



Prayers for Various Situations

A prayer to begin the work day

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands. (Ps. 90:17, *ELW*)

Generous God, you call us to lives of service.

In my words and actions this day, move me to serve in Christ's name.

When I lack energy, inspire me. When I lack courage, strengthen me.

When I lack compassion, be merciful to me.

You may make the sign of the cross.

In all things, O God, you are our way, our truth, and our life. Reveal through me your life-giving work, that I love my neighbors as myself. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

A prayer to begin the school day

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4, *ELW*)

Christ be with me: In you I am never alone.

Christ within me: Your Spirit is at work in me.

Christ behind me: Reassure me when I struggle.

Christ before me: Lead me when I am uncertain.

Christ beneath me: Support me when I am weak.

Christ above me: Encourage me to do my best.

Christ in quiet: I listen for the sound of your voice.

Christ in danger: I will not fear, for you are with me.

You may make the sign of the cross.

In all things, O God, you are our way, our truth, and our life.

Teach me to love you and my neighbors as myself.

I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Based on the Prayer of St. Patrick)

Blessing for pets and animals

Use this prayer on October 4 or whenever it is appropriate.

Gracious God,
in your love you created us in your image
and made us stewards of the animals
that live in the skies, the earth, and the sea.
Bless us in our care for our *pet/s (animal/s) (names may be added here)*.
Help us recognize your power and wisdom
in the variety of creatures that live in our world,
and hear our prayer for all that suffer overwork, hunger, and ill-treatment.
Protect your creatures and guard them from all evil, now and forever. Amen.

Time of conflict, crisis, disaster

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope.
Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where
impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance.
Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where
spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened
dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. Amen.

Health of body and soul

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to
the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for
those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe the fevered brows, and
make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign
that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and
risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Time of suffering

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us and suffered as we do. As we
go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times
and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace
enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray. Amen.

Time of grief

Merciful Creator, your Holy Spirit intercedes for us even when we do not know how to pray. Send your Spirit now to comfort us in these days of need and loss, and help us to commend (*name*) to your merciful care; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Those suffering from addiction

O blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove the fears that attack them; strengthen those who are engaged in the work of recovery; and to those who care for them, give honesty, understanding, and persevering love; for your mercy's sake. Amen.

The chronically ill and those who support them

Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all people living with illness for which there is no cure, as well as their families and loved ones. Help them to know that you claim them as your own and deliver them from fear and pain; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

Caregivers and others who support the sick

God, our refuge and strength, our present help in time of trouble, care for those who tend the needs of (*name*). Strengthen them in body and spirit. Refresh them when weary; console them when anxious; comfort them in grief; and hearten them in discouragement. Be with us all, and give us peace at all times and in every way; through Christ our peace. Amen.

Recovery from sickness

God of compassion, your Son Jesus Christ, the great physician, made the broken whole and healed the sick. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore to us wholeness of life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A prayer of Catherine of Siena

Power of the eternal Father, help me. Wisdom of the Son, enlighten the eye of my understanding. Tender mercy of the Holy Spirit, unite my heart to yourself. Eternal God, restore health to the sick and life to the dead. Give us a voice, your own voice, to cry out to you for mercy for the world. You, light, give us light. You, wisdom, give us wisdom. You, supreme strength, strengthen us. Amen.

A prayer of Julian of Norwich

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss. In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and savior. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper. Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.

A prayer of Martin Luther

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.

Prayers on pages 420–23 from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, All Creation Sings, and Pastoral Care*.