

Occasional Prayers and Thanksgivings

Prayers

The Church

1. For the Universal Church

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. *Amen.*

2. For the Universal Church

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

3. For the Unity of All Christian People

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

4. For the Unity of the Church

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace to take to heart the grave dangers we are in through our many divisions. Deliver your Church from all enmity and prejudice, and everything that hinders us from godly union. As there is one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, so make us all to be of one heart and of one mind, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and love, that with one voice we may give you praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in everlasting glory. *Amen.*

5. For a Province or Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in *this Diocese* to be a goodly and godly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop(s) *N.*, and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

6. For a Provincial or Diocesan Convention

Gracious and ever-living Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we pray, with the Holy Spirit's grace and presence, the bishops and the other clergy and the laity who assemble in your Name; that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill the will of him who loved her and gave himself for her, your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who now lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

7. For the Selection of a Bishop or other Minister

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese [*rector for this congregation*], that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us out in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

8. For the Local Congregation

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant that in this *congregation* the pure Word of God will be preached and the sacraments duly administered. Strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of your truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

9. For the Mission of the Church

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

10. For all Missionaries

O GOD, you desire that all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth: Prosper all those who live, preach, and teach the Gospel at home and in distant lands [especially_____]; protect them in all perils, support them in their loneliness, sustain them in the hour of trial; give them your abundant grace to bear faithful witness; and endue them with burning zeal and love, that they may turn many to righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

11. For Missionary Societies

Lord Jesus, you commanded us to make disciples of all nations: Bless all those who work together for the spread of the Gospel [especially_____]; make them faithful and true witnesses to proclaim your glorious Name. Send down the grace of the Holy Spirit upon all your people, and grant that they may give cheerfully of their substance for the evangelizing of the world; that the light of your truth may shine into the darkest corners of the earth. Hear us, O merciful Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

12. For Vocations to Ordained Ministry

Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd who cares for your flock, we ask you to bestow upon your Church the gifts of the Holy Spirit in abundance, and especially to raise up from among us faithful and able persons called to the ministries of Deacon and Priest. Inspire them to spend and be spent for the sake of the Gospel, and make them holy and loving shepherds of the flock for whom you shed your most precious blood. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

Or the Collects assigned for Ember Days

13. For Monastic Orders and Vocations

O Lord Jesus Christ, you became poor for our sake that we might be made rich through your poverty: Guide and sanctify, we pray, those whom you call to follow you under the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience; that by their prayer and service they may enrich your Church, and by their life and worship may glorify your Name; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The World

14. For the Peace of the World

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

15. For the Nation (*traditional*)

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure conduct. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

16. For our Enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you in Christ; in whose Name we pray. *Amen.*

17. For Courts of Justice

Almighty God, you sit on your throne giving righteous judgment: We humbly ask you to bless all courts of justice and magistrates in this land; give them a spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law, in the fear of you alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

18. For Local Government

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down on those who hold office in this State [Commonwealth, Province, City, County, Town, _____] the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

19. For an Election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of this Nation [*or* City, Community, _____] in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected, and our nation may be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

20. For those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Specific to Canada

21. For the Sovereign

Almighty and everlasting God, we are taught by your holy Word that the hearts of kings are in your rule, and that you direct them according to your wisdom: We humbly ask you so to govern the heart of *N.* your servant, our *Queen* and Governor, that in all *her* thoughts, words, and deeds, *she* may ever seek your honor and glory, and act to preserve your people committed to her charge in prosperity, peace, and godliness; Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

22. For the Royal Family

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly ask you to bless our most gracious Sovereign, *Queen N.*, [*here may be named other members of the Royal Family*] and all the Royal Family: Endue them with your Holy Spirit; enrich them with your heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

23. For the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premiers of the Provinces

Lord of all power and mercy, we ask you to assist with your favor the Prime Minister of this Dominion, and the Premiers of the Provinces. Cause them to walk before you in truth and righteousness, and to fulfill their office to your glory and the public good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Specific to the United States of America

24. For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory fills all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that we may be guided by your Providence, and dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State (*or Commonwealth*), and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them continually mindful of their calling to serve this people in reverent obedience to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

25. For Congress or a State Legislature

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: So guide and bless our Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled (*or the Legislature of this State or Commonwealth*), that they may enact laws pleasing in your sight, to the glory of your Name and the welfare of this people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Natural Order

26. For Joy in God's Creation

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

27. For Stewardship of Creation

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

28. For the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Father, you open your hand and fill all living things with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may yield its increase; and save us from selfish use of what you provide, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or the Collects assigned for Rogation Days

29. For Rain

O God, our heavenly Father, by your Son Jesus Christ you have promised to those who seek your kingdom and its righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life: Send us, we pray, in this time of need, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to your honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

30. In Time of Scarcity and Famine

O God, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son taught us to seek our daily bread from you: Behold the affliction of your people, and send us swift aid in our time of necessity. Increase the fruits of the earth by your heavenly benediction; and grant that we, receiving your gifts with thankful hearts, may use them to your glory and the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Social Order

31. For All Sorts and Conditions (*traditional*)

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; [especially those for whom our prayers are desired]; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

32. For Social Justice

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and help us to use our freedom rightly in the establishment of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

33. For Those Who Serve Others

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

34. In Times of Social Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

35. For Agriculture.

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed to sustain our life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or the Collects for Rogation Days

36. For Commerce and Industry

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give us all a rightful satisfaction in what we do, and a just return for our labor; 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.*

37. For the Unemployed

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

38. For Universities, Colleges, and Schools.

Almighty God, by your gift alone come wisdom and true understanding: Look with favor, we pray, on our universities, colleges, and schools, that knowledge may be increased among us, and good learning flourish and abound. Bless those who teach and those who learn; and grant that in humility of heart they may ever look to you, the fountain of all wisdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

39. For Cities

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, this city. Renew the ties of mutual regard that form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Deliver us from poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find, together with one another, the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

40. For Towns and Rural Areas

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the kingdom of God in villages, towns, and lonely places: Grant that your presence and power may be known throughout this land. Have mercy upon all of us who live and work in rural areas [especially _____]; and grant that all the people of our nation may give thanks to you for food and drink and all other bodily necessities of life, respect those who labor to produce them, and steward the land and the water from which these good things come. All this we ask in your holy Name. *Amen.*

41. For the Poor and the Neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all those who are poor, neglected and forgotten: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have no one to care for them. Use us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

42. For the Poor and the Neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, who heals the brokenhearted, and turns the sadness of the sorrowful to joy: Remember in pity the destitute, homeless, and forgotten. Uplift those who are cast down; mightily befriend those who suffer; cheer with hope the discouraged; and preserve from falling all those who are tempting them to sin. Though they are troubled on every side, let them not be distressed; through they are perplexed, save them from despair. Grant this, O Lord, for the love of him who for our sakes became poor, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

43. For Prisons and Correctional Institutions

O God, you forgive when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy: We humbly ask you, of your goodness, to comfort all prisoners (and especially those who are condemned to die). Give them a right understanding of themselves, and of your promises; that trusting wholly in your mercy, they may not place their confidence anywhere but in you. Relieve the distressed; deliver the innocent; bring the guilty to repentance; and as you alone bring light out of darkness, and good out of evil, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit they may be set free from the chains of sin, and brought to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

44. For those who Influence Public Opinion

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

45. For the Unrepentant

Merciful God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn to you and live; and through your only Son you have revealed yourself as the God who pardons iniquity. Have mercy on the unrepentant and those who do not believe. Awaken in them, by your Word and Holy Spirit, a deep sense of their sinfulness and peril. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word. Grant them to know and feel that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which they must be saved, but only the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so bring them home and number them among your children, that they may be yours for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen*

The Family and Personal Life

46. For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

47. For Families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sets the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy matrimony, have been made one flesh; turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be joined to one another with bonds of loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

48. For the Care of Children

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

49. For Those Who Live Alone

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

50. For the Elderly

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

51. For a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

52. For a Birthday

Watch over your child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless *him* and guide *him*. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* falls; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

53. For the Absent

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the ends of the earth: We ask you graciously to behold and bless those we love who are now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love, in the communion of your Holy Spirit and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

54. For those who Travel

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [especially N.]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

55. For the Recovery of a Sick Person

Almighty and immortal God, giver of life and health: We implore your mercy for your servant N., that by your blessing upon *him* and upon those who minister to *him* with your healing gifts, *he* may be restored to health of body and mind, according to your gracious will, and may give thanks to you in your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

See also The Ministry of the Sick

56. For those with Chronic Disease

Heavenly Father, sustainer of our life and source of our hope: Comfort and relieve all who endure long-term illness or persistent handicap, and give your grace to all who minister to their needs: that those [or N.] for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in *their* weakness and given confidence in your loving care; through him who knows our weakness and has shared our sorrows, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

57. For the Medical Professions

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing sickness and diseases among the people: Continue his gracious work among us [especially in _____]; cheer, heal, and sanctify the sick; grant to physicians, surgeons, and nurses wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; and

send down your blessing upon all who labor to prevent suffering and to advance your loving purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

58. For those who are Anxious or Depressed

Almighty God, whose Son took upon himself the afflictions of your people: Regard with your tender compassion those in anxiety and depression; bear their sorrows and their cares; supply all their needs; and help both them and us to put our whole trust and confidence in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

59. For those in Bondage to Addiction

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon those who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

60. For a Person in Trouble or Bereavement

O merciful Father, you have taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity on the sorrows of your servant *N.* Remember *him*, O Lord, in mercy, nourish *his* soul with patience, comfort *him* with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon *him*, and give *him* peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

61. For those we Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

62. The Communion of Saints (*traditional*)

O God of the spirits of all flesh, we praise and magnify thy holy Name for all thy servants who have finished their course in thy faith and fear [especially thy servant *N.*]; and we beseech thee that, encouraged by their examples and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be found meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

63. The Communion of Saints

O eternal Lord God, who holds all souls in life: Shed forth upon your whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of your light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served you here and are now at rest, may enter with them into the fullness of your unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or the Additional Prayers found at the end of The Burial of the Dead

64. For Memorial Services and other Occasions

Almighty God, with whom the souls of the faithful who have departed this life are in joy and felicity: We praise and magnify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear; and we most humbly pray that, at the day of resurrection, we and all who are members of the mystical body of your Son may be set on his right hand, and hear his most joyful voice: Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

65. For Guidance

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, through your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

66. For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

67. For Quiet Confidence

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

68. In the Evening

O Lord, support us all the day long of this trouble-filled life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen.*

69. A Prayer for Sleep

Lord, in your mercy dispel the darkness of this night, and let your servant (*household*) sleep in peace, that at the dawn of a new day, *I* may wake with joy in your Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

70. A Prayer of Self-Dedication

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

71. A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is error, truth; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may seek not so much 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.*

72. Preparation for Personal Prayer

Holy Spirit, breath of God and fire of love, I cannot pray without your aid; but you have promised to pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication. Deliver me from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, kindle in me the fire of your love, and illumine me with your truth; that with a steadfast will and holy thoughts I may approach the Father in spirit and truth; through Jesus Christ my Lord, who reigns with you and the Father in eternal union. *Amen.*

73. For the Answering of Prayer

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in the Name of your Son: Mercifully incline your ear to us as we make our prayers and supplications to you; and grant that what we ask faithfully, according to your will, we may obtain effectually, for the relief of our necessities, and the setting forth of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

74. A Prayer at the Reading of Scripture

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your Holy Word we may

embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

75. On Sunday

O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

76. Preparation for Public Worship

Guide and direct us, O Lord, always and everywhere with your holy light; that we may discern with clear vision your presence among us, and partake with worthy intention of your divine mysteries. We ask this for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

77. Before Receiving Communion

Be present, O Jesus Christ, our great High Priest and Risen Lord, as you were present with your disciples, and be made known to us in Scripture and the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

78. After Receiving Communion

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in this wonderful Sacrament has given us a memorial of your passion: Grant us, we pray, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of your redemption; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

79. After Public Worship

Grant, Almighty God, that the words we have heard this day with our ears may by your grace be grafted in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

80. Grace at Meals

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all your mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

81. Grace at Meals

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

82. Grace at Meals (*traditional*)

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thanksgivings

83. A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the

truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

84. For the Mission of the Church

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever and ever. *Amen.*

85. For the Beauty of the Earth

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the wonder of your creatures, large and small; and for all the loveliness that surrounds us. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. *Amen.*

86. For the Diversity of Races and Cultures

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the diversity of races and cultures in this world. Show us your presence in those who differ from us, and enrich our lives with their fellowship, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

87. For Veterans

O Judge of the nations, we thank you with grateful hearts for the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

88. For Deliverance in Peril.

Almighty God, our strong tower of defense in time of trouble: We offer you praise and heartfelt thanks for our deliverance from the dangers which lately surrounded us [and for your gracious gift of peace]. We confess that your goodness alone has preserved us; and we ask you still to continue your mercies toward us, that we may always know and acknowledge you as our Savior and mighty Deliverer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

89. For the Restoration of Health

Almighty God and heavenly Father, we bless and praise your Name on behalf of your servant *N.*, and we give you humble thanks that you have been pleased to deliver *him* from sickness. Grant, O gracious Father, that by your help *he* may live in this world according to your will, and be made a partaker of everlasting glory in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

90. For the Saints and Faithful Departed

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past: for Abraham, the father of believers, and Sarah his wife; for Moses, the lawgiver, and Aaron, the priest; for Miriam and Joshua, Deborah and Gideon, and Samuel with Hannah his mother; for Isaiah and all the prophets; for Mary, the mother of our Lord; for Peter and Paul and all the apostles; for Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene; for Stephen, the first martyr, and all the martyrs and saints in every age and in every land. In

your mercy, O Lord our God, give us, as you gave to them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first-born of many from the dead. *Amen.*