

Home Prayers

October 10, 2021 • Twentieth 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)

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. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

*Text by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649),
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-2878)*

The collect of the day may be said.

God of the narrow way,
you call us to shed all that burdens
the lightness of life:
help us to surrender false wealth,
embrace our need of you
and live for your kingdom above all things;
through Jesus Christ, the richness of God.
Amen.

Reading

The gospel of the day may be read. Mark 10:17-31 is appointed for Pentecost 20:

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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.

Loving God, you have taught us to come to you in prayer, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need: hear our prayers for the world and for the church.

We pray for the peoples of the world: for those whose lives and lands are devastated by war; for those who are victims of poverty, exploitation, and disease; for leaders of governments, financiers, and international agencies. Lead us in the path of righteousness so we may leave behind violence and greed and follow in your way, that all your people may live in dignity and peace.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for your holy, catholic church: for all who seek to live as your disciples; for all who suffer persecution for their faith; for leaders of churches and all who are priests and ministers of your people. Lead us in the path of salvation so we may leave behind the works of evil and follow in your way, that our lives may proclaim your gospel in the world.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for our communities and for all with whom we share our lives: for those whose work enriches our lives and those who have no or too little work; for civic leaders and all with responsibility for the welfare of others; for our families our friends, and for ourselves. Lead us in the path of love so we may leave behind intolerance and envy and follow in your way, that our communities may be places of welcome and care.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in trouble, need, or distress: for the frail, the elderly, and all who cannot care for themselves; for the lonely and the unloved, the sad and all who mourn; for the confused and the despairing, the sick and the dying. Lead us in the path of compassion so that we may leave behind the selfishness and apathy and follow in your way, that to those who suffer we may bring comfort and relief.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember all who have died in the faith: those of every age who have left all to follow you; those who have gone before us from our communities and families. Lead us in the path of faith so that we may leave behind all earthly wealth, that with your faithful followers of every time and place, we may find in you eternal treasure.

Loving God, 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.