



General Order for Prayer

For use at church meetings, retreats, and in the home, as well as with small groups and Bible studies.

A hymn appropriate for the time or occasion may be sung.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.

- OR -

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

A reading from Scripture or a section from Luther's Small Catechism may be shared at this time, and brief comment may follow.

Show us your mercy, O Lord.
And grant us your salvation.

Hide your face from our sins.
And blot out all our iniquities.

Create in us clean hearts, O God.
And renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence.
And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation.
And uphold us with a willing spirit.

O Lord, let your mercy be upon us,
As our trust is in you.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.
And let our cry come before you.

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

One of the following or another prayer appropriate for the time or occasion is said.

* *Christian* is the standard term used in the vernacular (German) translation of the Apostles' Creed by the Reformers. The word "catholic" may be used here instead.

For morning

We thank you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept us this night from all harm and danger; and we ask you to protect us this day also from sin and every evil, that in all we do today we may please you. For into your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels watch over us that the wicked foe have no power over us.

Amen.

For evening

We thank you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today; and we ask you to forgive us all our sins and the wrongs that we have done. By your mercy, graciously protect us from the dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels watch over us, that the wicked foe have no power over us.

Amen.

For other times

Behold, Lord, empty vessels that need to be filled. Our Lord, fill them. We are weak in the faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us and make us fervent that our love may go out to our neighbors. We do not have a strong and firm faith; at times we doubt and are unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help us. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. In you we have sealed the treasures of all we have. We are poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. We are sinners; you are upright. With us there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, we will remain with you of whom we can receive but to whom we may not give.

Amen.

Additional prayers may be said.

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The blessing of almighty God, the Father, ✚ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Amen.

A hymn appropriate for the time or occasion may be sung.