



A DAY OF GRACE:
Morning and Evening Prayer

Autumn & Early Winter, 2023

DIGITAL EDITION

INTRODUCTION

Lord, teach us to pray – Luke 11:1

Prayer is the lifeblood of the Christian's faith, the "...rope up in the belfry; we pull it, and it rings the bell up in heaven." (Christmas Evans). At its best, prayer is a interaction with God, and a place of peace, safety, challenge, and dynamic interaction. But many well-intentioned Christians have a hard time starting, or sustaining, a life of prayer. It's no surprise! The world, our own hearts, and the enemy all conspire against us.

One of the most reliable and time-tested ways to enter a life of prayer has been to pray with the Scriptures. In the face of the difficulty of our own stubborn hearts, we look to God to provide us with a voice with which to approach Him. Christians also have always used the prayers of former saints, starting with the Psalms; the "Prayer of the Week" (p. 6) was modernized from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Those prayers, in turn, were themselves adapted from liturgies written in the 4th and 5th centuries. So we join our voices with saints from 1500 years ago or more; saints who finished their race with these same words on their lips.

This is a small guide printed on paper; yet it is also a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12), a weapon of resistance against all those things that would keep you from prayer. Let us resist the enemy, reject cynicism, and begin to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

How to use this guide.

This booklet is not a demand or a requirement; think of it as a private tour guide; there are no group demands which require that you be in a certain location at a given time. If you'd like to skip something, or stop and explore, it's your journey. It was written for you; you were not created for this booklet.

Prayer in the morning focuses on giving thanks, and in the evening the focus is on confession, but of course, both are always appropriate.

You might use morning, evening, or both in varying degrees, perhaps choosing to do all the Bible reading in the morning and skipping in the evening, combining, adding, or revisiting favorite elements. This may be especially helpful for those using it only once per day.

A word of warning: this is not for reading; it is for *praying*. The guide can bring you to the sites, but you must appreciate them personally, and engage with them yourself. Reading prayers can become an easy substitute for actually praying them.

Our season of prayer for the two months of Autumn and Early Winter will focus on the ordinary rhythms of the Christian life: a life of dependence on Christ, faithful growth, and the pursuit of missions, service, worship, and prayer, through the power of the Spirit.

MORNING PRAYER

Opening | Psalm 95:6-7

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Praise | Revelation 15:3-4

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the
Almighty!
Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.

Give praise to God from the heart.

Thanks | Psalm 75:1

We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks, for your name is near.
We recount your wondrous deeds.

Give thanks for the blessings in your life.

Psalm

Read the next consecutive Psalm in your Bible.

Gloria Patri

*Sing or say the Gloria Patri (p. 13), and then
continue to “Readings,” (p. 6).*

EVENING PRAYER

Opening | Psalm 141:1-2

O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me!
Give ear to my voice when I call to you!
Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Praise | 1 Tim. 1:17

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Give praise to God from the heart.

Confession | Heb. 8:12 & Matt. 18:32

Be merciful to us in our unrighteousness, and remember no more our sins and our iniquities. Forgive us that great debt, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Take time for self-examination and repentance.

Assurance | Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Psalm

Read the next consecutive Psalm in your Bible.

Gloria Patri

Sing or say the Gloria Patri (p. 13), and then continue to “Readings,” (p. 6).

READINGS

Read today's selections from your Bible reading plan. You can choose your selections in the morning, evening, or both.

Suggested Bible reading plan:

	<i>Foundational</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Jeremiah 1-29</i>	<i>Revelation</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Romans & 1 Cor.</i>	<i>Joshua</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Jeremiah 30-52</i>	<i>Special Advent</i> [▲]

Continue to “Intercessions.”

INTERCESSIONS

Prayer of the Week

October 1-7

LORD, we pray to you that your grace may always go before us, follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

October 8-14

LORD, we implore you, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[▲]The “Special Advent” readings will be published in the Advent-Christmas 2023/24 edition of *A Day of Grace*.

October 15-21

O GOD, since without you, we are not able to please you; kindly grant that your Holy Spirit may direct and guide our hearts in all things; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

October 22-28

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, in your abundant goodness, protect us from all things that may harm us; so that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that you would have us do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

October 29 - November 4

Grant, we implore you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 5-11

LORD, we implore you to keep your household the Church in continual godliness; that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve you in good works, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 12-18

O GOD our refuge and strength, who are the source of all godliness; be ready, we implore you, to hear the devout prayers of your Church; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectively; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 19-25

O LORD, we implore you, absolve your people from their offenses; that through your abundant goodness we may all be delivered from the bonds of those sins, which by our frailty we have committed: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Savior. Amen.

November 26 - December 2

Stir up, we implore you, O LORD, the wills of your faithful people; that they, abundantly bringing forth the fruit of good works, may be abundantly rewarded by you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Missions

O GOD, who has made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and did send your blessed Son to preach peace to those that are far off and near; grant that all men everywhere may seek after you and find you. Bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercessions

Pray for the needs and burdens in your life and heart. It may be helpful to maintain a list of prayer requests that come to you. Additional topics for prayer are suggested below, and can be used on a 30-day rotation, or perused for reminders.

Intercessions

1. Unity among God's people / civil authorities / the poor
2. The Presbytery / Stewardship of Creation / to know and love God
3. The diaconate / times of economic stress / the relationships of children and parents
4. The Harvest of lands and waters / homeschoolers, schools, colleges, and universities / Mercy
5. The Lord's Day worship and music of the church / honor for all those made in the image of God / prisoners
6. Men's and women's ministries / those who serve others / lifelong preparation for the day of our deaths
7. An end to disease / the President and all in civil authority / the unrepentant
8. All Missionaries / justice to be done in our courts / a desire to seek God
9. Peace in places that have suffered violence / the children of the congregation / Guidance in difficult decisions
10. The tourism industry / an end to racial prejudice / union with Christ

11. Those suffering scarcity or famine / the governor and state legislature / the bereaved
12. Successful evangelism / commerce and industry / those who have become absent in our lives
13. New pastors and pastors in training / those in bondage to addiction / quiet confidence
14. Times of worry and anxiety / agriculture and farming / those who are preparing to die soon.
15. A true desire for God / other denominations & churches / the unemployed
16. Appreciation of God's creation / our city and region / inner renewal through the word
17. Justice to be done in our courts / those with chronic disease / personal commitment to obedience to God
18. Those who are underpaid or underemployed / situations of turmoil within extended families / those who are preparing to die soon.
19. The Supreme Court and all lesser courts / those who live alone / satisfaction in Christ
20. Good harvests for farmers and gatherers / those in the Armed Forces / the recovery of the sick
21. The General Assembly / healthy marriages / help and mercy for the lost
22. The Supreme Court and all lesser courts / those who shape public opinion / our remembrance of the deceased / participation in the peace of God
23. Upcoming elections / medical professionals / watchfulness over our own hearts and those of others.
24. The session / enemies of the Gospel to be won to Christ / joy at the end of life

25. The Spirit of Prayer / Congress or a state legislature / in times of suffering or weakness
26. Those who serve others / the discouraged and downcast / Christ to be formed in us
27. Justice to be done in our courts / Grace to seek God in every way / a virtuous heart
28. Those who travel / families / Holy thoughts and desires
29. Those afflicted with mental suffering / fathers and mothers to be honored / to please God rather than men
30. The elderly / marriages and families that are falling apart / the coming of God's Kingdom

The Lord's Prayer | Matthew 6:9-13

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Grace | Philippians 4:7

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Appendix: The Gloria Patri

The Gloria Patri is known by its Latin name, which is literally the first words of the hymn: “Glory be to the Father.” Also known as the “Lesser Doxology,” it has been sung or chanted since it arose in the 4th century Trinitarian controversies. While the words themselves are not in the Bible in this order, the content is thoroughly Biblical. See Romans 11:36, Ephesians 3:21, 1 Peter 4:11, John 1:1-14, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:8-9, John 14:16-17, Acts 2:38, Romans 8:26, Psalm 90:2, Revelation 1:8, Isaiah 57:15.

*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.*

Notes

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