, source of all life, be present now with *N.* [*and N.*] as *they* face this painful decision. Give *them* grace to choose wisely and fill *them* with the assurance of your love for *them* and for all life. Help *them* rest in the certain knowledge that you are near to guide *them* and that nothing can separate us from your steadfast love. *Amen.*

## 13. Following an Abortion

Compassionate God, I have ended the life briefly held in my body. This action has brought sorrow to others and grief to me. Forgive my sins and cleanse me with your abundant mercy. Uphold me by your grace that I may know the healing power of your love; for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer. *Amen.*

## 14. For Unresolved Grief or Guilt, or on the Anniversary of an Abortion

Merciful God, hear *my* cry to you. Relieve the sorrow of *my* heart. *I* regret *my* decision [*to end my pregnancy*]. Yet you are a merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and quick to forgive the penitent. Of your loving-kindness, forgive *me*. Heal *my* broken heart. Bring *me* the joy of your saving help again, and renew a right spirit within *me*, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## Prayers Surrounding Infertility or Sterilization

### 15. For Help in Deciding Whether to Have a Child

**See also #27, For Help in Deciding Whether to Adopt.**

Holy God, you have searched *me* out and known *me*. Help *me* make a wise decision, according to your will. You know *my* doubts about rearing a child. Free *me* from the anxiety of disappointing you, others, and *myself*. Teach *me* to understand *my* nature and purpose, fill *me* with your wisdom, and guide *me* to act according to your will. *I* pray in the name of Jesus, *my* Savior. *Amen.*

You have made us in your image, O God, and blessed us through one another. You make our home holy with your presence. Grant us your understanding as we consider whether to have a [*another*] child. Fill our hearts with humility and increase our trust in your goodness, that we may live fully this life you have given us. *Amen.*

God of all wisdom, bless *N. and N.* as they pray whether to conceive a [*another*] child. Help them understand their own capacities and discern your will for them, through Jesus Christ in the grace of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **16. For Help to Conceive or to Accept Infertility**

Merciful Creator, every day you bring new life into this world. We long to share in this generation by bearing a child. Yet our attempts have brought grief, frustration, and fear. Now we feel spent and our hope fades. Give us grace to surrender our longing to you. Hold our hearts' desire in your heart, helping us trust that our lives unfold according to your unfailing love, through Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

### **17. For Those Trying to Conceive a Child in Mature Years**

Holy and gracious Father, our unfailing hope and strength; you heard the pleas of our ancestors in Scripture that they might bear children, even as their expectation faded; hear also our great desire and longing for a child. Help us to welcome that future you bring to us according to your will and to make our lives fruitful and joyful beyond what we may expect or imagine; we pray in the name of your child Jesus and through the Holy Spirit that prays in us with groans too deep for words. *Amen.*

### **18. For Letting Go the Hope of Childbearing**

Holy and gracious Father, you offer abundance of life and fullness of joy to your children. We have longed to bear children of our own. As we grieve the loss of this dream, turn our sorrow to hope for a different future than the one we had imagined. Transform the desires of our hearts into grace that we may bear your love to others in all we do and say, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

*Amen.*

### **19. When the Decision Has Been Made Not to Bear Children**

Holy and gracious Father, who has searched us out and known us: We have sought your guidance in discerning our readiness to be parents and your will for our lives; be with us now in our decision not to bear children, that in this and in all our actions we may give you honor, praise, and service; through Jesus Christ our Savior and your Holy Spirit, who dwell with you in glory everlasting.

*Amen.*

### **20. When Surgery Will Prevent a Desired Conception**

God our strong Defender, stand with me in this surgery. Guide the hands of my doctors and nurses; keep me in the awareness of your presence; and raise me up to health and fresh hopes and joys beyond what I can now imagine or ask for, through the love of Christ and the life-giving of your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **21. After a Hysterectomy**

God of all wisdom, you knew me from my mother's womb. I thank you for making me a woman [*and for the children born of my body*]. I grieve the loss of part of me. Holy One, you made me in your image. Help me to realize that I remain the person you created. Bring to birth in me gifts of new fruitfulness in reaching out to others. Heal and restore my body, and in the years ahead, grant me fullness of joy; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



## Prayers Surrounding Adoption

### 22. For the Child Being Released for Adoption

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

Life-giving God, you have given *me* the gift of this child. Before *she* was conceived in the womb, you knew *her*. *She* is surrounded by your love, and for love's sake *we* entrust *her* to those who will raise *her*. Guide and protect *her* all the days of *her* life. May *she* live and grow in grace as your beloved; *we* pray in the name of your Child Jesus, our Savior. *Amen.*

### 23. For the Birth Parents

Gracious God, may your mercy uphold *N.* as she sends this child born of her body to new parents who will nurture and raise *him*. As our love goes with *him*, surround *N.* also with your love. May she have your peace in her heart. May her spirit find rest in your unchanging presence. In Jesus' holy name we pray. *Amen.*

Holy God, send your blessing upon the birth parents of *our* child. Give them an abiding awareness of your love. Lead them into a future bright with promise. May they always rest in the certainty of your loving care for them, and for the child they have entrusted to *us*. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

### 24. A Birth Mother's Prayer

Heal my heart, dear God. I send forth my *daughter*, born of my body, to the family who will love and raise *her*. A part of *her* will always remain with me. Give me grace to live each day knowing you uphold *her* and me in strength, guidance, and mercy. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer. *Amen.*

## 25. For Help in Selecting Adoptive Parents

Loving God, our Creator, you knew this child when *he* was formed in the womb, and have numbered the hairs on *his* head. Help us discern a family in which *he* will thrive, growing up as the person you created *him* to be. Even now, prepare the hearts and home of *his* future parents, granting that their lives will be blessed with goodness and peace; through Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

## 26. Saying Good-Bye to a Child

*N.*, my child, go in the light and love of God.

May you live in abundance of joy, free from harm. *Amen.*

May you find true and trusted friends. *Amen.*

May you find purposeful work and the meaning of Sabbath. *Amen.*

May you learn justice, kindness, and humility; and live them. *Amen.*

May you experience the gift of love. *Amen.*

May you come to know the risen Christ. *Amen*

May you encounter the Holy Spirit who dwells within you. *Amen.*

May you have a full life, and come at length to rest in your heavenly home. *Amen.*

God who watches every moment of our days; *I* commend this child *N.* to your care. Before *she* was *mine*, *she* is yours. You gave *her* life. Be *her* protector, companion, and guide. Grant that *her* adoptive parents may love *her* as their own. May *she* flourish in their care as *she* grows in your wisdom. Keep *her* safe and well; make *her* strong and true. Lead *her* to walk in your ways in love and joy. *I* pray this in the name of Jesus, who blessed the children in his arms, in whose arms *I* now place *her*. *Amen.*

## 27. For Help in Deciding Whether to Adopt

O God, as a loving parent you have made us your own *children* through adoption into Christ. Guide *us* as *we* decide whether to adopt, to share the love you have given *us* with a child. Give *us* humility to make this decision wisely, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Child, in the grace of your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## 28. When the Decision Has Been Made to Adopt

Heavenly Father, all the peoples of the earth are one family in you: bless *our* decision to adopt. Help *us* freely and gladly share *our* lives, *our* love, and *our* home with a child who needs *us*. Remind *our* family in times of doubt or frustration that every moment is filled with your grace. Surround this decision and those to come with your steadfast love; through Christ who took little children to himself. *Amen.*

## 29. Of Children or Birth Parents Seeking the Other

Holy God, in *my* heart there is a place of longing and questions about the *child/parents* I never knew. *My* eyes have not seen *her/them*, *my* arms have not held *her/them*, yet we are related. Give *me* your guidance, God, and grant that *my* search will unfold according to your will. *I* thank you for the *parents/spouse/children* with whom I share my life, and pray that *they* will always know how precious they are to *me* and to you. *I* ask the grace of your Holy Spirit in this and all *my* actions, through *my* Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## Prayers Surrounding Other Losses

### 30. After Mastectomy

Christ came in our poor flesh to share a mother's care. Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life. *From "A Song of True Motherhood," Julian of Norwich*

God of tender mercy, hear my prayer. I grieve the loss of my breast(s), a change to my body and to my sense of self as a woman. Help me to remember that you made me in your image and that in you I am made whole, despite all wounds. Give me confidence and fill me with hope in all that lies ahead. I pray through Christ who, like a mother, bears us for joy and endless life. *Amen.*

### 31. In a Difficult Pregnancy

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. *Isaiah 40:11*

Good shepherd of the flock, tender Jesus, carry *N.* [and *N.*] through the perils of this pregnancy. Strengthen *their* trust that you are at work in this and every circumstance, and encourage *them* with your grace. Keep alive the flame of hope that you are present with *them* and with this child you knit together in the womb. Fill *them* with confidence in God the Creator and comfort in the Holy Spirit, for your tender mercy's sake. *Amen.*

**See also the “Blessing of a Pregnant Woman”**

### 32. After a Traumatic Birth

Holy and gracious Father, be our faithful and loving companion in every moment of our lives. Visit *N.* with your healing grace. Heal the pain and trauma she has undergone through this birth. As you labored in agony on the cross so she suffered in labor. Now bring her the joy of new life that nothing can take away. Let your angels watch over this mother and child as they heal and rest. In the days to come, help *N.* know your promise that weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. So may this mother and child rise to give you thanks tomorrow and always, secure in you, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, reign throughout all ages. *Amen.*

Holy and gracious Father, *we* give you thanks for the life of *this child.* Grant *us* accepting and understanding hearts, and the gifts of courage and patience to face the challenge of caring for *her.* Let your love for *us* be seen in *our* lives, that *we* may create an atmosphere in which *she* will live a life of dignity and worth. *We* ask this in the name of Jesus, the compassionate. *Amen.* (From A New Zealand Prayer Book, page 756)

### 34. Confession and Assurance of Pardon

**This form may be used by a lay or ordained confessor with a penitent or at other times when an entire liturgical rite is not needed.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty: I confess that in my sinfulness I have wounded the body of Christ, and both brought grief and injury to others and to myself, [*especially, I confess \_\_\_\_\_*]. Holy Immortal One, lift the weight of this burden from my shoulders; forgive, cleanse, and renew me; and put a new and right spirit within me, according to your mercy and loving-kindness; through the grace of Jesus Christ my Savior. *Amen.*

*Confessor's words of pardon*

N., beloved child of God; through Jesus Christ the grace of God flows to you conferring forgiveness and absolution of all your sin, and raises you to renewed life by the power of the Holy Spirit working in you more than you dare ask for or imagine. Abide in peace; through Christ your faith has made you whole.

## SCRIPTURES AND SONGS FOR SICKNESS AND LOSS

### Opening Sentences (or Short Readings)

#### Lament

Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak; save me for your mercy's sake. I grow weary because of my groaning; every night I drench my bed and flood my couch with tears. My eyes are wasted with grief.

*Psalm 6:2a, 4b, 6-7a*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from my cry and from the words of my distress? *Psalm 22:1*

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow for my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed. *Psalm 31:9-10*

My tears have been my food day and night. *Psalm 42:3*

Hear my cry, O God, and listen to my prayer. I call upon you from the ends of the earth with heaviness in my heart. *Psalm 61:1-2*

Save me, O God, for the waters have risen up to my neck. I am sinking in deep mire, and there is no firm ground for my feet. I have grown weary with my crying; my throat is inflamed; my eyes have failed from looking for my God. In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help. Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me. *Psalm 69:1-2, 4, 15, 18*

In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; my hands were stretched out by night and did not tire; I refused to be comforted. Will the Lord cast me off for ever? Has his loving-kindness come to an end for ever? *Psalm 77:2, 7a, 8a*

O Lord, I cry to you for help; in the morning my prayer comes before you. Lord, why have you rejected me? Why have you hidden your face from me? Darkness is my only companion. *Psalm 88:14-15, 19b*

My days drift away like smoke, and my bones are hot as burning coals. My heart is smitten like grass and withered, so that I forget to eat my bread. Because of the voice of my groaning I am but skin and bones. I have eaten ashes for bread, and mingled my drink with weeping. *Psalm 102:3-5, 9*

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice. *Psalm 130:1*

My spirit faints within me; my heart within me is desolate. O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me. *Psalm 143:4, 7a*

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage. *Lamentations 1:16*

I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin and have laid my strength in the dust. My face is red with weeping and deep darkness is on my eyelids. *Job 16:15-16*

### **Hope**

O Lord, my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health. Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning. *Psalm 30:2, 6*

I have trusted in you, O Lord; I have said, "You are my God. Make your face to shine upon your servant; and in your lovingkindness save me." *Psalm 31:14, 16*

Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord. *Psalm 31:24*

The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them, and delivers them from all their troubles. *Psalm 34:17*

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and will save those whose spirits are crushed. *Psalm 34:18*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again, and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. *Psalm 51:11-13*

For God alone my soul in silence waits; from him comes my salvation. *Psalm 62:1*

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day. For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. *Psalm 91:5, 11*

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow. [But] you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling. *Psalm 116:2, 7*

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. *Psalm 121:1-2*

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. *Psalm 126:6*

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. *Psalm 130:4-5*

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:1-2*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish, they seem to have died, and their departure was thought to be disaster and their



going from us to be their destruction, but they are at peace.

*Wisdom 3:1-3*

Those who trust in God will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with God in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones and God watches over his elect. *Wisdom 3 :9*

### **Readings from the Old Testament**

Genesis 32:24-30

*Jacob wrestles with God*

1 Samuel 1:1-18

*Hannah prays for a child*

1 Kings 19:4-9a

*In his despair, Elijah is fed and strengthened for the journey*

1 Kings 19:9b-13

*The Lord speaks to Elijah in the sound of sheer silence*

Job 3:1-4, 11-13

*Job curses the day of his birth*

Job 3:20-26

*Why is light given to one in misery?*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 14-15

*For everything there is a season*

Ecclesiastes 7:1-4, 8-14

*Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of countenance the heart is made glad.*

Isaiah 25:6-9

*He will swallow up death for ever*

Isaiah 30:18-21

*Your ears shall hear ... "This is*

*the*

*way, walk in it."*

Isaiah 43:1-4a

*Can a woman forget her nursing child .*

... ?

Isaiah 66:13-14a

*As a mother comforts her child,*

*so I*

*will comfort you*

Jeremiah 29:1-14

*I know the plans I have for you*

Jeremiah 31:15-17, 23-24

*Rachel weeping for her children*

Lamentations 3:22-26

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases*

Ezekiel 36:24-28

*A new heart I will give you*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

*The valley of dry bones*

## Readings from the New Testament

Romans 8:3 1-39

*If God is for us, who is against us?*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died.*

I John 3:1-2

*See what love the Father has given us*

Revelation 7:13-17

*These are they who have come out of the great Ordeal; and God will wipe away every tear*

Revelation 21:1-5

*A new heaven and a new earth; death will be no more*

## Readings from the Gospels

Matthew 5:1-10

*Blessed are those who mourn*

Matthew 7:7-11

*Ask, and it will be given you ...*

*[See also Luke 11:9-13]*

John 6:37-39

*Everything that the Father gives me will come to me*

John 10:11-16

*I am the good shepherd*

John 11:32-37

*Jesus weeps for Lazarus*

John 11:38-44

*Jesus raises Lazarus*

## Assurance of God's Help in Decision-Making

Psalms 37:4-9

*Take delight in the Lord, and he shall give you your heart's desire*

Psalms 73:23-26

*You will guide me by your counsel*

Psalms 119:169-76

*Give me understanding according to your word*

Proverbs 2:1-11

*The Lord gives wisdom*

Proverbs 3:1-8

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart*

Proverbs 8:1-21

*Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?*

James 1:5-8

*If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God*

James 5:13-18

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective*

## Psalms of Lament

Psalms 6:1-7

*I grow weary because of my groaning*

Psalm 13	<i>How long, O Lord? will you forget me for ever?</i>
Psalm 22	<i>My God, my God, why have your forsaken me?</i>
Psalm 31:9-16	<i>My eye is consumed with sorrow</i>
Psalm 42:1-8a	<i>My tears have been my food day and night</i>
Psalm 51	<i>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness</i>
Psalm 61:1-4	<i>Hear my cry, O God . . . I will take refuge under the cover of your wings</i>
Psalm 69:1-4, 15-18	<i>Save me, O God, for the waters have risen up to my neck</i>
Psalm 77:1-10	<i>I will cry aloud to God .... In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord</i>
Psalm 86	<i>Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and in misery</i>
Psalm 88	<i>O Lord, my God, my Savior, by day and night I cry to you</i>
Psalm 102	<i>Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you</i>
Psalm 142	<i>I cry to the Lord with my voice; to the Lord I make loud supplication</i>
Psalm 143	<i>Lord, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplication</i>

### **Psalms of Deliverance from Distress**

Psalm 18:1-7, 17, 20	<i>I called upon the Lord in my distress ... He heard my voice from his heavenly dwelling</i>
Psalm 30:1-7, 11-13	<i>You have turned my wailing into dancing</i>
Psalm 34:3-8, 18	<i>Taste and see that the Lord is good</i>
Psalm 40	<i>I waited patiently upon the Lord; he stooped to me and heard my cry</i>
Psalm 46	<i>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble</i>
Psalm 57	<i>Be merciful to me, O God; ... in the shadow of your wings will I take refuge</i>

Psalm 71	<i>In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge</i>
Psalm 90	<i>Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another</i>
Psalm 91	<i>You are my refuge and my stronghold</i>
Psalm 92:1-5	<i>For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord</i>
Psalm 103	<i>Bless the Lord, O my soul</i>
Psalm 116	<i>I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication</i>

### **Psalms of Hope and Assurance**

Psalm 20	<i>May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble</i>
Psalm 23	<i>The Lord is my shepherd</i>
Psalm 27	<i>The Lord is my light and my salvation</i>
Psalm 121	<i>I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?</i>

## Canticles

### Canticle C: **The Song of Hannah**

*1 Samuel 2:1-8*

My heart exults in you, O God; \*  
my triumph song is lifted in you.  
My mouth derides my enemies, \*  
for I rejoice in your salvation.  
There is none holy like you, \*  
nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.  
Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance; \*  
Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.  
The bows of the mighty are broken, \*  
but the weak are clothed in strength.  
Those once full now labor for bread, \*  
those who hungered now are well fed.  
The childless woman has borne sevenfold, \*  
while the mother of many is forlorn.  
God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up; \*  
gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.  
God raises the poor from the dust; \*  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap  
To make them sit with the rulers \*  
and inherit a place of honor.  
For the pillars of the earth are God's \*  
on which the whole earth is founded.

### Canticle D: **A Song of the Wilderness**

*Isaiah 35:1-7,10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, \*  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
It shall blossom abundantly, \*  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, \*  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands, \*  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! \*  
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, \*  
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.  
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, \*  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness \*  
and streams in the desert;  
The burning sand shall become a pool \*  
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.  
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, \*  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, \*  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **Canticle E: A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother**

*Isaiah 66:10-14*

Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her \*  
all you who love her,  
Rejoice, rejoice with her, \*  
all you who mourn over her,  
That you may drink deeply with delight \*  
from her comforting breast.  
For thus says our God, \*  
"I will extend peace to her like a river,  
the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.  
"You shall nurse and be carried on her arm,  
and you shall nestle in her lap.  
"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; \*  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.  
"You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, \*  
you shall flourish like the grass of the fields."

**Canticle F: A Song of Lamentation**

*Lamentations 1:12, 16; 3:19, 22-24, 26*

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? \*

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,

Which was brought upon me, \*

inflicted by God's fierce anger.

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, \*

for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, \*

wormwood and gall!

The steadfast love of God never ceases, \*

God's mercies never end.

They are new every morning; \*

great is your faithfulness.

"God is my portion," says my soul, \*

"therefore will I hope in God."

It is good that we should wait quietly \*

for the coming of God's salvation.

**Canticle H: A Song of Hosea**

*Hosea 6:1-3*

Come, let us return to our God, \*

who has torn us and will heal us.

God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, \*

after two days revive us,

On the third day restore us, \*

that in God's presence we may live.

Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord, \*

whose justice dawns like morning light,

its dawning as sure as the sunrise.

God's justice will come to us like a shower, \*

like spring rains that water the earth.

## Canticle I: **A Song of Jonah**

*Jonah 2:2-7,9*

I called to you, O God, out of my distress,  
and you answered me; \*  
    out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.  
You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, \*  
    and the flood surrounded me;  
    all your waves and billows passed over me.  
Then I said, “I am driven away from your sight; \*  
    how shall I ever look again upon your holy temple?”  
The waters closed in over me, the deep was round about me; \*  
    weeds were wrapped around my head  
        at the roots of the mountains.  
I went down to the land beneath the earth, \*  
    yet you brought up my life from the depths, O God.  
As my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, O God, \*  
    and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.  
With the voice of thanksgiving, I will sacrifice to you; \*  
    what I have vowed I will pay,  
    for deliverance belongs to the Lord!

## Canticle K: **A Song of Our Adoption**

*Ephesians 1:3-10*

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, \*  
    for you have blessed us in Christ  
    with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.  
Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ, \*  
    that we should be holy and blameless before you.  
You destined us for adoption as your children  
through Jesus Christ, \*  
    according to the good pleasure of your will,  
To the praise of your glorious grace, \*  
    that you have freely given us in the Beloved.  
In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,  
    the forgiveness of our sins,  
According to the riches of your grace \*  
    which you have lavished upon us.  
You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, \*



the mystery of your will,  
According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, \*  
as a plan for the fullness of time,  
To gather together all things in Christ, \*  
things in heaven and things on earth.

**Canticle Q: A Song of Christ's Goodness**

*Anselm of Canterbury*

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; \*  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.  
Often you weep over our sins and our pride, \*  
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.  
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, \*  
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.  
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; \*  
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.  
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; \*  
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.  
Your warmth gives life to the dead, \*  
your touch makes sinners righteous.  
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; \*  
in your love and tenderness, remake us.  
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, \*  
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

**Canticle R: A Song of True Motherhood**

*Julian of Norwich*

God chose to be our mother in all things \*  
and so made the foundation of his work,  
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.  
God, the perfect wisdom of all, \*  
arrayed himself in this humble place.  
Christ came in our poor flesh \*  
to share a mother's care.  
Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; \*  
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.  
Christ carried us within him in love and travail, \*  
until the full time of his passion.

And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, \*  
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.  
All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, \*  
for the love of Christ works in us;  
Christ is the one whom we love.

## Suggested Songs and Hymns from *The Hymnal 1982*

- 687/688      A mighty fortress is our God (based on Psalm 46)  
662            Abide with me  
665            All my hope on God is founded  
671            Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
658            As longs the deer for cooling streams (paraphrase  
                  of Psalm 42:1-7)  
488            Be thou my vision  
301            Bread of the world, in mercy broken (Look on the  
                  heart by sorrow broken)  
508            Breathe on me, breath of God  
516            Come down, O Love divine  
487            Come, my way, my truth, my life  
686            Come, thou fount of every blessing  
669            Commit thou all that grieves thee  
654            Day by day  
339            Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness, leave the  
                  gloomy haunts of sadness  
712            Dona nobis pacem  
465/466        Eternal light, shine in my heart  
151            From deepest woe I cry to thee  
694            God be in my head, and in my understanding  
677            God moves in a mysterious way  
690            Guide me, O thou great Jehovah  
318            Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face (Here  
                  would I lay aside each earthly load)  
515            Holy Ghost, dispel our sadness  
472            Hope of the world, thou Christ of great  
                  compassion  
636/637        How firm a foundation  
517            How lovely is thy dwelling place  
                  (paraphrase of Psalm 84)  
692            I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
                  “Come unto me and rest”  
668            I to the hills will lift mine eyes  
                  (paraphrase of Psalm 121)  
490            I want to walk as a child of the light

635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee  
 699 Jesus, Lover of my soul  
 693 Just as I am  
 641 Lord Jesus think on me  
 482 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy  
 593 Lord, make us servants of your peace  
 (Prayer of St. Francis)  
 702 Lord, thou hast searched me and dost know  
 (paraphrase of Psalm 139:1-11)  
 247 Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child  
 585 Morning glory, starlit sky (hidden is love's agony,  
 love's endeavor, love's expense)  
 691 My faith looks up to thee  
 664 My Shepherd will supply my need  
 (paraphrase of Psalm 23)  
 333 Now  
 308 O Food to pilgrims given (vv. 1 & 2)  
 680 O God our help in ages past  
 (paraphrase of Psalm 90:1-5)  
 700 O love that casts out fear  
 681 Our God, to whom we turn  
 666 Out of the depths I call (paraphrase of Psalm 130)  
 685 Rock of ages, cleft for me  
 708 Savior, like a shepherd lead us  
 711 Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
 509 Spirit divine, attend our prayers  
 678/679 Surely it is God who saves me  
 (paraphrase of The First Song of Isaiah)  
 707 Take my life, and let it be  
 645/646 The King of love my shepherd is  
 (paraphrase of Psalm 23)  
 663 The Lord my God my shepherd is  
 (paraphrase of Psalm 23)  
 676 There is a balm in Gilead  
 469/470 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
 554 'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
 640 Watchman, tell us of the night  
 715 When Jesus wept

## AFTER ADMINISTERING HOLY UNCTION

GRANT, O Lord, that the unction of thy Holy Spirit may ever abide in heart of this thy servant, and teach *him* to offer to thee all *his* supplications, in union with thy passion and death. If it please thee to restore *him* to health, make *him* to desire thee alone, and whenever *he* shall come to die, let *him* hear from thee the words, 'This day shalt be with me in Paradise,' and there possess thee for ever.

And let thy grace, O Lord, be ever with me, that I may always live as if about to die, and may so watch over my senses and my members as to abstain from all sins, and do in all things thy good and perfect will. Thou wilt come in an hour when I think not; it may be thou wilt call me before this thy sick servant. Lord, Jesus, have mercy on me; be merciful to me a sinner, and by thy death and passion, make me always ready to die in thee, and to possess thee for ever in heaven, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, wilt be the everlasting delight of thy saints, world without end. Amen.

### **After Visiting the Sick**

O MERCIFUL Lord, and give of all good things, vouchsafe that thy servants, whom I have now left, may not be forsaken by thee, but may be refreshed with that inward comfort which passeth all the consolation of this world. Forgive me whereinsoever I may have erred through lukewarmness, or weakness, and graciously give effect to whatever good I have attempted to do. Suffer not that the sick should die in their sins, but grant that they may be converted and live; and, whether life or death be appointed for them, they may be in all things receive thy will with joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





## LIBERATION FROM EVIL



## Concerning Exorcism

The practice of expelling evil spirits by means of prayer and set formulas derives its authority from the Lord himself who identified these acts as signs of his Messiahship. Very early in the life of the Church the development and exercise of such rites were reserved to the bishop, at whose discretion they might be delegated to selected presbyters and others deemed competent.

In accordance with this established tradition, those who find themselves in need of such a ministry should make the fact known to the bishop, through their parish priest, in order that the bishop may determine whether exorcism is needed, who is to perform the rite, and what prayers or other formularies are to be used. (p. 174)

*The Book of Occasional Services* (2003/2018)



## Prayers before the Ministry of Liberation

In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Celebrant** Our help ✠ is in the Name of the Lord;  
**Response** Who hath made heaven and earth.

**Celebrant** (*priest bows*) I confess to God Almighty, to Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and to all the Saints, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my (*strike breast thrice*) fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; therefore I beg Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John the Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Response** May Almighty God have mercy upon thee, forgive thee thy sins, and bring thee to everlasting life.

(*priest rises*)

**Celebrant** Amen.

**Response** (*People bow*) (*priest bows*) I confess to God Almighty, to Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and to all the Saints, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my (*strike breast thrice*) fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; therefore I beg Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John the Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Celebrant** May Almighty God have mercy upon thee, forgive thee thy sins, and bring thee to everlasting life.  
*(people rise)*

**Response** Amen.

**Celebrant** The Almighty and most merciful Lord grant us pardon, ✠ absolution, and remission of all our sins.

**Response** Amen.

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

℣. From the snares of the devil.

℞. Good Lord, deliver us.

℣. That thou may help thy Church to serve Thee  
in security and freedom.

℞. We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

℣. That thou mayest humble the enemies  
of thy holy Church.

℞. We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

℣. Save Thy servant.

℞. Who trusts in Thee, O my God.

℣. Let us find in Thee, O Lord, a fortified tower.

℞. In the face of the enemy.

Ÿ. Let the enemy have no power over us.  
R̄. And the son of perdition be powerless to harm us.  
Ÿ. Lord, send us aid from Thy holy place.  
R̄. And watch over us from Zion.  
Ÿ. Lord, hear our prayer.  
R̄. And let our cry come unto Thee.  
Ÿ. The Lord be with you.  
R̄. And with thy spirit.

**The first two are for use only when exorcising persons, not places.**

Almighty God, whose nature is ever merciful and forgiving, accept our prayers of this servant, bound by the fetters of sin, that *he* may be pardoned by Thy loving kindness.

Almighty Father, everlasting God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who once and for all consigned that fallen and apostate tyrant to the flames of hell, and who sent thine only-begotten Son into the world to crush that roaring lion; hasten to our call for help and snatch from ruination and from the clutches of the noonday devil this human creature made in thine image and likeness.

Strike terror, Lord, into the beast now laying waste to Thy vineyard. Fill Thy servants with courage to fight manfully against that reprobate dragon, lest he despise those who put their trust in Thee, and say with Pharaoh of old: “I know not God, nor will I set Israel free.” Let Thy mighty hand cast him out [of Thy servant, N., ✠ so he may no longer hold captive this person whom thou hast been pleased to make in Thine image, and to redeem through Thy Son;] through Him who livest and reignest with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

Hail Mary...

### **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, the Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

## DEVOTIONS TO THE HOLY ANGELS

Angels, Archangels, Thrones and Dominations, Principalities and Powers, Virtues of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, bless the Lord for ever.

Ÿ. O ye Angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.

Ř. Praise him, and magnify him for ever.

Let us pray.

O Everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succor and defend us on earth. Through Christ our Lord.

Ye holy Angels, our Guardians, defend us in the time of battle, lest we perish in the dreadful day of judgment.

### Invocation of the Nine Choirs of Angels

O holy Angels, watch over us at all times during this perilous life; O holy Archangels, be our guides on the way to heaven; O heavenly choir of the Principalities, govern us in soul and body; O mighty Powers, preserve us against the wiles of the demons; O celestial Virtues, give us strength and courage in the battle of life; O powerful Dominations, obtain for us dominion over the rebellion of our flesh; O sacred Thrones, grant us peace with God and man; O brilliant Cherubim, illumine our minds with heavenly knowledge; O burning Seraphim, enkindle in our hearts the fire of charity. Amen.

### Prayer to the Guardian Angel

O Holy Guardian Angel, to whose care God, in his mercy, has committed me, stand by me now and at my last hour; protect me against all the powers of darkness; defend me from all my enemies, and conduct my soul to the mansions of bliss.

O Prince most glorious, Michael the Archangel,  
keep us in remembrance;  
here and everywhere, always, entreat the Son of God for us.

## PRAYERS AND LITANIES OF LIBERATION

### To our Lord Jesus Christ

O Jesus our Savior, My Lord and my God, My God and my all,  
With thy sacrifice of the Cross thou hast redeemed us  
and defeated the power of Satan.

I beg Thee to deliver *me* from every evil presence  
and every evil influence.

I ask Thee in thy sacred and holy Name,  
I ask Thee for the sake of thy glorious wounds,  
I ask Thee for the sake of thy precious blood,  
I ask Thee for the sake of thy holy Cross,  
I ask Thee through the intercession of Mary,  
Immaculate and sorrowful.

May the blood and the water that flow from thy side  
wash over *me* to purify *me*, deliver *me*, heal *me*. *Amen*.

### To the Blessed Virgin Mary

O Most High Queen of Heaven and of the Angels,  
We humbly beseech thee, who didst receive from God  
The power and the mission  
to crush the head of the ancient serpent:

Command the heavenly host  
to pursue the demons in battle wherever they may be,  
To rebuke their daring, and to thrust them into the abyss;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

### Litany of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Lord, have mercy.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, hear us.

*Christ, hear us.*

Christ, graciously hear us.

*Christ, graciously hear us.*

God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth,

*have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

*have mercy on us.*

God, the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the Faithful,

*have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God,

*have mercy on us.*

Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son of the eternal Father,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word or God,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, of the New and Eternal Testament,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in Agony,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the Scourging,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with Thorns,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, price of our salvation,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of souls,

*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, stream of mercy,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, victor over demons,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, courage of Martyrs,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, strength of Confessors,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, bringing forth Virgins,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, help of those in peril,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, relief of the burdened,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, solace in sorrow,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, hope of the penitent,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, peace and tenderness of hearts,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, pledge of eternal life,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, freeing souls from purgatory,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Blood of Christ, most worthy of all glory and honor,  
*we beseech thee to save us.*

Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,  
*spare us, O Lord.*



Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,  
*graciously bear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,  
*have mercy on us, O Lord.*

Ÿ. Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord, in Thy Blood.

Ŕ. And made us, for our God, a kingdom.

Almighty and eternal God, Thou hast appointed Thine only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world and willed to be appeased by his blood. Grant, we beg of Thee, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of the present life so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**This Litany in honor of Jesus in His Most Precious Blood was drawn up by the Sacred Congregation of Rites and promulgated by Pope John XXIII on February 24, 1960. The devotion to Jesus in His most Precious Blood was first popularized by Saint Gaspar del Bufalo (1786-1837, feast Dec. 28) who founded the Missioners of the Most Precious Blood.**

## **Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O Good Jesus, hear me.

Within thy wound, hide me.

Suffer me not to be separated from thee.

From the malicious enemy defend me.

In the hour of my death call me, and bid me come unto thee,

That with thy Saints I may be thee

for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Simple Exorcism** *from the 1549 BCP rite for Holy Baptism*

I command thee, unclean spirit, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, that thou come out, and depart from this person, whom our Lord Jesus Christ hath vouchesafe, to call to his Holy Baptism, to be made members of His Body, and of His holy congregation. Therefore thou cursed spirit, remember thy sentence, remember thy judgment, remember the Day to be at hand, wherein thou shalt burn in fire everlasting, prepared for thee and thy angels. And presume not hereafter to exercise any tyranny toward this creature, whom Christ hath bought with his Precious Blood, and by this His holy Baptism hath called to be of his flock; in the Name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## St. Patrick's Breastplate

I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity,  
By invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me for ever.  
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation;  
His baptism in the Jordan river;  
His death on Cross for my salvation;  
His bursting from the spiced tomb;  
His riding up the heavenly way;  
His coming at the day of doom;\*  
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself the power  
Of the great love of the cherubim;  
The sweet 'well done' in judgment hour,  
The service of the seraphim,  
Confessors' faith, Apostles' word,  
The Patriarchs' prayers, the Prophets' scrolls,  
All good deeds done unto the Lord,  
And purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself today  
The virtues of the starlit heaven,  
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,  
The whiteness of the moon at even,  
The flashing of the lightning free,  
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,  
The stable earth, the deep salt sea,  
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, His might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need.  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, His shield to ward,  
The word of God to give me speech,

His heavenly host to be my guard.  
Against the demon snares of sin,  
The vice that gives temptation force,  
The natural lusts that war within,  
The hostile men that mar my course;  
Or few or many, far or nigh,  
In every place and in all hours,  
Against their fierce hostility,  
I bind to me these holy powers.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles,  
Against false words of heresy,  
Against the knowledge that defiles,  
Against the heart's idolatry,  
Against the wizard's evil craft,  
Against the death wound and the burning,  
The choking wave and the poisoned shaft,  
Protect me, Christ, till Thy returning.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,  
The strong Name of the Trinity;  
By invocation of the same.  
The Three in One, and One in Three,  
Of Whom all nature hath creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

# PRAYERS FOR DELIVERANCE

## Pastoral Suggestions

- Bind, rather than “cast out” or “renounce”; this is always safer if one has little experience and/or does not have clear authority by the bishop and to use the Roman Rite
- At the beginning, and throughout, continue to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and where to go next
- Always begin any address to a spirit, “In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ...” and conclude “...in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

## Prayer for Protection

Lord Jesus Christ, I humbly beg that Thou wouldst protect my family [*mention by name*] from all sickness, from all harm and from accidents and from all the wiles of the devil. If any of us has been subject to any curses, hexes or spells, I declare these curses, hexes or spells null and void in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. If any evil spirits have been sent against us, I decommission you in the Name of Jesus Christ and I send you to Jesus to deal with as He will. And finally, I beseech thee to send Thy Holy Angels from heaven to guard, protect and defend us all. In the Name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Sinner's Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, I confess that I have sinned against Thee, and I humbly beg Thee to forgive me all my sins. I confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of Living God, who shed His blood on the cross for the remission of my sins and that of the whole world. I abandon myself into Thy hands and ask that Thou would enter my heart and make my Thine forever; in the Name and in the power of the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Binding Prayer**

By virtue of my Baptism and of my Ordination: in the Name and in the power and authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I bind up any and all spirits that are not of the Holy Spirit that are harassing or tempting *N.*, especially if there is a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ [*name of the spirit*].

Lord Jesus Christ, I ask that this spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ [*name of the spirit*] remain bound for as long as it serves Thy most holy and perfect will. In the Name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Prayer for Deliverance**

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I command thee, spirit of [*name of the spirit*], to depart without doing harm to [*name of the oppressed*] or anyone else in this house, or in *his* family, and without making any noise or disturbance; and I command you to go straight to Jesus Christ to dispose of as He will. Furthermore, I command thee never again to return. In the Name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Binding Prayer Prior to Prayer for Inner Healing**

In the name of Jesus Christ I command you, spirit of [*name*], not to interfere with this prayer. I bind you off from influencing \_\_\_\_\_'s will, from his mind, from his imagination or emotions, from his memories and from his body. I cut you off by the sword of the Spirit from stirring up \_\_\_\_\_'s grief [or fear or any other primary emotional problems]. I command you to be quiet and to leave when we finish our prayer for healing. In the Name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Prayer to Break a False Judgment**

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the sword of the Spirit, I cut you free from this false judgment of \_\_\_\_\_ and declare it null and void. In the Name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Prayer to Break a False Vow**

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I break this vow of \_\_\_\_\_ and declare it null and void, no longer able to influence you. By the sword of the Spirit I cut you free from this vow and all its effects. In the Name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Prayer to Break a Seal**

In the Name of Jesus Christ, I break every seal of Satan and I set you free by the sword of the Holy Spirit. (Repeat three times.). In the Name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then ask the person*

How are your feeling? Or  
What are you experiencing?

*Always ask the Holy Spirit where to begin.*

### **Christ Hymn (Phil 2:5-11)**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,

did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,  
but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form

he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,

*[all in the room kneel as the priest continues]*

that **at the name of Jesus** every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under **the** earth,

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Ephesians 3:20-21**

Now to Jesus Christ the Lord, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

In the Name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



**SHORTER EXORCISM FORMS**  
**FROM “THE EXETER REPORT”**

**The Exorcism and Blessing of a Place**

**See earlier in this book, the fifth form in the section on the blessing of homes.**

## The Exorcism and Blessing of a Person

Drawn from Robert Petitpierre, ed., *Exorcism; the Report of a Commission Convened by the Bishop of Exeter* (London: S.P.C.K., 1972).

1. The priest should only undertake the exorcism of a person if he himself is in a state of recollection and confident of our Lord's victory over evil in general and in the situation confronting him.
2. It is wise to share such situations with another priest experienced in this aspect of the ministry.
3. The priest should prepare himself, and those whom he selects to be present, by confession, prayer and fasting, and if possible, communion together.
4. Those present should consist only of mature Christian people who are sympathetic to this ministry. If the afflicted person is a woman, at least one other woman should be present willing to restrain or help her as occasion demands.
5. People unknown to the priest should not be present. This includes those "interested", reporters, and so on, not least because of the spiritual danger in which they place themselves.
6. If the exorcism takes place in a house, animals and children should be removed, and the latter given a prayer of protection and a blessing before the service begins.
7. The service should, if possible, take place in a church, or at least in a place chosen by or agreeable to the exorcist.
8. Appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that no unscheduled exit on the part of the person is possible before the ministrations are complete.

9. It is recommended that doctor and psychiatrist are aware of the steps that are being taken by the Church, and that, if they are not excluded by the demands of (4) above, they be invited to attend.

10. Prayers of a select number of other Christians not present should be encouraged, not only for the sufferer but also for those present and the exorcist. Such imparted knowledge need not include personal details, and must not be such as would break confidences or cause gossip.

11. As, occasionally, a prolonged period is necessary, two hours or more should be made available, so that if the case is of this nature the person will not be left in a state of acute distress by an incompleting ministry.

12. If the sufferer is brought into church, he should on no account be left alone, but at least two people, capable of restraining violent activity, should stay with him. (If these people are to attend the exorcism itself, it will mean that separate arrangements may have to be made for their spiritual preparation.)

13. The priest should not hesitate at any time prior to the exorcism itself to dismiss any person or persons whose presence, for any reason, he feels to be inappropriate. The presence of another priest makes it possible for the would-be exorcist, if inexperienced, to exclude himself should he, for example, experience sudden doubt or fear. This is not a trivial point.

14. Because of the possibility of self-injury, the patient could well be seated in a deep armchair throughout the service.

15. The exorcist should be open to the possibility that after the exorcism other sacramental means of grace would be appropriate: e.g. Holy Communion, Holy Unction, and perhaps even Baptism. It is wise to arrange things so that these are readily available without the need for extensive preparations.

## The Immediate Preparation

The Priest and all those who will join in this ministry should gather outside the present of the patient, preferably in the church and even in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The Priest makes this intercession.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

O Holy Lord, Almighty Father, who hast sent your only begotten Son into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil, speedily hear us we pray you. Grant strength to your servants to fight valiantly against the evil one. May the strength of your right hand make Satan loose thy servant N., so that he no longer dares to hold captive him whom you have made in your image and redeemed in your Son: who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

## Introduction

All being gathered together round the patient, they shall join in the Lord's Prayer, after which shall be read John 1.1—14.

### The Priest continues

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

### All

Our Father...  
deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Next he reads these selections from the Gospel, or at least one of them.

A Lesson from the holy Gospel according to St. John [1.1-14]

✠ ✠ ✠ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the

light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**(Genuflect)** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. **(Rise)**

**After this shall be a pause for silent prayer, which could conclude with the following:**

O God, whose nature and property it is ever to have mercy and to forgive, grant that the chains of evil binding this person may, by your mercy, be loosed, and let no evil power harm any one. Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Priest may add the following**

Strike terror, Lord, into the beast now laying waste to Thy vineyard. Fill Thy servants with courage to fight manfully against that reprobate dragon, lest he despise those who put their trust in Thee, and say with Pharaoh of old: "I know not God, nor will I set Israel free." Let Thy mighty hand cast him out of Thy servant, N., ✠ so he may no longer hold captive this person whom thou hast been pleased to make in Thine image, and to redeem through Thy Son; who livest and reignest with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Exorcism

The exorcist, standing before the patient shalt say this, or one other of the prayers following.

I command you, every evil spirit, in the Name of God the Father Almighty, in the Name of Jesus Christ his only Son, and in the Name of the Holy Spirit, that harming no one you depart from this creature of God, N., and return to the place appointed you, there to remain for ever.

The exorcist may then exhale deeply, or sprinkle the patient with holy water.

If, as occasionally happens, there are somewhat violent physical reactions, the patient should be firmly held down, and a form of exorcism (such as given on pages 44—5) should be repeated.

1. I command you, every unclean spirit, in the Name of God the Father Almighty, in the Name of Jesus Christ his Son our Lord and our Judge, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you go from this image of God, N., whom our Lord of his goodness has called to become a temple of the living God, that the Holy Spirit may dwell in him. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen. (From the Roman Ritual)*

2. I command you, unclean spirits, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, that you come out and depart from this person N., whom our Lord Jesus Christ has vouchsafed to call to Baptism and so to be made a member of his Body and congregation. Therefore, thou cursed spirit, remember your sentence and your judgement, remember the day to be at hand wherein you shall burn in fire everlasting prepared for you and your angels. And presume not hereafter to exercise any tyranny towards this person whom Christ hath bought with his precious blood, and by his Holy Baptism called to be of his flock. *Amen. (From the First Prayer Book of Edward VI)*

3. I command you, O evil spirit, through God the Father Almighty, and through Jesus Christ his Son, and through the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, that you depart, through his power, from this his vessel, N.. whom you hold captive. (*From the East Syrian Rite*)

It can be helpful, if this occurs, to use also some form of Saint Patrick's Breastplate, such as:

Christ be with you: Christ within you;  
Christ before you: Christ behind you;  
Christ on your right hand: Christ on your left hand;  
Christ above you: Christ beneath you,  
Christ round about you.

This can well be said with both hands on the patient's head.

### **The Final Prayer**

O God, the creator and defender of men, look upon this your servant N. Drive back from him, O Lord, the power of the demons and banish for ever their treacherous deceits. May the wicked tempters flee away. May your servant N. be fortified in mind and body by the power of your Name.

Guard *his* inner life, rule *his* desires, strengthen *his* purposes. May the powerful temptations of the enemy vanish from his soul.

Grant grace, O Lord, by this invocation of your Name, that the prince of this world, who has struck terror until now, may himself flee in terror to his own place.

And may this your servant be enabled to do your will with a firm heart and undivided mind: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

It is often useful, and if there has been any contact with occultism it is usually essential, to renew the Baptismal Promises. This can be done only with a person already baptized. This should be done in any of the official forms available.

## The Final Blessing

This can be given in any form which is acceptable. It is good that hands should be laid on the person's head. The following form is possible for such use:

God the Father, who creates you, preserve and keep you;

God the Son, who bought you with his blood, bind you to himself;

God the Holy Spirit, the Giver of life, grant you the new and eternal life;

May all the Saints pray with you;

May the holy Angels and Archangels guard, guide, and protect you;

And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you now and always. *Amen.*

## In Emergency

The exorcist must make a quick, deep act of Recollection calling upon the help and power of the Holy Spirit, and then speak the Command, using perhaps the following:

God, the Son of God, who by death destroyed death, and overcame him who had the power of death, Beat down Satan quickly. ✠ [and/or exhale deeply] Deliver this creature, made in the image of God, from all evil spirits; from all vain imaginations, projections and phantasms; and from all deceits of the evil one; and bid them harm no one but depart to the place appointed them, there to remain for ever. God, Incarnate God, who came to give peace, bring peace.

or else a brief command to the effect:

In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, I command you, evil spirit, to harm no one, but depart to the place appointed you.



# THE RITE FOR EXORCISM

Translation drawn from Fr Phillip T. Weller, trans., *Roman Ritual*, vol. 2: Christian Burial and Office for the Dead, Exorcism, Blessings Reserved to Religious or to Certain Places (Boonville, NY: Preserving Christian Publications, 2007).

**The rite itself is not reproduced here, as it is only to be used with the express permission and delegated authority of a priest's Bishop and after having received proper training. Care should be taken that it not be casually made available, both so as not to encourage superstition and also to not encourage those without care and authorization to engage in this ministry.**

## Chapter 1: General Rules

1. A priest—one who is expressly and particularly authorized by the Ordinary—when he intends to perform an exorcism over persons tormented by the devil, must be properly distinguished for his piety, prudence, and integrity of life. He should fulfill this devout undertaking in all constancy and humility, being utterly immune to any striving for human aggrandizement, and relying, not on his own, but on the divine power. Moreover, he ought to be of mature years, and revered not alone for his office but for his moral qualities.

2. In order to exercise his ministry rightly, he should resort to a great deal more study of the matter (which has to be passed over here for the sake of brevity), by examining approved authors and cases from experience; on the other hand, let him carefully observe the few more important points enumerated here.

3. Especially, he should not believe too readily that a person is possessed by an evil spirit; but he ought to ascertain the signs by which a person possessed can be

distinguished from one who is suffering from some illness, especially one of a psychological nature. Signs of possession may be the following: ability to speak with some facility in a strange tongue or to understand it when spoken by another; the faculty of divulging future and hidden events; display of powers which are beyond the subject's age and natural condition; and various other indications which, when taken together as a whole, build up the evidence.

4. In order to understand these matters better, let him inquire of the person possessed, following one or the other act of exorcism, what the latter experienced in his body or soul while the exorcism was being performed, and to learn also what particular words in the form had a more intimidating effect upon the devil, so that hereafter these words may be employed with greater stress and frequency.

5. He will be on his guard against the arts and subterfuges which the evil spirits are wont to use in deceiving the exorcist. For oft times they give deceptive answers and make it difficult to understand them, so that the exorcist might tire and give up, or so it might appear that the afflicted one is in no wise possessed by the devil.

6. Once in a while, after they are already recognized, they conceal themselves and leave the body practically free from every molestation, so that the victim believes himself completely delivered. Yet the exorcist may not desist until he sees the signs of deliverance.

7. At times, moreover, the evil spirits place whatever obstacles they can in the way, so that the patient may not submit to exorcism, or they try to convince him that his affliction is a natural one. Meanwhile, during the exorcism, they cause him to fall asleep, and dangle some

illusion before him, while they seclude themselves, so that the afflicted one appears to be freed.

8. Some reveal a crime which has been committed and the perpetrators thereof, as well as the means of putting an end to it. Yet the afflicted person must beware of having recourse on this account to sorcerers or necromancers or to any parties except the ministers of the Church, or of making use of any superstitious or forbidden practice.

9. Sometimes the devil will leave the possessed person in peace and even allow him to receive the holy Eucharist, to make it appear that he has departed. In fact, the arts and frauds of the evil one for deceiving a man are innumerable. For this reason the exorcist must be on his guard not to fall into this trap.

10. Therefore, he will be mindful of the words of our Lord (Mt 17.20), to the effect that there is a certain type of evil spirit who cannot be driven out except by prayer and fasting. Therefore let him avail himself of these two means above all for imploring the divine assistance in expelling demons, after the example of the holy fathers; and not only himself, but let him induce others, as far as possible, to do the same.

11. If it can be done conveniently the possessed person should be led to church or to some other sacred and worthy place, where the exorcism will be held, away from the crowd. But if the person is ill, or for any valid reason, the exorcism may take place in a private home.

12. The subject, if in good mental and physical health, should be exhorted to implore God's help, to fast, and to fortify himself by frequent reception of penance and holy communion, at the discretion of the priest. And in the course of the exorcism he should be fully recollected, with his intention fixed on God, whom he should entreat with

firm faith and in all humility. And if he is all the more grievously tormented, he ought to bear this patiently, never doubting the divine assistance.

13. He ought to have a crucifix at hand or somewhere in sight. If relics of the saints are available, they are to be applied in a reverent way to the breast or the head of the person possessed (the relics must be properly and securely encased and covered). One will see to it that these sacred objects are not treated improperly or that no injury is done them by the evil spirit. However, one should not hold the holy Eucharist over the head of the person or in any way apply it to his body, owing to the danger of desecration.

14. The exorcist must not digress into senseless prattle nor ask superfluous questions or such as are prompted by curiosity, particularly if they pertain to future and hidden matters, all of which have nothing to do with his office. Instead, he will bid the unclean spirit keep silence and answer only when asked. Neither ought he to give any credence to the devil if the latter maintains that he is the spirit of some saint or of a deceased party, or even claims to be a good angel.

15. But necessary questions are, for example: the number and name of the spirits inhabiting the patient, the time when they entered into him, the cause thereof, and the like. As for all jesting, laughing, and nonsense on the part of the evil spirit—the exorcist should prevent it or condemn it, and he will exhort the bystanders (whose number must be very limited) to pay no attention to such goings on; neither are they to put any question to the subject. Rather they should intercede for him to God in all humility and urgency.

16. Let the priest pronounce the exorcism in a commanding and authoritative voice, and at the same

time with great confidence, humility, and fervor; and when he sees that the spirit is sorely vexed, then he oppresses and threatens all the more. If he notices that the person afflicted is experiencing a disturbance in some part of his body or an acute pain or a swelling appears in some part, he traces the sign of the cross over that place and sprinkles it with holy water, which he must have at hand for this purpose.

17. He will pay attention as to what words in particular cause the evil spirits to tremble, repeating them the more frequently. And when he comes to a threatening expression, he recurs to it again and again, always increasing the punishment. If he perceives that he is making progress, let him persist for two, three, four hours, and longer if he can, until victory is attained.

18. The exorcist should guard against giving or recommending any medicine to the patient, but should leave this care to physicians.

19. While performing the exorcism over a woman, he ought always to have assisting him several women of good repute, who will hold on to the person when she is harassed by the evil spirit. These assistants ought if possible to be close relatives of the subject and for the sake of decency the exorcist will avoid saying or doing anything which might prove an occasion of evil thoughts to himself or to the others.

20. During the exorcism he shall preferably employ words from Holy Writ, rather than forms of his own or of someone else. He shall, moreover, command the devil to tell whether he is detained in that body by necromancy, by evil signs or amulets; and if the one possessed has taken the latter by mouth, he should be made to vomit them; if he has them concealed on his person, he should

expose them; and when discovered they must be burned. Moreover, the person should be exhorted to reveal all his temptations to the exorcist.

21. Finally, after the possessed one has been freed, let him be admonished to guard himself carefully against falling into sin, so as to afford no opportunity to the evil spirit of returning, lest the last state of that man become worse than the former.

**6. It will also help to say devoutly and often over the afflicted person the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Creed, as well as the Cantic of our Lady, with the doxology; the Cantic of Zachariah, with the doxology, and the Athanasian Creed (all of which are printed following this prayer).**

### **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 Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
✠ and the life everlasting. Amen.



## The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

*Luke 1:4655*

✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

## The Song of Zechariah – *Luke 1:6879*

✠ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham,\*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.  
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.



# The Creed of Saint Athanasius

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith.

Which Faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.

For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost.

But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one, the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost.

The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal.

And yet they are not three eternal, but one eternal.

As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated, but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty.

And yet they are not three Almighties, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God.

And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord.

And yet not three Lords, but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be both God and Lord,

So are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion, to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.

And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other; none is greater, or less than another;

But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved must think thus of the Trinity.

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess, that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;  
God, of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man of the Substance of his Mother, born in the world;  
Perfect God and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead; and inferior to the Father, as touching his Manhood;  
Who, although he be God and Man, yet he is not two, but one Christ;  
One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh but by taking of the Manhood into God;  
One altogether; not by confusion of Substance, but by unity of Person.  
For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and Man is one Christ;  
Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven, he sitteth at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the quick and the dead.  
At whose coming all men will rise again with their bodies and shall give account for their own works.  
And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.  
This is the Catholic Faith, which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Here follow a large number of psalms which may be used at the exorcist's discretion but are not a necessary part of the rite.**

**Some of them occur in other parts of the Ritual and are so indicated; the others may be taken from the Psalter.  
Psalm 90; psalm 67; psalm 69; psalm 53; psalm 117; psalm 34; psalm 30; psalm 21, psalm 3; psalm 10; psalm 12.**

# Additional Psalms

*Which may be used at the exorcist's discretion*

## Psalm 90 *Domine, refugium*

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
“Go back, O child of earth.”
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; \*  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The span of our life is seventy years,  
perhaps in strength even eighty; \*  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
- 11 Who regards the power of your wrath? \*  
who rightly fears your indignation?
- 12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- 13 Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? \*  
be gracious to your servants.
- 14 Satisfy us by your lovingkindness in the morning; \*  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

- 15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us \*  
and the years in which we suffered adversity.
- 16 Show your servants your works \*  
and your splendor to their children.
- 17 May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; \*  
prosper the work of our hands;  
prosper our handiwork.

## Psalm 67 *Deus misereatur*

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

## Psalm 69 *Subnum me fac*

- 1 Save me, O God, \*  
for the waters have risen up to my neck.
- 2 I am sinking in deep mire, \*  
and there is no firm ground for my feet.
- 3 I have come into deep waters, \*  
and the torrent washes over me.
- 4 I have grown weary with my crying;  
my throat is inflamed; \*  
my eyes have failed from looking for my God.

- 5 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs  
of my head;  
my lying foes who would destroy me are mighty. \*  
Must I then give back what I never stole?
- 6 O God, you know my foolishness, \*  
and my faults are not hidden from you.
- 7 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,  
Lord GOD of hosts; \*  
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me,  
O God of Israel.
- 8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, \*  
and shame has covered my face.
- 9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, \*  
an alien to my mother's children.
- 10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; \*  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
- 11 I humbled myself with fasting, \*  
but that was turned to my reproach.
- 12 I put on sackcloth also, \*  
and became a byword among them.
- 13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, \*  
and the drunkards make songs about me.
- 14 But as for me, this is my prayer to you, \*  
at the time you have set, O LORD:
- 15 "In your great mercy, O God, \*  
answer me with your unfailing help.
- 16 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; \*  
let me be rescued from those who hate me  
and out of the deep waters.
- 17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,  
neither let the deep swallow me up; \*  
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.
- 18 Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; \*  
in your great compassion, turn to me."
- 19 "Hide not your face from your servant; \*  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
- 20 Draw near to me and redeem me; \*  
because of my enemies deliver me.

- 21 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; \*  
my adversaries are all in your sight.”
- 22 Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed; \*  
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,  
for comforters, but I could find no one.
- 23 They gave me gall to eat, \*  
and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.
- 24 Let the table before them be a trap \*  
and their sacred feasts a snare.
- 25 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, \*  
and give them continual trembling in their loins.
- 26 Pour out your indignation upon them, \*  
and let the fierceness of your anger overtake them.
- 27 Let their camp be desolate, \*  
and let there be none to dwell in their tents.
- 28 For they persecute him whom you have stricken \*  
and add to the pain of those whom you have pierced.
- 29 Lay to their charge guilt upon guilt, \*  
and let them not receive your vindication.
- 30 Let them be wiped out of the book of the living \*  
and not be written among the righteous.
- 31 As for me, I am afflicted and in pain; \*  
your help, O God, will lift me up on high.
- 32 I will praise the Name of God in song; \*  
I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.
- 33 This will please the LORD more than an offering of oxen, \*  
more than bullocks with horns and hoofs.
- 34 The afflicted shall see and be glad; \*  
you who seek God, your heart shall live.
- 35 For the LORD listens to the needy, \*  
and his prisoners he does not despise.
- 36 Let the heavens and the earth praise him, \*  
the seas and all that moves in them;
- 37 For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; \*  
they shall live there and have it in possession.
- 38 The children of his servants will inherit it, \*  
and those who love his Name will dwell therein.

## Psalm 53 *Dixit insipiens*

- 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*  
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.
- 2 God looks down from heaven upon us all, \*  
to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.
- 3 Every one has proved faithless;  
all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.
- 4 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers \*  
who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon God?
- 5 See how greatly they tremble,  
such trembling as never was; \*  
for God has scattered the bones of the enemy;  
they are put to shame, because God has rejected them.
- 6 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when God restores the fortunes of his people  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

## Psalm 117 *Laudate Dominum*

- 1 Praise the LORD, all you nations; \*  
laud him, all you peoples.
- 2 For his lovingkindness toward us is great, \*  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.  
Hallelujah!

## Psalm 34 *Benedicam Domi*

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; \*  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; \*  
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; \*  
let us exalt his Name together.

- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me \*  
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, \*  
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me \*  
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, \*  
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; \*  
happy are they who trust in him!
- 9 Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, \*  
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, \*  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
- 11 Come, children, and listen to me; \*  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 Who among you loves life \*  
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evilspeaking \*  
and your lips from lying words.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good; \*  
seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, \*  
and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, \*  
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them \*  
and delivers them from all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted \*  
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, \*  
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.
- 20 He will keep safe all his bones; \*  
not one of them shall be broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, \*  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.



22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants,\*  
and none will be punished who trust in him.

## Psalm 30 *Exaltabo te, Domine*

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD,  
because you have lifted me up \*  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 O LORD my God, I cried out to you,\*  
and you restored me to health.
- 3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;\*  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- 4 Sing to the LORD, you servants of his;\*  
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,\*  
his favor for a lifetime.
- 6 Weeping may spend the night,\*  
but joy comes in the morning.
- 7 While I felt secure, I said,  
“I shall never be disturbed.\*  
You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as  
the mountains.”
- 8 Then you hid your face,\*  
and I was filled with fear.
- 9 I cried to you, O LORD;\*  
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- 10 “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? \*  
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?”
- 11 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;\*  
O LORD, be my helper.”
- 12 You have turned my wailing into dancing;\*  
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;\*  
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

## Psalm 21 *Domine, in virtute tua*

- 1 The king rejoices in your strength, O LORD; \*  
how greatly he exults in your victory!
- 2 You have given him his heart's desire; \*  
you have not denied him the request of his lips.
- 3 For you meet him with blessings of prosperity, \*  
and set a crown of fine gold upon his head.
- 4 He asked you for life, and you gave it to him: \*  
length of days, for ever and ever.
- 5 His honor is great, because of your victory; \*  
splendor and majesty have you bestowed upon him.
- 6 For you will give him everlasting felicity \*  
and will make him glad with the joy of your presence.
- 7 For the king puts his trust in the LORD; \*  
because of the lovingkindness of the Most High, he will not fall.
- 8 Your hand will lay hold upon all your enemies; \*  
your right hand will seize all those who hate you.
- 9 You will make them like a fiery furnace \*  
at the time of your appearing, O LORD;
- 10 You will swallow them up in your wrath, \*  
and fire shall consume them.
- 11 You will destroy their offspring from the land \*  
and their descendants from among the peoples of the earth.
- 12 Though they intend evil against you  
and devise wicked schemes, \*  
yet they shall not prevail.
- 13 For you will put them to flight \*  
and aim your arrows at them.
- 14 Be exalted, O LORD, in your might; \*  
we will sing and praise your power.

## Psalm 3 *Domine, quid multiplicati*

- 1 LORD, how many adversaries I have! \*  
how many there are who rise up against me!
- 2 How many there are who say of me, \*  
"There is no help for him in his God."

- 3 But you, O LORD, are a shield about me; \*  
you are my glory, the one who lifts up my head.
- 4 I call aloud upon the LORD, \*  
and he answers me from his holy hill;
- 5 I lie down and go to sleep; \*  
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.
- 6 I do not fear the multitudes of people \*  
who set themselves against me all around.
- 7 Rise up, O LORD; set me free, O my God; \*  
surely, you will strike all my enemies across the face,  
you will break the teeth of the wicked.
- 8 Deliverance belongs to the LORD. \*  
Your blessing be upon your people!

## Psalm 10 *Ut quid, Domine?*

- 1 Why do you stand so far off, O LORD, \*  
and hide yourself in time of trouble?
- 2 The wicked arrogantly persecute the poor, \*  
but they are trapped in the schemes they have devised.
- 3 The wicked boast of their heart's desire; \*  
the covetous curse and revile the LORD.
- 4 The wicked are so proud that they care not for God; \*  
their only thought is, "God does not matter."
- 5 Their ways are devious at all times;  
your judgments are far above out of their sight; \*  
they defy all their enemies.
- 6 They say in their heart, "I shall not be shaken; \*  
no harm shall happen to me ever."
- 7 Their mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression; \*  
under their tongue are mischief and wrong.
- 8 They lurk in ambush in public squares  
and in secret places they murder the innocent; \*  
they spy out the helpless.
- 9 They lie in wait, like a lion in a covert;  
they lie in wait to seize upon the lowly; \*  
they seize the lowly and drag them away in their net.
- 10 The innocent are broken and humbled before them; \*

the helpless fall before their power.

- 11 They say in their heart, "God has forgotten; \*  
he hides his face; he will never notice."
- 12 Rise up, O LORD;  
lift up your hand, O God; \*  
do not forget the afflicted.
- 13 Why should the wicked revile God? \*  
why should they say in their heart, "You do not care"?
- 14 Surely, you behold trouble and misery; \*  
you see it and take it into your own hand.
- 15 The helpless commit themselves to you, \*  
for you are the helper of orphans.
- 16 Break the power of the wicked and evil; \*  
search out their wickedness until you find none.
- 17 The LORD is King for ever and ever; \*  
the ungodly shall perish from his land.
- 18 The LORD will hear the desire of the humble; \*  
you will strengthen their heart and your ears shall hear;
- 19 To give justice to the orphan and oppressed, \*  
so that mere mortals may strike terror no more.

## Psalm 12 *Salvum me fac*

- 1 Help me, LORD, for there is no godly one left; \*  
the faithful have vanished from among us.
- 2 Everyone speaks falsely with his neighbor; \*  
with a smooth tongue they speak from a double heart.
- 3 Oh, that the LORD would cut off all smooth tongues, \*  
and close the lips that utter proud boasts!
- 4 Those who say, "With our tongue will we prevail; \*  
our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"
- 5 "Because the needy are oppressed,  
and the poor cry out in misery,"  
I will rise up," says the LORD,  
"and give them the help they long for."
- 6 The words of the LORD are pure words, \*  
like silver refined from ore  
and purified seven times in the fire.

- 7 O LORD, watch over us \*  
and save us from this generation for ever.
- 8 The wicked prowl on every side, \*  
and that which is worthless is highly prized by everyone.

## Prayers after Liberation

In the Name of the ✠ Father...

Our Father...

### Prayer for Protection

Lord Jesus, I ask your to protect my family [*mention by name*] from all sickness, from all harm, and from accidents. If any of us has been subject to any curses, hexes or spells, I declare them null and void in the name of Jesus Christ. If any evil spirits have been sent against us, I decommission you in the name of Jesus Christ and I send you to Jesus to deal with as He will. Send Your holy angels to guard and protect all of us, both now and forever more.

### Cleansing Prayer for Deliverance Minister for Cleansing

Lord Jesus Christ, we give you humble thanks that you have given us grace to share in your ministry of healing and mercy; we praise your holy Name for Thy mighty work among us and acknowledge that the sickness and evil we encounter are more than our human frailty can bear; cleanse us, I beseech you, of any residue of sadness, negativity, or despair that we may have encountered.

If the ministry committed unto us has tempted us to anger, impatience, or lust, cleanse us, we pray, by your holy and live-giving Spirit and replace them with the virtues of faith, hope, and charity; if any evil spirits have attached themselves to me or oppress me in any way, I command you, spirits of earth, air, fire or water, of the netherworld or of nature, to depart now and go straight to Jesus Christ, for Him to deal with as He will.

Kindle, O Lord, our hearts and minds with the fire of thy Holy Spirit: that we may serve thee in chastity of body, and please thee in purity of soul. O Lord, we beseech thee, may the power of the Holy Ghost be with us, and most mercifully cleanse and purge our hearts, and defend us from all adversities.

Most gracious Father, send your holy angels to minister to us and to our families, to guard and protect us from all sickness, from all harm and accidents (to guard us on our journeys home, and to grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end).

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*(Ephesians 3:20-21)*

Now to Jesus Christ the Lord,  
who by the power at work within us  
is able to do far more abundantly  
than all that we ask or think,  
to Him be **glory in the church** and **in** Christ Jesus  
to all generations, for ever and ever.

In the Name of the ✠ Father...







# PASTORAL MINISTRY AT THE END OF LIFE



**A FORM OF PRAYER WHEN LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT  
IS WITHHELD OR DISCONTINUED**

Adapted from *EOW*2, 117-117-27

**This rite is appropriate when family, friends, and/or caregivers gather for prayer to mark a transition from life-sustaining to palliative care. It may also be used when extraordinary measures are to be withheld or discontinued.**

**The service is appropriate for situations in which death is expected to follow not long after the withholding or discontinuing of treatment. When death is expected immediately after the withholding or discontinuing of treatment, traditional rites at time of death might be preferred.**

**The service may be abbreviated or lengthened as needed.**

**The minister may begin the service with the following sentence**

The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

*Revelation 7:17*

**The Minister continues**

Let us pray.

O God our Father, our Creator and Sustainer, receive our prayers for *N*. We thank you for the love and companionship we have shared with *him/her*. Give us grace now to accept the limits of human healing as we commend *N*. to your merciful care. Strengthen us, we pray, in this time of trial and help us to continue to serve and care for one another; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
*Amen.*

## **In a Time of Difficult Decision**

Lord of all wisdom and source of all life, we come before you as we struggle with decisions about life and death that rightly belong to you alone. We confess that we act with uncertainty now. Give us your help, and guide us, merciful God, in your loving concern for *N.* who lies in grave illness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

**One or more of the following passages of scripture may be read.**

*From the Old Testament*

**Isaiah 49:14-16a** (I will not forget you)

“But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.” “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands.”

**Isaiah 65:17-20** (I am about to create new heavens and a new earth)

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the child shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.”

**Romans 6:3-4, 8-11** (death no longer has dominion)

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

**Romans 8:35, 38-39** (Who will separate us from the love of Christ?)

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**1 Corinthians 15:51-58** (I will tell you a mystery!)

“Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

*The Gospel*

**John 14:1-6** (In my father's house)

Jesus said: "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."

**One or both of the following litanies may be prayed.**

**A Litany for the Discontinuing of Life-Sustaining Treatment:  
Form 1**

**The Minister introduces the litany with these or similar words**

Let us pray to God, the helper and lover of souls, saying "O Lord, make haste to help us."

That we may know your near presence with us, blessed God:  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

That *N.* may be released from the bondage of suffering, blessed God:  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

That our actions may proceed from love, blessed God:  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

That our best judgments may accord with your will, blessed God:  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

That you will hold *N.* and us in the palm of your hand this day, blessed God:  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

That all our fears may be relieved as we place our trust in you,  
blessed God:

*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

That as *N.* labors into new resurrection birth, we may surround  
*him/ her* with courage, blessed God:

*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

That although we now grieve, joy may return in the morning,  
blessed God:

*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

**The Minister adds the following or some other Collect**

O God our Wisdom and Strength: Bless the decisions we have  
made in hope, in sorrow, and in love; that as we place our whole  
trust in you, our choices and our actions may be encompassed by  
your perfecting will; through Jesus Christ who died and rose for  
us. *Amen.*

**A Litany for the Discontinuing of Life-Sustaining Treatment:  
Form 2**

**The Minister introduces the litany with these or similar words**

Hear, encourage, and strengthen us as we pray to you, Holy One, saying, “We put our trust in you.”

As the centurion placed his sick servant under Jesus’ authority,  
Gracious God:

*We put our trust in you.*

As Jonah cried out from the belly of the fish, Gracious God:

*We put our trust in you.*

As did the three young men in Nebuchadnezzar’s fiery furnace,  
Gracious God:

*We put our trust in you.*

As Gideon laid siege to his enemy with a tiny force, Gracious  
God:

*We put our trust in you.*

As the sons of Zebedee left their father and their boat to follow  
Jesus, Gracious God:

*We put our trust in you.*

As the magi followed the star, Gracious God:

*We put our trust in you.*

As did Martha and Mary at the opening of Lazarus’ tomb,  
Gracious God:

*We put our trust in you.*

As Mary Magdalene released her risen Teacher, Gracious God:

*We put our trust in you.*

**The Minister adds the following or some other Collect**

God our Wisdom and Strength: Bless the decisions we have made in hope, in sorrow, and in love; that as we place our whole trust in you, our choices and our actions may be encompassed by your perfecting will; through Jesus Christ who died and rose for us.

*Amen.*

**If Communion is not to follow, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.**

**Laying on of hands, and other parts of Last Rites may then be administered to the person.**



## **An Act of Commitment**

**The service may continue with this act of commitment by family member(s) and/or friend(s) to the individual from whom treatment will be withdrawn.**

**The minister may introduce the act of commitment with these or similar words**

Our Savior Jesus Christ chose to be like us in all things, even to sharing our suffering and death. As God is faithful to us, I now invite you to make a covenant of faithfulness with N.

**Those present say**

N., may Christ comfort you as you follow him on the path now set before you. With God's help, I will journey beside you. With God's help, I will watch and wait with you, and with God's help, I will witness the love of Christ by my presence and prayers with you. Before God and your loved ones, I commit myself to you in the Name of Christ.

**If Communion does not follow, the service may conclude with the Minister saying,**

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit,  
For you have redeemed me, O God of truth.

*People*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

## Additional Collects

### *For Health Care Providers*

God, our Healer and Redeemer, we give thanks for the compassionate care *N.* has received. Bless these and all health care providers. Give them knowledge, virtue, and patience; and strengthen them in their ministry of healing and comforting; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

### *For All Who Suffer*

O God, look with mercy on those who suffer, and heal their spirits, that they may be delivered from sickness and fear. Restore hope for the desolate, give rest to the weary, comfort the sorrowful, be with the dying; and bring them, finally, to their true heavenly home, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

### *For One from Whom Treatment is to be Withheld or Discontinued*

Almighty God, whose peace passes all understanding, we pray that in your good time you will free *N.* from all earthly cares, pardon *his/her* sins, release *him/her* from pain, and grant that *he/she* may come to dwell with all your saints in everlasting glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

# The LAST RITES *of the* CHURCH

*Adapted from 1979 BCP, 396-99, 453-67 with additions from various sources*

**If the Christian has already died by the time the Priest arrives, begin with one of the Sentences below, then move to the Litany at the Time of Death and continue to the end, omitting the Final Absolution.**

✠ Peace be to this house, and to all that dwell in it.

**One or more of the following Sentences may be added**

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

*Deuteronomy 33. 27.*

They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength.

*Isaiah 40. 31.*

In nothing be anxious: but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4. 6, 7.*

**If the dying person is awake, the Priest may explain that the doctors think that the end may be near. The purpose of this time is to prepare you to pass from this life and offer you into the loving care of Almighty God.**

**Priest** Let us pray.

Almighty God, look upon this your servant, lying in great weakness, and comfort *him* with the promise of life everlasting, given in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

¶ Here, or between any of the sections below, one or more of the Psalms at the end of this section may be said.

## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

If the individual is able to make a confession, the priest asks those present to leave. If the person does not wish to make a confession or it is not possible, the rite continues with the Anointing.

The priest may say this prayer before the person makes their confession

O Merciful God, O gracious God, O God, who according to the multitude of thy mercies dost blot out the sins of them that repent, and by pardon and remission dost do away the guilt of their former offences : look mercifully on this thy servant *N.* (this thy handmaid *N.*), and graciously hearken unto *him*, who by sincere confession doth seek remission of all *his* sins. Renew in *him*, most loving Father, whatsoever hath been corrupted by earthly frailty, or decayed by the fraud of the devil : and join this member, which thou hast redeemed, to the unity of the body of the Church. Have mercy, O Lord upon *his* groaning, have mercy on *his* tears: and forasmuch as *he* putteth *his* whole trust in thy mercy admit *him* to the Sacrament of thy reconciliation. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord be in your heart and upon your lips that you may truly and humbly confess your sins: In the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### Penitent

I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to you, [Father/Mother,] that I have sinned exceedingly by my own fault in thought, word, and deed, in things done and left undone, especially \_\_\_\_\_. For these and all other sins which I cannot now remember, I am truly sorry and I pray God to have mercy upon me.

**Or, if it seems more appropriate, the following may be used.**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins  
and wickedness,  
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
[especially in the following ways: \_\_\_\_\_]

We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**or this**

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
[especially in the following ways: \_\_\_\_\_]

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

**The Priest may offer counsel and then says**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive you your offenses; and by his authority committed unto me, I absolve you from all your sins: In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

**If the family is present and the priest discerns it to be appropriate, he may address family members who are present and offer them the opportunity to seek reconciliation with the dying, or to speak words of love to them.**

## ANOINTING

### **The Priest begins**

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us; *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.*

### **The Priest then lays hands upon the person near death, and says**

I anoint you with oil in the Name of ✠ the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the ✠ Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **Laying his hands on the dying person, the Priest may add**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, let there be extinguished in you all power of the devil by the imposition of our hands, [and by the invocation of the blessed Mary and all the Angels & Saints]; and may the Lord in his mercy grant your perfect remission of all thy sins. *Amen.*

**If the sick person desires to be anointed on the seats of the senses, the priest takes the *Oleum Infirmorum* (the Oil of the Sick) and anoints the sick person, saying**

EYELIDS By this holy unction ✠ and by his own most gracious mercy, may the Lord Almighty pardon you whatsoever you have done amiss by seeing. *Amen.*

EARS By this holy unction ✠ and by his own most gracious mercy, may the Lord Almighty pardon you whatsoever you have done amiss by hearing. *Amen.*

NOSTRILS By this holy unction ✠ and by his own most gracious mercy, may the Lord Almighty pardon you whatsoever you have done amiss by smelling. *Amen.*

LIPS By this holy unction ✠ and by his own most gracious mercy, may the Lord Almighty pardon you whatsoever you have done amiss by tasting and speaking. *Amen.*

HANDS By this holy unction ✠ and by his own most gracious mercy, may the Lord Almighty pardon you whatsoever you have done amiss by touching. *Amen.*

FEET By this holy unction ✠ and by his own most gracious mercy, may the Lord Almighty pardon you whatsoever you have done amiss by walking. *Amen.*

As you are outwardly anointed with this holy oil, may our heavenly Father grant you the inward anointing of the Holy Ghost. By His great mercy, may He forgive you your sins, preserve you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The almighty Lord, who is a most strong tower to all those who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, in earth and under the death, do bow and obey; Be now and ever you're your defense; and make the know and feel, that there is none other Name under heaven given to man, in whom, and through whom,

you may receive salvation, but only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## **FINAL HOLY COMMUNION**

**Before administering the Blessed Sacrament, the Priest first says,**

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that it may thankfully be received in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these Holy Mysteries giveth us the pledge of everlasting life; who lives and reigns, now and forever.

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ hath taught us:

Our Father...

**The Sacrament is administered with the following words**

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. *Amen.*

**The Priest may read the following, or another appropriate passage**

### **A Reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans:**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you....Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.



## LITANY AT THE TIME OF DEATH

**When possible, it is desirable that members of the family and friends come together to join in the Litany.**

Dear Friends: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Let us pray, then, for our *brother N.*, that *he* may rest from *his* labors [*or* "who now rests from *his* labors"], and enter into the light of God's eternal sabbath rest.

O God the Father,  
*Have mercy upon him.*

O God the Son,  
*Have mercy upon him.*

O God the Holy Ghost,  
*Have mercy upon him.*

O Holy and glorious Trinity, one God,  
*Have mercy upon him.*

From all evil, from all sin, from all tribulation,  
*Good Lord, deliver him.*

By your holy Incarnation, by your Cross and Passion, by your precious Death and Burial,  
*Good Lord, deliver him.*

By your glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost,  
*Good Lord, deliver him.*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, Lord Christ: That it may please thee to deliver the soul of your servant from the power of evil, and from eternal death,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee mercifully to pardon all *his* sins,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant *him* a place of refreshment and everlasting blessedness,

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give him joy and gladness in your kingdom, with your saints in light,

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:

*Have mercy on him.*

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:

*Have mercy on him.*

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:

*Give him your peace.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.

Our Father, ...

but deliver us from evil.

## **FINAL ABSOLUTION**

**If a confession was not possible earlier in the rite, the Priest says here**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive you your offenses; and by his authority committed unto me, I absolve you from all your sins: In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*  
*The 1928 BCP provides for an absolution of the dying: see p. 319*

## A COMMENDATION *at the TIME of DEATH*

Depart, O Christian soul, out of this world;

In the Name of God the ✠ Father Almighty  
who created you;

In the Name of ✠ Jesus Christ who redeemed you;

In the Name of the ✠ Holy Ghost who sanctifies you.

May your rest be this day in peace,  
and your dwelling place in the Paradise of God.

### **Or the following may be used**

Go forth, Christian soul, from this world, in the name of God the omnipotent Father, who created thee : in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for thee : in the name of the Holy Spirit, who hath been poured out on thee : in the name of the glorious and holy Virgin Mary, the Mother of God: in the name of blessed Joseph, illustrious Spouse of the same Virgin : in the name of Angels and Archangels : in the name of Thrones and Dominations : in the name of Princedoms and of Powers : in the name of Virtues, Cherubim and Seraphim : in the name of Patriarchs and Prophets : in the name of holy Apostles and Evangelists : in the name of holy Martyrs and Confessors : in the name of holy Monks and Hermits : in the name of holy Virgins, and all Saints of God, both men and women. may thy place today be found in peace, and thy dwelling in holy Sion. Through the same Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The following Commendatory Prayers may be added as there is time**

I commend thee, dearest brother (dearest sister), to almighty God, and commit thee to his care, who creature thou art ; that when thou shalt have paid the debt of all mankind by death, thou mayest return to thy Maker, who formed thee out of the dust of the earth.

When, therefore, thy soul shall depart from the body, may the shining company of the Angels meet thee : may the council of the Apostles draw near to thee : may the triumphant army of white-robed Martyrs come to meet thee : may the glorious band of Confessors, crowned with lilies, encompass thee : may the choir of

joyful Virgins receive thee : and may an embrace of blessed repose enfold thee in the bosom of the Patriarchs: may Saint Joseph, the most loving Patron of the dying, lift thee up to great hope : may the holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God, graciously turn her eyes toward thee : may the face of Jesus Christ appear to thee gentle and joyful, and may he give thee a place among those who stand before him for ever.

Mayest thou never know the horror of darkness, nor the flames of hell, nor the bitter pains of eternal death. May the most wicked Satan, with his followers give way before thee : may he tremble at thy coming in the company of Angels, and flee away into the confusion of everlasting night. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered : let them also that hate him flee before him. Like as smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away : and like as wax melteth at the fire, so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God : but let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God. May all the legions of hell be confounded and put to shame, and may the ministers of Satan not dare to stop thee in any way.

May Christ, who was crucified for thee, deliver thee from torment. May Christ, who vouchsafed to die for thee, deliver thee from eternal death. May Christ, the Son of the living God, place thee in the ever-verdant pastures of his paradise : and may he, the true Shepherd number thee among his sheep. May he absolve thee from all thy sins, and place thee at his right hand, in the portion of his elect. Mayest thou behold thy Redeemer face to face, and standing always in his presence, gaze with happy eyes on the open vision of truth. And thus placed amongst the ranks of the Blessed, mayest thou enjoy the sweetness of the contemplation of God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**If the Christian departs, the Priest concludes.**

Rest eternal grant to *him*, O Lord:  
*And let light perpetual shine upon him.*

✠ May *he* rest in peace. *Amen.*

## A Litany Anticipating Heaven

*EOW2, 111-13*

**This litany is also appropriate for use when the body is removed from the home or other place of death.**

**The minister invites the people to pray in these or similar words**

Let us pray with confidence, anticipating heaven, and let the people respond, "Lead your child home."

**The minister continues**

To the gates of Paradise

*Lead your child home.*

To your mercy-seat

*Lead your child home.*

To the kingdom of heaven

*Lead your child home.*

To your true sanctuary

*Lead your child home.*

To the multitude of the blessed

*Lead your child home.*

To the welcome-table

*Lead your child home.*

To the nuptial chamber

*Lead your child home.*

To the New Jerusalem

*Lead your child home.*

To eternal bliss

*Lead your child home.*

To the company of the saints

*Lead your child home.*

To the Supper of the Lamb

*Lead your child home.*

To the garden of delight

*Lead your child home.*

To the throne of majesty

*Lead your child home.*

To the lights of glory

*Lead your child home.*

To the Canaan-ground

*Lead your child home.*

To the highest heights

*Lead your child home.*

To the crown of glory

*Lead your child home.*

To the land of rest

*Lead your child home.*

To Jordan's other shore

*Lead your child home.*

To the Holy City, the Bride

*Lead your child home.*

To the safe harbor

*Lead your child home.*

To the fount of life

*Lead your child home.*

To the gates of pearl

*Lead your child home.*

To the ladder of angels

*Lead your child home.*

To the land of milk and honey

*Lead your child home.*

To the clouds of glory  
*Lead your child home.*

To the refreshing stream  
*Lead your child home.*

To the reward of the righteous  
*Lead your child home.*

To the dwelling-place of God  
*Lead your child home.*

## Additional Prayers

*which may be used if the person lingers*

### *Prayer.*

We commend to thee, O Lord, the soul of thy servant N. (handmaid N.), and we beseech thee, O Lord Jesu Christ, Saviour of the world, that thou, who for *his* sake didst of thy mercy come down to earth, wouldest not refuse *him* a place in the bosom of thy Patriarchs. Acknowledge, O Lord, thy creature not made by strange gods, but by thee the only living and true God : for there is none other God beside thee, nor any works like unto thy works.

Make *his* soul, O Lord, to rejoice in thy presence, and remember not *his* old sins and excesses which have been provoked by the violence of evil desire. For though *he* hath sinned, yet hath *he* not denied the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, but hath believed, and hath had a zeal for God within himself, and hath faithfully adored God, who made all things.

### *Prayer.*

Remember not, O Lord, we beseech thee, the sins of *his* youth and *his* ignorances: but, according to thy great mercy, be mindful of *him* in the brightness of thy glory. Let the heavens be opened to *him*, let the Angels rejoice with *him*. Receive thy servant (handmaid), O Lord, into thy kingdom.

Let Saint Michael, the Archangel of God, who merited the principedom of the heavenly host, receive *him*. Let the holy Angels of God come forth to meet *him* and lead *him* to the heavenly city Jerusalem. Let blessed Peter, the Apostle to whom by God were given the keys of the kingdom of heaven, receive *him*. Let Saint Paul, the Apostle, who was counted worthy to be a vessel of election, intercede for *him*. Let Saint John, the chosen Apostle of God, to whom were revealed the secrets of heaven, intercede for *him*. Let all the holy Apostles, to whom was given by the Lord the power of binding and loosing, pray for *him*.



Let all the Saints and Elect of God, who in this world have suffered torments for the name of Christ, intercede for *him* : that, loosed from the bonds of the flesh, *he* may be worthy to attain unto the glory of the heavenly kingdom, through the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ : Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Prayer.*

May the most merciful Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who is a most kind comforter of the afflicted, commend the spirit of *N.* . .the servant (handmaid) of God, to her son, that by her motherly intercession *he* may not fear the terrors of death ; but may enter rejoicing, in her company, into the mansion of that heavenly country which *his* soul desireth. *Amen.*

*Prayer.*

O Holy Joseph, Patron of the dying, to thee I flee; to thee, at whose blessed passing, Jesus and Mary stood by, keeping watch, by this two-fold and most dear pledge, I earnestly commend the soul of this servant (handmaid) *N.*, now laboring in its last agony ; that through thy protection it may be delivered from the snares of the devil and from eternal death, and may be worthy to attain unto everlasting joys. Through the same Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. In your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen.*

Gracious God, you sent Jesus into the world to bear our infirmities and endure our suffering: Look with compassion on *N.* Support *him/her* with your grace, comfort *him/her* with your protection, and give *him/her* victory over evil, sin, and death. Since [in Baptism] you have given *N.* a share in the passion of Christ, fulfill in *him/her* also the hope and expectation promised in the resurrection, through Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*For Release*

Blessed Jesus, Living Water, Solid Rock: Uphold your child *N.*; loose the fetters of sickness, break *her/his* yoke of pain, and from this land of affliction, lead *her/him* home. *Amen.*

**or this**

God of life, you sent Jesus our Redeemer to your people so that we might be led triumphant through death's overwhelming flood into your radiant presence. In the waters of Baptism, *N.* was marked as your own for ever. Hold *him/her* now with mighty hand and outstretched arm as *he/she* crosses from death to life. Sustain *him/her* with a sure and certain hope of the resurrection, and bring *him/her* into eternal glory. *Amen.*

*For Those Who Mourn*

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus: look with compassion on all who are bound by sorrow and pain through the death of *N.*, a loved one. Comfort them, grant them the conviction that all things work together for good to those who love you, and help them to find sure trust and confidence in your resurrection power; through Jesus Christ our deliverer. *Amen.*

## PSALMS *which may be used*

*Antiphon.* I did call upon the Lord with my voice; And he heard me out of his holy hill.

*Domine, quid multiplicati?* Psalm iii.

LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise against me.

Many one there be that say of my soul, There is no help for him in his God.

But thou, O LORD, art my defender; thou art my worship, and the lifter up of my head.

I did call upon the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill.

I laid me down and slept, and rose up again; for the LORD sustained me.

Salvation belongeth unto the LORD; and thy blessing is upon thy people.

*Antiphon.* I did call upon the Lord with my voice; And he heard me out of his holy hill.



*Antiphon.* I will go unto the altar of God; Unto the God of my joy and gladness.

*Judica me, Deus.* Psalm xliii.

GIVE sentence with me, O God, and defend my cause against the ungodly people; O deliver me from the deceitful and wicked man.

For thou art the God of my strength; why hast thou put me from thee? and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?

O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me, and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling;

And that I may go unto the altar of God, even unto the God of my joy and gladness; and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God.

Why art thou so heavy, O my soul? and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in God; for I will yet give him thanks, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

*Antiphon.* I will go unto the altar of God; Unto the God of my joy and gladness.



*Antiphon.* I have considered the days of old; And the years that are past.

*Voce mea ad Dominum.* Psalm lxxvii.

**I**WILL cry unto God with my voice; even unto God will I cry with my voice, and he shall hearken unto me.

In the time of my trouble I sought the Lord: I stretched forth my hands unto him, and ceased not in the night season; my soul refused comfort.

When I am in heaviness, I will think upon God; when my heart is vexed, I will complain.

Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so feeble that I cannot speak.

I have considered the days of old, and the years that are past.

I call to remembrance my song, and in the night I commune with mine own heart, and search out my spirit.

Will the Lord absent himself for ever? and will he be no more intreated?

Is his mercy clean gone for ever? and is his promise come utterly to an end for evermore?

Hath God forgotten to be gracious? and will he shut up his loving-kindness in displeasure?

And I said, It is mine own infirmity; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most Highest.

*Antiphon.* I have considered the days of old; And the years that are past.



*Antiphon.* Though I walk in the midst of trouble; Yet shalt thou refresh me.

*Confitebor tibi.* Psalm cxxxviii.

**I**WILL give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name, because of thy loving-kindness and truth; for thou hast magnified thy Name, and thy word, above all things.

When I called upon thee, thou heardest me; and enduedst my soul with much strength.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me; thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

The LORD shall make good his loving-kindness toward me; yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the works of thine own hands.

*Antiphon.* Though I walk in the midst of trouble; Yet shalt thou refresh me.

*Antiphon.* The LORD saveth thy life from destruction; And crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness.

*Benedic, anima mea.* Psalm ciii.

**P**RAISE the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his

benefits:

Who forgiveth all thy sin, and healeth all thine infirmities;

Who saveth thy life from destruction, and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness.

O praise the LORD, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength; ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his word.

O praise the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye servants of his that do his pleasure.

O speak good of the LORD, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion: praise thou the Lord, O my soul.

*Antiphon.* The LORD saveth thy life from destruction; And crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness.



*Any of the following Psalms, 20, 27, 42, 91, 121, 146, may, at the discretion of the Minister, be substituted for any of those given above.*

*If the dying person continues to linger, the Priest may desire to stay with them. Appropriate psalms to read to the dying are 46, 90, 130, 139, 23, 27, 106, 116 (see pp 471-479 in the BCP).*

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

*from the 1979 BCP*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray thee to set thy passion, cross, and death, between thy judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living, pardon and rest to the dead, to thy holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Let thy Holy Ghost lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that, when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Catholic Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope; in favor with thee our God; and in perfect charity with the world. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Remember thy servant, O Lord, according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people; and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, *he* may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **For the Family**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray thee, with all those who mourn, that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## PRAYERS AFTER A MISCARRIAGE

### The Officiant begins

✠ Let us praise the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation. Blessed be God for ever.

**People** Blessed be God for ever.

### The Officiant may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

For those who trust in God,  
in the pain of sorrow there is consolation,  
in the face of despair there is hope,  
in the midst of death there is life.

(*Name*) and (*Name*), as we mourn the death of your child, we place ourselves in the hands of God and ask strength, for healing, and for love.

Listen to the words of the book of Lamentations [3:17-18, 21-24]

My soul is deprived of peace,  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
I tell myself my future is lost,  
all that I hoped for from the Lord.  
But I will call this to mind,  
as my reason to have hope:  
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,  
his mercies are not spent;  
They are renewed each morning,  
so great is his faithfulness.  
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;  
therefore I will hope in him.

Here ends the lesson.



## Litany at the Time of Death

**When possible, it is desirable that members of the family and friends come together to join in the Litany.**

Dear Friends: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Let us pray, then, for this child whom we entrust to the care of Almighty God.

O God the Father,  
*Have mercy upon him.*

O God the Son,  
*Have mercy upon him.*

O God the Holy Ghost,  
*Have mercy upon him.*

O Holy and glorious Trinity, one God,  
*Have mercy upon him.*

From all evil, from all sin, from all tribulation,  
*Good Lord, deliver him.*

By your holy Incarnation, by your Cross and Passion, by your precious Death and Burial,  
*Good Lord, deliver him.*

By your glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost,  
*Good Lord, deliver him.*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, Lord Christ: That it may please thee to deliver the soul of your servant from the power of evil, and from eternal death,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee mercifully to pardon all *his* sins,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant *him* a place of refreshment and everlasting blessedness,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give him joy and gladness in your kingdom, with your saints in light,  
*We beseech you to bear us, good Lord.*

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:  
*Have mercy on him.*

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:  
*Have mercy on him.*

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:  
*Give him your peace.*

Lord, have mercy.  
*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.

Our Father, ...  
but deliver us from evil.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord: Receive our *brother N.* into the courts of thy heavenly dwelling place. Let *his* heart and soul now ring out in joy to thee, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A COMMENDATION at the TIME of DEATH**

Depart, O Christian soul, out of this world;

In the Name of God the ✠ Father Almighty  
who created you;

In the Name of ✠ Jesus Christ who redeemed you;

In the Name of the ✠ Holy Ghost who sanctifies you.

May your rest be this day in peace,  
and your dwelling place in the Paradise of God.

Rest eternal grant to *him*, O Lord:  
*And let light perpetual shine upon him.*

✠ May *he* rest in peace. *Amen.*

### **The Officiant then prays for the parents**

Almighty and eternal Father, and Creator of all life and in whom all life and death find meaning, we bless you at all times, especially when we have need of your consolation. N. and N. entrust to your care a life conceived in love. May your blessing come upon them now. Remove all anxiety from their minds and strengthen this love so that they may have peace in their hearts and home; We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### **The Priest then blesses the family**

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, may God the Holy Ghost give you strength; may God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to His heavenly country, where He liveth and reigneth forever and ever. *Amen.*

## A RITE FOR MOURNING THE LOSS OF A PREGNANCY

*EW5, 21-26*

### Concerning the Service

This liturgy is intended for use by people who have experienced the loss of a pregnancy through miscarriage. It may be adapted for other situations.

The loss of a pregnancy is often experienced as the loss of a child. The parents' grief may be compounded by the sadness of not having seen or held the child to whom they were committed. Since the loss of a pregnancy in our culture and even in the Church is seldom acknowledged as a death, the parents have too often been left to mourn in isolation.

Grief for the loss of an unborn child should be honored. Healing may be facilitated through the ministry of the Church.

One or more objects associated with babies may be placed in the sight of the people.

### The Gathering of the People

Music may be played or sung, or Scripture read, as the people gather.

The Minister reads one or more of the following opening sentences (or another opening sentences from the suggestions at the end of this section).

God will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom. *Isaiah 40:11*

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deuteronomy 33:27 (KJV)*

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you, says the Lord. *Isaiah 66:13a*

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears ... But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.

*Lamentations 1:1 6a; 5:19*

The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. *Revelation 7:17*

**The Minister welcomes the people, and states briefly the purpose of the gathering, using these or similar words:**

Here in God's presence we gather with N. [*and N.*] to mourn the loss of *their* child, and to support *them* in *their* grief. Because *their child* died before birth, *their* family is diminished and *their* hope has turned to sorrow. Let us grieve with *them*, and call on God in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior who sent his Spirit to comfort and heal.

**The Collect**

**Minister**

Let us pray.

Gracious and most merciful Father, you hold us in your constant love. Comfort us as we grieve the loss of this child who never was born. Be with N. [*and N.*] in *their* anguish. Grant to *their* child, [*N.*], the joys of heaven; and to each of us, bring healing and grace. Renew our hopes for the future and our faith in your goodness. We pray through Jesus Christ, who carries all our sorrows and brings us from death to new life. *Amen.*

**or this**

O God, who gathered Rachel's tears over her lost children, hear now the sorrow and distress of N. [*and N.*] for the death of *her* expected child. In the darkness of loss, stretch out to *her* the strength of your arm and renewed assurance of your love; through your own suffering and risen Child Jesus. *Amen.* (*From Enriching Our Worship 2*)

**or this**

Heavenly Father, your love for all children is strong and enduring. We were not able to know *N.* as we had hoped. Yet you knew *her* growing in *her* mother's womb, and *she* is not lost to you. In the midst of our sadness, we thank you that *N.* is with you now. *Amen.*  
(From Enriching Our Worship 2)

### **A Reading from Scripture**

**See the end of this section for suggested readings.**

### **Hymn, Psalm, or Canticle**

**Canticle F “A Song of Lamentation, Canticle H “A Song of Hosea,” Canticle I “A Song of Jonah,” or Canticle Q “A Song of Christ’s Goodness” may be said or sung, or a suitable hymn may be sung. One of the following Psalms may be substituted: 13; 2:12-18; 38:6-11.**

**The following litany may be said.**

#### **Litany of Remembrance**

[Adapted from the Reform Jewish Prayer Book]

Memories of *N.* will come to us, unbidden, sometimes unexpected, in all the various moments of our lives. Although memories may bring pain, they also bring comfort—for as long as we remember, *N.* is still part of us.

**Silence may be kept. The name(s) of lost children may be spoken aloud.**

In the rising of the sun and its going down,  
*we remember her.*

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of Winter,  
*we remember her.*

At the opening of buds and in the rebirth of Spring,  
*we remember her.*

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of Summer,  
*we remember her.*

At the rustling of leaves and the beauty of Autumn,  
*we remember her.*

At the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
*we remember her.*

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
*we remember her.*

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
*we remember her.*

When we have joys we yearn to share,  
*we remember her.*

When we have decisions that are difficult to make,  
*we remember her.*

**After a period of silence, the presider may say**

Merciful God, look with pity upon the sorrows of this family for whom we pray. Remember them in your mercy; nourish them with patience; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon them; and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**This anthem or some other suitable anthem, or a hymn may be sung or said**

Give rest, O Christ, to your child with your saints  
*where sorrow and pain are no more,*  
*neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

**The Commendation**

We commend to your mercy, O God, our child *N.*, that death may be for *her* the gate of life and peace with you. At your heavenly banquet, may we rejoice with *her* and all your children to see you face to face, one holy and undivided Trinity in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Give rest, O Christ, to your child with your saints  
*where sorrow and pain are no more,*  
*neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

**The following anthem may be added.**

Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the  
martyrs receive you and bring you into the holy city, Jerusalem.

**Minister**      Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
                         Alleluia. Alleluia.

**People**         Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.



## BABY NAMING AFTER DEATH

**Remember to have a candle and a stone if desired.**

### Opening Sentence

God of all mercies, you make nothing in vain. With you, nothing is wasted or incomplete. In your love you hold all things without end.

Dear child of God: From love you came, to love you will return. And for your earthly span, you have been given that love might be known. Jesus came into the world to show us that God is love and that love is stronger than death.

### The Naming

In the Scriptures (Isaiah 43:1-3) God tells us, 'Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine.'

Let us offer our prayers in silence for *N.* before *her/his* naming.

**If it is appropriate, each person may want to touch his/her hand as they say their prayer in silence.**

Most merciful God, our Creator and Redeemer, who formed this child in the womb; we thank you that you have known *her/him* from before time began;

We now wish to name *her/him* *N.*, a name that will be inscribed on our hearts for ever.

*N.*, I bless your body in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: the God of the living, and the God of the dead.

I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

### **Prayer for Hospital Staff** (*optional*)

**Occasionally, this prayer may be appropriate, especially if the family have been up and down to the hospital for weeks.**

Loving God our Father, we give thanks for those in the hospital who attend to the birthing and sustaining of new life. We thank you for their skill and support which had to cradle *N* into the world. Bless all who helped our family and families like us with strength and compassion as they go about their work this *day/night*. *Amen.*

### **Prayer for the Family**

May the God of all consolation look with tenderness on *N*. and *N*. and all their family at this time. We give thanks for *N/their little one/their child* whose life did not survive the struggle of beginning but who is and will always be child of their flesh, bone of their bone. Leave them not comfortless in the dark emptiness of night, but let their troubled spirits rest by the quiet waters of sorrow, where memory is healed, *N/their child* is not lost, and the light of your countenance shines forever more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Prayer of Commendation**

Into your arms Gracious God, we commend your child *N*, complete and precious in your sign. For *s/he* has known not the light nor the darkness of this world but only the love in which *s/he* was made and held. As *s/he* travels from our longing to your care, receive *her/him* on the clear shore of love's embrace, where there is no more death or sorrow or pain, but only the joy of heaven's safe-keeping.

Enfold *her/him* in your peace this day and for evermore; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. **Amen.**

### **Giving of Candle** (unlit)

Receive this candle as a sign of God's light in the darkness and the light of *N* in your lives. You may wish to keep it and light it on *her/his* anniversary.

### **Taking of Stone** (*optional*)

I also invite you to take a stone, to keep with you. It is a sign, both of the great pain of these days, but also a reminder of God's steadfast love through it all, he who is the cornerstone and the anchor of our souls.

### **Blessing**

May the love of God the Father surround you.

May the deep peace of Christ sustain you.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you to journey with courage and hope.

And should you fall into darkness, may you not be overwhelmed but know yourselves held by the everlasting arms of God, this *day/night* and always.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS FOR THE COMMITAL OF A BODY AT A CREMATORIUM

**The Officiant may address the congregation, acknowledging briefly the purpose of their gathering, and bidding their prayers for the deceased and the bereaved.**

### Readings

Hear the words of Scripture to those who mourn:

Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness! I say to myself, "The Lord is your portion; therefore I will wait for God." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in God, to the one who seeks God. It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. *Lamentations 3:22ff*

The souls of the righteous ones are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of those without understanding they seem to have died, and their departure was thought to be mistreatment, and their going from us a violent fracture; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were chastised; their hope is full of immortality. Having been corrected a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in a crucible, God tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering accepted them. In the time of their examination, they will shine brightly, and will run like sparks through the field of stubble...the faithful will abide with God in love.

*Wisdom 3:1-7, 9b Septuagint trans. J. M. Phillips*

**Any of the readings from the burial office may be used in addition to or instead of the above.**

**Officiant**      Let us pray.

Eternal God, in whose love nothing is lost: Into your hands we commit your servant *N.*, whom you have known from before she was born and held in your watchful care. As *her* body is changed back to the energies and elements of the earth from which it came, may *she* return to you to be clothed in a shining resurrection body and joined in the joyful company of all the saints in light.

Bless us who hold *her* in memory and cherish the good love and labor of *her* life. When morning comes, turn our separation into reunion and transform our grieving into joy, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and your Holy Spirit who is breath and fire of love, who dwell with you, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**As the fire is lit, and the body is committed to the fire, silence is kept. Then the Minister continues**

We have entrusted *N.* to God's mercy, and now in preparation for burial, we give *her* body to the fire, We look for the fullness of the resurrection when Christ shall gather all the saints to reign with him in glory. *Amen.*

**People**

Into your hands we commend *her* spirit,  
for you have redeemed *her*, O Lord, O God of truth.  
Keep *her* as the apple of your eye.  
Hide *her* under the shadow of your wings.

Lord, have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord have mercy.

**Then the Officiant may say one or more of these anthems**

Into paradise may the angels lead you.  
At your coming, may the martyrs receive you,  
and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.

Lord, you now have set your servant free\*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,\*  
Whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A light to enlighten the nations,\*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

The Spirit and the bride say “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. *Isaiah 35:10*

My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life and in your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.  
*Psalm 16:9-11*

**The service concludes as follows:**

**People**

In you, God our Hope, life is changed, not ended.

To you we entrust our beloved one, *N*.

Receive *her* into your arms of mercy.

May *she* dwell in your presence for ever  
and rejoice to see you face to face.

**Officiant**

Go in peace, putting your trust in God. Alleluia.

**People**

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

## ABSOLUTION OF THE DEAD

**This may be said after the Office of the Dead and before the Requiem. It may also be said after the Requiem.**

Enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified, unless thou grant *him* remission of all his sins. We therefore beseech thee, let now the sentence of thy judgment press hard upon *him*, whom the reasonable prayer of thy faithful Christian people commendeth unto thee: but that by the succor of thy grace, *he* who while living was sealed with the sign of the Holy Trinity, may be counted worthy to escape thine avenging judgment. Who livest and reignest, world without end. *Amen.*

Kyrie eleison.  
*Christe eleison.*  
Kyrie eleison.

Our Father...

**Priest** From the gate of hell.  
**Answer** Deliver *his* soul, O Lord.

**Priest** May *he* rest in peace  
**Answer** Amen.

**Priest** O Lord, hear our prayer.  
**Answer** And let our cry come unto thee.

**Priest** The Lord be with you.  
**Answer** And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive: receive our humble petitions, for the soul of thy servant *N.* (thine *handmaid N.*), whom thou hast bidden to depart out of this world: deliver *him* not into the hand of the enemy, neither forget *him* forever; but command thy holy Angels to receive *him* and bring *him* into the country of paradise; that forasmuch as *he* hoped and believed in thee, *he* may not suffer the pains of hell, but possess the joys of eternal life; Through **[bow]** Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Priest** Rest eternal grant to *him*, O Lord:

**Answer** And let light perpetual shine upon *him*.

**Priest** May *he* rest in peace

**Answer** Amen.

Absolve, O Lord, we beseech thee, the soul of thy servant *N.*, that being dead to the world, *he* may live unto thee: and whatsoever *he* hath done amiss in *his* human conversation through frailty of the flesh, do thou wipe away by the pardon of thy merciful goodness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

May the angels lead thee into paradise; and the Martyrs receive thee at thy coming and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem. May the choirs of angels receive thee, and mayest thou, with Lazarus once poor, have everlasting rest.



## SOURCES

Materials have been drawn from a wide variety of sources and over the course of nearly twenty years of ministry. Every attempt was made to discover the source of prayers. Much is drawn from the 1979 American *Book of Common Prayer*, which is not under copyright. Others are drawn from supplemental materials published by The Episcopal Church:

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Psalms are taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979.



**St. Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney**

Patron Saint of Parish Priests

*Ora pro nobis*

KA