

# Prayer Calendar

## April 2018

### *Spiritual Gift of Hospitality*

*“We have been given our gifts to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of Jesus, to maturity, to be like Christ.”*

### **Sunday, April 1, Easter Sunday**

*John 14:2 | In my Father’s house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*

~Lord Jesus, you are the hospitality of God. In you we find true welcome and a special place for us in your heart, now and in the time to come, and we are so grateful.

### **Monday, April 2**

*Isaiah 58:7 | Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

~ Holy Spirit, help us to open our arms, open our hearts and open our ability to extend your hospitable grace to those in true need. Stir in us a desire to act on your behalf without holding back.

### **Tuesday, April 3**

*Titus 1:6 | For a bishop, ...but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled.*

~ Lord God, our leaders in the church and the government are all called to your goodness and to reflect the hospitality of your grace and peace. Today I pray for these leaders: \_\_\_\_.

## Wednesday, April 4

*I Peter 4: 8 | Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.*

Holy God, there is no grace, no mercy, no forgiveness and no hospitality without love. Help us today, to love one another; not just those who love us, but all those whom you love.

## Thursday, April 5

*I Peter 4:9 | Be hospitable to one another without complaining.*

~ Loving Father, we do whine and complain a lot about giving our money, time and energy to your work in the world. Thank you for reminding us to set aside our preferences and just serve one another without complaint.

## Friday, April 6

*Acts 16: 14b | The Lord opened her (Lydia of Philippi) heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.*

~ Holy God, we cannot hear your voice until we listen and we cannot listen until our hearts are opened wide. Open our hearts daily, to hear your voice in the lives and actions of others.

## Saturday, April 7

*Acts 16: 15 | When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying; “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.*

~ Holy God, as we consider Lydia's invitation, help us find ways to invite others into our homes to provide a place for prayer and spiritual growth.

## Sunday, April 8

*Acts 16:33 | At that same hour of the night he (the jailer at Philippi) took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.*

~ Loving Jesus, hospitality can be offered anywhere your gospel is shared – prisons and jails, ghettos and in the streets. Thank you for the hospitality of healing grace.

## Monday, April 9

*Acts 16: 34 | He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he (the jailer) had become a believer in God.*

~ Loving God, you call us before we are even aware you are near and you call us out of our everyday lives to follow you. Lead us in a response of hospitality and grace towards others.

## Tuesday, April 10

*Leviticus 19:33 | When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien.*

~ God of All, we are confused about the status of people – legal or illegal – but you are clear that we are to treat the alien in our land with hospitality. Help us do that.

## Wednesday, April 11

*Leviticus 19:34a | The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you;*

~ God of Hope, our world is turned upside down because we worry about strangers and aliens among us. You tell us to treat the alien as a citizen and this command is difficult for many. Help us find reconciliation within our hearts.

## Thursday, April 12

*Leviticus 19: 34b | ... you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.*

~ God of Life, you call us to love one another, to remember where we came from and to remember who you are. Help us overcome our fears of others not like us.

## Friday, April 13

*Luke 14:13 | But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.*

~ God of Peace, it is true that we include others that can do us favors or whom we think can offer us something. Yet, you ask us to include those on the margins, the ones who are outsiders and can gain us nothing. You do turn things upside down.

## Saturday, April 14

*Luke 14: 14 | And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.*

~ Loving God, you ask that all guests be received like Christ, and it is in receiving the poor we receive Christ.

## Sunday, April 15

*Matthew 25:35 | '...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,*

~ Dear Jesus, as your disciples we receive those who are hungry, thirsty and strangers in our land, and in so doing we receive you. Our service to you comes in serving others; help us today have the desire and the heart to receive others in your name.

## Monday, April 16

*Matthew 25:36 | I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.*

~ Gracious God, you call us to action in our hospitality towards others, not just lip service, not just talking about it, but actually put unselfish love into action. You are the vulnerable ones, you are the ones in need.

## Tuesday, April 17

*Matthew 25:40 | And the king will answer them. ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’*

~ Lord of All, we know you because we know Jesus. When we offer hospitality and love to even the least of your children, we offer hospitality and love to you. We say “yes” to you today.

## Wednesday, April 18

*Romans 12:13 | Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.*

Lord Jesus, when life is overwhelming you meet all our needs and offer us the goodness of life with you, dwelling in your heart. Thank you for your open heart for us.

## Thursday, April 19

*Romans 12:13 | Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.*

Jesus, over and over we hear that we are to open our lives and extend hospitality to strangers for this is your will for us. It is our hope that our own will align with your will.

## **Friday, April 20**

*Romans 12:14 | Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.*

~ Holy One, is part of hospitality blessing others? Is it especially blessing those with whom we do not get along? This is a hard command. Help us.

## **Saturday, April 21**

*Romans 12:15 | Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

~ Lord Jesus, being hospitable is to make space for others in our lives and giving of our time and our love. Help us today to take time to make space in our hearts to actually be with others.

## **Sunday, April 22**

*Romans 12:16 | Live in harmony with one another, do not be haughty, be associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.*

~ Jesus, you call us to be humble, too. True hospitality is to live in harmony with one another welcoming each other in your name. Show us ways to do that today as we go about our ordinary lives.

## **Monday, April 23**

*Romans 12:17 | Do not pay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.*

~ Lord, you tell us over and over what your kingdom is like. It is a time and place where the blind see and the lame dance and where there is equal justice for all people. Your kingdom turns what we know upside down, where we are all marked by life-giving service.

## **Tuesday, April 24**

*Romans 12:18 | If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

~ Gracious Jesus, you command us to love God and love neighbor. Why is this so hard? Help me today to remember that all love comes from you and that if I cannot love neighbor I cannot love you and if I truly love you I will love neighbor.

## **Wednesday, April 25**

*Romans 12:19 | Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God...I will repay, says the Lord.*

~ Holy God, it is hospitable to forgive, to leave room for you to work in all situations. Help me today to let go of my own need for vengeance and instead become what you call me to be.

## **Thursday, April 26**

*Romans 12:20 | No, “if you enemies are hungry, feed them, if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”*

~ Loving Jesus, you call us to do the opposite of what is expected in difficult situations and you know it is hard for us to do. Only through your Holy Spirit might we offer this kind of hospitality.

## **Friday, April 27**

*Hebrews 13:1 | Let mutual love continue.*

~ Lord, at the foundation of all relationships is your love, moving and living, in and through us. Sometimes we forget; please forgive us and show us how to love without counting the cost.

## **Saturday, April 28**

*Hebrews 13:2 | Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

~ Loving God, everyone we meet may be an angel. Every stranger may be a gift from you to us, but we will never know unless we show hospitality in some way. Help us today to show that hospitality.

## **Sunday, April 29**

*Genesis 18: 4 | Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.*

~ God of Hope, Abraham offered hospitality to angels without knowing it. Help us to see everyone, not as strangers but as angels among us and give us wisdom to treat them so.

## **Monday, April 30**

*Job 31:32 | ... the stranger has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the traveler -*

~ Lord, we can examine ourselves and consider how and when we offer hospitality to others. Let your love and your word be our guide, our example and the movement of our own hearts.

This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer.

**Read the scripture** for the day over and over, out loud if possible. As you read, listen with an “ear of the heart” to a word or phrase that strikes you.

**Reflect on that word or phrase** asking yourself the question: “What is God saying to me through this word or phrase at this time?” Spend time in silence with this scripture mulling it over in your mind and heart.

**Allow God to speak to you in the silence.** Offer a prayer out of your reflection.

**Thank God** for whatever you received in the silence of your prayer and take that with you through your day.