

# Home Prayers

September 12, 2021 • Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 685-679, and with liturgical resources prepared for the Season of Creation found at [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org))

*If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text. If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently.*

## The Preparation

O God, you command a light to shine out of darkness.  
Shine in our hearts that we may be as lights in the world  
reflecting the glory of Jesus in our lives.  
**God is light and in him is no darkness.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

1. How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
When once we heed your call:  
To live according to your word,  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all,  
and will not let us fall.
2. But if, forgetful, we should find  
Your yoke is hard to bear;  
If worldly pressures fray the mind,  
and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care:  
Our inward life repair.
3. We marvel how your saints become  
in hindrances more sure;  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure  
your power to cleanse and cure.
4. In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
together or alone,  
in old routines and ventures new,  
may we not cease to look to you,  
the cross you hung upon,  
all you endeavored done.

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*The collect of the day may be said.*

O God, protector of the poor and defender of the just:  
give us wisdom from above,  
so that we may find in your servant Jesus  
the pattern of true discipleship  
and persevere in following him,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## Reading

*The epistle of the day may be read. James 3:1-12 is appointed for Pentecost 16:*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

*Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.*

## 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.

## Intercessions

*Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed.*

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, so that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they themselves face trauma.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the least, the last, and the lost.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Forming God, you gather this community together across space and time, and sustain the life and work of our diocesan family. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honour you and encourage one another.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life, to the end of our earthly pilgrimage and to the abundant life you promise beyond. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions can be offered.*

*This concluding prayer can then be said:*

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Conclusion**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**