

**Prayers for Use
especially during the Coronavirus Outbreak
while our Churches, Schools, and Special Ministries are closed**

*These prayers come from various sources,
not all of which are cited.*

*The Book of Common Prayer contains many good prayers,
and in times of difficulty Christians have found great consolation
in the Psalms.*

Prayers to begin each day during this time

O Lord God,
from whom we come,
in whom we are enfolded,
to whom we return:
bless us in our pilgrimage through life;
with the power of the Father protecting,
with the love of Jesus indwelling,
and the light of the Spirit guiding,
until we come to our ending
in life and love eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Bishop Peter Nott

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The Collect for the Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany
based on a prayer by William Bright*

O Christ, the True Light, you enlighten and sanctify everyone who comes into the world: Let the Light of your countenance be upon us, that in it we may see the Unapproachable Light, and guide our steps in the doing of your commandments, through the intercessions of your most pure Mother, and of all your saints. *Amen.*

From the Prayers of the Hours of the Orthodox Church

O Lord,
grant that I may meet the coming day in peace.
Help me in all things
to rely upon thy holy will.
In every hour of the day,
reveal thy will to me.
Bless my dealings with all who surround me.
Teach me to treat all that comes to me
throughout the day with peace of soul,
and with the firm conviction that thy will governs all.
In all my deeds and words,
guide my thoughts and feelings.
In unforeseen events, let me not forget
that all are sent by thee.
Teach me to act firmly and wisely,
without embittering and embarrassing others.
Give me the strength to bear the fatigue
of the coming day with all that it shall bring.
Direct my will.
Teach me to pray.
Pray thou thyself in me. *Amen.*

Prayer of Saint Philaret of Moscow

Lord, I do not know what to ask of you; you and you alone know my true needs. You love me more than I know how to love you. O Father, give to your servant that for which I do not even know how to pray. I dare not ask for either a cross or a consolation; I dare only to stand before you with my heart open to you. You see my needs of which I am unaware. See me, and lift me up. Deal with me according to your mercy: forgive me and heal me; humble me and raise me. I am in awe before you and I am silent before your will and your unfathomable ways for me. To you I offer myself as a living sacrifice; there is in me no other desire but to fulfil your will. Teach me to pray. Pray yourself within me. *Amen.*

Another prayer by the same saint

A Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose
 between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
 when their schools close
remember those children who will go hungry with no school meals.
May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those with no place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money
 in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country
let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God
 to our neighbour.
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
whose arms of love embrace us all. *Amen.*

Cameron Wiggins Bellm (alt.)

A prayer about the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer in confusion

O God, who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die:
in our grief and shock
contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion,
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Janet Morley

For those in isolation

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid, or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Collect for All Saints' Day

For those who are worried and for social cohesion

Loving Jesus, you are compassionate to those in need
and heal the sick in body and mind.
Look kindly on those who are fearful at this time.
Help us all to put away all thoughts and actions
that separate us from you and from one another.
Give us grace to live our lives
confident in your promise that you are with us always. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to care for the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake. *Amen.*

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care,
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers for when we cannot get to church

If you can, use the forms for Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families in the Book of Common Prayer, pp. 136–140. You can substitute the psalms for each morning and evening of the day of the month from the Psalter in the BCP, and you can read one or more of the readings of the day. Resources for the Daily Prayer of the Church can be found here:

www.missionstclare.com/english

There are also some resources in Spanish.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always:'

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care. *Amen.*

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

From St Patrick's Breastplate

I am giving you worship with all my life,
I am giving you obedience with all my power,
I am giving you praise with all my strength,
I am giving you honour with all my speech.
I am giving you love with all my heart,
I am giving you affection with all my sense,
I am giving you my being with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.

adapted from Alexander Carmichael, Carmina Gadelica (1900)

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Jesus Prayer

An ancient prayer for Lent

O Lord and Master of my life!
Take from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, ambition and idle chatter.
But rather give to me, your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness,
patience, and love.
O my Lord and King, give me the grace to see my own sins and faults,
and not to judge my sisters and brothers;
for you are blessed to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Saint Ephrem the Syrian

Soul of Christ, sanctify me,
body of Christ, save me,
blood of Christ, inebriate me,
water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me:
hide me within your wounds
and never let me be separated from you.
From the wicked enemy defend me,
in the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to you,
so that with your saints I may praise you
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Anima Christi

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
and yet the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Many are anxious because of it;
many are anxious that they might become ill;
many are anxious about their family and friends;
Many are anxious about their parents, their children, their jobs and their security.
Be with us in our worries and help us to find some peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists
who are working to discover the right medicines
to give hope to those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these strange and worrying times,
you are with us.
Help us to look for the signs of your goodness and love towards us,
and keep our hearts always in your love;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Saint Benedict

After a time of prayer

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your gracious help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers when we cannot receive Holy Communion

In union, O Lord Jesus Christ, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I join in offering the sacrifice of my praise and thanksgiving to you. I present to you myself, my soul, and my body, with the earnest longing that I may ever be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you in this Holy Sacrament, come spiritually, I pray you, into my heart. I unite myself to you, and love you with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength. Let nothing ever separate me from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so may my soul be healed by the same faith in you, whom I cannot now receive in the Sacrament of Holy Communion; through your tender mercy, for you live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Adapted from Prayers from the Anglican Diocese of Melanesia

A prayer remembering that God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.
You are with me in the day and in the night.
You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am anxious.
Today I am feeling *(name how you are feeling)* because *(reasons you are feeling this way)*.
Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today. Amen.

A prayer to the Mother of God

O Mary, you are the good ground on which the seed fell. You have brought forth fruit a hundredfold. Draw us close to your loving heart and keep us there in gentle lowliness and perfect trust. Teach us to receive the Spirit as you did to open our hearts to the Sacred Word, to ponder it in silence, and to yield a rich harvest. Teach us to be apostles of love. Amen.

Ruth Burrows

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray,
that you, with steadfast love, would keep
your watch around us while we sleep.

Tonight we pray especially for (*names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus*) and
the people of (*country or place which is affected by Coronavirus*).
Give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them. *Amen.*

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

From Compline

Short passages of Scripture for reading and contemplation

Psalm 27 *Dominus illuminatio*

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days
of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling

and set me high upon a rock.
8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
15 Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!
18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

Psalm 46 *Deus noster refugium*

1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
6 God is in the midst of her;

- she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 12 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 91 *Qui habitat*

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 He shall say to the Lord,
“You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust.”
- 3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings; *
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, *
but it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold *
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

Psalm 139 *Domine, probasti*

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

18 Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God! *
You that thirst for blood, depart from me.

19 They speak spitefully against you; *
your enemies take your Name in vain.

20 Do I not hate those, O Lord, who hate you? *
and do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

21 I hate them with a perfect hatred; *
they have become my own enemies.

22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

[43:1–7]

A Reading from the Gospel of Saint John

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

[6:37–39]