



FOR UNTO US A
CHILD IS BORN

ISAIAH 9:6-7

PCPC DAILY PRAYER GUIDE
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2017



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For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be on His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6

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PCPC PRAYER GUIDE INTRODUCTION

This guide has a simple aim: to help us grow in our love for God through time in His Word and prayer. The Bible teaches that in order to love God, we need a relationship with Him. That relationship has been provided by God Himself, through overcoming the alienation caused by our sin through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God the Son. In union with Christ, we now have intimate access to God as our heavenly Father. Scripture and prayer are the means through which we experience, apply, and enjoy that relationship. As we learn to pray and as we learn to listen and obey the gracious overtures of God's Word, we learn to live as God's children—to love and trust Him more fully.

WHY DAILY PRAYER?

Why set aside fixed times every day for prayer? Why not simply pray unprompted, when the stirring comes? Practically speaking, we are creatures attuned to rhythms. We order our lives by sunrises and sunsets, by hours, weeks, seasons, and years. Daily prayer is a way of consecrating our ordinary rhythms to God, ensuring that all of life is offered to Him. C. S. Lewis once wrote, "Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done." And so it must. Our relationship with God should take hold of our schedules as well as our hearts.

Historically, this has been the way of God's people. Consider the testimonies of the psalmists:

"Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on His law he meditates day and night." (Psalm 1:1-2)

"Evening and morning and at noon I cry out to you..." (Psalm 55:17)

"Seven times a day do I praise you..." (Psalm 119:64)

By the time of the first century, the ritual of daily prayer was formally embedded in Jewish spirituality. There were several hours in the day that marked regular times for prayer. The first detailed miracle in Acts happened because Peter and John were going to the temple "at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour" (Acts 3:1) for three o'clock prayers. Peter's vision in Acts 10 confirming God's grace for the Gentiles occurred as he was observing sixth-hour prayer, his noon devotions (Acts 10:9). The community that gathered after Pentecost devoted themselves daily to "the apostles' teaching and the

fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

The practice of daily prayer continued through the early church, and expanded consistently throughout time and culture wherever the gospel spread. Along with Sunday worship and the sacraments, daily prayer remains a central way that Christians all over the world express devotion to Christ.

But, we might simply hearken back to Jesus himself. Jesus set aside times to pray regularly, even as the eternal Son of God. He celebrated His dependence on the Father (John 5:19, 30) and sought sanctuary in solitude with Him (Luke 5:16). If it was necessary for Jesus to pray, who is “very God of very God,” how much more for us, who are made to bear His image.

WHY A PRAYER GUIDE?

A common objection to using a liturgy for devotions is that it restricts freedom, deteriorating into heartless formality. However, if you’ve ever found yourself repeating the same words and phrases over and over again in prayer “spontaneously,” then you know that our own minds and experiences are just as restrictive. Guided prayer is not meant to curb freedom but to bolster it, by introducing into our prayer life the language and imagery of the Scriptures.

Here are a few compelling reasons to use a prayer guide:

1. It helps us to pray regularly.
Many people do not pray regularly because they do not know where to begin. A prayer guide takes the pressure off needing to make that decision anew every day. It repeatedly says, “Start here.” You do not need a stirring, a reason, a plan, or consistency. Simply, “start here,” and let God’s Word lead you into prayer.
2. It helps us to pray biblically.
In this prayer guide, there is no commentary from gifted Christian authors or pastors. It is uncluttered, so to speak. The elements come either directly from Scripture or from common worship. The majority of time is spent in the Psalms, a book of the Bible meant especially for prayer and worship. One of the encouraging messages reiterated in the Psalms is that you do not have to put on a happy face to live the Christian life. Praying biblically allows us to pray the truth of who we are while growing in the hope of who we might yet become.

3. It helps us to pray communally.
Though we are praying individually, we are doing so together, specifically as a church body. This book is meant for this flock, in this time and place. To know that others with whom God has joined us are reading and praying the same words encourages us in our common journey. Prayer is a communal work as much as an individual one.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE?

Use this guide however it is helpful to you. For many, that means using it just as it is; for others who are already committed to daily reading plans or Bible studies, that may mean skipping the Scripture readings and only using some of the other portions; for those who are in the habit of family worship, you can adapt the guide to read and pray together as a family.

Here are suggestions for each of the elements:

The Call to Worship

The Call to Worship is God initiating with you through His Word. Read the call, perhaps out loud. Receive God's invitation to worship Him as spoken to you in that moment.

The Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise God for who He is as He has shown in His Word and in your life. Thank Him for His presence and gifts in your life.

The Readings

The Psalm(s) follow the readings from the Book of Common Prayer, which covers all the Psalms every 30 days. Get to know the words here and you will better know Jesus Himself. There is no book of the Bible Jesus quoted more often than the Psalms.

The other daily readings for this season follow in the tradition of the "Jesse Tree." The name comes from David's father, Jesse, and the prophecy in the Book of Isaiah that speaks of the coming Messiah:

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him..." (Isaiah 11:1-2)

These readings touch on the scope of God's saving work, from Genesis through the birth of Jesus Christ. Since the traditional Jesse Tree

readings begin just after Thanksgiving, there are a few passages that predate our prayer guide readings, which begin on Sunday, December 3. I encourage you to fit these in somewhere as time allows.

November 27: Isaiah 11:1-2

November 28: Habakkuk 2:1-4

November 29: Genesis 1:26-31

November 30: Genesis 3:1-9

December 1: Genesis 6:1-9:13

December 2: Genesis 12:1-7

After Christmas Day, our readings continue in a similar sweeping pattern. We cover key passages in the New Testament that address the ongoing significance of Jesus entering our world. The goal this season is to expand our appreciation for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, proclaimed to us through all of Christian Scripture, from Genesis through Revelation.

The Prayers for the Day and Prayers for the Night

In the morning, begin by saying The Lord's Prayer, the model for prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. If you do not know it, you can find the words in the Appendix in this guide. Each phrase of the Lord's Prayer is filled with grace and challenge. Say the prayer expectantly for the day ahead.

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession are opportunities for you to lay out before God whatever burdens you carry, as well as the burdens carried by others. Ask Him for things. Ask Him for mercy. Ask Him to help you become more like Christ.

The Closing Prayer is a way to conclude. All of the closing prayers draw from the Book of Common Prayer and are unique to either morning or evening. They are called "collects" because they gather our prayers together and present them before God collectively as we go about our scattered lives. Pray this prayer as your own, in the confidence that others are praying with you.

The Confession of Sin

The Confession of Sin occurs at night, as we review our day. It is an opportunity to repent for the ways we have missed the mark and to receive the grace we need for renewal and change. In the Appendix, you will find a longer explanation for the process of self-examination that fits here.

The Words of Assurance

The Words of Assurance are God's promise to forgive, cleanse, accept, and renew you in Christ. Hold onto these as you would anything of great value. Return to them when doubts or disillusionment grow.

The Grace

The Grace is God's blessing on you as you go out into your day or lay your head down to sleep. Receive it as a final word until you return to pray again.

Sundays

Sundays are unique as it is our time to gather and worship as a church family—to celebrate once again the victory of Christ over sin and death. There are only Psalm readings on Sunday because the liturgy of corporate worship is our primary focus. Consider using the Sunday morning liturgy again at night for personal prayer.

As a final word, there are many great reading plans, devotionals, and exercises to encourage in us a life of prayer. This is a way to pray, only one among many that has grown up in the history of God's people. Most important is not the method, but the reality of loving and trusting God. May your relationship with Him grow.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Morning Psalms: 146; 147

Daily Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Evening Psalms: 111—113

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

MORNING PRAYER

Call To Worship

My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day.
(Psalm 71:8)

Prayers Of Praise And Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 1—3

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 21:1-7

Prayers For The Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
(Psalm 121:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call To Worship

The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (Psalm 145:17-18)

Prayers Of Praise And Thanksgiving

Confession Of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination And Confession

Words Of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalms: 4; 7

Prayers For The Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the kingdom of heaven where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

I lay down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. (Psalm 3:5)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. (Psalm 147:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 5—6

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 22:1-14

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. (Psalm 118:14)

EVENING PRAYER

Call To Worship

The Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy in their beds. (Psalm 149:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change; open to me a future in which I can be changed; and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalm: 10—11

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. (Psalm 36:5)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.
(Psalm 54:4)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 119:1-24

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 28:10-22

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! (Psalm 33:8)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, and presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalms: 12—14

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Word. (Psalm 119:114)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. (Psalm 36:7, 9)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 18:1-20

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 37:1-36

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. (Psalm 31:5)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.
(Psalm 62:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from Your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalm: 18:21-50

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

Peace to you in Christ. (1 Peter 5:14)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.
(Psalm 118:27)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 16—17

Reading the Bible Together: Deuteronomy 5:1-22

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
(Romans 15:13)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope. (Psalm 130:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the cross but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy for the sake of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalm: 22

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. (Psalm 23:1)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I will give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. (Psalm 86:12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 20—21

Reading the Bible Together: Joshua 2:1-21

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 121:7-8)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, “yes,” I don’t mean “yes,” and when I say “no,” I don’t mean “no.” I like to think well of myself, but find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 110; 116; 117

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him! (Psalm 67:7)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Morning Psalms: 148—150

Daily Reading: Ruth 1:15-2:3

Evening Psalm: 114—115

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

My mouth is filled with Your praise, and with Your glory all the day.
(Psalm 71:8)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 25

Reading the Bible Together: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
(Psalm 121:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (Psalm 145:17-18)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalms: 9; 15

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy that moves the hearts of those who seek Him, and may the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom that fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Grace

I lay down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. (Psalm 3:5)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. (Psalm 147:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 26; 28

Reading the Bible Together: 2 Samuel 5:1-5

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. (Psalm 118:14)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy in their beds. (Psalm 149:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change, open to me a future in which I can be changed, and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalms: 36; 39

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy that moves the hearts of those who seek Him, and may the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom that fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Grace

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. (Psalm 36:5)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 ---

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.
(Psalm 54:4)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 38

Reading the Bible Together: 1 Kings 18:17-39

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! (Psalm 33:8)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, and presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalm: 119:25-48

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy that moves the hearts of those who seek Him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom that fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Grace

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Word. (Psalm 119:114)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 ---

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. (Psalm 36:7, 9)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 37:1-18

Reading the Bible Together: Esther 4

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. (Psalm 31:5)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.
(Psalm 62:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from Your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalm: 37:19-42

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy that moves the hearts of those who seek Him, and may the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom that fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Grace

Peace to you in Christ. (1 Peter 5:14)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.
(Psalm 118:27)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 31

Reading the Bible Together: Isaiah 9:2-7

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
(Romans 15:13)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope. (Psalm 130:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You or displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the Cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy for the sake of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalm: 35

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy that moves the hearts of those who seek Him, and may the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom that fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. (Psalm 23:1)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I will give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. (Psalm 86:12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 30; 32

Reading the Bible Together: Isaiah 11:6-9

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 121:7-8)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, “yes,” I don’t mean “yes,” and when I say “no,” I don’t mean “no.” I like to think well of myself, but I find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 42—43

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy that moves the hearts of those who seek Him, and may the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom that fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Grace

God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him! (Psalm 67:7)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Morning Psalms: 63; 98

Daily Reading: Jonah 3:1-5

Evening Psalm: 103

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 ---

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

My mouth is filled with Your praise, and with Your glory all the day.
(Psalm 71:8)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 41; 52

Reading the Bible Together: Daniel 6

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us.
Because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and
mercy speedily help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to
whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for
ever. Amen.

Grace

He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
(Psalm 121:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (Psalm 145:17-18)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalm: 44

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

I lay down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. (Psalm 3:5)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. (Psalm 147:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 45

Reading the Bible Together: Micah 5:1-5

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us. Because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. (Psalm 118:14)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy in their beds. (Psalm 149:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change, open to me a future in which I can be changed, and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalms: 47—48

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom, with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. (Psalm 36:5)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 ---

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.
(Psalm 54:4)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 119:49-72

Reading the Bible Together: Luke 1:5-25

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us. Because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! (Psalm 33:8)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, and presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalms: 49; 53

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom, with Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word. (Psalm 119:114)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. (Psalm 36:7, 9)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 50

Reading the Bible Together: Matthew 3:1-6

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us. Because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. (Psalm 31:5)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.
(Psalm 62:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalm: 59—60

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Peace to you in Christ. (1 Peter 5:14)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.
(Psalm 118:27)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 40; 54

Reading the Bible Together: Luke 1:26-38

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us. Because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
(Romans 15:13)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope. (Psalm 130:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy for the sake of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalm: 51

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. (Psalm 23:1)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I will give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. (Psalm 86:12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 55

Reading the Bible Together: Matthew 1:18-25

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us. Because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 121:7-8)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, “yes,” I don’t mean “yes,” and when I say “no,” I don’t mean “no.” I like to think well of myself, but I find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 138—139

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him! (Psalm 67:7)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

Morning Psalms: 24; 29

Daily Reading: Luke 2:1-5

Evening Psalms: 8; 84

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is well pleased! (Luke 2:14)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 2; 85

Reading the Bible Together: Luke 2:6-21

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. (Luke 1:46-47, 49)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. (Luke 1:68)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace.
(Ephesians 2:3-14)

Evening Psalms: 110; 132

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have given Your only begotten Son to take our nature upon Him and to be born this day of a virgin. Grant that we, who have been born again and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with You and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.
(Revelation 22:20-21)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. (Psalm 147:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 66—67

Reading the Bible Together: Matthew 4:18-25

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.
(Psalm 118:14)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy in their beds. (Psalm 149:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change, open to me a future in which I can be changed, and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalms: 116—117

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds. (Psalm 36:5)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 ---

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.
(Psalm 54:4)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 72

Reading the Bible Together: Matthew 16:13-28

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself. He lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! (Psalm 33:8)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, and presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalms: 111; 113

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Word. (Psalm 119:114)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. (Psalm 36:7, 9)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 80

Reading the Bible Together: Matthew 28:16-20

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself. He lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. (Psalm 31:5)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.
(Psalm 62:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to you. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalms: 146—147

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

Peace to you in Christ. (1 Peter 5:14)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.
(Psalm 118:27)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 18:1-20

Reading the Bible Together: Acts 4:23-37

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son, Jesus Christ, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself at His coming. He lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
(Romans 15:13)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope. (Psalm 130:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy, for the sake of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalm: 18:21-50

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. (Psalm 23:1)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I will give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. (Psalm 86:12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 20—21

Reading the Bible Together: Acts 11:1-11

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself. He lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 121:7-8)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, “yes,” I don’t mean “yes,” and when I say “no,” I don’t mean “no.” I like to think well of myself, but find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 23; 27

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him! (Psalm 67:7)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Morning Psalms: 46; 48

Evening Psalm: 90

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
(Psalm 98:1)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 103

Reading the Bible Together: 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:4

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Eternal Father, You gave to Your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Grace

He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
(Psalm 121:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! (Psalm 103:1)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalm: 148

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God our Father, in love You sent Your Son that the world may have life; lead us to seek Him among the outcast and to find Him in those in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Grace

I lay down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. (Psalm 3:5)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. (Psalm 147:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 34

Reading the Bible Together: Galatians 1:6-24

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. (Psalm 118:14)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy in their beds. (Psalm 149:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change, open to me a future in which I can be changed, and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalm: 33

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds. (Psalm 36:5)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.
(Psalm 54:4)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 68

Reading the Bible Together: Colossians 1:15-22

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ. He lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! (Psalm 33:8)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, and presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalm: 72

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Word. (Psalm 119:114)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 ---

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. (Psalm 36:7, 9)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 85; 87

Reading the Bible Together: Jude 17-25

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ. He lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. (Psalm 31:5)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.
(Psalm 62:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalm: 89:1-29

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace

Peace to you in Christ. (1 Peter 5:14)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.
(Psalm 118:27)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 2; 110

Reading the Bible Together: Isaiah 66:18-23; Romans 10:12-17

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ. He lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
(Romans 15:13)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope. (Psalm 130:5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy, for the sake of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalms: 29; 98

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. (Psalm 23:1)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6: EPIPHANY

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!
(Psalm 97:1)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 46—47

Reading the Bible Together: Isaiah 52:7-10; Matthew 12:14-21;

Revelation 21:22-27

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, by the leading of a star You manifested Your only Son to the peoples of the earth. Lead us, who know You now by faith, to Your presence where we may see Your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grace

The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 121:7-8)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

The Lord is good to all, and His mercy over all that He has made.
(Psalm 145:9)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Most holy and loving God, I admit to You that either through foolishness or wilfulness I often choose darkness instead of light. I surrender to You my fears and proud opinions, my short-sighted folly and my pompous wisdom; my deep-seated sins and my apathy towards change and renewal. Please forgive the darkness and pain I have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved love within my soul. Trusting Your grace, I earnestly pray this through Christ Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Evening Psalms: 96; 100

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Creator of the heavens, Who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace

God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him! (Psalm 67:7)

APPENDICES

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy catholic church;
The communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A Way of Personal Examination

Consider God's holiness and grace, manifest in the life of the Son, Jesus Christ.

Pray for God's presence and illumination. Ask God's Spirit to be with you and for your eyes to be open as you consider your day.

Examine yourself prayerfully:

Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalm 139:23-24)

Note the times throughout the day you have seen God at work in your circumstances and in your heart. Name those ways in which you have resisted God and His will.

Pray in deep gratitude for every sign of God's loving presence, and pray in sorrow, repenting of any place you have resisted His loving will.

Receive the words of assurance for the day, leaning on the promises and mercy of God.

Conclude in prayer, offering yourself body and soul, in your thoughts, words, and actions, as a living sacrifice to God, which is your spiritual worship.

PRAYERS FOR THE EXTEND VISION

New Doors

Pray that PCPC would be a place of rest for the weary, truth for the confused, challenge for self-assured, fellowship for the lonely, and nourishment for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Pray that PCPC would open wide her doors to offer welcome in the name of Jesus Christ.

Pray for our ministry leaders and volunteers who shepherd our children, students, and adults throughout PCPC.

Pray that our people would endure in the ordinary means of God's grace—in His Word, prayer, fellowship, and the sacraments.

Pray that we would be a church that challenges the status quo and cultural convention. Pray that we would resist the temptation to hide, and that God would work His truth and grace deep into our hearts.

Pray that God would use PCPC to be a light in our city, to hold out the Gospel faithfully, and to reach unchurched families.

New Churches

Pray for the global church, that God would unite us more fully in truth and mission.

Pray for the churches we have planted in DFW, the U.S., and around the world.

Pray that God would raise up new church planters and missionaries, both locally and globally.

Pray for the continued work of the Southwest Church Planting Network as we plant churches and RUFs (Reformed University Fellowship, our ministry to college students) around the Southwest.

Pray for our international church planters and missionaries as they carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

New City

Pray for Dallas, that God would make our city flourish under His care.

Pray for the poor in our city. Pray that we would be generous and wise in our help.

Pray for the continuing work of racial reconciliation in Dallas churches.

Pray that God would raise up Christian leaders to influence every sector of our city.

Pray that every person in our city would be reached with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

NOTES





For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6-7

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