

PRAYERS IN TIME OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

an Order of Prayer, drawn from the *Book of Common Prayer*, 2019

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OPENING VERSES

*If these prayers are used as a separate Office of prayer, begin with the following.*

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him.

DANIEL 9:9

Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

PSALM 68:20

**Praise the Lord, O my soul; \***  
while I live I will praise the Lord.  
**Indeed, as long as I have my being, \***  
I will sing praises unto my God.  
**Put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man, \***  
for there is no help in them.  
For when one breathes his last,  
he shall return again to the earth; \*  
and in that day all his thoughts perish.  
**Blessed is the one who has the God of Jacob for his help \***  
and whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
Who made heaven and earth, the sea,  
and all that is therein; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;  
Who does right to those who suffer wrong; \*  
and who feeds the hungry.  
The Lord sets prisoners free; \*  
the Lord gives sight to the blind.  
The Lord helps those who have fallen; \*  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord cares for the strangers in the land; he defends  
the fatherless and widow; \*  
but the way of the ungodly he makes crooked.  
The Lord shall be King for evermore, \*  
even your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Praise the Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

Almighty God and heavenly Father, we bless and praise your Name on behalf of your servant *N.*, and we give you humble thanks that you have been pleased to deliver *him* from sickness. Grant, O gracious Father, that by your help *he* may live in this world according to your will, and be made a partaker of everlasting glory in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*If these prayers are used as a separate Office of prayer, conclude with the following.*

May God be merciful unto us, and bless us,  
and show us the light of his countenance,  
and be merciful unto us.

**Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**indeed, let all the peoples praise you. Amen.**

PSALM 67:1-3

THE FIFTH COLLECT

*Concluding Prayer*

*#98 For the Acceptance of Prayer*

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.**

*#99 For the Acceptance of Prayer*

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.**

*#100 For the Answering of Prayer*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in the Name of your Son: Mercifully incline your ear to us as we make our prayers and supplications to you; and grant that what we ask faithfully, according to your will, we may obtain effectually, for the relief of our necessities and the setting forth of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#123 For Deliverance from Peril*

Almighty God, our strong tower of defense in time of trouble: We offer you praise and heartfelt thanks for our deliverance from the dangers which lately surrounded us. We confess that your goodness alone has preserved us; and we ask you still to continue your mercies toward us, that we may always know and acknowledge you as our Savior and mighty Deliverer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LESSON

*The first lesson is recommended for Sunday through Tuesday, the second for Wednesday and Thursday, and the third for Friday and Saturday.*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious 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 surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

*or this*

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

*or this*

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone 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 one who is sick, 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 person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

JAMES 5:13-18

## THE PRAYERS

*If these prayers are used as a separate Office of prayer, continue with THE KYRIE and THE LORD'S PRAYER.*

### A PRAYER FOR A TIME OF ANY PLAGUE OR SICKNESS

O Almighty God, who in your wrath sent a plague upon your own people in the wilderness for their obstinate rebellion against Moses and Aaron; and also in the time of King David, sent a plague of pestilence which killed seventy thousand, but, remembering your mercy, spared the rest: Have pity upon us miserable sinners, who now are visited with great sickness and mortality; and in the same way that you then accepted an atonement and commanded the destroying Angel to cease from punishing: so it may now please you to withdraw from us this plague and grievous sickness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Then follow five collects, each chosen from their respective list.*

### THE FIRST COLLECT *Preparatory Prayers*

#### *#5 For the Spirit of Prayer*

O Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *#26 In Times of Natural Disaster*

Almighty God, by your Word you laid the foundations of the earth, set the bounds of the sea, and still the wind and waves. Surround us with your grace and peace, and preserve us through this *plague*. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, strengthen those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *#79 For Mercy*

Almighty God, you have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; grant that we, who for our evil deeds deserve to be punished, by the might of your grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### *#80 For Trustfulness in Times of Worry and Anxiety*

Most loving Father, you will us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on the One who cares for us. Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested unto us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *#81 For Help to Bear Bereavement*

Heavenly Father, help us to entrust our loved ones to your care. Though sorrow darkens our lives, help us to look up to you, remembering the cloud of witnesses by which we are surrounded. And grant that we on earth, rejoicing ever in your presence, may share with them the rest and peace which your presence gives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *#82 For Quiet Confidence*

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE FOURTH COLLECT

*For peace of mind*

*#59 For the Discouraged and Downcast*

O God, almighty and merciful, you heal the broken-hearted, and turn the sadness of the sorrowful to joy, Let your fatherly goodness be upon all whom you have made. Remember in pity all those who are this day destitute, homeless, elderly, infirm, or forgotten. Bless the multitude of your poor. Lift up those who are cast down. Mightily befriend innocent sufferers, and sanctify to them the endurance of their wrongs. Cheer with hope all who are discouraged and downcast, and by your heavenly grace preserve from falling those whose poverty tempts them to sin. Though they be troubled on every side, suffer them not to be distressed; though they are perplexed, save them from despair. Grant this, O Lord, for the love of him who for our sakes became poor, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*#76 For Guidance*

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

*#77 For Guidance*

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#44 In Times of Social Conflict or Unrest*

Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#95 In Times of Suffering or Weakness*

Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: I hold up all my weakness to your strength, my failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the Cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived, without cowardice and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love. **Amen.**

THE SECOND COLLECT

*For those who are vulnerable, at risk, or sick*

*#53 For those who travel*

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel; surround *them* with your loving care; protect *them* from every danger; and bring *them* in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#56 For the elderly*

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Provide for *them* homes of dignity and peace; give *them* understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and as *their* strength diminishes, increase *their* faith and *their* assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#57 For those with chronic disease*

Heavenly Father, sustainer of our life and source of our hope: Comfort and relieve all who endure long-term illness or persistent handicap [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Give your grace to all who minister to *their* needs, that *they* may be strengthened in *their* weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through him who knows our weakness and has shared our sorrows, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#58 For a person in trouble or bereavement*

O merciful Father, you have taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity on the sorrows of your servant *N*. Remember *him*, O Lord, in mercy; nourish *his* soul with patience; comfort *him* with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon *him*; and give *him* peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#61 For the Recovery of a Sick Person*

Almighty and immortal God, giver of life and health: We implore your mercy for your servant *N*., that by your blessing upon *him* and upon those who minister to *him* with your healing gifts, *he* may be restored to health of body and mind, according to your gracious will, and may give thanks to you in your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE THIRD COLLECT

*For those who are responsible for others*

*#30 For Civil Authorities*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, send down on those who hold public office [especially \_\_\_\_\_] the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#45 For those who serve others*

O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served, but to serve: We ask you to bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; endure them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the sake of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*#50 For the Medical Professions*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: Continue in our *hospitals* his gracious work among us; console and heal the sick; grant to the physicians, nurses, and assisting staff wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your blessing upon all who serve the suffering; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*#51 For those who inform public opinion*

Almighty God, your truth endures from age to age: Direct in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may speak your truth to make the heart of this people wise, its mind discerning, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**