



4
PRAYER
All

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Foreword
By Pastor Dan Hetherington

The Purpose of this Prayer Book

This resource has been produced to aid all followers of Christ in developing and sustaining their relationship with our heavenly Father. It is from a place of relationship with him that we are able to follow in the call which he places on our lives to go and make disciples that can make disciples.

Jesus has the expectation that prayer happens, because it is an important part of being a disciple, of being in relationship with our Heavenly Father. However you do that, my hope is that this prayer book helps, or even increases, your desire to spend time with your Creator, who is the one who sustains you for life and ministry.

It is not intended, therefore, that this book be the only avenue in which you come to the Father, however, it has been produced with the busyness of our lives today in mind, offering a simple way in which all can engage in prayer and study at a level which is both accessible and attainable.

Remember that we are saved by grace, and no longer operate under the law, however, the grace which we have received, through faith in Christ Jesus, should be compelling us to further engage with, and to put effort into, our relationship with our Father in Heaven.

Introduction

The model of daily prayer in this book follows a basic pattern of preparation, study of the scriptures, confession, intercession, and final bidding.

The Church Seasons

This book includes prayer during the different seasons of the Church year: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary time (the time after Epiphany), Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Ordinary Time (the time after Pentecost).

What to Read

This resource has been produced to compliment the Revised Common Lectionary daily readings.

However, there are many different reading plans that can be followed, what is important is not the plan you follow but that you engage in scripture. There is space given for the reading of the Psalm, Old Testament, and New Testament reading, with a scriptural response to each. However, if you read only one of these continue to the prayer section.

What to Pray

Prayer is conversation. It is a two-way communication between God and his people. As you read Scripture be looking and listening for what it is that God is wanting to say to you. As you approach the designated time for 'prayers' on any given day and come to God in confession, offer intercessory prayer, and pray the Lord's Prayer, be ever mindful of that which you have read from scripture.

There are promptings as to what to focus on for any given day, as well as the invitation to be praying Up (for relationship with God), In (for the Church), Out (for the World), however don't let this be prescriptive. These have been prayerfully thought out, but let's allow for God to move, and where needed move us from our norm too.

Prayer of Preparation

Save us, Lord, from being self-centered in our prayers, and teach us to remember to pray for others. May we be so caught up in love for those for whom we pray, that we may feel their needs as keenly as our own, and pray for them with imagination, sensitivity and knowledge. We ask this in Christ's Name. Amen.

John Calvin

Reading from the Psalms

Response to Reading from the Psalms

Teach me, my Lord Jesus, instruct me, that I may learn from you what I ought to teach about you.

William Laud

Reading from the Old Testament

Response to Reading from the Old Testament

During Advent

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

During Christmas

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Micah 5:2-5a

During the time after Epiphany

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Isaiah 60:1-6

During Lent

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Isaiah 58:6-9a

During Holy Week

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-5

During Easter

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall

be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Zephaniah 3:14-18

During the time after Pentecost

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him....
"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"

Exodus 15:1-2, 11

Reading from the New Testament

Response to Reading from the New Testament

During Advent

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on

the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13:11-14

During Christmas

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2:11-14

During the time after Epiphany

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:5-6

During Lent

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but

I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

During Holy Week

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6-8

During Easter

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

During the time after Pentecost

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise

of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:3-10

Prayers

Praying Up

Almighty and merciful God, the fountain of all goodness, who knows the thoughts of our hearts: we confess that we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. Wash us, we ask, from the stains of our past sins, and give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things; that, being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, and at last enter into thy promised joy; through the mercy of Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alcuin

Praying In

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>PRAYER FOCUS</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SUNDAY | for your congregation |
| MONDAY | for the leadership of your church |
| TUESDAY | for the Sick in your congregation |
| WEDNESDAY | for the worldwide Church |
| THURSDAY | for church leaders everywhere |
| FRIDAY | for missionaries |
| SATURDAY | for the churches in your area |

Praying Out

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>PRAYER FOCUS</u> |
|------------------|--|
| SUNDAY | for those you know that don't know Jesus |
| MONDAY | for local hospitals & healthcare professions |
| TUESDAY | for local schools (teachers & students) |
| WEDNESDAY | for elected officials (local, national and global) |
| THURSDAY | for those in the community yet to know Jesus |
| FRIDAY | for First Responders |
| SATURDAY | for local businesses |

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(or)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

O Lord, you have given us your Word as a light to shine on our path; grant that we may so meditate on that Word, and follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jerome

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2:29-32

Jesus had an expectation that prayer happens, because it is an important part of being a disciple, of being in relationship with our Heavenly Father.

This Prayer book is designed to help us pray together for the Glory of God to reveal itself in our communities, through the work of our churches, and for the wider Body of Christ.

Whether you can gather with others to use it as a springboard into your prayer time together, or when you pray alone. Either way let's concentrate on being disciples that follow Christ instruction... Let's Pray!

