



# *Prayers & Bible Readings*

We hope you find this little collection of prayers and bible readings helpful.

# AN ORDER FOR PRAYER DURING THE DAY

## *The Introduction*

○ God, make speed to save us.

○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Bless the Lord, ○ my soul,  
and all that is within me bless his holy name.

## *Opening Prayers*

1 I bind unto myself today  
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.

2 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.

### *The Readings*

#### *Isaiah 35.3-10*

Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful  
hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.

No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,  
and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

and to enable us to serve him without fear  
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for  
him,  
to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.

### *Matthew 5:3-12*

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and  
sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

#### The Beatitudes

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### ***The Prayers***

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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Eternal light, shine into our hearts,  
eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,  
eternal power, be our support,  
eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,  
eternal pity, have mercy upon us;  
that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength  
we may seek your face  
Amen

## *A Prayer for our current situation*

Heavenly Father, at a time of uncertainty in our world. Bring comfort to those who suffer. Bring peace to those that worry and strength to those who are heavy laden.

May we as a nation accept with calmness our responsibilities for the health and needs of those around us, especially those who are weaker and less fortunate than ourselves.

Be with all who are tasked with looking after the sick, our hospital and medical staff.

May your light be seen to shine in all who help others and protect us in the weeks ahead.**Amen.**

## *The Conclusion*

The love of Christ works in us.

May he guide us and guard us today and always.

May the light of Christ shine in our hearts.

Amen.

## *Additional Readings & Prayers.*

### *Isaiah 41:8-10*

But you, Israel, my servant,  
    Jacob, whom I have chosen,  
    you descendants of Abraham my friend,  
I took you from the ends of the earth,  
    from its farthest corners I called you.  
I said, 'You are my servant';  
    I have chosen you and have not rejected you.  
So do not fear, for I am with you;  
    do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
    I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

### *Lamentations 3:22-23*

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,  
    for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

### *Psalms 121*

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
    where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
    the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip—  
    he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
    will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord watches over you—  
    the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day,  
    nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all harm  
    he will watch over your life;  
The Lord will watch over your coming and going  
    both now and forevermore.

## Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

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

You will only observe with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"  
and you make the Most High your dwelling,  
no harm will overtake you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;  
they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,

I will deliver him and honour him.

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

*1 Peter 1:3-5 & 18-21*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

*Luke 2:29-32*

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

*Luke 1:68-79*

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David

(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),  
salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us—  
to show mercy to our ancestors

and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,

and to enable us to serve him without fear  
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

***For coping with difficulties or illness***

Sovereign God, the defence of those who trust in you  
and the strength of those who suffer:  
look with mercy on our affliction  
and deliver us through our mighty Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Heavenly Father, We ask you to lift all those who suffer out of their  
pain and distress, bring calm where there is fear, joy where there are  
tears and wholeness and relief where there is pain. May all those who  
are in need, feel the comfort of your touch and love.  
Amen.

***For those in pain***

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ,  
understood people's fear and pain  
before they spoke of them,  
we pray for those in hospital;  
surround the frightened with your tenderness;  
give strength to those in pain;  
hold the weak in your arms of love,  
and give hope and patience  
to those who are recovering;  
we ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

***For those who mourn***

O God, who brought us to birth,  
and in whose arms we die,  
in our grief and shock  
contain and comfort us;  
embrace us with your love,  
give us hope in our confusion  
and grace to let go into new life;  
through Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Father, you know our hearts and share our sorrows.  
We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved:  
when we are angry at the loss we have sustained,  
when we long for words of comfort,  
yet find them hard to hear,  
turn our grief to truer living,  
our affliction to firmer hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Gracious God, surround us and all who  
mourn this day with your continuing com-  
passion.  
Do not let grief overwhelm your children,  
or turn them against you.  
When grief seems never-ending,  
take them one step at a time  
along your road of death and resurrection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### ***A prayer for strength***

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human  
family to himself:  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### ***For the healing of memory***

Loving God, you are merciful and forgiving.  
Grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past  
may experience your generous love.  
Heal their memories, comfort them,  
and send them all from here  
renewed and hopeful;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### ***For those who feel guilt***

Give us honest hearts, O God,  
and send your kindly Spirit  
to help us confess our sins  
and bring us the peace of your forgiveness;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Lord, your justice turns evil on itself:  
move us to examine our hearts and repent of all duplicity;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
our Judge and righteous Saviour. Amen

***For those who are lonely***

O God, our sovereign and our shepherd,  
who brought again your Son Jesus Christ from the valley of death,  
comfort us with your protecting presence  
and your angels of goodness and love,  
that we also may come home  
and dwell with him in your house for ever.  
Amen.

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
and day is drawing to a close.  
Abide with us and with your whole Church,  
in the evening of the day,  
in the evening of life,  
in the evening of the world;  
abide with us and with all your faithful ones, O Lord,  
in time and in eternity.  
Amen.

***A prayer of thanksgiving***

Blessed are you, Lord our God.  
How sweet are your words to the taste,  
sweeter than honey to the mouth.  
How precious are your commands for our life,  
more than the finest gold in our hands.  
How marvellous is your will for the world,  
Unending is your love for the nations.  
Our voices shall sing of your promises  
and our lips declare your praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever.  
Amen.

