

# Home Prayers

September 13, 2020 • Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 685-679)

*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. This one can go to the tune Land of Rest.*

1. Forgive our sins as we forgive,  
you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you!
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.

*Words: Rosamond Eleanor Herklots (1905-1987)*

*The collect of the day may be said.*

God of deep compassion,  
you welcome the weak  
and free us from the bondage of sin.  
Break the cycle of judgement and violence  
through Jesus, our forgiveness,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.  
**Amen.**

## Reading

*The Gospel of the day may be read. Matthew 18:21-35 is appointed for Pentecost 15:*

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

*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.*

Merciful and gracious God, you are slow to anger and abound in steadfast love for your people: hear the prayers your people offer.

We pray for the healing of your wounded world, for an end to ancient feuds, and for the process of reconciliation in our own land: where there is suspicion, bring trust; where there is hostility, bring peace; where there is injury, bring justice. Forgiving God, help us to bring your reconciling love to the world,

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

We pray for the healing of your wounded church, for an end to division and for the continuing revealing of the full, visible unity of Christians everywhere: where there is error, bring truth; where there is hurt, bring forgiveness; where there is exclusion, bring welcome. Forgiving God, help us to bring your reconciling love to the world,

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

We pray for the healing of our wounded communities, for the wellbeing of all who are disregarded and forgotten: where there is neglect, bring concern; where there is hardship, bring relief; where there is despair, bring hope. Forgiving God, help us to bring your reconciling love to the world,

and in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the healing of your wounded people, for release from suffering of body, mind, or spirit: where there is pain, bring comfort; where there is sorrow, bring consolation; where there is abuse, bring repentance and care. Forgiving God, help us to bring your reconciling love to the world,

and in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the healing of this wounded planet, for release from its bondage to decay: where there is negligence, bring stewardship; where there is pollution, bring renewal; where there is disregard for those who come after us, bring sustainability. Forgiving God, help us to bring your reconciling love to the world,

and 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.**