

# Home Prayers

October 18, 2020 • Twentieth 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 Ravenshaw.*

1. The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

*Words: Ps. 23; para. Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)*

*The collect of the day may be said. This is a collect for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:*

Almighty and everliving God,  
increase in us your gift of faith,  
that forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to what is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Reading

*The Gospel of the day may be read. Matthew 22:15-22 is appointed for Pentecost 20:*

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

*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.*

For peace and harmony in the Church and in the world let us pray to the Lord.

Grant that the Church shall always bear witness to God as supreme, rendering the honour and worship that are his due ... May all Christian people show forth their faith by their words and by their deeds.

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

We pray for justice and honest dealing between nations and between individuals ... Give to those in authority the wisdom to know the limits of their power and to demand no more than is right.

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

Bless us, our families, neighbours and friends, with obedience in all things lawful and courage to resist injustice ... Bless those who manage the finances of our communities and give them right judgement in all their decisions.

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

Have mercy on all who bear heavy burdens of taxation for the benefit of the few and not for the common good ... Guide and strengthen those whose Christian allegiance is divided and uncertain, and keep them in the way of truth.

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

We give thanks for the departed who have rendered their duty in this world and gone to their rest ... Give them peace in the realm where nothing can challenge their whole loyalty to their God and Saviour.

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

May Christ guide us in all our decisions and accept our prayers which we offer in his name.

*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.