

Selections from the *Presbyterian Book of Common Prayer*, 1993

Trust

Loving God,
you want us to give thanks for all things,
to fear nothing except losing you,
and to lay all our cares on you,
knowing that you care for us.
Protect us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties,
and grant that no clouds in this mortal life
may hide from us the light of your immortal love
shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Healing

Mighty and merciful God,
you sent Jesus Christ to heal broken lives.
We praise you that today
you send healing in doctors and nurses,
and bless us with technology in medicine.
We claim your promises of wholeness
as we pray for those who are ill in body or mind,
who long for your healing touch.
Make the weak strong,
the sick healthy,
the broken whole,
and confirm those who serve them
as agents of your love.
Then all shall be renewed in vigor
to point to the risen Christ,
who conquered death that we might live eternally. Amen.

During an Illness (Ambrose of Milan, 340-397)

You are medicine for me when I am sick.
You are my strength when I need help.
You are life itself when I fear death.
You are the way when I long for heaven.
You are light when all is dark.
You are my food when I need nourishment! Amen.

For Those in Distress (The Liturgy of St Mark)

Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad,
the strength of those who suffer,

let the prayers of your children who cry out of any tribulation
come to you.

To every soul that is distressed,
Grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In a Personal Crisis (Thomas a Kempis, 1380-1471)

Write your blessed name, O Lord,
upon my heart,
there to remain so indelibly engraven,
that no prosperity,
no adversity,
shall ever move me from your love.
Be to me a strong toward of defense,
a comforter in tribulation,
a deliverer in distress,
a very present help in trouble,
and a guide to heaven
through the many temptations and dangers of this life. Amen.

For Our Nation (Woodrow Wilson, 1856-1924)

Almighty God, ruler of all the peoples of the earth,
forgive, we pray, our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love truth;
give wisdom to our counselors
and steadfastness to our people;
and bring us at last to the fair city of peace,
whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill,
and whose builder and maker you are;
Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Government Leaders

O Lord, our governor,
your glory shines throughout the world.
We commend our nation to your merciful care,
that we may live securely in peace and may be guided by your providence.
Give all in authority the wisdom and strength
to know your will and to do it.
Help them remember that they are called to serve the people
as lovers of truth and justice;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Single People

Almighty God,
grant that those who live alone
may not be lonely in their solitude,
but may find fulfillment
in loving you and their neighbors
as they follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Parents

Almighty God, from whom we receive our life,
you have blessed us with the joy and care of children.
As we bring them up,
give us clam strength and patient wisdom,
that we may teach them to love
whatever is just and true and good,
following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

For Children

Great God,
guard the laughter of children.
Bring them safely through injury and illness,
so they may live the promises you give.
do not let us be so preoccupied with our purposes
that we fail to hear their voices,
or pay attention to their special vision of the truth;
but keep us with them,
ready to listen and to love,
even as in Jesus Christ you have love us,
your grown-up, wayward children. Amen.

For Young People

Almighty God,
You see your children growing up
in an uncertain and confusing world.
Show them that your ways give more life
than the ways of the world,
and that following you
is better than chasing after selfish goals.
Help them to take failure,
not as a measure of their worth but as an opportunity for a new start.

Give them strength to hold their faith in you
And to keep alive their joy in your creation;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For the Middle-Aged

Eternal God,
You have led us through our days and years,
made wisdom ripe and faith mature.
Show men and women your purpose for them,
so that, when youth is spent,
they may not find life empty or labor stale,
but may devote themselves to dear loves and worthy tasks,
with undiminished strength;
for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

For the Aged

O Lord God,
look with mercy on all whose increasing years bring them
isolation, distress, or weakness.
Provide for them homes of dignity and peace;
give them understanding helpers
and the wiliness to accept help;
And, as their strength diminishes,
increase their faith
and their assurance of your love.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.