

# Home Prayers

September 19, 2021 • Seventeenth 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. Sister, let me be your servant.  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I might have the grace  
to let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey.  
fellow travellers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will weep when you are weeping.  
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
'till we've seen this journey through.
4. When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony  
born of all we've known together  
of great love and agony.
5. Brother, let me be your servant.  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I might have the grace  
to let you be my servant, too.

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*The collect of the day may be said.*

O God,  
who draws near to us  
and whose nature is revealed in lordship laid aside:  
give us grace to welcome you  
in the child and in the outcast;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, who humbled himself  
so that we might know eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## **Reading**

*The gospel of the day may be read. Mark 9:30-37 is appointed for Pentecost 17:*

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

*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.*

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you.  
Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake.

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

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this  
world and empower us to support organizations and individuals striving to safeguard the  
integrity of God's creation, and to respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth.

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

God of reconciliation, we pray for the nations of the world, especially those in conflict or  
division. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work toward peaceful solutions. Guide the  
people of this land as we prepare to choose leaders who will serve the common good.

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

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find the help they need. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak.

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

God of compassion, we pray for our young people. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them.

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

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints and on all who mourn.

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.**