

A prayer for every need of the believers on the Lord's Day after the first sermon



Almighty, merciful God we openly admit and confess before You that we are truly not worthy of raising our eyes to heaven and offer our prayer up to You, should You measure our worth and merit. Our conscience convicts us, however, and our sins condemn us. We also know that You are the just Judge who punishes the sins of those who break Your commandments. O Lord, we disregard all other help and take refuge in Your mercy. We do so because You commanded us to call on You in our every need and promised in Your indescribable grace to hear our prayers. Not because we deserve it (because we cannot), but based on the merit of our Lord Jesus Christ that You revealed to us as Mediator and Advocate.

O Lord, we can hardly understand or begin to express the length and breadth of Your benefits to us. We furthermore confess how You led us to the light of Your truth and to knowledge of Your holy Gospel. We also, however, confess that we have in thanklessness forgotten Your benefits. We have strayed from You to follow our own desires and failed to honour You as we must. We have, therefore, sinned grievously and should we stand before Your judgement seat, we could expect nothing but eternal death and damnation [alternative: destruction]. O Lord, look instead on Your Anointed and not our sin that Your wrath may be appeased by His advocacy. Empower the grace of Your Spirit inside us that it may all the more put to death the old nature and all its evil desires and make us new to a better life.

It also pleases You that we pray for all people and we, therefore, pray that You bless the instruction of Your holy Gospel that it may be proclaimed and taken to heart that all of the world may be filled with the knowledge that saves us. Through this we pray that those who do not know the Gospel may repent, the weak be strengthened and all may bring glory to Your Name not only in word, but also in deed. We ask that You send out workers for the harvest and equip them to fulfil their task faithfully. In turn destroy all false prophets, savage wolves and hired hands. They only seek their own glory and benefit, not the glory of Your holy Name alone or the prosperity and salvation of others.

We also pray that in Your grace You preserve and govern, in the unity of true faith and devotion to You, all Christian churches who You have called. Please do this that Your kingdom may grow by the day and put to shame Satan's kingdom until the fulness of Your kingdom comes when You will be everything to all.

We furthermore pray for all governments across the world: heads of state and authorities. We especially pray for those You have placed over us that their governance may be subject to the rule of the King of all kings over them and all their citizens that we may live peacefully under them in all godliness and holiness and thereby destroy all the more the contemptible and unjust kingdom of the devil.

We furthermore pray for all our fellow believers who suffer the persecution of Your enemies, such as Islam. Comfort them with Your Holy Spirit and free them in Your grace. Do not allow that the remembrance of Your Name be wiped from the earth so that the enemies of Your truth cannot boast over the dishonouring and blasphemy of Your Name. If it, however, be Your godly will that imprisoned Christians bear witness of the truth by praising Your Name with their death, comfort them in their suffering that they may accept this from Your fatherly hand. Let it be that they seek to follow You in this and remain steadfast in life or in death to Your glory, the building up of the church and their own salvation.

We also pray for all who are being disciplined by poverty, a jail sentence, physical illness or spiritual attacks. Comfort them all, o Lord, as their need demands. Have this disciplining bring them to repentance and a better life.

Grant them continued patience, ease their suffering and ultimately grant them relief that they may rejoice in Your goodness and praise Your Name forever more. Also comfort all widows and orphans, as their Father. Be with all expecting mothers and those who are bearing their young. Show grace to all who are mentally disabled to the glory of your Name and the benefit of their neighbour.

In conclusion, o Lord, keep and preserve us and our loved ones and all we undertake. Preserve all who travel, whether it be for the advancement of your church or the prosperity of the country or their own honourable endeavours. Bless the harvest of the earth, granting favourable weather and fertile growth. Give that we may do our work according to your will and apply the gifts from your hand in a way that it may not hinder but rather guide our path to eternal life. Strengthen us against all spiritual attacks that we may be victorious in our fight of faith and gain eternal life with Christ[12].

We pray for all of this as our faithful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ himself taught us:

Our Father who is in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Strengthen us in true Christian faith that we may grow all the more every day. We confess this with mouth and heart[13] as follows:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He endured the suffering of hell*.

On the third day He arose from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;

I believe a holy catholic Christian church,

the communion of saints;

the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body;

and the life everlasting.

*Literally: He descended into hell

Thereupon the gathering of the church is concluded with the following blessing:

Benediction

Lift your hearts to God and receive the Lord's blessing:

The LORD bless you, and keep you:

The LORD make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you:

The LORD lift up his countenance on you, and give you peace. (Num 6:24-26)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.(2 Cor 13:14)

But may the God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. (1 Pe 5:10)