

SUNDAY PRAYERS

2nd August 2020



God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You have given us a share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
In the darkness of this age
your saints proclaim the glory of your kingdom.
Chosen as lights in the world,
they surround our steps as we journey on
towards that eternal city of light
where they sing the triumphal song.
Open our eyes to behold your glory
and free our tongues to join their song:
Great and wonderful are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty;
just and true are your ways, King of the ages.
To you be praise and glory,
now and for ever.
Amen.

PSALM 8

LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.

²Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

³When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
⁴what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?^[c]
⁵You have made them^[d] a little lower than the angels^[e]
and crowned them^[f] with glory and honor.
⁶You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their^[g] feet:
⁷all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
⁸the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
⁹LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

CONFESSION

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us. Amen.

MATTHEW 6:5-15

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, ^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one. ^[b]

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

To listen to Joy Mawdesley’s sermon on this passage [click here](#).

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION written by George Chichester

Our prayers for today are based on the Lord’s Prayer. There are 5 themes, and five verses, in the Lord’s Prayer, so we have 5 prayers for today.

Our Father in Heaven; Hallowed by Thy name.

Almighty God, we praise you for who you are, and what you mean to us: Yahweh; All powerful; Majestic and magnificent; Creator and sustainer; Omnipotent; King Eternal. And yet you are also Father ... daddy: Intimate; Loving; Close; Accessible; so caring. God our Father, we worship you.

Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done.

God of Heaven and Earth, you have made this amazing Earth for us to live in and enjoy and have given us clear instruction as to how to do so, but we have chosen to do things our way and have made a real mess of what you have entrusted to us. The earth is groaning – evidenced by Climate Change, pollution, habitat loss, species extinction, and eroding soils & landscapes. World economies are at breaking point. Prejudice and inequality are rife, as we have seen so starkly in the press recently. Man's greed, pride and selfishness are at the heart of the problem. We pray that you would move to restore your Kingdom in this world, and in particular to bring our Nation back to you - to a society that honours you and seeks to stand for justice, compassion, respect and honesty. We pray for all in positions of authority in this country, our politicians in particular, that they would desire to uphold what is right and seek the common good of all.

Give us today our daily bread.

We pray for those in need – those who are hungry; the poor; those who are disabled or unable to work; those who are ill, or who are suffering with mental health. And we include ourselves – that we would trust in you to provide for all our needs, whether practical, mental or spiritual. And we pray for our natural world as mankind struggles to produce affordable food for a world with a rapidly growing population, yet in a way which preserves and enhances our natural capital.

Forgive us our trespasses ... as we forgive others.

As we remember the mess that mankind has made of this world - and our part, in however small, yet still significant, a way – we want to say sorry for what we have done: for the many times when we have turned our back on you and done our own thing; for our selfishness and greed; for the times when we have hurt others by what we have done or said or implied; for when – like the prodigal son – we have taken your generosity and squandered it. Please forgive us; and please help us also to be more compassionate and forgiving to others.

And lead us ... not into temptation.....

And finally, Heavenly Father, we pray that you would *lead* us; that we would look to you for guidance in all things, hear your voice, and follow you; that you would make clear to us the path that you wish us to follow each day, each month, each year; such that our careers, our families, our priorities, energies, desires and aspirations are in tune with our prayer that Your Will be done in - and your Kingdom come to – this wonderful but so needy world. Amen.

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. Amen.

THE GRACE

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.