



Praying with Christians: Lent through Easter 2022



Daily Devotional Prayers



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Community Presbyterian Church **LENT 2022 Daily Devotional Prayers**

What is “Lent”?

LENT is a period, six weeks from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week, to assist Christians through prayer, repentance, penitence, reflection, fasting, and self-denial. Exactly when this observation started is uncertain, but many believe it originated around 325 A.D. when the Nicene Creed was developed.

This is usually a 40-day observance (counting weekdays), similar to Jesus’ time of His Temptation. Some groups end it on Maundy Thursday; others, on Holy Saturday. Regardless of the exact number of days, devotion to and interaction with the Lord Jesus Christ is reviewed and refreshed.

Daily Devotional 2022 Guide “Electronically”

In LENT 2021, we printed daily readings of prayers. But this year, we are send out LENT prayers (1) by an email directly to you and (2) on our CPC Facebook page for you to access. If you wish to receive a daily prayer via email through our group list, PLEASE give CPC your email address.

These prayers are by well-known, less known, and even unknown Christians: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, intercession, supplication, struggle, anguish, faith, worship, joy, etc. Many will soften your heart – Some will speak to your mind – Still others will stimulate your spirit.

Our faith is strengthened by the prayers of these Christian brothers and sisters through the centuries, compiled by Pastor Bill Weimer as he works to publish a one-year daily devotional book for believers and seekers. To learn from and pray these prayers expands our faith and encourages our prayer life – We think they will deepen your spiritual journey with Jesus.

Suggestions

- Ask the Lord to use each Christian’s prayer in your own life.
- Read and pray, aloud or silently, the daily prayer.
- Reflect on the prayer’s contents (faith, honesty, praise, struggle, etc.) – Then applied this to your own life and faith with your similar prayer.

May our Lord God bless you as you pray and use these LENT prayers

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***Lord, look upon me!
Lord, pity me!***

***Lord, have mercy upon me!
Lord, be my help, for I am in great distress.***

***Jesus, You son of David!
Jesus, You exalted Prince and Savior!
Give me repentance!***

***Well, then, if [You] God do not forsake me,
of what ill consequence can there be
if the world should all forsake me?
On the other hand,
if I had all the world,
and lose the favor and blessing of God,
there would be
no comparison
in the loss?¹***

Robinson Crusoe (1719)
gives his prayers in this novel about being shipwrecked on an island
by prolific English author Daniel Defoe (c. 1661-1731);
finding a surviving Bible, he comes slowly to faith
– probably reflecting Defoe’s own spiritual journey to Christ

¹ Daniel Defoe. *Robinson Crusoe* (1719). http://www.planetpublish.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Robinson_Crusoe_BT.pdf. Accessed Jan 30, 2022. Pages 138, 145, 153, and 180.

*Grant me tears – O Lord, to blot out my sins.
May I not cease from them, O God,
Until I have been purified.*

*May my heart be burned by the fire of redemption.
Grant me tears –
with the purity of Mary Magdalene.*

*When I contemplate my sins,
Grant me tears – always,
For great are the claims of tears on the cheeks.*

*Grant me tears – when rising;
Grant me tears – when resting
Beyond Your every gift altogether
For love of You, Mary's Son....*

*Grant me contrition
So that I may not be in disgrace.
O Lord, protect me and – Grant me tears.*

*For dalliances I had with women who did not reject me:
Grant me tears – O Creator,
Flowing in streams from my eyes.*

*For my anger and my jealousy and my pride,
A foolish deed, in pools from
My inmost parts bring forth tears.²*

Celtic "Tears" Prayer (c. 12C),
out of Celtic Christianity in Ireland,
expresses sorrow for sins, gratitude for grace,
and emotions of sincere faith

² Esther De Waal. *The Celtic Way of Prayer* (New York: Doubleday, a division of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1997), 123-124.

O my God,
Let me walk in the way of love
which knows
not how to seek self
in anything whatsoever.
Let this love wholly possess my soul and heart,
I beseech You,
that they may live and move
only in and out of
a pure and sincere love to You....

O Lord,
Give this love into my soul
that I may never more live nor breathe
but out of a most pure love of You,
my all and only good.
Let me love You for yourself and nothing else
but in and for You
Let me love nothing instead of You...
Let Your love work in me and
Let me love You as You would be loved by me...

May You be, in all this and in all things,
be my Chooser for me –
for You are my only Choice.
The more I shall love You,
the more will my soul desire You
and desire to suffer for You.³

Gertrude More (1606-1633),

an English descendent of Thomas More, became a Benedictine nun, struggled with faith until learning to pray honestly and meaningfully; although she died young, her mystical writings encouraged many

³ Thomas S. Kepler, ed. *An Anthology of Devotional Literature* (Nappance, IN: Jordan Publishing, an Imprint of Evangel Publishing House, 2nd edition 2001 / 1948), 323.

Open your inner eyes -
 See Who I am -
 It is I, the Eternal Wisdom,
 Who chose you in eternity for Myself,
 With the embrace of My eternal providence.
 I blocked your path
 whenever you would be separated
 from Me, if I had let you,
 so you always found something repugnant
 in these things.
 This is the sure mark of My chosen ones -
 I want them for Myself!
O God,
*Why have You waited so long – to reveal Yourself to me?
 How very long You put this off!
 How many wearisome ways have I plodded . . .*

If I had acted earlier
 you would not have recognized
 The value of My treasures
 as intensely as you do now.

O Infinite God,
*How sweetly have now – You poured Your goodness in me.
 When I did not exist – You gave me being.
 When I left You – You would not leave me.
 When I tried to escape You – You gently took me captive...*

O Lord,
*You alone see and know
 the nature of a heart filled with love.
 You know that no one can love something
 That one cannot at all know.
 That I shall now
 love You alone – Let me know You better
 That I can learn to
 love You completely.⁴*

Henry Suso (1300-1366),

a German Dominican friar and mystic; after five years in a monastery,
 he had a deeper spiritual understanding and fresh relationship with God;
 sensing the Lord saying his earlier mortifications of the flesh
 were unnecessary and inferior to loving Him

⁴ Lorraine Kisly, ed. *Christian Teachings on the Practice of Prayer: From the Early Church to the Present* (Boston: New Seeds Books, an imprint of Shambhala Publications, Inc., 2002), 11-13.

LORD,

This Your feast –

***Prepared by Your longing,
Spread at Your command,
Attended at Your invitation,
Blessed by Your own word,
Distributed by Your own hand;
The undying memorial of Your sacrifice upon the Cross,
The full gift of Your everlasting love, and
Its perpetuation till time shall end.***

LORD,

***This is the Bread of Heaven,
the Bread of Life –***

***That whoso eats,
shall never hunger more.***

This is the Cup of Pardon,

***Healing,
Gladness, and
Strength –***

***That whoso drinks,
shall not thirst again.***

***So may we come, O LORD,
to Your table –
LORD Jesus, come
to us.⁵***

Olive Wyon (1881-1966),

from a well-educated and cultured London family,
joined a missionary training college for women in Edinburgh;
she wrote on Christianity and translated European Christian works

⁵ Howard L. Rice and Lamar Williamson, Jr. eds. *A Book of Reformed Prayers* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998), 107.

*Help me, O Lord,
my strength and rock.
Lo, at the door
I hear death's knock.*

*Uplift Your arm,
once pierced for me
that conquered death,
and set me free.*

*Yet if Your voice
in life's midday
recalls my soul,
Then I'll obey.*

*Earth I resign,
secure of heaven.
For I am Thine
Lo! Satan strains.*

*I feel his grasp
to snatch his prey
from Your hand, Lord.
Must I give way?*

*He harms me not,
I fear no loss.
For here I lie
beneath the Cross.⁶*

“A Plague Hymn-Prayer” (1346-1353),
or a “Black Death” prayer during the bubonic pandemic
throughout Afro-Eurasia from 1346 to 1353
that killed 75-200 million people

⁶ Ruth A. Tucker. *Parade of Faith: A Biographical History of the Christian Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 244.

Let us pray

*For the invaded countries in the grief and havoc of oppression
For the upholding of their courage, and
For the hope of restoration for their freedom –*

*O God, Whose compassions fail not,
Support, we entreat You,
the people on whom terrors of the invasion have fallen,
and if their liberty be lost to the oppressor,
Let not their spirit and hope be broken –
but be stayed upon Your strength
until the day of deliverance.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

[O Lord, our Sovereign Lord]

*Save us and deliver us from the hands of such enemies.
Abate their pride,
Assuage their malice,
Confound their devices*

*that, being armed with Your defense, that they
may be preserved evermore and,
glorify You who are the only Giver of all Victory.
Establish our hearts, O God, in the light of battle, and
Strengthen our resolve
that we fight ultimately not in enmity against men
but against powers of darkness and evil in them,
that enslaved the souls of men and women.*

*– Until all oppression be done away, and
the people of the world be set free
from fear to serve one another in respect,
as children of God our Father,
Who is above all, through all, and in all,
forever and ever. Amen.⁷*

Against Aggression (1941)

In 1941 Roosevelt and Churchill met secretly aboard HMS battleship Prince of Wales to plan operations against Hitler's European aggression, invasions, and occupations; Churchill declared a Sunday service be held at this crucial moment; "O God Our Help in Ages Past" was sung by everyone and Prayers, such as above, were led by the Royal Navy senior chaplain.

⁷ James P. Moore, Jr., *One Nation Under God: The History of Prayer in America* (New York: Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc., 2005), 303.

*I am not moved, my God, to love you
By the heaven You have promised me
Nor does hell so feared move me
To keep me from offending You.*

*You move me, Lord, I am moved seeing You
Scoffed at an nailed on a cross.
I am moved, seeing Your body so wounded.
Your injuries and Your death move me.*

*It is Your love that moves me
and in such a way
If even though there were no heaven,
I would love You;
If even though there were no hell
I would fear You.*

*You do not have to give me anything
So that I love You
For even if I didn't hope for what I hope,
As I love You now,
So would I love you.⁸*

John of the Cross (1542-1591)

was a significant Spanish Catholic mystic;
his spiritual writings expressed in poetic language and format
have influenced people spiritually for centuries

⁸ Madeleine L'Engle. *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art* (Wheaton, IL: Shaw Publishers, 1980), 196.

**O gracious and holy Father:
Give us –**

**Wisdom to perceive You,
Intelligence to understand You,
Diligence to seek You,
Patience to wait for You,
Eyes to see You,
A heart to meditate on You, and
A life to proclaim You –**

**through the power
of the Spirit and
of Jesus Christ our Lord.⁹**

Benedict of Nursia (c. 480-543/547/550),
a university-dropout and briefly a cave-dwelling ascetic,
became abbot of the Mt. Cassino monastery; then he built 12 monasteries,
producing a guide for them becoming known as *The Rule of St. Benedict*

⁹ Horton Davies, ed. *The Communion of the Saints: Prayers of the Famous* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), 62.

[O Lord]

*You, our Help:
Let not the pagans say,
“Where is their God?
He has not saved them.”*

*You, our Help and our Hope,
You, our Refuge...
You, our Protector:
Do not abandon us –
Rescue us from every danger that threatens us, and
Raise us on the great Day of the just.
Grant us to serve You –*

*Through Your well-beloved Child,
Jesus Christ,
Through Him,
Glory to You,
Grace and honor,
Now and for ever and ever. Amen...*

*May
He [Jesus] give us charity and brotherly love
in the bond of peace.*

*May
He hear the requests of our hearts,
He who alone holds power –
the holy Master,
shining with glory and honor
Whose name is the Lord.
He is enthroned in the heavens
He is blessed throughout the ages. Amen.¹⁰*

Euchology of Der Balyzeb (? end 6C)
was discovered 1907 in an Upper Egypt ancient monastery;
its fragments showed ancient liturgical guidance for
worship, prayers, and a credo (creed) for celebrants and congregations

¹⁰ Lucien Deiss, ed. Translated by Benet Weatherhead. *Early Sources of the Liturgy*. (Staten Island, NY: Alba House, a division of Society of St. Paul, 1963), 188-189.

*My thankful heart with glorying tongue
Will celebrate Your name,
Who has restored redeemed, recured
From sickness, death, and pain.*

*I cried; You seem to take some pause,
I sought more earnestly.
And in due time, You supported me
And sent me help from on high.*

*Lord, while my fleeting time still lasts,
Your goodness let me tell.
And new experience I have gained,
My future doubts repel.*

*A humble faithful life. O Lord,
Forever let me walk;
Let my obedience testify,
My praise lies not in talk.*

*Accept, O Lord, my simple gift,
For more I cannot give:
What You bestow I will restore,
For of Your alms I live.¹¹*

Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672)
came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony
with her Puritan husband and father in 1630;
she was the first published poet in British-American Colonies

¹¹ Robert Elmer, ed. *Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans* (Bellingham, WA: 2019), 216.

Lord,

**Who am I or what kind of a person,
that I should dare come up to Your table,
about to receive Your most sacred body?
Nevertheless I know and confess You are able to
Make me worthy – You Who alone Who can make pure...
I beg You all-powerful, sweet, and holy one...
Teach me and permit me
With such purity of heart,
With the cleanliness of mind, and
With such devotion and reverence
to come up to so admirable a sacrament,
That when my heart stirs
with the sweetness of Your blessed presence,
There may be cleansing of my spiritual languor,
There may be washing away of my sins.**

**May I have constant protection against dangers.
Make my heart be inflamed with Your love.
Make my soul taste how sweet You are, Lord...
May it please You...
That my soul may receive moral virtue
from You in its journey, and
make perfect its journey through You and to You
without the impediments of Satan.**

Lord,

**Small is the house of my soul – Grow it larger for You.
It is ruined – Repair it.
It has done many things that offend You –
But to whom will I cry except You?
Make me pure in my eyes;
Mortify in my members all lustful actions
So You may take a peaceful lodging in my tabernacle –
You, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns, God forever and ever. Amen.¹²**

A Communion Prayer (15C)

is from one of several Medieval prayer books
which provided Scripture and prayers to assist Christians;
this one was used before receiving the Sacrament

¹² Karin Maag and John D. Witvliet. *Medieval and Early Modern Europe: Change and Continuity in Religious Practice* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2004), 21-22.

*Grant us,
O Master,
as we retire for sleep:
Rest of body and soul and
Keep us from the murky sleep of sin and
from every dark pleasure of the night.
Halt the drives of the passion.
Extinguish the fiery darts the evil one cunningly throws at us.
Arrest the insurrections of our flesh.
Still our every earthly and material way of thought.*

*Grant us,
O God,
a wakeful mind,
prudent thoughts,
a watchful heart, and
sleep
that is light and free of any satanic fantasy.
Arouse us at the hour of prayer,
confirmed by Your commandments, and
holding in ourselves
the unbroken memory of Your judgments.*

*Grant us,
O Lord,
that we may
sing Your glory all the night long,
and
hymn, bless, and glorify Your all-honored and majestic name of
the Father,
the Son, and
the Holy Spirit
now and forever to the ages of ages.
Amen.¹³*

Antiochus the Monk (7C)

was Abbot of Lavra (monastery) of St. Saba near Jerusalem;
witnessing the Persian invasion of Palestine in 614
and massacre of 42 of his friends by Bedouins,
he wrote an account with Scripture passages plus
moral and spiritual maxims from the Bible and Christian writers.

¹³ Michael Monos, ed. *Orthodoxy Christian Prayer Book* (Columbia, MO: Newrome Press, 2016/2019), 39-40.

Immortal God, Guardian over all:

Give –

***Freedom to those who pray,
Peace to those who ask,
Life to those who believe,
Resurrection to the dead,
Hope to the faithful,
Glorification to the humble,
Blessedness to the righteous,
who keep Your Commandments
in most holy love.***

Grant –

***These things to us, and
that those who have been hurt by many things,
may find Your love abounding in us –
through Him
Who has cleansed all sins.¹⁴***

Book of Cerne (early 9C)
is one of several small ancient prayerbooks;
it contains NT Gospel passages, 71 prayers, hymns,
an abbreviated *Psalter*, and *The Harrowing of Hell* story;
and it exhorts believers to pray – thus uniting with other Christians

¹⁴ Paul C. Stratman, ed. and translator. *Prayers from the Ancient Celtic Church* (Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018), 56.

Give me

Wednesday – March 16

**Give me, O Lord,
A steadfast heart –
which no unworthy affection may drag downwards.**

**Give me,
An unconquered heart –
which no tribulation can wear out.**

**Give me,
An upright heart –
which no unworthy purpose may tempt me aside.**

**Give me also, O Lord my God:
Understanding to know You,
Diligence to seek You,
Wisdom to find You, and
Faithfulness that may finally embrace You.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.¹⁵**

At his life's end, he had a mystical experience with God (Dec 6, 1273). It has been said that three months later on his deathbed, he offered this prayer:

***That I have written seems to me like straw
to what has been revealed to me:
I receive You – price of my redemption – for Whose love
I have watched, studied, and labored.
You have I preached.
You have I taught.
Never have I said anything against You.
If anything was not well said,
That is to be attributed to my ignorance.¹⁶***

Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274),
probably the most influential Medieval theologian and philosopher,
was an Italian Catholic priest and Dominican friar;
his writings emphasized natural theology and reason
to understand God, especially his massive *Summa Theologica*

¹⁵ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 33.

¹⁶ Richard J. Foster. *Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices of the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith* (HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 1998), 99.

I bind unto myself today:

The power of God to hold and lead.

His eye to watch, His might to stay;

His ear to hearken to my need.

The wisdom of my God to teach.

His hand to guide, His shield to ward.

The Word of God to give me speech;

His heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me.

Christ behind me, Christ before me.

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort me and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me.

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in the mouth of friend or stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,

The strong name of the Trinity.

By invocation of the same:

The Three in One – the Three in One –

By whom all nature has creation

Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.

Praise to the Lord of my salvation

Salvation is of Christ the Lord.¹⁷

Patrick of Ireland (c. 390–460/493),

a young Irish 6-year captive finally escaped British sailors,
became a Christian and returned to his homeland to spread the Gospel;

a dynamic pastor, bishop, writer, and church planter;
his Lorica (“breastplate”) prayer was for Christ’s protection

¹⁷ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 22.

*We glory Your name
that converts us from error and pitiless deceit.
We glory You
Who have shown before our eyes what we have seen.*

*We testify to Your goodness
in various ways appearing.
We praise Your gracious name, O Lord,
[which] has convinced those that are convicted by You.*

*We thank You, Lord Jesus Christ,
Who we confide in You unchanging.
We thank You Who have separated the nature being saved
from that which is perishing.*

*We thank You that You have given us
this unwavering [faith] that You alone are God
now and forever.
We Your servants, that are assembled and gathered
with [good] cause, give thanks to You, O Holy One.¹⁸*

*...We are converted –
Now that we have seen
Your marvelous works!*

*Have mercy on us, O God,
according to Your will,
and
Save us from
our great error [disbelief].¹⁹*

Acts of John (early 2C)
is an apocryphal work with its title link to Apostle John;
unsupported, such writings after the Apostles
describe the developing Church, parishioners and practices,
plus beliefs and worship as this Eucharist praise-prayer

¹⁸ Virginia Burrus, ed. *Later Ancient Christianity. A People's History of Christianity, Volume 2.* Series General Editor Denis R. Janz, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1989), 153.

¹⁹ William M. Ramsey, *The Church in the Roman Empire before A.D. 170* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1970), 3.

*Eternal God and
most merciful Father in Jesus Christ,
in Whom You have made a covenant of grace and mercy
with all those who come
to You in Him:*

*Do not withhold Your mercies and loving-kindness toward us.
But continually guide our feet
in the paths of Your righteousness and
in the ways of Your commandments,
that through Your grace
we may be able to live
a godly, holy, sober, and Christian life
in true sincerity and uprightness of heart before You.*

*Grant this, O Lord,
not for any merits of ours,
but only for the merits of
Your Son
our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.²⁰*

Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

was a English philosophy and statesman;
called the “Father of Empiricism,” he developed the scientific method;
a devout Anglican, he believed both natural and special revelation
were methods to proving and knowing God

²⁰ David Schubert, ed. *Personal Prayers of Christians through the Centuries* (Nashville, TN: Dimensions for Living, 2001; original – Lutheran Publishing House, 1991), 14.

Almighty God, heavenly Father:

***We praise You and extol You,
You have again amply given us
the blessed benefits of Your sacraments.
You have satisfied us
with the food and drink of eternal life, and
You have assigned us
the signs and seals of Your mercy.***

***Having been filled
with the benefits of Your altar,
We offer ourselves,
our bodies and souls,
as a holy and precious offering.***

***All of us who have just united
with Jesus Christ
and with one another
through Christ –
May grow daily in faith,
May rejoice in hope,
May enrich ourselves in familial love, and
May give praise, glory, honor, and thanks
to Your holy name
now and forever.
Amen.²¹***

Hungarian Reformed Liturgy (16C),
is one of many orders of worship from different faith communities –
Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and various Protestant ones;
this prayer after receiving Holy Communion is from the Reformed tradition

²¹ Howard L. Rice and Lamar Williamson, Jr. eds. *A Book of Reformed Prayers* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998), 26.

Lord God,

I can feel

The pain suffered by refugees:

The remembrance of friends killed on the streets.

The memories of tear gas, beatings, and cramped prison cells.

The lack of jobs – another kind of hell

for a person of independence and strength

The lack of English – another kind of prison

for a person of intellect and warmth.

The longing

for familiar, comforting sounds, and scenes of home.

The realistic worries

for the family left behind.

My heart is filled

with a longing to comfort and to soothe

with my human warmth and words.

Lead me from this temptation.

Grant me the ability to allow freedom

to these persons suffering in pain...

Grant me the ability to refrain

from smothering with a well-intended care

Grant me the ability

to avoid confusing and burdening these refugees

with my own concerns and needs.

Amen – Amen.²²

Refugee Sponsor (? early 20C)

of refugees from war-torn and oppressed nations,
expresses that we might not only pray but equally important
provide for such displaced adults and children

²² John Carden, ed. *A Procession of Prayers: Prayers and Meditations from Around the World* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, a division of Morehouse Group, 1998), 73.

**You, O eternal Trinity,
are a deep sea,
into which the more I enter
and the more I find,
the more I seek.**

**The soul cannot be satiated in Your abyss,
for she continually hungers after You,
O eternal Trinity,
desiring to see You
with the light of Your Light.
As the deer desires
the springs of living water,
my soul desires
To leave the prison of this dark body and
To see You in truth.**

**O abyss,
O eternal Godhead,
O sea profound –
What more could You give me
than Yourself?**

**You are the fire
which ever burns
without being consumed.**

**You consume in Your heat
all the soul's
self-love.**

**You are the fire
which takes
away cold.**

**You illuminate me
with Your light,
so that I may know all Your truth.**

**Clothe me, clothe me –
with Yourself, Eternal Truth,
so that I may run this mortal life
with true obedience, and
with light of Your most holy faith.²³**

Catherine of Siena (1347-1386)

was an Italian nun, mystic, author, and activist of the Medieval Church; she helped resolve and bring reconciliation for the “great schism” (late 14C) when two Popes claimed the Papacy in Rome and Avignon, France

²³ Horton Davies, ed. *The Communion of the Saints: Prayers of the Famous* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), 61.

Lord,
I pray
not for tranquility
nor that my tribulations may cease.
I pray for
Your support and Your love –
Your strength and grace to overcome adversity
through Jesus Christ. Amen.²⁴

My Lord,
I know You are the Trinity
Perfect invisible, distinct
in three Persons –
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I know You are the Eternal Word
Who descended from heaven to this earth
in the womb of the Virgin Mary and
Who ascended the wood of the cross
to shed Your blood for us miserable sinners.
I beseech You, my Lord,
I beseech You,
I beseech You:
save me, my Comforter –
So that Your precious blood
may not be shed for me in vain,
but let it be shed for the remission of my sins.
From the day I receive the water of Baptism
until this hour which I am before You....
I implore pardon
For anything
in which I have offended
against this city and its citizens,
whether in things spiritual or temporal, and
For all things
in which I have erred.²⁵

Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498),
 a Dominican friar and priest, reformed Florence society and the church;
 at first Catholic leaders and hierarchy supported him,
 but then some of his views opposed the Church's – he did not recant;
 excommunicated, imprisoned, and tortured, he was burned at the stake

²⁴ Daniel Partner, ed. *The One Year Book of Personal Prayer* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishing House, 1991), November 2.

²⁵ Hezekiah Butterworth. *The Story of the Notable Prayers of Christian History* (Charleston, SC: BiblioLife, 2011 [original Boston: D. Lothrop and Company, 1880]), 278-279.

**O Lord Jesus Christ, You are
the Way,
the Truth, and
the Life.**

**We pray You allow us
Never to stray from You –
Who are the Way,
Nor to distrust You –
Who are the Truth,
Nor to rest in any other than You –
Who are the Life.²⁶**

**Teach us,
by Your Holy Spirit:
What to believe,
What to do, and
How to take our rest.²⁷**

Desiderius Erasmus (1466/1469-1536),
a Dutch priest, theologian, and social critic in the Renaissance,
was called the “Prince of Christian Humanists;”
critical of the Church and seeking reforms, he advocated
“via media” (“middle way”) between Catholics and emerging “protestants”

²⁶ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 40.

²⁷ Horton Davies, ed. *The Communion of the Saints: Prayers of the Famous* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), 35.

*Glorious Lord,
Give me the grace
To amend my life and
To have an eye to my end
without begrudging death
which to those who die in You, Good Lord,
is the gate of a wealthy life.*

*Give me, Good Lord,
A humble, quiet, peaceable, patient, charitable,
kind, tender, and compassionate mind
in all my works and all my words and all my thoughts
to have a taste of Your Holy Spirit.*

*Give me, Good Lord,
A full faith,
A firm hope,
A fervent charity, and
A love of You incomparably
above the love of myself.*

*Give me, Good Lord,
A longing to be with You –
Not to avoid the calamities of this world
Nor so much to attain the joys of heaven,
as simply for love of You.*

*Give me, Good Lord,
Your love and favor –
which my love of You, however great, could
not deserve were it not for Your great goodness.*

*Good Lord, Give me
Your grace to labor for –
these things that I pray for.²⁸*

Thomas More (1478-1535),

English lawyer, social philosopher, author, and Renaissance Humanist;
he resisted Protestant Reformers, supported the Pope's authority,
but opposed Henry VIII's annulment of Katherine of Aragon
and his "Oath of Supremacy" (as being Head of English Church);
convicted of treason, he was beheaded

²⁸ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 41.

Teach us, Lord

*To serve You as You deserve,
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labor and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing
that we do Your will.²⁹*

Take, Lord, all

*My liberty,
My understanding, and
My whole will.
You have given me all that I have,
All that I am –
I surrender all to Your divine will, and
as You dispose me.*

Give me only

*Your love and Your grace – with this
I am rich enough and
I have no more to ask.³⁰*

Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556),

seeking fame and self-gratification, as a Spanish soldier he was wounded but during his recovery, he had a spiritual conversion; then he lived humbly, experienced visions, “contemplated” the Gospels, opposed the Reformation, wrote *Spiritual Exercises*, and founded the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits)

²⁹ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 49.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

*A broken A L T A R, Lord, Thy servant rears,
Made of a heart, and cemented with tears.
Whose parts are as Thine hand did frame;
No workman's tool has touched the same.*

*A heart alone
Is such a stone
as nothing but
Thy power does cut.
Wherefore each part
of my hard heart
meets in this frame
to praise Thy name.*

*That if I chance to hold my peace,
these stones to praise Thee may not cease
Oh, let Thy blessed sacrifice be mine,
and sanctify this A L T A R to be Thine.³¹*

*Lord, Who created man in wealth and store,
though foolish, he lost the same –
decaying more and more
till he became
most poor:
with You.
O let me rise
as larks, harmoniously,
and sing this day Your victories,
then shall the Fall further the flight in me.*

*My tender age in sorrow did begin;
and still with sickness and shame
You did so punish sin,
that I became
most thin.
with You,
let me combine
to feel this day Your victory,
for if I link my wing to Yours,
affliction shall advance the flight in me.³²*

George Herbert (1593-1633),

from a wealthy Wales family, was educated at Cambridge;
he became an English priest, preaching and writing spiritual poetry;
his works and prayers are often unique, linguistically and visually

³¹ Richard J. Foster. *Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices of the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith* (HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 1998), 67.

³² Walter Wangerin Jr. *Whole Prayer: Speaking and Listening to God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 75-76.

We most humbly beg You:

Give us grace –

***Not only to be hearers of the Word,
But also doers of the same.***

***Not only to love,
But also to live Your Gospel.***

***Not only to favor,
But also to follow Your godly doctrine.***

***Not only to profess,
But also to practice Your blessed Commandments.***

***To the honor of Your Holy Name
and the health of our souls.³³***

Thomas Becon (1511/1513-1567/1570),
an English cleric and reformer, was arrested and forced to recant;
when [Edward VI](#) (a Protestant) came to the throne,
he was restored and made Chaplain to the Lord Protector;
but when Mary I (a Catholic) became sovereign,
he was divested of his ecclesiastical positions and imprisoned;
when released, he fled to the Continent but later returned

³³ Horton Davies, ed. *The Communion of the Saints: Prayers of the Famous* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), 50.

O Lord God,

**Let Your mighty outstretched arm –
Be our defense;
Your mercy and lovingkindness in Jesus Christ Your Son –
Our salvation;
Your all true Word –
Our instruction;
The grace of Your life-giving Spirit –
Our comfort and constellation
unto the end and in the end through
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.³⁴**

O God of all power,

**as You have called from death
the Great Shepherd of the sheep,
our Lord Jesus Christ:
Comfort and defend the flock
which He redeemed
by the blood of the eternal covenant;
Increase the number of true [faithful] preachers;
Lighten the hearts of the ignorant
Relieve the pains of those who are afflicted
but especially of those
who suffer for the truth
by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.³⁵**

John Knox (1513/1514-1572)

was a dynamic leader in the Scottish Reformation
leading to the independent Church of Scotland;
his ideas and writings formed the basis for
Presbyterianism in doctrine, worship, and polity

³⁴ Frank Colquhoun, ed. *Parish Prayers* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1967), 354.

³⁵ David Schubert, ed. *Personal Prayers of Christians through the Centuries* (Nashville, TN: Dimensions for Living, 2001; original – Nashville: Lutheran Publishing House, 1991), 38.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
Keeper and Preserver
of all things:
Let your right hand guard us
by day and by night,
When we sit at home and when we walk abroad,
When we lie down and when we rise up
that we may be kept from all evil –
Have mercy upon us sinners.³⁶**

**I confess You with faith and I adore You –
O Father,
Son, and
Holy Spirit.
From the East to the West,
From North and from South
All races in peoples
praise You in a new hymn,
the Maker
of all things,
Who has shot forth this day
the sunlight into the world.
Churches of the righteous,
Glorifiers of the Holy Trinity,
at the dawn of light praise
O Christ,
the Dawn of Peace,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
Who has shot forth the light of
His knowledge into us.³⁷**

Nerses the Gracious (1102-/1173)
was Catholicos (similar to Pope) of the Armenian Church (1166-1173);
a theologian, poet, and hymn writer,
he worked to bring his church out of isolation
and to reconcile with the Eastern Orthodox Church

³⁶ J. Manning Potts, ed. *Prayers of the Middle Ages: Light from a Thousand Years* (Nashville, TN: The Upper Room, 1954), 27.

³⁷ Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen B. Westfield Tucker, eds. *The Oxford History of Christian Worship* (Oxford: University, 2006), 153.

*The Son exists in the Father,
like the word in sound.
The Holy Spirit is in both,
like breath in sound and the word.
And these three Persons
are one God.*

*Eternity lives in the Father
Because no one [nothing] existed before Him and
Because eternity has no beginning –
just as the works of God have no beginning.
Equality lives in the Son,
Because the Son
never separates Himself from the Divine,
nor did the Divine exist without the Son.
The union of these two live in the Holy Spirit,
Because the Son always remained with the Father and
the Father with the Son.
For the Holy Spirit is a fiery life in Them –
and They are one...*

*O Holy Spirit –
making life alive,
moving in all things,
root of all created being,
cleansing the cosmos of every impurity,
effacing guilt,
anointing wounds –
You waken and re-awaken everything that is.
You are lustrous and praiseworthy Life.³⁸*

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179),
was a German nun and mystic famous for prophecies and miracles;
she founded monasteries, wrote songs and poetry,
authored books on religion and medicine, composed music, and
probably penned the oldest surviving English morality play

³⁸ Stanley M. Burgess, ed. *Christian Peoples of the Spirit: A Documentary History of Pentecostal Spirituality from the Early Church to the Present* (New York: New York University Press, 2011), 103.

***We worship You, Lord,
exalted above the heaven!***

***On earth You were hated and scorned by men;
Now You are adored by angels.
On earth Your name was reproached;
Now God has given You "the Name above every name."
On earth You came in the form of a servant;
Now kings of the earth cast their crowns before You.
On earth You were a man of sorrows;
Now You are anointed with the oil of gladness.
On earth was Your crucifixion;
Now [in heaven] Your coronation.
On earth Your Father frowned on You in desertion;
Now He has set You at His right hand.***

What a change!...

***Just as here Christ puts His grace upon His saints,
So shortly He will put His glory upon them...
We cannot lift Christ higher in heaven,
But we may lift up Him in our hearts.***

***So let us
Believe Him,
Adore Him,
Love Him, and
Exalt Him!***

***For all the doxologies
and prayers in the world,
do not exalt Christ
as much as a holy life.³⁹***

Thomas Watson (c. 1620-1686),
an excellent and popular English Puritan preacher and author,
he was removed from his pulpit at the Restoration of a Catholic king;
yet he still preached privately when he had opportunities

³⁹ Tim Chester. *An Ocean of Grace* (Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company, 2021), 134-136.

*Every good thing we could conceive or desire
is to be found in Jesus Christ alone – He was
Sold to buy us back,
Captive to deliver us,
Condemned to absolve us,
Cursed for our blessing,
Made a sin offering for our righteousness,
Marred that we might be fair,
Died that we might live.⁴⁰*

*This is the wonderful exchange,
which out of His measureless benevolence,
Christ has made with us.*

*Becoming the Son of Man with us,
He has made us sons [children] of God with Him.
By His descent to earth
He has prepared an ascent to heaven for us.
By taking on our mortality
He has conferred His immortality upon us.
By accepting our weakness
He has by His power strengthened us.
By taking the weight of our iniquity upon Himself,
He has with His righteousness clothed us....⁴¹*

John Calvin (1509-1564),
trained in law, became a Christian and leader;
he was a key theologian of the Protestant Reformation, and
his church polity developed Presbyterianism and influenced John Knox

⁴⁰ Tim Chester. *An Ocean of Grace* (Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company, 2021), 113.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 81.

O Lord, I believe

*That You have instituted and ordained
these Holy Mysteries
as pledges of Your love, and
for a continual commemoration of Your death –
That You have not only given Yourself to die for me,
but to be my spiritual food and sustenance
in that Holy Sacrament
to be my great and endless comfort.*

O Lord,

*May I frequently approach Your altar
with humility and devotion, and
May You work in me all those holy and heavenly affections
due the remembrance of our crucified Savior.⁴²*

Richard Allen (1760-1831)

was born a slave, but bought his freedom by age 25;
after he and several African Americans were segregated
from White parishioners in a northern church worship service,
they started a Black Episcopal congregation where he was soon ordained;
in 1798 he founded the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

⁴² James Melvin Washington, ed.. *Conversations with God: Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1995), 8-9.

*Almighty and eternal Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God
Who are the eternal Word and
Image of the eternal Father
our Mediator and Intercessor
crucified for us and raised again:
I give You most hearty and great thanks for You did
Assume humanity
Suffered and risen again in human nature, and
Became my Redeemer.
I beseech You,
Intercede now on my behalf.
Regard me and
Have mercy on me,
for I am poor and defenseless.*

*By your Holy Spirit
Increase the light of faith in me, as I am weak
Sustain, rule, protect, and save me
O Lord
In the You have I hoped –
Let me never be confounded.
Almighty and Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
Pure,
Living, and
True
illuminate, govern, sanctify, and confirm
my heart and my mind
in the faith and in all genuine consolation.*

*Preserve and rule over me,
that dwelling in the House of the Lord
all the days of my life,
beholding the beauty of the Lord,
I may be and remain in the temple of God, and
praise Him with a joyful spirit
in union with all the heavenly Church. Amen.⁴³*

John Donne (1572-1631),
like Augustine of Hippo, had romantic affairs
plus was gifted with intellectual and writing abilities;
but he struggled to find faith – being converted not swiftly yet profoundly
from sinful dissolution to sincere devotion and becoming an Anglican priest

⁴³ Butterworth, Hezekiah Butterworth, *The Story of the Notable Prayers of Christian History* (original – Boston: D. Lothrop and Company, 1880 / reprint – Charleston, SC: BiblioLife, 2011), 275-276.

*Where are You pasturing Your flock? – O Good Shepherd
Who carries on Your shoulders – the whole flock
For the whole of human nature is – one sheep
You have lifted upon Your shoulders.*

*Show me the place of peace
Lead me to the good pasture that will nourish me
Call me by name, so that I – Your sheep
may hear Your voice.*

Answer me, You who my soul loves.

*I give You the name "You who my soul loves"
Because Your name
Is above every name and above all understanding;
no rational being can utter it or comprehend it.
Therefore, Your name,
by which Your goodness is known,
is simply the love of my soul has for You.*

*How could I not love You
when You love me so much?
Even though my heart was black
You lay down Your life for sheep of – Your flock
A greater love cannot be imagined,
than exchanging Your life for my salvation.*

*Show me, says my soul, where You pastor – Your flock
So that I can
Find that saving pasture;
Fill myself with the food of heaven,
without which no one can come to eternal life;
Run to the spring and fill myself with a drink of God.
You give it as from a spring to those who thirst
Water pouring from Your side
cut open by the lance,
Water that to whoever drinks
is a fountain springing up to eternal life...
Do not let me fall away from – Your flock.⁴⁴*

Gregory of Nyssa (c. 335 - c. 395),
whose sister Macrina and brother Basil were quite influential
in the early Church, was an excellent theologian
and defender of the Nicene Creed and Trinitarian theology

⁴⁴ Vassilios Papavassiliou, ed. *The Ancient Faith Prayer Book* (Chesterton, IN: Ancient Faith Publishing, 2014), 152-153.

**O God,
Cleanse me a sinner
for I have done nothing good in Your sight.
Deliver me from the craft of the devil.
May Your will be accomplished in me.**

**May I, without condemnation,
open my unworthy lips and
praise Your holy name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.
Amen.⁴⁵**

**O Eternal God, King of all creation
Who vouchsafed me to attain to this hour,
Forgive the sins which I've committed this day
in thought word and deed.
Cleanse, O Lord, my humble soul
from every stain of flesh and spirit
Grant me, Lord,
to pass through the sleep of this night in peace,
to rise from my lowly bed,
to please Your holy name all the days of my life, and
to vanquish the enemies both corporal and in corporal
that contend against me.
Deliver me, O Lord,
from the vain thoughts that stain me and
from evil desires.**

**For Yours is
the kingdom and
the power and
the glory – of
the Father and
the Son and
the Holy Spirit,
now and forever
into the age of ages. Amen.⁴⁶**

Macarius of Egypt (c. 300- 390)

made an early living in desert areas which eased his learning
to become an ascetic under a desert elder-mentor;
he was ordained a priest and a community formed around him,
yet banished a few times over Nicene Creed doctrinal disputes

⁴⁵ Nicolas Zernov, ed. Alexander Schmemmann, Foreword. *A Manual of Eastern Orthodox Prayers* (Crestwood, New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1983), 5-7.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 13.

*I am the child who lives on the streets –
Pray for me.*
*I am the child in a refugee camp –
Pray for me*
*I am the child hidden away in an orphanage –
Pray for me*
*I am the child trying to find my parents –
Pray for me.*
*I am the child dying of hunger –
Pray for me.*

Share
*Your music,
Your education,
Your riches*
with me.

Share
*Your shoes,
Your food,
Your blankets,
Your fuel,
Your toys*
with me.

Share
*Your ideas,
Your imagination,
Your skills,
Your time,
Your dreams*
with me.

Share
Your world
with me.
– It should be mine as well.⁴⁷

Children's Pleas (mid-20C)

from the Children's Aid Direct in Great Britain; this international charity deploys workers plus donates food, clothes, and medical supplies to children and communities suffering from war, disaster, and poverty – this prayer reflects the hurts and hopes of such children.

⁴⁷ John Carden, ed. *A Procession of Prayers: Prayers and Meditations from Around the World* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, a division of Morehouse Group, 1998), 29.

***O most blessed Lord:
Attend to help us.
Abolish our sins by Your great mercy.
Detach our minds from our earthly things, and
Raise them to the love of heavenly riches.***

***Most merciful God,
Who does support all true love:
Do so aid and direct us that we
May love You above all things, and
recognizing Your infinite benefits,
May keep them in memory and
give You everlasting thanks for them.***

***Finally,
Grant that ours
May be the blessed life
which shall enjoy Your love forever –
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.⁴⁸***

Raymond Jordanus (? mid 14C to late 14C),
was a French Medieval Christian writer,
his Latin writings express simple but wise, clear, and concise faith
often included in anthologies with Church authors and theologians

⁴⁸ J. Manning Potts, ed. *Prayers of the Early Church & Prayers of the Middle Ages* (Middletown, DE: Istoria Christian Classics Library of Fearless Church Publishers, 2017), 108.

O Jesus, adoring Your last breath:

***I beg You to receive mine –
not knowing at this time
whether I will have command of my senses
when I leave this world.***

***I offer you now –
my last agony and
all the sufferings
of my death.***

***From today on,
I will willingly and freely accept from Your hand –
whatever kind of death will please You,
with all its sufferings in pains and fears.***

You are my Father and my Savior:

***I place my soul in Your hands.
I desire***

***That my last moment
be united with that
of Your death, and
That the last beat of my heart
be an act of pure love
for You. Amen.⁴⁹***

Pius X (1835-1914)

was Pope (1903-1914); he lived in personal poverty,
stressed Catholic Thomism, and preached regular sermons

⁴⁹ Nicolas Diat. *A Time to Die: Monks on the Threshold of Eternal Life* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2019), 127-128.

*My joy is the Lord.
My passion is toward Him.
My passion is toward Him.*

*This path of mine is beautiful,
for the Lord is my helper.*

*In full measure,
He revealed Himself to me.*

*In his simplicity,
His kindness made His greatness small.*

*He became like me,
that I might grasp Him.*

*He appeared like me in form,
that I might put on Him.*

*I had no fear when I saw Him,
He had mercy on me.*

*He became like my own nature,
that I might comprehend Him.*

*His form was the same as mine,
that I might not turn back from Him...*

*They come before Him and see with their own eyes,
They should be seen before His countenance.
They shall praise the Lord for His love,
because He is near and allows them to see Him....*

*Singers shall sing the grace of the Most High,
They shall bring their songs before Him.*

*Their hearts shall be bright as the day,
Their voices shall be beautiful as the Lord!*

*Nothing that lives shall be without knowledge or dumb,
for He gave a mouth to His creation –
A voice and mouth to open before Him and to praise Him.*

*Confess His might!
Proclaim His grace!*

Hallelujah!⁵⁰

Odes of Solomon (3C-4C),

a collection of 42 [odes](#) apocryphally attributed to Solomon, are poems of praise, love, and adoration – similar to the Bible's *Song of Solomon/Songs* – either in Greek and/or Syriac; this Ode #7 excerpt is praise-prayer to Jesus as Lord

⁵⁰ Eberhard Arnold, ed. *The Early Christians in Their Own Words* (Farmington, PA: The Plough Publishing House, 1970), 243-45.

*You are holy, Lord – the only God!
You are strong – You are great.
You are the most high – You are Almighty.
You are, holy Father, King of heaven and earth.
You are Three and One, Lord God, all good....
Lord God – living and true:
You are love – You are wisdom.
You are humility – You are endurance.
You are rest – You are peace.
You are joy and gladness.
You are justice and moderation.
Great and wonderful Lord!
You are all our riches – You suffice for us.
You are beauty – You are gentleness.
You are our protector – You are our guardian and defender.
You are courage – You are our haven and our hope.
You are our faith – You are our eternal life.
God Almighty – Merciful Savior!⁵¹*

In 1226, Francis was becoming weak because of hemorrhages and was blind. He asked his physician how long he had to live. After hesitating, the doctor said death was near. Francis then added to his famous praise song-prayer to creatures and Creation, two more verses.

*...You be praised, O Lord,
of my Sister Bodily Death –
from whom no one living may escape,
for woe to those who die
in mortal sin.*

*Blessed are they who are found
in Your most holy will,
for the second death
shall not work them ill.
Praise You and bless my Lord,
give Him thanks and
serve Him with great humility.⁵²*

Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

received a vision of the risen Jesus Christ,
“Francis, go and repair My House, which as you see, is in ruins.”
So he sought to rebuild and reform the Church,
developing the Franciscans as poor, prayerful preachers

⁵¹ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 30.

⁵² Wangerin, 202.

Lord,

*Since You have
taken from me
all I had from You –
Yet
of Your grace
leave me that gift...*

*of
being
true
to
You.*

*In my distress
when I am deprived
of all consolation,
this
I desire
more fervently than
Your heavenly kingdom!⁵³*

Mechthild of Magdeburg (c. 1210-1280)

became a Beguine in Saxony (N. Germany), a lay religious community in central Germany whose members were not bound by vows; a mystic, she reported divine visions and revelations, later written as *The Flowing Light of the Godhead*

⁵³ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 35.

**O Lord Jesus Christ,
Thanks be to You –
for all the
Benefits which You have won us
for all
Pains and insults which You have borne
for us.**

**O most merciful
Redeemer,
Friend, and
Brother:**

**May we
– Know You more clearly,
– Love You more dearly, and
– Follow You more nearly
day by day. Amen.⁵⁴**

Richard of Chichester (1197-1253),
as Bishop of Chichester, initiated ecclesiastical reforms and
criticized immorality of priests but protected them from secular control;
part of his deathbed prayer (excerpted above) was adapted
as the song “*Day by Day*” in the Christian musical *Godspell* (1971)

⁵⁴ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 31.

Prayer for the Cup:

***We give thanks to You, our Father,
for the holy vine of Your child David,
which You made known to us through Your child Jesus –
Glory to You for evermore.***

Prayer for the Bread:

***We give thanks to You, our Father,
for the life and knowledge
which You made known to us through Your child Jesus –
Glory to You for evermore.
As this broken bread was scattered over the mountains,
and when brought together became one;
So let Your Church be brought together
from the ends of the earth into Your kingdom –
Yours are the glory and power
through Jesus Christ for evermore.***

Doxology:

***We give thanks to You, Holy Father, for Your holy name
which You have enshrined in our hearts, and
for the knowledge, faith, and immortality
which You made known to us through Your child Jesus –
Glory to You for evermore.
You Almighty Master created all things for the sake of Your Name,
To all, giving food and drink for their enjoyment,
that they might give You thanks –
But to us, You have granted spiritual food and drink, and
eternal life through Your child Jesus!
Above all, we give You thanks because You are mighty –
Glory to You for evermore....⁵⁵***

For Thine is the power and the glory forever.

The Didache or "Teaching" (mid-1C)
entitled *The Lord's Teaching through the Twelve Apostles*
is a key 1C document hypothetically linked to the Apostles by name
about the Christian life, fasting, church organization, and worship
(e.g., baptism and Eucharist plus the home Agape meal);
these praise and thanksgiving prayers were led by celebrants

⁵⁵ R. C. D. Jasper and G. J. Cuming, Translators and eds. *Prayers of the Eucharist: Early and Reformed*, 3rd Edition. (Collegeville, MN: A Pueblo Book, Pueblo Publishing, 1987), 23-24.

O Christ,
As we follow You down the road
to Calvary –
Guide us to become
active participants,
not curious bystanders.

O Christ,
As we stand with the mourners
at the Cross –
Give us the love
that can forgive those
who trespass against us.

O Christ,
As we witness the new life given to us
by Your Resurrection –
Empower us with faith
to act and
to spread the Good News.⁵⁶

A Palestinian Christian woman (20C)
who is just one among millions of believers and followers
of the Lord Jesus the Christ
in Arab countries and Muslim cultures

⁵⁶ John Carden, ed. *A Procession of Prayers: Prayers and Meditations from Around the World* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, a division of Morehouse Group, 1998), 248.

*Christ's Cross
over this face,
over my ears,
Christ's Cross
over these eyes and over this mouth,
over this throat, and over this head,
to accompany before me, behind me.
Christ's Cross for every difficulty...
Christ's Cross
over the Church.
Christ's Cross
over my church.
Christ's Cross
in the next world.
Christ's Cross
in our own world.⁵⁷*

Celtic "Cross" Prayer (10C)

similar to Patrick's "breastplate protection" prayer, this intercession (format adapted), seeks the power and protection of Christ through His Cross over a Christian's life and being.

⁵⁷ Esther De Wall. *The Celtic Way of Prayer* (New York: Doubleday, a division of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1997), 135.

*To Him Who has power and might
To open the ears of your heart,
So that you may receive
the penetrating words of the Lord
in the Gospel and teaching of Jesus Christ;*

*To Him Who was crucified and died in the days of Pontius Pilate,
To proclaim to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
The end of the world and
The coming resurrection of the dead.*

*To Him Who rose from the dead
To proclaim to you and to give you to know
that He is the pledge of the Resurrection;*

*To Him Who ascended
To the heavens
by the power of God His Father and the Holy Spirit.*

*To Him Who sits
To the right of the Almighty's throne above cherubim;*

*To Him Who is
To come with power and with glory
To judge the dead and the living;*

*To Him be –
Dominion,
Honor,
Majesty, and
Kingship – and
To the Father and
To the Holy Spirit –
To [God] Who was, Who is, and Who is to be.
Now and from age to age,
and in all eternity. Amen.⁵⁸*

Didascalia of the Twelve Apostles (early 3C)
is a manual for believers was probably by a Syrian bishop;
like some early Christian writings, it sought "authority"
by its title reference to the Apostles; the Church, while not concurring,
accepted these teachings as useful for believers in their worship and lives.

⁵⁸ Lucien Deiss, ed. Translated by Benet Weatherhead. *Early Sources of the Liturgy* (Staten Island, NY: Alba House, a division of the Society of St. Paul, 1963), 95-96.

*Lord Jesus, I pray, give me grace
To rest in You
Above all things
To quiet myself in You –
Above all creatures,
Above all glory and honor,
Above all dignity and power,
Above all schemes and policies,
Above all health and beauty,
Above all riches and treasure,
Above all joy and pleasure,
Above all fame and praise,
Above all compassion and consolation
That I shall feel
and receive from You!...*

*Come to me, I pray, in love...
Come, O Lord, visit me for
without You I have no true joy,
without You my soul is heavy and sad.
I am in prison and bound with chains of sorrow
until You, O Lord,
with Your gracious presence, stoop to
Visit me,
Bring me again liberty and joy,
Show Your gracious face,
Reveal to me the greatness of Your goodness, and
Let Your power be glorified in me –
I have no other hope or refuge
except You and You alone
my Lord and my God.⁶⁰*

Catherine Parr (c. 1512-1548),
was the sixth and last wife of Henry VIII (1543-1547);
supportive of Reformation perspectives,
she and Henry discussed Catholic-Protestant theological issues;
her devotional writings were published posthumously

⁶⁰ Tim Chester. *An Ocean of Grace* (Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company, 2021), 119-120.

O God,
Give us patience,
when others hurt us.
O how impatient and angry we are,
when we think ourselves
unjustly slandered, reviled, and hurt!
Christ suffers strokes upon his body,
the innocent for the guilty –
yet we may not abide one rough word for His sake.

O Lord,
Grant us virtue and patience, power, and strength,
That we may take all adversity with good will, and
with a gentle mind, overcome it.
And if Your honor require us to speak,
Grant that we may do so with meekness and patience
That the truth and Your glory may be defended, and
our patience and steadfast continuance perceived.⁶¹

O Jesus,
Be mindful of Your promise –
Think of us, Your servants;
When we are departing from here,
Speak to our soul these loving words:
“Today you shall be
with me in joy!”

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Remember us, Your servants who trust in You
When our tongues cannot speak
When the sight of our eyes fail, and
When our eyes are stopped...
Let our soul always
Rejoice in You and
Be joyful for Your salvation
which You through Your death
purchased for us!⁶²

Myles Coverdale (1488-1569),
was an English ecclesiastical reformer chiefly known
as a Bible translator, preacher, and briefly Bishop of Exeter;
when his views came more aligned with Protestant Reformers,
he was exiled to Germany for a time

⁶¹ Veronica Zundel, ed. *The Lion Book of Famous Prayers* (Oxford, England: A Lion Book of Lion Publishing, 1983), 44.

⁶² Horton Davies, ed. *The Communion of the Saints: Prayers of the Famous* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), 136.

Lord,

**We beseech You:
Help and defend us,
Deliver the oppressed,
Pity the poor,
Uplift those who have fallen,
Be the portion of those in need
Return to your care those who have gone astray,
Feed the hungry,
Strengthen the weak, and
Break the chains of the prisoners.
May all people come to know You only are God,
Jesus Christ is Your Child, and
We are Your people and
the sheep of Your pasture.⁶³**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Grant we pray:

**That we might be grounded and settled in Your truth
by the coming of the Holy Spirit into our hearts.
What we do not know – Reveal to us,
What is lacking within us – Make complete,
What we do know – Confirm in us,
In Your service – Keep us blameless in Christ our Lord.⁶⁴**

**To our rulers and governors on earth –
To them, Lord, You
Gave power of the kingdom by Your glorious, ineffable might,
That we might know the glory and honor given
To them by You, subject
To them in nothing resisting Your will
To them, Lord,
Give health, peace, concord, and stability
That they may exercise authority given
To them without offense.⁶⁵**

Clement of Rome (c. 35-99)

was Pope (88-96) as Church organization was being established;
asserting apostolic authority for bishops/presbyters over congregations;
encouraging prayer for all leaders, but he was martyred
under Emperor Trajan – thrown into the sea tied to an anchor

⁶³ Duane W. H. Arnold, translator and ed. *Prayers of the Martyrs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, a division of HarperCollinsPublishers, 1991), 14.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 30.

⁶⁵ Carl J. Sommer. *We Look for a Kingdom: The Everyday Lives of the Early Christians* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2007), 226.

God in heaven:
Have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ:

*Intercede for Your people,
Deliver us at the opportune time,
Preserve us in genuine Christian faith, and
Collect Your scattered sheep
with Your voice
– as Holy Writ calls it,
Your divine Word.*

*Help us to recognize Your voice.
Help us to not be allured by the madness of the world
So that we may never
fall away from You –
O Lord Jesus Christ.⁶⁶*

Albrecht Durer (1471-1528)
was a German painter, printmaker, engraver,
and overall a renaissance man;
although a Catholic, he supported many Reformation ideas

⁶⁶ Horton Davies, ed. *The Communion of the Saints: Prayers of the Famous* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), 55.

Lord,

***Make me see Your glory in every place.
If mortal beauty sets my heart glow,
Shall not that earthly fire by Yours burn low
Extinguish by the great light of Your grace.***

***Dear Lord, I cry to You for help; O raise
Me from the misery of this blind woe.
Your Spirit alone can save me – Let it flow
Through will and sense, redeeming what is base.***

***You have given me on earth, this God-like soul,
And a poor prisoner of it,
You have made
Behind weak of flesh-woes –***

***From that wretched state:
How can I rescue it, how my true life find?
All goodness, Lord, must fail without your aid –
For You alone have power to alter fate.⁶⁷***

***My unassisted heart is barren clay,
That of its native self, can nothing feed;
Of good and pious works, You are the seed.
That quickens only where You say it may;
Unless You show to us Your own true way,
No one can find it – Father! You must lead.⁶⁸***

Michelangelo (1475-1564)

Italian sculptor, painter, architect, and poet
was a “Renaissance man” who influenced Western fine arts;
he grew in his faith and many of his works reflect biblical themes

⁶⁷ Horton Davies, ed. *The Communion of the Saints: Prayers of the Famous* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), 85.

⁶⁸ A. W. Tozer. *The Pursuit of God* (Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, Inc.: 1982), 67-68.

*I will extol You,
the Trinity,
the mysterious One
Who is One and Three,
a Unity of one energy
of the same essence and attributes –
One God to be praised!*

*I will praise You,
great Father,
whose works are great
To praise You is just,
To praise You is my duty,
To produce poetry for You is right.
Hail, glorious Christ!
Father, and Son, and Spirit!*

Lord, God, Adonai!

*I will extol God,
Who is both One and Two
Who is Three, without any error, without any doubt;
Who made fruit, gulley, and every gushing stream.
God is His name
– being Two Divine Ones to be comprehended;
God is His name
– being Three Divine Ones in His energy;
God is His name
– being One, the God of Peter and Paul.*

*I will extol One,
Who is both Two and One
Who is also Three –
Who is God Himself....⁶⁹*

Black Book of Carmarthen (mid-13C)
may be the oldest surviving Welsh written work and
is named for its black binding;
it compiled secular and religious poetry from the 9C to the 12C

⁶⁹ Paul C. Stratman, ed. and translator. *Prayers from the Ancient Celtic Church* (Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018), 41-42.

**Gracious Lord almighty,
Jesus Christ:**

**Let Your sufferings aid us and defend us
From
all pain and grief,
all perils and misery,
all uncleanness of heart,
all sin,
all scandal and infamy;
From
evil diseases of soul or body,
sudden and unforeseen death, and
persecution by our foes visible and invisible.**

**For we know that in whatever day or hour
we call to mind
Your Passion
we shall be safe.
Therefore, relying on Your infinite tenderness,
We beseech You,
O Loving Savior,
by Your most kind and sacred sufferings
protect us with gracious aid and continual tenderness
to preserve us from all evil. Amen.⁷⁰**

Innocent III (1160/1161-1216),
a strong Pope (1198-1216),
sought control over secular leaders
and also Christian influence through Holy Land Crusades
and against Muslims in Spain and Southern France;
he reformed the Church and refined canon law.

⁷⁰ James, James, Kevin C., ed. *Catholic Prayer Book: Powerful Catholic Prayers of the Popes* (Columbia, SC: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013), 24-25.

Lord,

May I be:

**Wakeful
at sunrise
for beginning a new day
for You.**

**Cheerful
at sunset
for having done my work
for You.**

**Thankful
at moonrise and under starshine
for the beauty of
Your universe.**

**May I add
what little is in me
for You.**

Amen.⁷¹

Abbot of Greve (c. 12C),
headed a monastery (est. mid-11C) in Chianti hill area Greve of Tuscany;
though subjugated by Florence in mid-15C,
it restrengthened in 16C and 17C but closed in mid-20C

⁷¹ Jeanie and David P. Gushee, eds. *Yours is the Day, Lord; Yours is the Night – A Morning and Evening Prayer Book* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2012), 247.

[O Lord...]

*To the devil,
I bequeath
my sins against God...*

*To the world,
I bequeath all
vanities,
transitory things,
worldly satisfactions,
empty hopes,
curiosities, and
even friends and relatives –*

*So I may exchange
what is passing
for what is eternal, and
all worldly curiosity
for the true vision of the face of God.⁷²*

Camillus de Lellis (1550-1614),
an Italian priest founded the Order of the Ministers for the Sick
to ill and dying during pandemics and plagues; two days before he died,
he wrote a “Last Will & Testament” (excerpted above)

⁷² Paul Thigpen. *Last Words: Final Thoughts of Catholic Saints & Sinners*
(Cincinnati, OH: Servant Books, an imprint of St. Anthony Messenger Press,
2006), 38.

God in heaven,

**You have helped my life
to grow
like a tree.**

Now something's happened.

**Satan, like a bird,
has carried in
one twig of his own
choosing after another.**

**Before I knew it,
he had built
a dwelling place
and was living in it.**

**My Father,
Tonight I am throwing out
both the bird
and his nest.⁷³**

A Nigerian Prayer (? 20C)
also titled "God and Satan, the Tree, the Twig, and the Bird"
is by an anonymous author expressing spiritual warfare
through poignant imagery and insightful honesty

⁷³ Frederick Quinn. *African Saints: Saints, Martyrs, And Holy People from the Continent of Africa* (New York: A Crossroad Book of the Crossroad Publishing Company, 2002), 218.

Almighty God:

We beseech You:

Hear our prayers for

All those [and us]

who sin against You or

who neglect to serve You,

All who forget You, and

All who leave You out of their lives.

Our Lord:

Have mercy upon them

Bestow upon us all:

repentance and

an earnest longing for You.

O Lord:

We pray and beseech You:

Strengthen and confirm

all Your faithful people, and

Lift up the light of Your face upon them,

giving them continuous heavenly desires

through Jesus Christ our Lord.⁷⁴

Ancient Collects (5C)

were short prayers in liturgies for congregational worship
and in prayer books for individual and family use at home

⁷⁴ J. Manning Potts, ed.. *Prayers of the Early Church & Prayers of the Middle Ages* (Middletown, DE: Istoria Christian Classics Library, Fearless Church Publishers, 2017), 49.

**O Son of the carpenter –
Who skillfully made
Your Cross – a bridge over Sheol
that swallows up all, and
brought mankind into the dwelling of life.
Because through
the tree
mankind had fallen into Sheol;
Because of
Your Tree
they passed
over into the dwelling of Life,
the Tree
on which bitterness was tasted;
through it also sweetness when tasted.
So that we might learn of Him....**

**Glory be to You – Who laid
Your Cross as – a bridge over death,
that souls might pass on it
from the dwelling of the dead
to the dwelling of life!⁷⁵**

**O Lord and Master of my life,
Give me not a spirit of
sloth, idle curiosity,
love of power, and useless chatter.
Give rather a spirit of
chastity, humility,
patience, and love.**

**Yes, Lord and King,
that I may see my own faults –
and not condemn my brother or sister. Amen.⁷⁶**

Ephraim of Syria (c. 306-373)

a “father” of Syrian Church and called its most significant leader;
wrote prayers, hymns, and sermons in poetic form;
he helped found the School of Nisibis (Turkey-Syria border)
a theological, philosophical, and medical center

⁷⁵ Mike Aquilina, *A Year with the Church Fathers: Patristic Wisdom for Daily Living* (Charlotte, NC: Saint Benedict Press, 2010), 39.

⁷⁶ Vassilios Papavassiliou, ed. *The Ancient Faith Prayer Book* (Chesterton, IN: Ancient Faith Publishing, 2014), 64.