

A Booklet of Simple Prayers

by

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for Peter



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Table of Contents

I. Worship Service Prayers

<i>Preparation for the Service</i>	1
<i>Conclusion of the Service</i>	1
<i>Service Invocation</i>	2
<i>Communion - Eating the Bread</i>	3
<i>Communion - Drinking the Wine</i>	3
<i>Offertory</i>	4
<i>Sermon Invocation</i>	4
<i>Benediction</i>	5

II. Daily Prayers

<i>Morning and Evening</i>	6
<i>Thanks for Love Made Visible</i>	7
<i>Daily Table Grace</i>	8

III. Choir Prayers - Before the Service

<i>For an Individual</i>	9
<i>For the Choir</i>	11 - 13

IV. Special Occasion Prayers

<i>For the Minister</i>	14
<i>Deaconate Opening Prayer</i>	15, 16
<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	17
<i>Mens' Group Breakfast</i>	18

<i>Ingraham House Retreat 1987</i>	19
<i>Preparing for a New Minister</i>	20
<i>For a Teacher</i>	21
<i>For a Student Under Stress</i>	22
<i>Armenian Earthquake</i>	23
<i>Incomprehensible Disasters</i>	24
<i>Remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.</i>	25
<i>Preserving the Environment</i>	26
<i>For the Hostages and Their Captors in Lebanon</i>	27
<i>Loss of a Possible Mate</i>	28
<i>Those Who Have Lost Faith</i>	29
<i>Healing for Others</i>	30

V. Prayers for Individuals

<i>Commitment to Serving More Faithfully</i>	31
<i>Self-centeredness and Fear</i>	32
<i>Contentment</i>	33
<i>Awareness of Life's Shortness</i>	34
<i>Thanks for Fitting Into This World</i>	35
<i>A Need for New Directions and Goals</i>	36, 37
<i>New Visions for My Life</i>	38
<i>Toward Taking Some Risks</i>	39

Preparation for the Service

I come, O God, ready to worship you by learning anew of your word, by asking forgiveness from you, by my forgiving those who have brought me hurt and by engaging others with your loving will through spoken words, sacred songs and prayers.

Amen

Conclusion of the Service

Send me out ever-present Jesus filled with renewed faith in your wondrous spirit as your messenger to bring love and hope to all I meet.

Amen

Service Invocation

*Because our faith draws us closer to you God,
we return to help this worship service through our
prayers, readings and songs.*

*Because we are assured of your constant love,
we come to help spread its power to heal young
and old.*

*Because we are blessed with your hope for us,
we wish to spark brighter tomorrow's for all those
who suffer.*

*We only request that your holy will be made
clear to us, so that our actions do not go astray.*

*In memory of your Son, Jesus Christ, whose acts
were always filled with faith, love and hope.*

Amen

Communion - Eating the Bread

*As I take this bread of life, Jesus--your body
broken for me--give me strength to live more fully
as a teacher of your love to all the lives I touch.*

Amen

Communion - Drinking the Wine

*In taking this wine of living, Christ--your blood
spilled for me-- increase my faith and my
commitment to better serving you in spreading
hope to others, so that they might live more
completely in and through your words.*

Amen

Offertory

Father, to you we bring the private and public gifts of ourselves: our best gifts of human goodness and our monetary gifts that bridge our completed work with the future tasks of this church. Please accept these gifts of ourselves, which are given in the name of your Son, Jesus.

Amen

Sermon Invocation

O God, help me to be your messenger of love and hope with this sermon, and may this meditation strengthen our faith in the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Benediction

O Holy Spirit, who always reaches out to satisfy our every need, we are trying to look beyond ourselves and to reach out to help others.

Show us how to serve others without expecting others to serve us.

Show us how to love the people we can help, remembering that you love us always.

When trivial actions ensnare and waste our time, give us new signs of your will.

When we feel doubts, give us confidence and strength to push on.

In the name of our master, Jesus, who reached out to serve all mankind with his total being, we make our requests.

Amen

Morning Prayer

*Father of all life and of all life's goodness,
thank you for another day.*

*Guide me to think clearly with Jesus ever next
to me as I make decisions today.*

*Catch my thoughtless actions and silence me
when my words go astray from your love.*

*And last Lord, show me ways to spread your
kingdom of faith, hope and love to others.*

Amen

Evening Prayer

*Thank you Lord for the sorrows and joys of
today, for the labors and pastimes and for the
uncountable blessings you have given to me.*

*Thank you for beauty in your world--in your
creations and in the love people shared with me.*

*Thank you for your helping hand when I sought
you out in my moments of need.*

*Forgive my thoughtless words and hasty actions
today that may have caused hurt in your kingdom.*

*For this approaching time of rest and peace
thank you also.*

*In the name of Jesus who lived each day
abundantly, I pray.*

Amen

Thanks for Love Made Visible

Ever-present Holy Spirit, thank you for another day of delightful surprises. Love came to me from other people in numerous small ways to sweep my complacency away.

During these moments, I knew that I was connected to you and your love world. There were no dark pools where my loneliness or self-pity could hide.

Show me ways to spread similar small touches of your love to others, so that they might also know trusted ways of belonging to your kingdom of love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who expanded love so that the whole community of mankind could share your spirit of belonging.

Amen

Daily Table Grace

Holy Spirit, you provide for all our needs. We thank you for this food, for life and for another try at following your will.

We offer our thanks remembering especially Jesus, who suffered so that we could all live more abundantly.

Amen

For an Individual

O God, who knows all the rhythms of life, help me to hear the music of your spirit.

When my life gets confused, send me the clarity and direction of a major chord.

When I need to think before I act, send me a quiet pause.

And last Lord, to spark my enthusiasm for each new day, send me a crescendo.

In the name of Jesus, who through his words and deeds played harmonies for all mankind, I pray.

Amen

For the Choir

O God, who knows all the rhythms of life, help us to hear the music of your spirit.

When our lives get confused, send us the clarity and direction of a major chord. When we need to think before we act, send us quiet pauses.

And last Lord, to spark our enthusiasm for each new day, send us some crescendos.

In the name of Jesus, who through his words and deeds played harmonies for all mankind, we pray.

Amen

For the Choir

Holy Spirit of unhurried patience, we confess that we have occasionally turned away from your love. We know that you love us constantly and wait for us to return your love—through worship and service to your holy will.

Thank you for giving us again this opportunity to lead others in the music of this, your church. In doing so, we are living more abundantly for others and for ourselves. As we attempt to follow your will, we know that you are with us in our music making.

Remind us that the purpose of our music is to help spread the joyful kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ—to all who would reach out for your blessing of love and hope.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, who created harmonious ways of living for all mankind.

Amen

For the Choir

*For the many blessings of life you freely
give...*

we thank you Lord.

*For the dance of our souls when music is
heard...*

we thank you Lord.

*For a chance to play our part in this worship
service...*

we thank you Lord.

Amen

For the Choir

Our Father, you sustain us constantly and hold our anxious souls in your care. Please bless us today with your reassuring spirit of hope--so that our personal burdens may seem lighter.

We know that the high clear notes of a silver trumpet can summon even the sleepest of souls to awaken. With our spirited song Father, allow us to be messengers of your life-giving spirit to this congregation today.

We sing in the church always remembering the harmonies of life and living your Son, Jesus taught us.

In his name we pray.

Amen

For the Choir

Eternal Father of all life and the well-spring of all of life's goodness, we thank you for another day.

Guide us to a stronger faith as we lead this congregation in song during today's worship service.

Catch us when we act hastily and guide us when our words go astray from your love.

And last Lord, continue to show us ways to spread your kingdom of faith, love and hope to others.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

For the Minister

O Great Spirit, who loves in more ways than we can presently grasp, send your minister, Peter, a full complement of your love. We don't want him to run dry when he is feeling low or after he has given so much of himself to others.

Thank you Lord, for Peter's finely-tuned sensitivity to the needs of his flock, his caring spirit and his loving heart. With his encouragement, our tasks in this Church speed onward to completion.

In the name and spirit of Jesus who shared our burdens and spread love to all, we pray.

Amen

Deaconate Opening Prayer

O Holy Spirit, who leads us in all the ways of life, show us how to gracefully lead others toward your will in this church.

We, who have received full measures of your love, still need more instructions from you on how to spread it.

We, who have felt your sensitive touch to our needs, are still learning how to be sensitive to the special needs of others.

Help us in thought, word and deed to shape our messages to others so that they will endeavor to follow your will.

Help us tonight to be mindful of our responsibilities and to be patient in our deliberations together.

In memory of your most perfect deacon, Jesus, we make this prayer.

Amen

Deaconate Opening Prayer

O Holy Trinity, hear our prayer:

Thank you Jesus for the powerful messages given to us through your sacrifice on the cross. That you could absolve us of our sins and promise us continued life even after death are wonderful gifts indeed.

Father, we thank you for the Easter joy that has rekindled in us enthusiasm to live life more fully. Thank you for the glorious music of life--the solos of those who lead us, the choruses of our families and communities, and the many symphonies of plant and animal life above and within the world's waters.

O Holy Spirit, you understand us even when our prayers go astray with the wrong words. Please be with us today and especially during this meeting. Help us to better listen to one another so we may grasp the true feelings and meanings of our words.

In Thy name we pray.

Amen

Thanksgiving Day

*We thank you Lord:
for friends and family who do not abandon us
even across the many miles that separate us;
for brave leaders who dare to act upon their
dreams to make this country more just and
responsible;
for scientists and doctors who take from our
lives as much toil and suffering as is possible;
for youth who have drive and energy to work at
difficult tasks;
for the elderly whose wisdom and service have
made our lives richer;
for our freedoms to live life abundantly without
constraints that would pollute our souls;
for the startling beauty in this world which
daily entertains us with small and great creatures;
for the church which challenges and binds our
actions toward worthy causes, while rebuilding
our spirit;
and last for Jesus Christ, who died for our sins
and worked to bring out the best in us.*

Amen

Men's Group Breakfast

Eternal Father of us all, send your blessing of all-encompassing love on those of us gathered here today.

We thank you for another day, this breakfast time together and for another opportunity to strengthen our faith by our later acts of worship today.

Forgive us for our errors of commission and omission. Increase our awareness to the needs of others.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to work for good and to resist evil, we pray.

Amen

Ingraham House Retreat 1987

O Lord, we are aware here of your positive presence in and about us. Help us to share with your church beyond ourselves the happiness, comfort, love and vigor that your spirit provides us.

Lord we thank you for the many opportunities for growth that this retreat has given us. Thank you for the insights about future possibilities you have revealed to us about our church and ourselves.

Also thank you Lord for this food and the beauties of this time.

Amen

Preparing for a New Minister

O God, you promised to be our protector and guide throughout our lives. We confess at this time that we feel unsettled about our tasks which lie ahead.

Help us to work confidently in our deliberations on the selection of new ministers for this church. Give us patience when it is our time to listen, and clear Christian thinking when it is our time to act.

We do this work remembering Jesus who removed all fears of living abundantly and who acted, bonded by the Holy Spirit.

Amen

For a Teacher

O Great Teacher of life Lord, I am trying to be an empathetic and effective teacher of youth. Help me to keep my tasks together, to do my best and to be truly helpful as a person. My responsibilities seem to spread me too thin--sapping my spirit and robbing my energy.

Master, even with my experience as a teacher, I feel only as a beginner with some of my students. I need to cope and adapt to students with needs that every rarely-used words fail to describe. Show me ways to support them.

O Great Inspirer of all peoples, help me to ignite the learning spirit in my students, just as you once inspired me to learn through my own teachers.

Finally Lord, help me to center on the important and to skip the useless, since I am easily distracted by the seeming urgency of the latest demands sent my way.

In the name of Jesus Christ who taught all to love life, and who kept to the steady path the prophets taught him.

Amen

For a Student Under Stress

O Lord, you know my every need--even those for which words fail to properly describe.

Help me to keep my health up and to keep my mind on the track of the subjects I'm studying.

Send away my worst fears of tomorrow and help me to sleep when I need my rest.

In your name I pray.

Amen

Armenian Earthquake

O Lord, protector of life and goodness in mankind, but who still holds great mysteries for us, we grieve--even from a distance--at the terrible earthquake disaster in Armenia.

Help relieve the suffering of the survivors and the agony of those who have lost so much. Send your spirit of hope along with the many helpers traveling to the disaster to mend where mending is possible.

In the midst of our personal safety, which only you can give, we pray for your people, in the name of Christ who brings healing and hope.

Amen

Incomprehensible Disasters

Heavenly Father, You who created the laws that direct life and death, we feel anguish and despair especially when people suffer and die from torments and disasters that seemed to have happened by chance alone.

Send us a stronger faith and a firmer understanding of your spirit, so that we may better know our own odds, O God. Help us to more-keenly know your laws, so that we may escape the foolhardy risks we have pit against ourselves, and to rededicate our efforts to know and follow your will. Our ignorance of and insensitivity to your laws lessens what we are or could be.

We are mindful of your Son, Jesus Christ, who knew that from your laws power flows, and who accepted risks to himself to help mankind. With his total commitment to your laws, he preserved his unity with you. For a small share of his wisdom and spirit in our knowing and acting, we pray.

Amen

Remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Father, we remember your fallen loyal servant, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In his work to spread your love to all your kingdom. We were told by him to judge a person not by the color their skin, but by the content of their character. Today and tomorrow we honor him in the great work he started and partially accomplished in strengthening the family of all men.

We ask that you keep his loving spirit alive in us as we fight our own tendency to limit our love for people of other races. Teach us to look beyond the colors of the faces of people and to see the gold of an individual's soul.

In the name and spirit of Jesus Christ who was and is now still the head of our extended family of man.

Amen

Preserving the Environment

O Lord of all creative majesty, we marvel at this world you have invited us to share.

Teach us the wisdom to enjoy life on this planet within the bounds of maintaining your glorious legacy.

As travelers with temporal lives, show us how to manage our own time so that we will respect the time of life of your creations which are to follow us.

Touch us Holy Father with increased knowledge so that we may have increased reverence for your eternal plan.

In and through Jesus Christ who was temporal as a man is eternal as our Holy Ghost, we thank you for life.

Amen

For the Hostages and their Captors in Lebanon

Father, we come in sadness to you over some issues which confound us. In Lebanon and in the United States there is much physical suffering and mental anguish over the continuing hostage crisis. Reason has failed where deep conflicts between the Moslems and Christians persist.

We ask that you breathe a fresh environment into the deadlocks at the negotiations and to give some hope to the long-suffering peoples affected by them.

Help all parties to truthfully speak and deal with the issues so that this nightmare might end. If there is any useful thing which we can do, please send us a sign.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who suffered so that we might live more fully.

Amen

Loss of a Possible Mate

O Holy spirit of love, you know my needs. The loss of my love is painful to bear. My hopes seem dashed.

Amid the sorrows Jesus suffered for us all, He still remembered to forgive. So in my sorrow, give me courage to forgive a little more each day.

As the clouds drift silently away from me, help my pain too to slip away. And when the sun brightens all around me as the clouds remove, fill me with new spirit, joy and hope for my tomorrow's. I want love and trust to flow back to me again.

In your spirit of love that is my comfort, I pray.

Amen

Those Who Have Lost Faith

God, protector and provider of all my needs, I know that you will not let me down. You are always with me.

Other people, however, often forget your loving care for them. Somehow they have drifted away and rarely make their concerns known to you. Maybe they have forgotten your power to help. You are so politely unobtrusive that they may imagine that you are far away.

Intensify their senses so that they can witness to the beauty of your world. Touch them with small joys. Help them to find new ways to grow in love, hope and faith.

In the name of Jesus whose perfect awareness of You was and is alive.

Amen

Healing for Others

O Father of endless wisdom, patience and goodness, I thank you for blessing my life with countless good fortunes and joys. You have tolerated my sins and thoughtless acts, waiting on me even when I have forgotten to pray to you to ask for forgiveness.

Please spread your blessings to other people so that they might enjoy life without endless suffering. Where ever I turn, I see people with pain.

I remember that Jesus relieved suffering from believers where ever he went in his travels. Can you not continue to spread healing even to unbelievers? In the name of Jesus, your Son, I make this request.

Amen

Commitment to Serving More Faithfully

O most gracious God, who sees within our innermost being, awaken our commitment to serve you more faithfully. Help us to go on with our tasks of building this church, though our energy seems low.

You have constant love for us even when we fail to meet your expectations. Teach us to love others more perfectly and to do so even when we suffer rebuke.

In the name of your Son, Jesus, who knew commitment to service and who suffered rebuke for us all, we make this prayer.

Amen

Self-centeredness and Fear

O Father, eternal teacher of life's ways, help dissolve my self-centeredness. I want to think and do greater things for people and to better follow your will. But Father, I'm afraid of risks to my heart.

Energize me to spread your love and spirit around. Teach me to share with others experiences of your spirit and love. Teach me to trust and love people more and to take risks for your will, despite my fears.

Thank you for life, love, your spirit and for the terrible risks Jesus took for me.

Amen

Contentment

Holy Spirit, daily you energize me with plans to live life to the fullest. I confess that I am ignorant of and am unfair to the well-being of your living creatures that are larger or smaller than myself. I wish to live fairly with your living creations.

Remove the self-centeredness and the self-complacency I have about my place in the universe. Teach me how to be contented in your world without pushing myself into niches where I really don't belong.

I make this prayer remembering Jesus who knew man's place in your eternal plan.

Amen

Awareness of Life's Shortness

Mysterious God who transcends time and space, I am aware of my temporal nature. I feel beset with moments that I wish to capture for all time, but which flee away from me. My spirit and energy fail at critical times. Help me to understand and to cope with my limits.

Thank you, O Timeless Spirit, for the time I am allowed to share with the living in this beautiful world.

In the name of Jesus, whose timeless messages were meant to enrich the futures of men and women everywhere and who knew and taught that the pleasures of the moment only but flee away.

Amen

Thanks for Fitting Into This World

Holy Spirit, thank you for your timeless patience with us. Our human form evolves ever so slowly compared to our simple life-spans of about seventy years. And compared to that, our secular worlds of fads, gadgets and glitter pass before us at terrifying speed.

Thank you for allowing us to find and safely use your laws of science in this world so that the benefits of health, comfort and simple joys can be added to all our days.

Thank you for evolving us slowly so that we do not lose touch with ourselves or our offspring as we live. Our seemingly constant natures are rooted in your holy plan.

For all these gifts and for life itself, we pray.

Amen

A Need for New Directions and Goals

O Father and greatest listener, please hear through my words to my needs. Send me a small signal that I am leaning toward your will and that I am using time wisely.

I have searched for your guidance amid the din of my world and my activities. But now as I stop being quite so busy, I hope that in your perfect silence you can sense my restless stirrings. I need a sign of your comfort and reassurance for me.

And last Lord, teach me how to relax so that as I begin my work again, I can return to it with joy and enthusiasm.

In the name of Jesus who always knew the needs of his flock, I pray.

Amen

A Need for New Directions and Goals

O Great Father of all creative beauty, somehow I feel bonded to a narrow trail of life that is devoid of enthusiasm, adventure or personal goals. Show me a broader path that will lift my spirits, lighten my heart, help me to form some new relationships with people, and lead me to pursue some new goals.

Help me, O Great Artist and Teacher, to pay attention to the masterpieces of your creation in my daily life. As I feel the dawn's sunshine, warm my heart and my awareness. When I touch the drops of a mid-day gentle rain, wash away my sorrows. As I feel soft afternoon breezes, fill me with the ways of your will. When I shy away from the biting cold of a clear starry night, signal me to turn away from feelings of distance with others.

Thank you O Great Healer, for your Son, Jesus Christ, who took on my personal troubles so that I might travel a more-abundant, wider road of life.

Amen

New Visions for My Life

Eternal Father, you hold me even amid my anxieties and restlessness. Soothe my feelings of despair and aimlessness. Calm the petty outward and inward noises that shout the pains of my condition. I have lost touch with what is real in my life. Surely I am not destined to drift and waste my life on the trivia of the day.

Send me in some new directions Lord, so that I can do useful work and be truly effective at it.

I remember Jesus who worked miracles to jolt the people from their mindless ways and to give them new visions to work for.

Amen

Toward Taking Some Risks

O Great Spirit of all souls, as I travel my personal wilderness, help me to more-strongly feel your guiding presence.

Remind me to accept that only you grant life and safety, and to cease from collecting goods, services and self-pride for myself.

Curb my haste when I need to have more patience with my fellow man, and teach me again that only you can grant to each its proper season.

Show me how to work to satisfy the needs of another without first expecting my wants to be satisfied.

Last, encourage me to take some risks toward spreading your healing spirit to others.

Through Jesus Christ, who accepted the wildernesses of all men, but who taught that faith, hope and love from the Father would restore all to healthful living again.

Amen