

# A Brief, General-Purpose Liturgy for Families and Small Groups

*Adapted from Morning Prayer, the Prayers of the People, and other prayers. Bracketed numbers refer to pages in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer; an asterisk \* indicates edited text. Nearly all sections below are optional and may be "mixed and matched" as desired.*

## Opening Versicles

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.* Let us pray.

*The leader then says one of the following, the people responding:*

**Advent:** Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
*make straight in the desert a highway for our God.* [37]

**Christmas Season:** Behold, I bring you good tidings  
of great joy which shall be to all people;  
*For unto you is born this day in the city of David,  
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.* [37]

**Epiphany Season:** I will give you as a light to the nations,  
*That my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.* [76]

**Lent:** Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;  
*His mercy endures for ever.* [351]

**Easter Season:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!* [77]

**At Any Time:** Send out your light and your truth, that they  
may lead us,  
*And bring us to your holy hill and to your dwelling.* [78]

Open my lips, O Lord,  
*and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
*and renew a right spirit within me.*

Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
*and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.* [657\*]

## For Christian Education Classes (optional)

*(May be recited either before or after the Prayers of the People,  
if they are said.)*

Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts,  
*Be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,  
our strength and our redeemer. Amen.* [40]\*

## For Group Meetings (optional)

*(May be recited either before or after the Prayers of the People,  
if they are said.)*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor;  
*that in all our works we may glorify thy holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.* [832\*]

Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts,  
*Be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,  
our strength and our redeemer.* [40]\*

## The Prayers of the People (optional) [392\*]

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors,  
and for those who are alone.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the truth.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence – the people may add their own petitions.  
[See also the specific prayers on page 2 below]*

Hear us Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence – the people may add their own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

## Blessing of Sons and Daughters (optional)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our sons and daughters,  
entrusted to our care.

*Help us to love and nurture them,  
that they may attain to the full stature intended for them  
in your eternal kingdom.*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* [841\*]

*The parents place their hands on their son's or daughter's head (in  
turn) and say*

*[Name], may God bless you and keep you,  
and grant you grace and peace,  
all the days of your life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* [444, 445\*]

*Parents are encouraged to also whisper a personal blessing.*

## Blessing Before Meals (optional)

*(Optional: Let us pray.)*

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

*bless O Lord thy gifts to our use, and us to thy service;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* [835]

## The Peace (optional)

The peace of the Lord be always with you. *And also with you.* [360]

## Closing Prayer (optional -- see p. 2)

## Closing Prayer

(Optional: Let us pray.)

All say in unison either Form A or Form B.

### Form A [365]

Eternal God, Heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Form B [309-308\*]

Almighty God, we thank you,  
that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself.  
Renew in us the covenant you made with us at our Baptisms;  
give us inquiring and discerning hearts,  
the courage to will and to persevere,  
a spirit to know and love you,  
and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.  
Send us forth in the power of your Spirit  
to perform the service you set before us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The leader then concludes with*

Let us go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*Thanks be to God.* [366]

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## Special Prayers

**For the Departed.** Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servant *N*. We pray that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, *he* may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* [253\*]

**For the Sick.** Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your ailing servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs. We pray especially that *N*. [and *NN.*] may be strengthened in *their* weakness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* [260\*]

**For Education.** Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, so that we may rejoice in the knowledge of your truth, and worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* [261\*]

**For a Meeting:** Almighty and everlasting God, be present with those who take counsel here for the mission of your Church. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us the strength and courage to pursue it, and the grace and perseverance to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* [818\*]

**In Times of 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.* [824]

**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.* [830]

**For the Care of Children:** Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.* [829]

**For the Absent:** O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the ends of the earth: We humbly beseech *thee* graciously to behold and bless whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to *thee*, may be bound together by *thy* love in the communion of *thy* Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of *thy* saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* [830]

**For Travelers:** O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [in particular \_\_\_\_\_]; 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.* [831]

**For a Person in Trouble or Bereavement:** O merciful Father, who has taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly grieve us: Look with pity upon the sorrows of your servant *N*. for whom our prayers are offered. Remember *him*, O Lord, in mercy, nourish *his* soul with patience, comfort *him* with a sense of thy goodness, lift up thy countenance upon *him*, and give *him* peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* [831]

**Prayer of St. Francis:** Lord, make me an instrument of thy 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; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that we 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.* [833\*]