

Prayer at the Close of the Day (Compline)

Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. We rest now in his peace and rise in the morning to serve him.

or

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Amen.

Psalm(s)

Psalm 4

1

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

Thou hast given me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

2

O men, how long shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?*Selah*

3

But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;

the Lord hears when I call to him.

4

Be angry, but sin not;

commune with your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.*Selah*

5

Offer right sacrifices,

and put your trust in the Lord.

6

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

Lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, O Lord!"

7

Thou hast put more joy in my heart

than they have when their grain and wine abound.

8

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

for thou alone, O Lord, makest me dwell in safety.

Psalm 33

1

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!

Praise befits the upright.

2

Praise the Lord with the lyre,
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

3

Sing to him a new song,
play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

4

For the word of the Lord is upright;
and all his work is done in faithfulness.

5

He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

6

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

7

He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.

8

Let all the earth fear the Lord,
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

9

For he spoke, and it came to be;

he commanded, and it stood forth.

10

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nought;

he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

11

The counsel of the Lord stands for ever,

the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

12

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,

the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

13

The Lord looks down from heaven,

he sees all the sons of men;

14

from where he sits enthroned he looks forth

on all the inhabitants of the earth,

15

he who fashions the hearts of them all,

and observes all their deeds.

16

A king is not saved by his great army;

a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

17

The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.

18

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

19

that he may deliver their soul from death,
and keep them alive in famine.

20

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.

21

Yea, our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

22

Let thy steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in thee.

Psalm 34

1

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

let the afflicted hear and be glad.

3

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

4

I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

5

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

6

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,
and saved him out of all his troubles.

7

The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

8

O taste and see that the Lord is good!
Happy is the man who takes refuge in him!

9

O fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no want!

10

The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

11

Come, O sons, listen to me,
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12

What man is there who desires life,
and covets many days, that he may enjoy good?

13

Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.

14

Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

15

The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous,
and his ears toward their cry.

16

The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

18

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

19

Many are the afflictions of the righteous;
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

20

He keeps all his bones;
not one of them is broken.

21

Evil shall slay the wicked;
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

22

The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Psalm 91

1

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
who abides in the shadow of the Almighty,

2

will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."

3

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;

4

he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5

You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

6

nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

7

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand;
but it will not come near you.

8

You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.

9

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your habitation,

10

no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

11

For he will give his angels charge of you
to guard you in all your ways.

12

On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13

You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

14

Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.

15

When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will rescue him and honor him.

16

With long life I will satisfy him,
and show him my salvation.

Psalm 130

1

Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord!

2

Lord, hear my voice!

Let thy ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

3

If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

4

But there is forgiveness with thee,

that thou mayest be feared.

5

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

6

my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

7

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is plenteous redemption.

8

And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

Psalm 134

1

Come, bless the Lord,
all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!

2

Lift up your hands to the holy place,
and bless the Lord!

3

May the Lord bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!

Psalm 136

1

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

2

O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

3

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

4

to him who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

5

to him who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

6

to him who spread out the earth upon the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

7

to him who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

8

the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

9

the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

10

to him who smote the first-born of Egypt,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

11

and brought Israel out from among them,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

12

with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

13

to him who divided the Red Sea in sunder,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

14

and made Israel pass through the midst of it,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

15

but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

16

to him who led his people through the wilderness,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

17

to him who smote great kings,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

18

and slew famous kings,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

19

Sihon, king of the Amorites,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

20

and Og, king of Bashan,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

21

and gave their land as a heritage,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

22

a heritage to Israel his servant,

for his steadfast love endures for ever.

23

It is he who remembered us in our low estate,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

24

and rescued us from our foes,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;

25

he who gives food to all flesh,

for his steadfast love endures for ever.

26

O give thanks to the God of heaven,

for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Lesson(s)

Jeremiah 14:9b

9

Why shouldst thou be like a man confused,
like a mighty man who cannot save?
Yet thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us,
and we are called by thy name;
leave us not."

Micah 7:18-20

18

Who is a God like thee, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger for ever
because he delights in steadfast love.

19

He will again have compassion upon us,
he will tread our iniquities under foot.
Thou wilt cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.

20

Thou wilt show faithfulness to Jacob
and steadfast love to Abraham,
as thou hast sworn to our fathers
from the days of old.

Matthew 6:31-34

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** 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.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

6 For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

1 Peter 5:6-9a

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. **7** Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. **8** Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world.

Revelation 22:5

5 And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Bedtime Prayer

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior. Jesus Christ.

Amen.

or

Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the 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.

or

Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are yours, and to you the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest in surety, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep.

Amen.

The Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

Luke 2:29-32

29

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;

30

for mine eyes have seen thy salvation

31

which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to thy people Israel.”