

A Week's Shared Prayers

First Day, the Lord's Day, Morning:

Worship

O LORD,
we commune with you every day
but week days are full of worldly cares,
and secular concerns reduce heavenly impressions:
we bless you for this day sacred to our souls,
during which we can wait on you and be refreshed.
We thank you for the means of grace
by which we draw near to you and you to us;
and we rejoice in another Lord's Day,
upon which we take our minds off the cares of the world,
and focus upon you without distraction.
Lord, that our souls may be quickened and elevated,
may our retirement be devout,
our conversation edifying,
our reading pious, and our hearing profitable.
Lord, as we go to the house of prayer,
pour upon us the spirit of grace and supplication.
Lord, as we go to the house of praise,
awaken in us every grateful and cheerful emotion.
Lord, as we go to the house of instruction,
give testimony to the Word preached,
and glorify it in the hearts of all who hear.
May it enlighten the ignorant,
awaken the careless, reclaim the wandering,
establish the weak, comfort the feeble-minded,
and make your people ready to serve you.
Lord, be a sanctuary to all who cannot come,
and do not forget those who never come.
And Lord, make us benevolent toward our dependents,
forgiving toward our enemies,
peaceable toward our neighbours,
and open toward our fellow-Christians.

First Day, the Lord's Day, Evening:

The Teacher

O GOD,
we bless you,
our Creator, Preserver, Benefactor, and Teacher,
for opening to us the volume of nature in which
we may read and consider your works;
but today you have spread before us
the fuller pages of revelation in which we see
what you would have us do,
what you require of us,
what you have done for us,
what you have promised to us, and
what you have given us in the Lord Jesus.
We pray for a conscious experience of his salvation
in our deliverance from sin,
in our bearing his image,
in our enjoying his presence, and
in our being upheld by his free Spirit.
Do not let us live uncertain of what we are
or of where we are going.
Bear witness with our spirit that we are your children
and enable each one of us to say, 'I know my Redeemer.'
Bless us with a growing sense of this salvation.
May those enlightened in Christ see greater things;
may those quickened by your Spirit enjoy more abundant life;
and may those renewed go on from strength to strength.
Grant that we may draw closer and closer to the Lord Jesus
that we may bring forth more fruit,
have a deeper sense of our obligations to him,
surrender all, have a fuller joy,
and serve him more completely.
And may our faith work by love
to the glory of him who died for us
and for the good of our fellow-believers and fellow-men.

Second Day Morning:

God over All

O GOD all-sufficient,
who made and upholds all things by your word of power:
darkness is your pavilion.
You walk on the wings of the wind,
and all nations are as nothing before you.
Generation succeeds generation,
and we hasten back to the dust.
The heavens we see will vanish like the clouds that cover them,
and the earth, upon which we tread,
will dissolve as a morning dream;
but you, O LORD, remain unchangeable and incorruptible.
You are for ever and ever God over all, blessed eternally.
You are infinitely great and glorious,
and we are your offspring for whom you care.
Your hands have made and fashioned us;
you watch over us with more than paternal love,
and with more than maternal tenderness.
You have given us and keep us in life,
and you do not suffer our feet to be moved;
and your divine power has given us
all things necessary for life and godliness.
May we bless you always,
and may we never forget how you have
forgiven our iniquities,
healed our diseases,
redeemed us from destruction,
crowned us with loving-kindness,
lavished on us tender mercies,
satisfied us with good things,
and renewed our youth like an eagle's;
and may your holy Scriptures govern every part of our lives
and regulate the discharge of all our duties,
that we may adorn your doctrine in all things.

Second Day Evening:

Bounty

O GREAT and only Ruler,
maker of summer and winter, day and night,
each of which serves our welfare,
and each of which is full of your care and kindness:
your goodness is seen in the relations who train us,
in the laws that defend us,
in the provision of homes in which we enjoy shelter,
in the gift of food to strengthen us,
in the supply of clothing for our comfort,
and in the continuance of our health, members, senses,
understanding, memory, affection and will;
but, as stars fade before the rising sun,
you eclipse all these benefits in the wisdom and grace
that purposed redemption by Jesus your Son.
Blessed be your mercy that laid help on him
who is mighty, willing and able to save to the uttermost;
make us deeply sensible of our need of his saving grace,
of the blood that cleanses, and of the rest he has promised;
impute to us that righteousness which justifies the guilty,
gives a title to eternal life, and possession of your Spirit.
May we love the freeness of salvation and enjoy its holiness.
Give us faith to grasp your promises
for they are our hope.
They provide for every exigency,
and prevent every evil.
Keep our hearts from straying after forbidden pleasures.
May your will bind all our desires;
may we live out of the world
as to its spirit, maxim and manners,
but live in it as the sphere of our action and usefulness;
may we be alive to every call of duty,
and accept without question your determination
of our circumstances and our service.

Third Day Morning:

God Creator and Controller

O MOST HIGH God,
the universe with all its myriad creatures is yours,
made by your word, upheld by your power,
and governed by your will:
you are the Father of mercies, the God of all grace,
the bestower of all comfort,
and the protector of the saved;
you have been mindful of us;
you have visited us and preserved us,
and have given us a goodly heritage –
the Holy Scriptures, the joyful gospel,
and our Saviour Jesus Christ.
We come to you in his name;
we rely on his righteousness alone;
and we plead his obedience and sufferings,
by which he magnified the law, its precepts and penalty,
and made it honourable.
May we be justified by his blood,
saved by his life, united to his Spirit,
and take up his cross and follow him.
By your grace, prepare us for all you appoint;
make us willing for you to choose our inheritance
and to determine what we shall retain, lose, suffer or enjoy.
If blessed with prosperity, may we be free from its snares,
and may we use and never abuse its advantages.
May we patiently and cheerfully submit
to those afflictions which are necessary.
When tempted to wander,
hedge up our way,
excite in us abhorrence of sin,
wean us from the present evil world,
and assure us that we shall at the last enter Emmanuel's land
where none is ever sick and the sun always shines.

Third Day Evening:

Before Sleep

GOD of all Sovereignty,
whose greatness is unsearchable,
whose name is most excellent,
and whose glory is above the heavens:
ten thousand minister to you,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stand before you.
In your awesome presence we are less than nothing;
We do not approach you because we deserve your notice,
for we are sinners.
It is our needs which compel us;
your promises which encourage us;
our broken hearts that incite us;
the Mediator who draws us;
and it is your acceptance of others that moves us.
Look upon us and be merciful to us;
convince us of the penalty and pollution of sin;
give us faith to believe and, in believing, to have life in Jesus.
May we enter into his sufferings,
and see your hand in the instruments of our grief;
may we rejoice that we are under your overruling providence;
may our weeping never hinder our sowing,
nor our sorrows distract us from our duty.
Whilst living in a world of change,
may we ever seek the abiding city;
and be with us to our journey's end
that we may glorify you in death as in life.
We bless you for our preservation, for your supplies and mercies.
To you, the keeper of our souls, we commit all that we are and have.
May no evil befall us, no sickness come near us, and no horror disturb us;
may our conscience be clear, our hearts pure, and our sleep sweet!
And, with the innumerable company who neither slumber nor rest,
we join in ascribing blessing, honour, glory and power
to the Lamb upon the throne, both now and for ever and ever.

Fourth Day Morning:

True Christianity

O LORD of heaven,
whose goodness is inexpressible and inconceivable:
in the works of creation you are almighty;
in the dispensations of providence all wise;
and in the gospel of grace all love.
In your beloved Son you have provided
our deliverance from the effects of sin,
the justification of our persons,
the sanctification of our natures,
and the perseverance of our souls in the path of life.
Though exposed to the terrors of your law,
we have a refuge from the storm;
though compelled to cry, 'Unclean',
we have a fountain for sin;
and, though creature-cells of emptiness,
we have a fullness accessible to all and incapable of reduction.
Grant us always to know that to walk with the Lord Jesus
makes other interests a shadow and a dream;
keep us from intermittent attention to eternal things;
and save us from the delusion of those
who fail to go far in the faith,
who are concerned but not converted,
who have another heart but not a new one,
and who have light, zeal and confidence, but not Christ.
May we judge our profession of faith,
not only by our dependence upon the Lord Jesus
but also by our love for him,
our conformity to him, and our knowledge of him.
Give us a faith that is both real and progressive;
that holds its way and grows stronger;
that lives and works in the Spirit;
that profits by every correction;
and is not injured by any carnal indulgence.

Fourth Day Evening:

God All-Sufficient

KING of Glory, Divine Majesty:

every perfection adorns your nature and sustains your throne;

the heavens and earth are yours;

the world is yours and its fullness;

your power created the universe from nothing;

your wisdom manages all its multiple concerns;

you preside over nations, families and individuals;

your goodness is boundless;

and all creatures are dependent upon you,

supplied by you, and satisfied in you.

How precious to us are all thoughts of your mercy and grace!

How excellent is your loving-kindness that draws men to you!

Teach us, O blessed God, to place our happiness in you;

teach us never to seek life among the dead things of earth,

nor to ask for that which satisfies the deluded;

may we prize the light of your smile,

implore the joy of your salvation,

and find our heaven in you.

You attend to our happiness more than we can;

though we are fallen creatures, you never neglect us.

In love and pity you have provided for us a Saviour:

apply his redemption to our hearts

by justifying our persons and sanctifying our natures.

We confess our transgressions: have mercy on us;

we are weary: give us rest;

we are ignorant: make us wise to salvation;

we are helpless: let your strength be made perfect in our weakness;

we are poor and needy: bless us with Christ's unsearchable riches;

we are perplexed and tempted: may we travel on unchecked and undismayed,

knowing that you have said:

'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'

Blessed be your name!

Fifth Day Morning:

The Giver

CREATOR, Upholder, and Proprietor of all things:
we cannot escape from your presence and control,
nor is that our desire.

It is our privilege to be under the agency of your
omnipotence, righteousness, wisdom,
patience, mercy and grace,
for your love surpasses parental affection.

We admire your goodness;
stand in awe of your power;
and abase ourselves before your purity.

It is the discovery of your goodness alone that
banishes our fear,
allures us into your presence,
and helps us to bewail and confess our sins.

We review our past guilt,
and are conscious of present unworthiness.

We bless you that your steadfast love and attributes
are essential to our happiness and hope.

You witness to us your grace and mercy
in the bounties of nature,
in the fullness of your providence,
in the revelations of scripture,
in the gift of your Son,
and in the proclamation of the gospel.

Make us willing to be saved in your way.

Teach us to see nothing in ourselves but all in the Lord Jesus.

Help us not only to receive him, but also to walk in him;
help us to depend upon him, and to commune with him;
and teach us to follow him as dear children
who, though imperfect, still press forward;
who do not complain of labour, but value rest;
who do not murmur under trials, but are thankful for our state;
and who, by so doing, silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Fifth Day Evening:

Protection

O LORD God,
our Preserver, Governor,
Saviour, and coming Judge:
quieten our souls to call upon your name;
detach us from the influence
of the flesh and the senses;
impress upon us the power of faith;
and promote within us spirituality of mind
that our service may be acceptable to you
and delightful and profitable to ourselves.
Make us attractive in your sight,
and prepare us to receive the proofs of your love;
show us our danger,
that we may flee to you for refuge;
make us sensible of our sin's disease,
that we may value the good Physician;
placard to us the cross,
that it may slay the enmity of our hearts;
and help us to be watchful over our ways,
jealous over tempers,
and diligent over our hearts.
When we droop, revive us;
when we loiter, quicken us;
and when we go astray, restore us;
possess us with more of that faith
which is the principle of all vital godliness.
May we be rich in faith, strong in faith,
live by faith, walk by faith,
experience the joy of faith,
do the work of faith, and hope through faith;
and, perceiving nothing in ourselves,
may we find in the Saviour
wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Sixth Day Morning:

The Gospel

O LORD most High,
Creator of the ends of the earth,
Governor of the universe,
Judge of all men, Head of the Church,
and Saviour of sinners,
whose greatness is unsearchable,
goodness infinite, compassions unfailing,
providence boundless, and mercies ever new:
we bless you for the words of salvation.
How important, suitable and encouraging
are the doctrines, promises and
invitations of the gospel of peace!
We are lost: but in it you present to us
a full, free and eternal salvation;
we are weak:
but there we learn help is found in One who is mighty;
we are poor:
but in Christ Jesus we discover unsearchable riches;
we are blind:
but in him we find treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
We thank you for your unspeakable gift.
Your Son is our only refuge, foundation, hope and confidence.
We depend upon his death, rest in his righteousness,
and desire to bear his image.
May his glory fill our minds,
his love reign in our affections,
and his cross inflame us with ardour.
May we, as Christians, be faithful in our varied vocations;
may we escape the snares to which we are exposed;
may we discharge the duties that arise in our circumstances;
may we enjoy with moderation their advantages;
may we improve with diligence their usefulness;
and may every place and company we are in be benefited by us.

Sixth Day Evening:

The Mediator

O GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

we hope in your Word,

for there we see you,

not on a fearful throne of judgment,

but on a throne of grace,

waiting to be gracious and exalted in mercy;

and there we hear you saying, not 'Depart you cursed',

but 'Look to me and be saved for I am God and there is none other'.

Those who know your name put their trust in you.

How many now glorified in heaven,

and what numbers living on earth, are your witnesses, O God!

They demonstrate in their recovery from the ruins of the Fall,

the freeness, the riches, and the efficacy of your grace!

All who were ever saved were saved by you,

and by your grace they will through all eternity ever exclaim:

'Not to us but to your name be glory for your mercy and truth's sake.'

You have chosen, O God, to transact all your concerns with us through

a Mediator in whom all fullness dwells:

the exalted Prince and Saviour.

To him we look, upon him we depend,

and in him alone we are justified.

May we enjoy relief from his sufferings,

without ceasing to abhor sin or to long after holiness;

may we feel the double efficacy of his blood,

tranquillizing and cleansing our consciences;

may we delight in his service as well as his sacrifice;

may we be constrained by his love to live not to ourselves but to him;

may we always cherish a grateful and cheerful disposition,

never murmuring nor repining if our wishes are not indulged,

or because trials are blended with our enjoyments;

but sensible of what we deserve,

and impressed with the number and greatness of your benefits,

may we ever bless and praise you at all times.

Seventh Day Morning:

God's Good Pleasure

SOVEREIGN Lord,

whose will is supreme in heaven and on earth,
and before whom all beings are subject to your power:

you are the Father of our spirits

whose inspiration gives us understanding

and whose providence governs our lives.

O God, we confess we are sinners in your sight;

you judge us to be such;

and if we deny it we make you a liar;

yet, in Christ Jesus, you are reconciled to your rebellious subjects.

Give us the ear of faith to hear his voice;

the eye of faith to see him; the hand of faith to receive him;

and the appetite of faith to feed upon him,

that we might find in him light, riches, honour and eternal life.

You are the inviting One: may we hearken to you.

You are the Almighty Instructor: teach us to live for you.

You dwell in Light, inaccessible to mankind and angels,

and you hide behind the elements of creation, yet you are known to us in Jesus.

Possess our minds with the grandeur of your perfections.

Impress upon us the fact that

your love for us in the Lord Jesus is firm and changeless;

that nothing can separate us from it;

and, in the enjoyment of it, nothing can make us miserable.

Preserve us from hypocrisy and formality in our profession of faith;

enable us to remember who you are and what we are;

enable us to recall your holiness and our unworthiness;

and help us to approach you clothed with humility,

knowing that vanity and frowardness,

sensibility and disorderly affection,

backwardness to duty and proneness to evil are in our hearts.

May we never forget your patience,

wisdom, power, faithfulness and care;

and may we never cease to respond to your invitations.

Seventh Day Evening:

Future Blessings

O LORD God,
there is no blessing for which we plead
except that which you are able to give, have promised to give,
and have given already to countless multitudes,
all of whom, like us, are unworthy and guilty:
make us willing to receive the supply of our need from your bounty.
To this end, convince us of sin and soften our hard hearts
that we may bewail our folly, ingratitude, pride,
unbelief, rebellion and corruption.
Through the law, may we die to the law,
and then look with wonder, submission and delight
to the provision you have made for the glory of your name in the salvation of sinners.
Give us hope that does not make us ashamed;
give us love that excites us to holy obedience;
give us joy in you, which is our strength;
and give us faith in your Son, who loved us and died for us.
May we persevere in duty, even when we are not fully conscious of you;
may we wait upon you and keep to your way;
may we be humble and earnest suppliants at your feet;
may we live continually knowing that we are on the brink of eternity;
may we be at your disposal for the duties and events of life;
may we submit our preferences to your wisdom and will;
and may we be taught to resign our enjoyments whenever you,
our absolute Proprietor and best Friend, require it.
Though unworthy, as those who provoke your wrath,
make us grateful for the means of grace and the ordinances of the faith;
and teach us to profit by them more than we have thus far done.
Enable us to be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day,
that we may enter upon the Sabbath
mindful of its solemnities, duties and privileges;
may we set all things worldly aside while we worship you;
and may we know the blessedness of those whose strength is in you
and in whose hearts are the highways to heaven.