

An Introduction to the Order of Prayer

Hey Pastor Matt. When I sit down to pray, I get so distracted by other things. For example, I think God has more to tell me than the thing I need to add to my grocery list, but that is what pops in my head.

This is a text I received from another Christian. And I know that this person is not alone. For many of us, we desire to pray, but we are not sure how. We are easily distracted, but not sure what to do. We feel the burden of being spontaneous and sincere, but at times lack direction and intention. We notice that we do most of the talking, but we are not sure how to go about listening. We want to pray regularly, but we wonder if there are topics of prayer that we have not thought of. We ask ourselves, "Is there another way to pray?"

The good news is that I think there is. It is called an Order of Prayer.

Think of an Order of Prayer as a tomato cage. A tomato cage may look like a structure that restricts the plant, but a gardener would tell you that the cage is a tool that assists in the growth of the plant. It is true that a tomato plant can grow without a cage, but the surrounding cage provides a structure for the plant that supports its growth and encourages its fruitfulness.

An Order of Prayer provides a structure for our ever-wandering mind. It offers us a path to follow, while also making room for spontaneity. It allows us not only to speak, but also to listen to the one who initiates the conversation. It draws upon the framework of brothers and sister in Christ who have prayed before us, expanding our prayer vocabulary.

Over the next week, we will provide you with a Morning and Evening Order of Prayer. The Morning Order shines the light of Jesus Christ upon our day by centering on a Gospel reading. We fix our eyes upon Jesus, and ask God to train our eyes to see him at work throughout our day. The Evening Order is intended to build upon the Gospel reading from the Morning Order. Each Evening Order will provide a Psalm Reading and a Letter Reading that correspond with the earlier Gospel reading. Work your way from top to bottom on your own, or divide up the readings with a group.

Matt Styles

Other resources on Orders of Prayer:

- *The Divine Hours* by Phyllis Tickle
- *Common Prayer* by Shane Claiborne and Jonathan Wilson-Hargrove
- *Praying with the Church* by Scot Mcknight
- *A New Liturgy* Several Albums found on Spotify

Morning Order of Prayer – Day 1

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit.
For without me you can do nothing. ~ John 15:5 (NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Venite:

Psalm 95:1–7 (NIV)

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
³ For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.
Today, if only you would hear his voice.

Song:

Sing/listen to a worship song.)

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me [a sinner].
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus:

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9 NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, . . .
For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Colossians 1:15, 19 NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3 NIV)

Gospel Reading:

*(Read the passage slowly. Read it through twice if you are able.
Note below anything the Lord is pointing out.)*

The Gospel reading for today is **Matthew 18:21–35**.

A voice came saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" (See Mark 9:7 NIV)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven:
Give us today our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses (sins)
As we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.

Amen

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray the Lord's will for persons and situations. End petitions with "Amen")

"For _____. Lord, in your mercy. Hear my/our prayer."

Prayer of Love:

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen*.

Prayer for Renewed Vision:

Lord, open my eyes today to see how I can imitate what I have received from you.
Amen.

Sending:

We are sent by Jesus, with his Spirit, in grace and love.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21 NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22–23 NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

Amen.

Evening Order of Prayer – Day 1

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
(Matthew 11:28–29 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin:

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

Psalm of the Day:

Lord open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praises.

The Psalm for today is **Psalm 103**.

Notes:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me/us.
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Epistle (Letter) Reading:

The lesson for this evening is **1 John 4:7–21**.

Notes:

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Contemplate:

Sit with Jesus. Set aside 10–20 minutes. Recognize his presence with you.

Reflect on today's Scripture readings: *Matthew 18:21–35, Psalm 103, 1 John 4:7–21*.

Reflect on/discuss your day in light of these passages.

Consider the following questions.

- When were you forgiven for something significant? How did it impact you?
- Why is it easier to receive God's forgiveness than to share it?

Prayer of 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 doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray for specific people, requests, and situations)

"For _____. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Prayer of the Cross:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

I pray that [we], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that [we] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b–19 NIV)

Amen.

Morning Order of Prayer – Day 2

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit. For without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Jubilate (Be Joyful): Psalm 100 (NIV)

- ¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
- ³ Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- ⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me [a sinner].
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus:

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9 NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, . . .
For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Colossians 1:15, 19 NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3 NIV)

Gospel Reading:

***(Read the passage slowly. Read it through twice if you are able.
Note below anything the Lord is pointing out.)***

The Gospel reading for today is **Matthew 5:38–48**.

A voice came saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" (See Mark 9:7 NIV)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven:
Give us today our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses (sins)
As we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray the Lord's will for persons and situations. End petitions with "Amen")

"For _____. Lord, in your mercy. Hear my/our prayer."

Prayer of Love:

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen.*

Prayer for Renewed Vision:

Lord, renew my eyes to see my enemy as someone Christ died for. *Amen.*

Sending:

We are sent by Jesus, with his Spirit, in grace and love.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21 NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

Amen.

Evening Order of Prayer – Day 2

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
(Matthew 11:28–29 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin:

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

Psalm of the Day:

Lord open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praises.

The Psalm for today is **Psalm 7**.

Notes:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me/us.
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Epistle (Letter) Reading:

The lesson for this evening is **Romans 5:1–11**.

Notes:

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Contemplate:

Sit with Jesus. Set aside 10–20 minutes. Recognize his presence with you.

Reflect on today's Scripture readings: *Matthew 5:38–48, Psalm 7, Romans 5:1–11*.

Reflect on/discuss your day in light of these passages.

Consider the following questions:

- Why do we often wait for love to be reciprocal before we initiate it?
- How can initiating love transform our enemies? How has it transformed you?

Prayer of 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 doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray for specific people, requests, and situations)

"For _____. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Prayer of the Cross:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

I pray that [we], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that [we] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b–19 NIV)

Amen.

Morning Order of Prayer – Day 3

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit.
For without me you can do nothing. ~ John 15:5 (NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Venite (Come): Psalm 95:1–7 (NIV)

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
³ For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.
Today, if only you would hear his voice...

Song:

Sing/listen to a worship song.)

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me [a sinner].
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus:

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9 NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, . . .
For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Colossians 1:15, 19 NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3 NIV)

Gospel Reading:

*(Read the passage slowly. Read it through twice if you are able.
Note below anything the Lord is pointing out.)*

The Gospel reading for today is **Matthew 16:13–28**.

A voice came saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" (See Mark 9:7 NIV)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven:
Give us today our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses (sins)
As we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.

Amen

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray the Lord's will for persons and situations. End petitions with "Amen")

"For _____. Lord, in your mercy. Hear my/our prayer."

Prayer of Love:

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen*.

Prayer for Renewed Vision:

Lord, help us resist the temptation to "succeed" by letting go of Jesus and his way.
Amen.

Sending:

We are sent by Jesus, with his Spirit, in grace and love.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21 NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22–23 NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

Amen.

Evening Order of Prayer – Day 3

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
(Matthew 11:28–29 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin:

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

Psalm of the Day:

Lord open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praises.

The Psalm for today is **Psalm 33**.

Notes:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me/us.
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Epistle (Letter) Reading:

The lesson for this evening is **1 Corinthians 1:18–25**.

Notes:

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Contemplate:

Sit with Jesus. Set aside 10–20 minutes. Recognize his presence with you.

Reflect on today's Scripture readings: *Matt. 16:13–28, Psalm 33, 1 Cor. 1:18–25*.

Reflect on/discuss your day in light of these passages.

Consider the following questions.

- What is wrong with attempting to "gain" for Christ by letting go of his teachings?
- Why does the cross seem foolish to Peter and the world? How is it powerful?

Prayer of 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 doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray for specific people, requests, and situations)

"For _____. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Prayer of the Cross:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

I pray that [we], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that [we] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b–19 NIV)

Amen.

Morning Order of Prayer – Day 4

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit. For without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Jubilate (Be Joyful): Psalm 100 (NIV)

- ¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
- ³ Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- ⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me [a sinner].
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus:

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9 NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, . . .
For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Colossians 1:15, 19 NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3 NIV)

Gospel Reading:

***(Read the passage slowly. Read it through twice if you are able.
Note below anything the Lord is pointing out.)***

The Gospel reading for today is **Luke 9:51–56**.

A voice came saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" (See Mark 9:7 NIV)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven:
Give us today our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses (sins)
As we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray the Lord's will for persons and situations. End petitions with "Amen")

"For _____. Lord, in your mercy. Hear my/our prayer."

Prayer of Love:

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen.*

Prayer for Renewed Vision:

Lord, renew my eyes to see that evil is overcome by doing good, not by cursing.
Amen.

Sending:

We are sent by Jesus, with his Spirit, in grace and love.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21 NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

Amen.

Evening Order of Prayer – Day 4

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
(Matthew 11:28–29 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin:

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

Psalm of the Day:

Lord open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praises.

The Psalm for today is **Psalm 130**.

Notes:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me/us.
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Epistle (Letter) Reading:

The lesson for this evening is **Romans 12:9–21**.

Notes:

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Contemplate:

Sit with Jesus. Set aside 10–20 minutes. Recognize his presence with you.

Reflect on today's Scripture readings: *Luke 9:51–56, Psalm 130, Romans 12:9–21*.

Reflect on/discuss your day in light of these passages.

Consider the following questions:

- Why do you think you cannot rid the world of evil by seeking revenge?
- How might someone both love and confront their enemy?

Prayer of 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 doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray for specific people, requests, and situations)

"For _____. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Prayer of the Cross:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking
in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

I pray that [we], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together
with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the
love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that [we] may be
filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b–19 NIV)

Amen.

Morning Order of Prayer – Day 5

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit.
For without me you can do nothing. ~ John 15:5 (NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Venite (Come): Psalm 95:1–7 (NIV)

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
³ For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.
Today, if only you would hear his voice...

Song:

Sing/listen to a worship song.)

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me [a sinner].
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus:

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9 NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, . . .
For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Colossians 1:15, 19 NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3 NIV)

Gospel Reading:

*(Read the passage slowly. Read it through twice if you are able.
Note below anything the Lord is pointing out.)*

The Gospel reading for today is **Matthew 20:20–28**.

A voice came saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" (See Mark 9:7 NIV)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven:
Give us today our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses (sins)
As we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.

Amen

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray the Lord's will for persons and situations. End petitions with "Amen")

"For _____. Lord, in your mercy. Hear my/our prayer."

Prayer of Love:

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen*.

Prayer for Renewed Vision:

Lord, help us resist the temptation to "succeed" by letting go of Jesus and his way.
Amen.

Sending:

We are sent by Jesus, with his Spirit, in grace and love.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21 NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22–23 NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

Amen.

Evening Order of Prayer – Day 5

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
(Matthew 11:28-29 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin:

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

Psalm of the Day:

Lord open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praises.

The Psalm for today is **Psalm 146**.

Notes:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me/us.
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Epistle (Letter) Reading:

The lesson for this evening is **Philippians 2:5–11**.

Notes:

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Contemplate:

Sit with Jesus. Set aside 10–20 minutes. Recognize his presence with you.

Reflect on today's Scripture readings: *Matt. 20:20–28, Psalm 146, Philippians 2:5–11*.

Reflect on/discuss your day in light of these passages.

Consider the following questions.

- What is your definition of "greatness"? Does this look like Jesus' definition?
- How might a Christian's pursuit of "greatness" be problematic?

Prayer of 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 doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray for specific people, requests, and situations)

"For _____. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Prayer of the Cross:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

I pray that [we], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that [we] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b–19 NIV)

Amen.

Morning Order of Prayer – Day 6

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit. For without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Jubilate (Be Joyful): Psalm 100 (NIV)

- ¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
- ³ Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- ⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me [a sinner].
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus:

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9 NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, . . .
For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Colossians 1:15, 19 NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3 NIV)

Gospel Reading:

***(Read the passage slowly. Read it through twice if you are able.
Note below anything the Lord is pointing out.)***

The Gospel reading for today is **Matthew 9:9–13**.

A voice came saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" (See Mark 9:7 NIV)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven:
Give us today our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses (sins)
As we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray the Lord's will for persons and situations. End petitions with "Amen")

"For _____. Lord, in your mercy. Hear my/our prayer."

Prayer of Love:

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen.*

Prayer for Renewed Vision:

Lord, renew my eyes so that I can see how I can help, rather than who I can blame.
Amen.

Sending:

We are sent by Jesus, with his Spirit, in grace and love.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21 NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

Amen.

Evening Order of Prayer – Day 6

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
(Matthew 11:28–29 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin:

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

Psalm of the Day:

Lord open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praises.

The Psalm for today is **Psalm 40**.

Notes:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me/us.
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Epistle (Letter) Reading:

The lesson for this evening is **James 2:12–19**.

Notes:

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Contemplate:

Sit with Jesus. Set aside 10–20 minutes. Recognize his presence with you.

Reflect on today's Scripture readings: *Matthew 9:9–13, Psalm 40, James 2:12–19*.

Reflect on/discuss your day in light of these passages.

Consider the following questions:

- Why do you think the Lord desires "mercy, not sacrifice?"
- How does asking "How can I help?" change your perspective in a world of blame?

Prayer of 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 doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray for specific people, requests, and situations)

"For _____. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Prayer of the Cross:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

I pray that [we], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that [we] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b–19 NIV)

Amen.

Morning Order of Prayer – Day 7

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit.
For without me you can do nothing. ~ John 15:5 (NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Venite (Come): Psalm 95:1–7 (NIV)

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
³ For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.
Today, if only you would hear his voice...

Song:

Sing/listen to a worship song.)

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me [a sinner].
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus:

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9 NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, . . .
For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Colossians 1:15, 19 NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3 NIV)

Gospel Reading:

***(Read the passage slowly. Read it through twice if you are able.
Note below anything the Lord is pointing out.)***

The Gospel reading for today is **Luke 22:47–53**.

A voice came saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" (See Mark 9:7 NIV)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven:
Give us today our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses (sins)
As we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.

Amen

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray the Lord's will for persons and situations. End petitions with "Amen")

"For _____. Lord, in your mercy. Hear my/our prayer."

Prayer of Love:

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen*.

Prayer for Renewed Vision:

Lord, help us to see that peace is not simply a destination, but a way. *Amen*.

Sending:

We are sent by Jesus, with his Spirit, in grace and love.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21 NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22–23 NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

Amen.

Evening Order of Prayer – Day 7

Call to Prayer:

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
(Matthew 11:28–29 NIV)

Address:

Father God, Creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God of Israel,
God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
True and Living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin:

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

Psalm of the Day:

Lord open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praises.

The Psalm for today is **Psalm 46**.

Notes:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me/us.
(Based on Luke 18:19)

Epistle (Letter) Reading:

The lesson for this evening is **Ephesians 2:11–18**.

Notes:

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Contemplate:

Sit with Jesus. Set aside 10–20 minutes. Recognize his presence with you.

Reflect on today's Scripture readings: *Luke 22:47–53, Psalm 46, Ephesians 2:11–18*.

Reflect on/discuss your day in light of these passages.

Consider the following questions.

- In what ways is Christ putting to death your hostility?
- In what ways does practicing peace today make you look foolish?

Prayer of 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 doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Petition and Intercession:

(Pray for specific people, requests, and situations)

"For _____. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Prayer of the Cross:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking
in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

I pray that [we], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together
with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the
love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that [we] may be
filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b–19 NIV)

Amen.