



catechism

IN FAMILY PRAYER



From the Next Generation Leadership Initiative

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ISBN 979-8-9878026-5-6



NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE
Raising up the next generation of leaders for the next generation of the ACNA

The ACNA values the next generation.

Commendation

When we speak of the next generation of young people, we are not just talking about a simple age-based demographic. The Anglican Church in North America needs the next generation of disciples and the next generation of godly leaders. I am thankful for the resources, coaching, and call to reach each of these next generations that the Next Generation Leadership Initiative has provided for our Province since its inception. As the Archbishop and lifelong next-generation pastor, I will continue to champion and care for the next generation of Anglicans.

I am grateful for this gift to our Province, the *Catechism in Family Prayer*. It creates a highly accessible household and parish resource for the basic introduction to Anglican Christianity. Integrating each question of our *To Be a Christian* catechism with the Family Devotion format of the 2019 Book of Common Prayer, the *Catechism in Family Prayer* is a day-to-day practice of prayer, Scripture reading, learning, and formation. The Rev. Canon Aaron Buttery and his team have provided a rich resource and powerful gift for our province.

I so appreciate how this will empower parents to share their faith, support parishes as they prepare people for confirmation, and welcome new disciples to experience the transformation that comes from the Holy Spirit.

I commend the *Catechism in Family Prayer* to you to be utilized by dioceses, parishes, and in the homes of our parishioners. It is my deep hope and prayer that together with our Lord we will welcome and disciple the next generation into the Faith and into the life of the Church.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach
Archbishop of the
Anglican Church in North America

The whole Catechism for the whole Family

Introduction

As Anglicans, we recognize the value of liturgy and rhythm in our own personal and communal spiritual formation. We are shaped as communities of common prayer, learning together, and striving to be Christ-like in our service toward others. This formation is guided by Scripture, our treasured Book of Common Prayer, and our Anglican Catechism. Together, these texts enable us to participate in right living as part of communities that are culturally attuned and missionally adaptive, reinforced by doctrine, discipline, and worship, through repetition that grounds us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our primary source of cultural influence, however, remains our homes. The conversations held by those most dear to us form our character and our values in ways that impact our decisions for the rest of our lives. It is imperative that our households serve as the initial location of catechesis in our Anglican heritage and our biblical formation.

Catechism in Family Prayer was developed with this charge in mind. It is a beautiful blend of Scripture, Family Devotion from our Book of Common Prayer, and personal questions of faith from our catechism, *To Be a Christian*. It is simple enough to be completed daily, yet varied enough to offer deep, theological discussion around the kitchen tables of our households. It brilliantly offers the liturgy that forms us, while giving space to wrestle with deeper questions of doctrine and mission, in the context of our own homes, and offered within a conversation with God.

It is our hope that your household embraces this resource as an offering of your very selves to the service of each other by grounding your conversation, discipline, worship, and life together in the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ. May this resource enrich your lives together and your relationship with our Lord in refreshing ways every day.

The Rev. Dr. Jessica Jones

Former Provincial Canon for the
Next Generation Leadership Initiative

What you can expect.



01 Open with a Psalm

The opening sentence for each week is a Psalm, a refreshing entry into family prayer.

02 Say a Canticle Together

Throughout the year, you are introduced to some of the most-loved canticles from Morning and Evening prayer.

03 Read Scripture Aloud

The reading of Scripture places you in relationship and conversation with the Triune God.

04 Respond in Conversation

Through a discussion question, reflect together on how Scripture and the catechism question matter today.

05 Offer Prayers Together

In light of your conversation, turn to God in prayer for yourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 Close with a Collect

Each family prayer time concludes with a Collect to gather the intentions and focus of your worship into a succinct prayer.

What is the human condition?

Day 01

01 We begin together:

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.

Psalm 3:3–4

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And [Jesus] said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone." Matthew 15:16–20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the human condition?

Though created good and made for fellowship with our Creator, humanity has been cut off from God by self-centered rebellion against him, leading to lawless living, guilt, shame, death, and the fear of judgment. This is the state of sin. (Genesis 3:1–13; Psalm 14:1–3; Matthew 15:10–20; Romans 1:18–23; 3:9–23)

How have you heard God speak to you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers, and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the Gospel?

Day 02

01 We begin together:

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.

Psalm 3:3–4

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the good news that God loves the world and offers salvation from sin through his Son, Jesus Christ. (Psalm 103:1–13; Isaiah 53:4–5; John 3:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:1–5)

*What is the best news you have ever received?
What about the Gospel is good news to you?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to die upon the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the devil and the power of death: Grant us grace to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

How does sin affect you?

Day 03

01 We begin together:

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.

Psalm 3:3–4

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:20–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does sin affect you?

Sin alienates me from God, my neighbor, God's good creation, and myself. Apart from Christ, I am hopeless, guilty, lost, helpless, and walking in the way of death. (Genesis 3:14–19; Psalm 38; Isaiah 53:6; 59:1–2; Romans 6:20–23)

What is it like for you to feel "not okay" inside?

Where do you see and sense a need for God's healing?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

What is the way of death?

Day 04

01 We begin together:

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.

Psalm 3:3–4

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Proverbs 14:12

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the way of death?

The way of death is a life without God's love and Holy Spirit, a life controlled by things that cannot bring me eternal joy, leading only to darkness, misery, and eternal condemnation. (Genesis 2:16–17; Deuteronomy 28:15–19; Proverbs 14:12; John 8:34; Romans 1:24–25)

When was a time that you chose not to pray for the Holy Spirit's help and chose your own way?

How did it go? What did you learn?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Can you save yourself from the way of sin and death?

Day 05

01 We begin together:

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.

Psalm 3:3–4

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Can you save yourself from the way of sin and death?

No. I have no power to save myself, for sin has corrupted my conscience, confused my mind, and captured my will. Only God can save me. (Psalm 33:13–19; Isaiah 43:8–13; John 3:1–8; Ephesians 2:1–9)

*What does it feel like to say, “Only God can save me?”
Do you believe that it is true?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

03 One of us reads aloud:

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
John 3:5–8

06 We collect our prayers together:

Set us free, loving Father, from the bondage of our sins, and in your goodness and mercy give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How does God save you?

Day 06

01 We begin together:

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.

Psalm 3:3–4

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God save you?

God forgives my sins and reconciles me to himself through his Son, Jesus Christ, whom he has given to the world as an undeserved gift of love. (John 3:16; Psalm 34; Zechariah 12:10–13:2; Romans 3:23–26)

Today, do you have a desire, a hope, or a need to receive from God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why does God save you?

Day 07

01 We begin together:

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.

Psalm 3:3–4

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:20–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does God save you?

Because he loves me, God saves me from sin and judgment, so that I may love and serve him for his glory. (Psalm 98; Isaiah 42:5–9; John 3:17; Romans 5:8–10; 2 Corinthians 5:18–21; Ephesians 1:3–14)

God loves and saves you because of who he is.

When you say, “God loves me,” what walls come down or emotions rise up?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, of your goodness, give me yourself, for you are enough for me. I can ask for nothing less that is completely to your honor, and if I do ask anything less, I shall always be in want. Only in you I have all. Amen.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Day 08

01 We begin together:

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me free when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. Psalm 4:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
John 3:13–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus is the eternal Son of God, the Savior of the world. Fully divine, he took on our human nature, died on the Cross for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now rules as Lord and King over all creation. (Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 110; John 3:13–15; Philipians 2:5–11; Colossians 1:15–20)

*What about the catechism response is the most comforting to hear?
What is most challenging to believe?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Is there any other way of salvation?

01 We begin together:

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me free when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. Psalm 4:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.
1 Timothy 2:5–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Is there any other way of salvation?

No. The apostle Peter said of Jesus, “There is salvation in no one else” (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the only one who can save me and reconcile me to God. (Psalm 2; Isaiah 42:1–4; John 14:5–6; 1 Timothy 2:5–6)

What is your first head, heart, or gut response to this: that there is salvation, light, and life ONLY in Jesus?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How should you respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

01 We begin together:

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me free when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. Psalm 4:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Acts 2:37–39

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

As soon as I receive and believe the Gospel, I should repent of my sins, put faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, and prepare to be baptized. "Now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2; Psalm 32; Isaiah 55:6–7; Acts 2:37–39)

Take a moment and stand up. Take a few steps. Then, imagining the joyful face of Jesus, turn to him. How would that feel—what would that mean—to turn to Jesus today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice, we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does it mean for you to repent?

01 We begin together:

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me free when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. Psalm 4:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Acts 3:19–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean for you to repent?

To repent means that I have a change of heart, turning from sinfully serving myself to serving God as I follow Jesus Christ. I need God's help to make this change. (Psalm 51:16–17; Isaiah 57:15–19; Acts 3:19–21; 1 John 2:1–2)

How have you already turned your heart, your head, your footsteps, and your face to follow Jesus?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who can do no good thing apart from you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does it mean for you to have faith?

01 We begin together:

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me free when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. Psalm 4:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. Proverbs 3:5–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean for you to have faith?

To have faith means that I believe the Gospel is the truth: that Jesus died for my sins, rose from the dead, and rules over my life. Therefore, I entrust myself to him as my Savior, and I obey him as my Lord. (Psalm 40:1–10; Proverbs 3:5–8; John 1:9–13; Romans 10:9–10; Hebrews 11:1, 6)

Looking at these Scriptures, how would you define faith? Do you have this faith?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truth our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in time we may come to think your own thoughts after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

How can you repent and put your faith in Jesus Christ?

01 We begin together:

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me free when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. Psalm 4:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.
Acts 16:30–33

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can you repent and put your faith in Jesus Christ?

With God's help, I can acknowledge and turn from my sins, receive the gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ, and embrace the new life he freely gives me. (Psalm 86:1–7; Joel 2:32; Acts 16:30–34; Romans 10:11–13; Hebrews 12:1–2)

If someone asked you how they could have a relationship with Jesus, what would you say to them?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What should you do as the sign of your repentance and faith?

01 We begin together:

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me free when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. Psalm 4:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
Matthew 28:19–20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What should you do as the sign of your repentance and faith?

After receiving instruction in the faith, I should be baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, thus joining his Body, the Church. If I have already been baptized, I should confess my sins, seek the guidance of a minister, affirm the promises made at my Baptism, and take my place as a member of the Church. (Psalm 51:5–7; Ezekiel 36:25–27; Matthew 28:19–20; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Peter 3:18–22)

Ask someone who was there to share the story of your baptism.

Or, ask someone to share the story of their baptism.

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice, we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

What does God grant in your new life in Christ?

01 We begin together:

I will lay myself down in peace, and take my rest; for you, O LORD, only, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. Ephesians 2:19–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does God grant in your new life in Christ?

God grants me reconciliation with him (2 Corinthians 5:17–19), forgiveness of my sins (Colossians 1:13–14), union with him in Christ (Romans 6:3–5), adoption into his family (Galatians 4:4–7), citizenship in his kingdom (Ephesians 2:19–21; Philippians 3:20), new life in the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4–5), and the promise of eternal life (John 3:16; 1 John 5:12).

What does it mean to be a member of a family? What does it mean for us to be members of God's family?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does God desire to accomplish in your life in Christ?

01 We begin together:

I will lay myself down in peace, and take my rest; for you, O LORD, only, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:4–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does God desire to accomplish in your life in Christ?

God desires to free me from captivity to sin and transform me into the image of Jesus Christ, by the power of his Holy Spirit. (Exodus 33:18–23; 34:29–35; Psalm 27:4, 7–14; Matthew 17:1–9; Romans 6:5–11; 2 Corinthians 3:12–18)

How can your life resemble Jesus's more and more?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

By what means will God transform you into the image of Jesus Christ?

01 We begin together:

I will lay myself down in peace, and take my rest; for you, O LORD, only, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:23–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

By what means will God transform you into the image of Jesus Christ?

The first Christians “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Following this pattern, I will be transformed within the life of the Church through reading Scripture and receiving the sacraments, through worship and prayer, and through fellowship with God’s people and loving witness to the world. (Deuteronomy 6:1–9; 2 Chronicles 7:1–3)

What or who stirs you up to love and good works?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life: Pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love by your Holy Spirit, that we may delight in the inheritance that is ours as your sons and daughters, and live to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is a creed?

01 We begin together:

I will lay myself down in peace, and take my rest; for you, O LORD, only, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:28–29

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is a creed?

A creed is a statement of faith. The word "creed" comes from the Latin *credo*, which means "I believe." (Deuteronomy 11:18–23; 26:1–11; John 20:24–29; 1 John 5:9–12)

What makes it hard to tell someone what you believe?

Do you think it would be easy or difficult to tell someone what you believe about God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

What is the purpose of the creeds?

01 We begin together:

I will lay myself down in peace, and take my rest; for you, O LORD, only, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.
Hebrews 2:1

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the purpose of the creeds?

The purpose of the creeds is to declare and safeguard for all generations essential truths about God, the Church, and the world, as revealed in Holy Scripture. (Deuteronomy 7:9–11; Psalm 145:4–13; John 20:30–31; 2 Timothy 1:13–14; Hebrews 2:1–4)

*Who has helped you understand what God has done?
How did it help you understand?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What does belief in the creeds signify?

Day 20

01 We begin together:

I will lay myself down in peace, and take my rest; for you, O LORD, only, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:14–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does belief in the creeds signify?

Belief in the creeds signifies acceptance of God's revealed truth and the intention to live by it. To reject any element of the creeds signifies a departure from the Christian faith. (Matthew 16:13–20; 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5; James 2:10–26)

How do the creeds help you know that Christian faith is not a myth? What happens if you stop living like this faith is true?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Which creeds has this church received?

01 We begin together:

I will lay myself down in peace, and take my rest; for you, LORD, only, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Which creeds has this church received?

This church believes the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. (Articles of Religion, 8)

What happens when you say the creed out loud in church?

How can that help you feel less alone in what you believe?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth, with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen

Why do you receive and believe these creeds?

Day 22

01 We begin together:

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.
Psalm 16:7–8

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.
1 Corinthians 15:1–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do you receive and believe these creeds?

I receive and believe these creeds with the Church because they are grounded in Holy Scripture and are faithful expressions of its teaching. (Proverbs 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:3–11; Philippians 2:5–11)

What evidence does Paul (the writer of the book of 1 Corinthians) give you for the truth that he proclaimed? How does having evidence help you believe?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why should you know these creeds?

01 We begin together:

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.
Psalm 16:7–8

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
2 Timothy 1:13–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why should you know these creeds?

I should know these creeds because they state the essential beliefs of the Christian faith. (Deuteronomy 11:18–19; 1 Timothy 6:20–21; 2 Timothy 1:13–14)

*What is something in your life that is worth guarding closely?
How should your faith be guarded like that?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, give us the increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you have promised, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the Apostles' Creed?

Day 24

01 We begin together:

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

Psalm 16:7–8

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:13–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the Apostles' Creed?

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

What do you find comforting in this Creed?

What in this Creed is difficult to accept?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

What is Holy Scripture?

Day 25

01 We begin together:

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

Psalm 16:7–8

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:14–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is Holy Scripture?

Holy Scripture is “God’s Word written” (Articles of Religion, 20), given by the Holy Spirit through prophets and apostles as the revelation of God and his acts in human history, and is therefore the Church’s final authority in all matters of faith and practice. (Psalm 19:7–11; Jeremiah 36:1–8; 2 Timothy 3:14–17; Revelation 1:1–11)

*What has your experience been (if any) with reading the Bible?
What do you enjoy about it?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What books are contained in Holy Scripture?

01 We begin together:

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.
Psalm 16:7–8

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What books are contained in Holy Scripture?

The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament together form the whole of Holy Scripture. (Articles of Religion, 6)

What is your favorite book of the Bible?

Why is it your favorite?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

What is in the Old Testament?

Day 27

01 We begin together:

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.
Psalm 16:7–8

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.
1 Corinthians 10:1–4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is in the Old Testament?

The Old Testament proclaims God's creation of all things; mankind's original disobedience; God's calling of Israel to be his people; his Law, wisdom, and saving deeds; and the teaching of his prophets. The Old Testament bears witness to Christ, revealing God's intention to redeem and reconcile the world through Christ. (Luke 24:44; 1 Corinthians 10:1–4; Hebrews 11)

*What are some stories you know from the Old Testament?
Which stories are the most captivating to you?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is in the New Testament?

Day 28

01 We begin together:

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

Psalm 16:7–8

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is in the New Testament?

The New Testament proclaims Jesus Christ's birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension; the Church's early ministry; the teaching of the apostles; the revelation of Christ's eternal kingdom; and the promise of his return. (Luke 24:45–49; Acts 1:1–11; Philippians 2:5–11)

Do you have a favorite story about Jesus from the New Testament? What makes it your favorite?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have given to your Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ: We thank you for his witness, and pray that you will give us grace to know the truth, and not to be carried about by every wind of false doctrine, that we may know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How are the Old and New Testaments related to each other?

Day 29

01 We begin together:

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.
Psalm 7:17

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O Lord, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
Matthew 5:17–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How are the Old and New Testaments related to each other?

The Old Testament is to be read in the light of Christ, and the New Testament is to be read in light of God's revelation to Israel. Thus the two form one Holy Scripture, which reveals the Person of Jesus Christ and his mighty works. As Saint Augustine says, "The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed." (Augustine of Hippo, *Questions in the Heptateuch* 2.73; Matthew 5:17–18; Luke 24:25–27)

Why do you think it is important to read all of the Bible and not just the parts we like?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers saying together:

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does it mean that Holy Scripture is inspired?

01 We begin together:

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 7:17

02 We glorify God together saying:

Blessed be the Lord my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O Lord, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:19–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean that Holy Scripture is inspired?

Holy Scripture is “God-breathed,” for the biblical authors wrote under the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit to record God’s Word. (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19–21)

*What is special about the Bible compared to other books?
How does this affect what it means?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, from whom all good proceeds: Grant us the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may always think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may accomplish the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does it mean that Holy Scripture is the Word of God?

01 We begin together:

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 7:17

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O Lord, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Hebrews 1:1–2

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean that Holy Scripture is the Word of God?

The Old and New Testaments are inspired by the Holy Spirit and are therefore the Word of God written. God is revealed in his mighty works and in the incarnation of our Lord, which are made known through the inspired writings of the biblical authors. God “has spoken through the prophets” (Nicene Creed) and continues to speak through Scripture today. (Psalm 33:4–9; Jeremiah 1:9; Ezekiel 2:1–3:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:1)

How does God continue to speak to you today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Guide and direct us, O Lord, always and everywhere with your holy light, that we may discern with clear vision your presence among us, and partake with worthy intention of your divine mysteries. We ask this for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

Why is Jesus Christ called the Word of God?

01 We begin together:

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 7:17

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O Lord, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made . . . and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1–2, 14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is Jesus Christ called the Word of God?

The fullness of God's revelation is found in Jesus Christ, who not only fulfills the Scriptures, but is himself God's Word, the living expression of God's mind. The Scriptures testify about him, "In the beginning was the Word," and, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 14). Therefore, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." (Jerome, Commentary on Isaiah, prologue; see also Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 33:1-12; Colossians 1:15-19)

How would you explain to someone that Jesus is the Word of God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.

How should Holy Scripture be understood?

01 We begin together:

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 7:17

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O Lord, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And all the people gathered as one man in the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month . . . They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

Nehemiah 8:1–2, 8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should Holy Scripture be understood?

Because Holy Scripture was given by God to the Church, it should always be understood in ways that are faithful to its own plain meaning, to its entire teaching, and to the Church's historic interpretation. It should be translated, read, taught, and obeyed accordingly. (Nehemiah 8:1–8; Psalm 94:8–15; Acts 8:26–35; 18:24–28; Jerusalem Declaration, Article 2; Articles of Religion, 20)

*What helps you understand the Bible?
When has a sermon helped you understand a Bible passage?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does the Holy Spirit use Holy Scripture in your life?

01 We begin together:

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 7:17

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O Lord, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does the Holy Spirit use Holy Scripture in your life?

Through Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit will teach, rebuke, correct, and train me in the righteousness that God desires. The prayerful study of Scripture forms me for life in Christ and the service of God and my neighbor. (Psalm 119:105; John 14:26; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Hebrews 4:12–13; see questions 227–32)

*What is your favorite way to learn about or train for something?
How does the Bible train you in your faith?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious God and most merciful Father, you have granted us the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word: Assist us with your Spirit, that the same Word may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, and to build us up and edify us into the perfect dwelling place of your Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues; grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

What are the Apocrypha?

01 We begin together:

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 7:17

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O Lord, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to Salvation . . . and the other Books (as Hierome saith) the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine.

Articles of Religion, 6

04 We respond to the reading in conversation:

What are the Apocrypha?

The fourteen books of the Apocrypha, historically acknowledged by this church, are pre-Christian Jewish writings that provide background for the New Testament and are included in many editions of the Bible. They may be read as examples of faithful living but “not to establish any doctrine.”

(Articles of Religion, 6)

How has God used sources outside the Bible (like a devotional, book, or film) to grow your faith in Jesus?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious and holy Father, please give me intellect to understand you, reason to discern you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you, a heart to meditate upon you, ears to hear you, eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you, a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you, and perseverance to look for you. Grant me a perfect end, your holy presence, a blessed resurrection, and life everlasting. Amen.

01 We begin together:

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
Deuteronomy 6:4–5

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 28:19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Who is God?

God is one divine Being eternally existing in three divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the Holy Trinity. (Deuteronomy 6:4–7; Psalm 86:8–10, Isaiah 44:6–8; Matthew 3:16–17; 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

What is the first thing you think of when you think of God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, I come to you through the saving work of your Son Jesus Christ upon the Cross. Thank you for adopting me as your child through the Holy Spirit. Grant me the grace to know the fullness of your fatherly love, that I may delight in the promises of your eternal Kingdom, both now and in the age to come. Amen.

What does Holy Scripture tell us about the character of God?

01 We begin together:

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does Holy Scripture tell us about the character of God?

God is both loving and holy. God mercifully redeems fallen creation, while righteously opposing all sin and evil. The Lord Jesus Christ is the fullest revelation of God's holy love. (Exodus 34:6–7; Psalm 145; John 1:14–18; 14:9–10; Romans 5:6–11; Hebrews 1:1–3)

Where in your life have you experienced the goodness of God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Teach me to seek you, and as I seek you, show yourself to me; for I cannot seek you unless you show me how, and I will never find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you by desiring you, and desire you by seeking you; let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen

Who is God the Father?

Day 38

01 We begin together:

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

John 15:26

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Who is God the Father?

God the Father is the first Person of the Holy Trinity, from whom the Son is eternally begotten and the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds. (Psalm 104; John 1:1, 14; 15:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10–16; 1 Peter 1:10–12; Nicene Creed)

Why is it good news that God is our Father?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why do you call the first of the three divine Persons “Father”?

01 We begin together:

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Matthew 6:6–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do you call the first of the three divine Persons “Father”?

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the only divine Son of the Father. He called God “Father” and taught his disciples to do the same. God gives believers his Holy Spirit and adopts us as his children, enabling us to call him “Father.” (Deuteronomy 32:4–9; Psalm 2; Matthew 6:6–9; John 5:17–23; Galatians 4:1–7)

How are our prayers with our Heavenly Father different than conversations with an earthly father?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death, and brought us into the kingdom of your beloved Son: Grant that, as by his death he has called us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What do you mean when you call God “Father”?

01 We begin together:

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:31–33

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What do you mean when you call God “Father”?

When I call God “Father,” I declare that I was created for relationship with him, that I trust in God as my Protector and Provider, and that I put my hope in God as his child and heir in Christ. (Genesis 1:26–27; Psalms 68:4–6; 103:13–14; Matthew 6:25–34; Romans 8:17–21)

How have you received relationships, protection, provision, and hope from God the Father?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why do you call God the Father “Almighty”?

01 We begin together:

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation. . . . Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Daniel 4:34, 37

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do you call God the Father “Almighty”?

I call the Father “Almighty” because he has power over everything and accomplishes everything he wills. Together with his Son and Holy Spirit, the Father is all-knowing and ever present in every place. (Psalm 139:1–16; Isaiah 40:12–26; Daniel 4:34b–37; Luke 1:34–37; Revelation 4:8b–11)

What does it say about God that he uses his power to restore us to who we were made to be?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you show those in error the light of your truth so that they may turn to the path of righteousness: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ’s Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Why do you call God the Father “Creator”?

Day 42

01 We begin together:

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. Acts 17:24–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do you call God the Father “Creator”?

I call God the Father “Creator” because he made all things. He creates and sustains all things through his Word, and gives life to all creatures through his Spirit. (Genesis 1:1–2:3, 7; Psalm 104:24–30; John 1:1–3; Acts 17:24–28; Colossians 1:16–18)

How are you growing and becoming who God made you to be?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does recognizing God as Creator inform your understanding of his creation?

Day 43

01 We begin together:

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:27–28

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does recognizing God as Creator inform your understanding of his creation?

I acknowledge that God created for his own glory everything that exists. He created human beings, male and female, in his image and appointed us stewards of creation. God’s creation is thus a gift to enjoy as we work and care for it. (Genesis 1:27–28; 2:15; Psalm 8:5–8; Luke 19:11–27; 1 Corinthians 4:1–2)

How do your thoughts and feelings about trees, dirt, insects, fish, lizards, stars, clouds, and all of creation shift when you remember that God made it and asks you to care for it?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What does it mean that God created both heaven and earth?

Day 44

01 We begin together:

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. Psalm 33:6–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean that God created both heaven and earth?

It means that all things, whether visible or invisible, physical or spiritual, were brought into being out of nothing by the Word of the eternal God. (Genesis 1:1–8; Psalm 33:6–8; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16)

When God creates, how is that different from how I create?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O merciful Creator, your loving hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence, and give us grace to honor you with all that you have entrusted to us; that we, remembering the account we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Was the world that God created good?

Day 45

01 We begin together:

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Was the world that God created good?

Yes. God created all things and called them “very good” (Genesis 1:31). However, through sin, evil and death have come into the world and corrupted it. (Genesis 3:1–8; Psalm 14:1–3; Matthew 15:18–20a; Romans 1:18–32; 1 Timothy 4:4–5)

In all of creation, from family to friends, creatures to cosmos, what makes you say, “Yes, it is very good”?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If God created the world good, why do we sin?

01 We begin together:

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

If God created the world good, why do we sin?

Adam and Eve rebelled against God, thus bringing upon all humanity pain, toil, alienation from God and each other, and death. I have inherited this fallen and corrupted human nature; consequently, I too sin and fall short of God's glory. (Genesis 3:16–4:26; Psalm 51:3–5; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 7:14–25)

*What things do you inherit from those who came before you?
What should we do with the "bad" things we inherit?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; grant that we, who for our evil deeds deserve to be punished, by the might of your grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What are the consequences of sin?

01 We begin together:

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:36

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are the consequences of sin?

Because of sin, those apart from Christ are spiritually dead, separated from God, under his righteous condemnation, and without hope. (Genesis 3:16–19; Psalm 90:3–12; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:36; Romans 6:20–23; Galatians 5:19–2; Ephesians 2:1–3)

What comes to mind when you imagine someone being separated from God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Merciful God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn to you and live; and through your only Son you have revealed yourself as the God who pardons iniquity. Have mercy on the unrepentant and those who do not believe. Awaken in them, by your Word and Holy Spirit, a deep sense of their sinfulness and peril. Grant them to know and feel that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which they must be saved, but only the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so bring them home and number them among your children, that they may be yours for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Day 48

01 We begin together:

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. 1 Timothy 2:5–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the eternal Word and Son of God, the second Person of the Holy Trinity. He took on human nature to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world, the only Mediator between God and fallen humanity. (Psalm 2; Malachi 3:1; John 1:1–18; Philippians 2:5–11; 1 Timothy 2:5–6)

Today, who would you say Jesus is to you? How has your understanding changed or grown?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice, we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does “Jesus” mean?

Day 49

01 We begin together:

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1–2

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does “Jesus” mean?

“Jesus” means “God saves” and is taken from the Hebrew name Yeshua or Joshua. In Jesus, God has come to save us from the power of sin and death. (Joshua 1:1–9; Psalm 20; Matthew 1:18–25; Romans 8:1–2)

*What does your name mean?
What does it say about God the Son
that he chose “Jesus” for his name?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does “Christ” mean?

Day 50

01 We begin together:

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13:5–6

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does “Christ” mean?

Christos is the Greek term for the Hebrew title *Messiah*, meaning “Anointed One.” Old Testament kings, priests, and prophets were anointed with oil. Jesus the Christ was anointed by the Holy Spirit to perfectly fulfill these roles, and he rules now as Prophet, Priest, and King over his Church and all creation. (Exodus 40:12–16; 1 Samuel 16:11–13; 1 Kings 19:15–16; Psalm 89:19–29; Luke 3:21–22; 4:14–21; Acts 10:38; Hebrews 4:14–5:10)

What does it look like for Jesus to rule over your life?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Why is Jesus called the Father's "only Son"?

Day 51

01 We begin together:

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13:5–6

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . . No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. John 1:14, 18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is Jesus called the Father's "only Son"?

Jesus alone is God the Son, coequal and coeternal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He alone is the image of the invisible Father, the one who makes the Father known. He is now and forever will be incarnate as a human, bearing his God-given human Name. The Father created and now rules all things in heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Psalm 2:7–12; John 1:14–18; Colossians 1:13–15; Hebrews 1:1–5; see also the Athanasian Creed)

What is special about the relationship between a child and a parent? How does Jesus show us what God our Father is like?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life: Pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love by your Holy Spirit, that we may delight in the inheritance that is ours as your sons and daughters, and live to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

What do you mean when you call Jesus Christ “Lord”?

01 We begin together:

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13:5–6

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Matthew 7:21–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What do you mean when you call Jesus Christ “Lord”?

I acknowledge Jesus’ divine authority over the Church and all creation, over all societies and their leaders, and over every aspect of my life, both public and private. I surrender my entire life to him and seek to live in a way that pleases him. (Daniel 7:13–14; Matthew 7:21–23; Luke 9:23–26; Ephesians 1:15–23; Colossians 1:16–18)

*What comes to mind when you hear the word “authority”?
How does Jesus use his authority?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow after us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What does it mean that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit?

01 We begin together:

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13:5–6

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Matthew 1:18–20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit?

Jesus was conceived not through a human father but by the Holy Spirit coming upon the Virgin Mary in power. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–20; Luke 1:26–38)

Why do you think it is exciting to have a new baby?

What do you think it was like for Joseph and Mary?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers saying together:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What happened at Jesus' conception in Mary's womb?

01 We begin together:

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13:5–6

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. Colossians 2:9–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What happened at Jesus' conception in Mary's womb?

The eternal Son, whom God named Jesus, assumed a fully human nature from his mother, the Virgin Mary, at the moment of conception in her womb. (John 1:1–3, 14; 8:56–58; Philippians 2:6–8; Colossians 2:9)

What does it mean for you that Jesus Christ is not only God the Son but also a human like us?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Why is it important to say that Jesus was born?

01 We begin together:

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13:5–6

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:17–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is it important to say that Jesus was born?

It is important to affirm that he is one of us: truly human, born to a human mother, and raised in a human family. (Luke 2:41–52; Hebrews 2:17–18)

What is an example of extravagant love?

How does Jesus' birth show you the depth of God's love?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon himself our nature, and to suffer death upon the Cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and come to share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Was Mary the only biological parent of Jesus?

01 We begin together:

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13:5–6

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore, the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Was Mary the only biological parent of Jesus?

Yes. While still a virgin, Mary submitted to the will of God and bore the Son of God. Therefore, she is held in high honor. However, in obedience to God, Joseph took Mary as his wife and raised Jesus as his son. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25; 13:55)

How would you have reacted to the news of Mary's pregnancy if you were her friend?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you have taken to yourself the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of your incarnate Son: Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What is the relationship between Jesus' divine and human natures?

01 We begin together:

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:5–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the relationship between Jesus' divine and human natures?

At the moment of Jesus' conception, the divine nature of the one eternal Person of the Son was united to our human nature. Therefore, Jesus Christ is fully and truly both divine and human, but without sin. His two natures are united without division, separation, mixture, or change. (Luke 1:26–38; John 1:14; Philippians 2:6–8; Hebrews 2:10–16; 1 John 4:2–3; Definition of Chalcedon)

*What makes it hard to be humble?
Who in your life demonstrates Christ-like humility?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What does the union of Jesus' two natures teach you about his ministry?

Day 58

01 We begin together:

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:14–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the union of Jesus' two natures teach you about his ministry?

All Jesus does as a human being he also does as God. His human words and deeds are saving because they are the words and deeds of God the Son. (John 5:19–29; Romans 8:1–4; Colossians 1:19–23; Hebrews 4:14–16)

*When was a time when you needed to receive God's mercy?
What was that like?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Why did Jesus suffer?

01 We begin together by:

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why did Jesus suffer?

Jesus suffered as a sacrifice for our sins so that we could have peace with God, as prophesied in the Old Testament: "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 52:13–53:12, see 53:5; John 1:29; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4)

How do you feel about Jesus suffering in your place for your sins?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

In what ways did Jesus suffer?

Day 60

01 We begin together:

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:1–4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

In what ways did Jesus suffer?

On earth, the incarnate Son shared physically, emotionally, and spiritually in the temptations and sufferings common to all people, yet without sin. In his agony and desolation on the Cross, he uniquely suffered in my place for my sins and, in so doing, revealed God's love and compassion for fallen and suffering humanity. (Psalm 22:1–24; Matthew 4:1–10; 27:26–50; Hebrews 4:14–16)

What have you found to be a helpful way of dealing with temptation?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How do Jesus' sufferings help you?

01 We begin together:

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do Jesus' sufferings help you?

Jesus has experienced our sufferings, understands our sorrows, and is able to sympathize with our weakness. Therefore, I should bear my sufferings with perseverance and hope, for my Savior is with me in them, and through them I will come to know him more fully. (Job 9:32–35; Psalm 22:22–26; Luke 4:1–13; Hebrews 4:14–5:10)

*What are some hard times you have experienced?
How do you respond when life is painful?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord our God, whose blessed Son gave his back to be whipped and did not hide his face from shame and spitting; Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why does the Creed say that Jesus suffered under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate?

Day 62

01 We begin together:

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'—for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. Acts 4:26–28

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does the Creed say that Jesus suffered under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate?

The Creed thus makes clear that Jesus' life and death were real events that occurred at a particular time and place in Judea in the first century AD. (Psalm 2:1–6; Luke 3:1–2)

Describe what you imagine the first century (the time of Jesus) was like. What is different or the same now?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What happened at Jesus' crucifixion?

01 We begin together:

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"
Matthew 27:22–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What happened at Jesus' crucifixion?

Jesus was executed as a common criminal. He was scourged, mocked, and nailed to a Cross outside the walls of Jerusalem. Though humanly a miscarriage of justice, his execution fulfilled God's plan of salvation. (Psalm 22:1–21; Isaiah 53:8)

How do you respond when something seems unjust?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What did Jesus accomplish on the Cross?

01 We begin together:

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 18:30

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 10:11–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What did Jesus accomplish on the Cross?

Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures by dying on the Cross as a sacrifice for sin in obedience to his Father. He thereby showed the depth of the love of God for his fallen creation, satisfying the justice of God on our behalf and breaking the power of sin, Satan, and death. (Leviticus 23:18–21; Psalm 34:15–22; Colossians 2:13–15)

What is one way you know that God loves you?

What comes to mind when you look on a cross?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly living: Give us grace thankfully to receive his inestimable benefits, and daily to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does Jesus' death mean for you?

01 We begin together:

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 18:30

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Romans 5:8–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does Jesus' death mean for you?

Jesus bore my sins and died the death that I deserve, so that I could be saved from sin and eternal condemnation and reconciled to God. (Psalm 32:1–2; Isaiah 53:10–12; Matthew 20:28; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21)

What is it like to be forgiven when you have done something wrong? How do you think God's forgiveness changes your life?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, we beseech you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the Cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why does the Creed make a point of saying that Jesus died?

01 We begin together:

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 18:30

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:28–30

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does the Creed make a point of saying that Jesus died?

The Creed makes the point to emphasize that Jesus died a real, bodily death such as all people face because of our sins. (Psalm 22:14–15; Isaiah 53:8–9; John 19:30–35)

How has death affected you or someone you love?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death, and brought us into the kingdom of your beloved Son: Grant that, as by his death he has called us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Why does the Creed emphasize Jesus' death in this way?

01 We begin together:

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 18:30

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

John 19:40–42

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does the Creed emphasize Jesus' death in this way?

The Creed emphasizes Jesus' death to counter suspicions that Jesus did not truly die on the Cross, to celebrate the fact that he died there to secure our salvation, and to prepare our minds to grasp the glory of his bodily resurrection. (John 19:31–34; 1 John 5:6–8)

What's something you didn't believe until you saw it with your own eyes?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

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. Within thy wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from thee. From the wicked foe defend me. In the hour of my death call me, and bid me come to thee, that with thy saints I may praise thee for ever and ever. Amen.

What does the Creed mean by saying that Jesus descended to the dead?

Day 68

01 We begin together:

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 18:30

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Ephesians 4:7–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the Creed mean by saying that Jesus descended to the dead?

That Jesus descended to the dead means that he truly died and entered the place of the departed. (Psalm 16:9–10; Acts 2:25–32; Ephesians 4:9–10; 1 Peter 3:18–19)

Why do you trust people who have more life experience?

What has Jesus experienced that you can trust him in?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, be mindful of your promise. Think of us, your servants, and when we shall depart, speak to our spirits these loving words: "Today you shall be with me in joy" O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us, your servants who trust in you, when our tongues cannot speak, when the sight of our eyes fails, and when our ears are stopped. Let our spirits always rejoice in you and be joyful about our salvation, which you, through your death, have purchased for us. Amen.

What does the Creed mean when it affirms that Jesus rose again from the dead?

Day 69

01 We begin together:

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 18:30

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 1 Corinthians 15:3–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the Creed mean when it affirms that Jesus rose again from the dead?

It means that Jesus was not simply resuscitated; God restored him physically from death to life in his resurrected body, never to die again. His tomb was empty; Jesus had risen bodily from the dead. The risen Jesus was seen by his apostles and hundreds of other witnesses. (Psalm 30:1–5; Luke 24:1–12; John 20:1–18; Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:3–8)

*Is it hard for you to imagine having a body in heaven?
Why or why not?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What kind of earthly life did Jesus have after he rose from the dead?

Day 70

01 We begin together:

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 18:30

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:26–29

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What kind of earthly life did Jesus have after he rose from the dead?

Following his resurrection, Jesus spent forty days visiting and teaching his followers. He appeared to his disciples, spoke to them, invited them to touch him and see his scars, and ate with them. (Luke 24:13–49; John 20:19–29; Acts 1:1–8)

*What makes it easier or harder to believe something to be true?
How has Jesus met you in ways you can receive?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to die upon the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the devil and the power of death: Grant us grace to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

How should you understand Jesus' ascension into heaven?

01 We begin together:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Psalm 25:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Acts 1:9–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you understand Jesus' ascension into heaven?

Jesus was taken up out of human sight and returned in his humanity to the glory he had shared with the Father before his incarnation. There he intercedes for, and receives into heavenly life, all who come to him in faith. Though absent in body, Jesus is always with me by his Spirit and hears me when I pray. (John 17:5; Acts 1:9–11; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:23–25)

What excites you the most about life with God in heaven?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven: May our hearts and minds also there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What resulted from the ascension?

01 We begin together:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Psalm 25:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. John 16:7–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What resulted from the ascension?

Jesus ascended into heaven so that, through him, his Father might send us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, Christians together are united to Christ, the living Head of his Body, the Church. (John 14:15–17, 25–26; 16:7–15; Acts 2:33–36; Ephesians 4:7–16)

What unites a family, or a team, or a class, or a church?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

What does it mean for Jesus to sit at God the Father's right hand?

Day 73

01 We begin together:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Psalm 25:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church. Ephesians 1:19–22

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean for Jesus to sit at God the Father's right hand?

The throne on the king's right hand was traditionally the seat of one appointed to exercise the king's own authority. Ruling with his Father in heaven, Jesus is Lord over the Church and all creation, with authority to equip his Church, advance his kingdom, bring sinners into saving fellowship with God the Father, and finally establish justice and peace upon the earth. (Psalm 2; Isaiah 9:6–7; Acts 2:33–36; Ephesians 1:20–23; Hebrews 1:3–14)

In what ways is Jesus in charge of your life?

Where are the areas in your life you need his work?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

What does Jesus do for you as he sits at the Father's right hand?

01 We begin together:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Psalm 25:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does Jesus do for you as he sits at the Father's right hand?

Because Jesus intercedes for us as our great high priest, I may now boldly approach the Father and offer my confessions, praises, thanksgivings, and requests to him. (Exodus 33:7–17; Psalm 80; Hebrews 4:14–16; 7:24–8:2)

What does "interceding" mean? What does it make you think and feel knowing that Jesus is interceding for you right now?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me, and all the benefits thou hast given me. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother: Grant that I may see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

What does Jesus' heavenly ministry mean for your life today?

Day 75

01 We begin together:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Psalm 25:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. John 14:15–20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does Jesus' heavenly ministry mean for your life today?

I can rely on Jesus always to be present with me by the Holy Spirit as he promised, and I should always look to him for help as I seek to serve him. (Joshua 1:9; Psalm 3; Matthew 28:20; John 14:15–20)

When was a time Jesus helped you when you needed him?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, through your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What does the Creed mean when it says, “He will come again”?

01 We begin together:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Psalm 25:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7:13–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the Creed mean when it says, “He will come again”?

Jesus promised that he would return (Luke 21:27–28). His coming in victory with great glory and power will be seen by all people and will bring this age to an end. The present world order will pass away, and God will usher in a fully renewed creation to stand forever. All the saints will be together with God at that time. (Proverbs 30:4; Daniel 7:13–14; Luke 21:27–28; Acts 1:10–11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 2 Peter 3:3–13; Revelation 21:1–4)

What are you most excited for when Jesus returns?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Can we know when Jesus will return?

01 We begin together:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Psalm 25:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. . . . Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:36–37, 44

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Can we know when Jesus will return?

No. We cannot know when Jesus will return. Jesus patiently waits for many to repent and trust in him for new life; then he will return unexpectedly, which could be at any moment. (Matthew 24:36–44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3)

How do you handle not knowing exactly when Jesus will return?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, as we live among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

How should you live in anticipation of Jesus' return?

01 We begin together:

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 4:4–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you live in anticipation of Jesus' return?

I should anticipate with joy the return of Jesus my Savior and be ready to stand before him. His promise to return encourages me to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to live a holy life, and to share the hope of new life in Christ with others. (Deuteronomy 30:1–10; Matthew 25:13–30; 1 Thessalonians 5:4–11; Titus 2:11–14)

Do you enjoy getting ready for an activity?

What does it look like to get ready for Jesus' return?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.en.

How should you understand Jesus' future Judgement?

01 We begin together:

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:31–33

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you understand Jesus' future Judgment?

All people, whether living or dead, will be judged by Jesus Christ. Those apart from Christ will receive eternal rejection and punishment in hell, while those who are in Christ will receive eternal blessing and welcome into the fullness of life with God. (Psalm 50:1–6; Matthew 25:31–46; Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

*What does it mean to you to be apart from Jesus?
What does it mean to you to be in Christ?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Should you be afraid of God's judgment?

01 We begin together:

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity. Proverbs 28:13–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Should you be afraid of God's judgment?

The unrepentant should fear God's judgment, for "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness" (Romans 1:18). But if I am in Christ, I need not fear God's judgment, for my Judge is my Savior, Jesus Christ, who loves me, died for my sins, and intercedes for me. (Psalm 130; Proverbs 28:13–14; John 5:24–30; Romans 8:1, 31–34)

How does it change your perspective to know that the same Jesus who died for your sins is the judge?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Merciful God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn to you and live; and through your only Son you have revealed yourself as the God who pardons iniquity. Have mercy on the unrepentant and those who do not believe. Awaken in them, by your Word and Holy Spirit, a deep sense of their sinfulness and peril. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word. Grant them to know and feel that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which they must be saved, but only the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

What does Scripture mean when it tells you to fear God?

01 We begin together:

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." Revelation 14:6–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does Scripture mean when it tells you to fear God?

It means that I should live mindful of his presence, walking in humility as his creature, resisting sin, obeying his commandments, and reverencing him for his holiness, majesty, and power. (Exodus 20:18–20; Psalm 25:12–14; Proverbs 9:10; Acts 5:1–11; 1 Peter 1:13–21; Revelation 14:6–7)

This definition doesn't sound like fear, in the way we normally think of fear. What are some other words you would use (like "respect," "honor," etc.) ?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, you never fail to support and govern those whom you bring up in your steadfast love and fear: Keep us, we pray, under your continual protection and providence, and give us a perpetual fear and love of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How do you rightly live in the fear of God?

01 We begin together:

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
Psalm 139:23–24

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do you rightly live in the fear of God?

With the help of the Holy Spirit, I examine my conscience according to the Word of God. Particularly useful are the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, as well as the godly counsel of fellow Christians and the moral teaching of the Church. (Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 139:23–24; Matthew 5–7; 1 Corinthians 4:1–5)

What parts of worship in your church are most helpful or encourage you to examine your conscience and life? Who would you trust to ask for godly counsel?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations, and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How does the Church exercise its authority to judge?

01 We begin together:

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." John 20:21–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does the Church exercise its authority to judge?

The authority Christ gave to his Church to judge is most often exercised by declaring God's forgiveness in absolution. However, a priest, acting under the authority of the bishop, may suspend a person from receiving Communion because of scandalous and unrepented sin, in order to draw them to repentance and restoration. (Psalm 32; Matthew 16:19; 18:15–17; John 20:21–23; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13)

When a priest declares God's forgiveness and absolution, do you (really) receive it?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Jesus, God the Son, in your incarnation you manifested your heart of mission in the world: Help me so to know and practice your presence, that I may always live for your glory and the spread of your Kingdom; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Day 84

01 We begin together:

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Who is the Holy Spirit?

God the Holy Spirit is the third Person in the one Being of the Holy Trinity, coequal and coeternal with God the Father and God the Son, and equally worthy of our honor and worship. (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30; Matthew 3:16–17; 28:19; John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

When you think about God, or when you pray, how do you include the Holy Spirit?

What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit is God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me only know your will. Amen.

What principal names does the New Testament give to the Holy Spirit?

Day 85

01 We begin together:

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Psalm 27:13–14

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. . . .but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:16–17, 26

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What principal names does the New Testament give to the Holy Spirit?

Jesus names the Holy Spirit “Paraclete” (“the one alongside”), which signifies Comforter, Guide, Counselor, Advocate, and Helper. Other descriptions for the Holy Spirit are “Spirit of God,” “Spirit of your Father,” “Spirit of Christ,” and “Spirit of truth.” (Matthew 10:20; John 14:16–17, 26; Acts 16:7; Romans 8:9)

Which name of the Holy Spirit stands out to you right now?

What does that name say about him?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Guide and direct us, O Lord, always and everywhere with your holy light, that we may discern with clear vision your presence among us, and partake with worthy intention of your divine mysteries. We ask this for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

What are the particular ministries of the Holy Spirit?

01 We begin together:

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
Psalm 27:13–14

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. John 16:7–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are the particular ministries of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit imparts life to every living thing in creation, reveals God's Word to his people, and calls sinners to a new life of faith in the saving and life-giving work of Jesus. The Holy Spirit unites Christians to Jesus, indwelling them, convicting them of sin, giving them spiritual gifts, and bearing spiritual fruit in their lives. (1 Samuel 16:13; Psalm 143:7–12; Isaiah 11:2; Joel 2:28–29; John 15:26; 16:7–11; Acts 4:5–31)

How is the Holy Spirit working in your life in the ways listed above?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

How does the Holy Spirit strengthen you for life in Christ?

01 We begin together:

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Psalm 27:13–14

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26–27

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does the Holy Spirit strengthen you for life in Christ?

The Holy Spirit bears witness that I am a child of God, stirs my heart continually to worship and to pray, and inspires me to holiness and good works in Christ. (Job 27:2–4; Matthew 10:19–20; John 14:12; 16:12–15; Acts 6:10; 13:2; Romans 8:15–17, 26–27)

When do you pray?

Are there situations where you pray more than usual?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Holy Spirit, breath of God and fire of love, I cannot pray without your aid: Kindle in me the fire of your love, and illumine me with your light; that with a steadfast will and holy thoughts I may approach the Father in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ my Lord, who reigns with you and the Father in eternal union. Amen.

How do you receive the Holy Spirit?

01 We begin together:

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
Psalm 27:13–14

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:38

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do you receive the Holy Spirit?

The Scriptures teach that, by repenting and being baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ, I am forgiven my sins and I receive the Holy Spirit, who gives me new birth in Christ and frees me from the power of sin. (Luke 11:11–13; John 3:1–7; Acts 2:38; 8:14–17; 19:1–6; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 12:13; 2 Timothy 1:6–7)

Are you ever tempted to doubt that you are forgiven?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

01 We begin together:

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Psalm 27:13–14

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:22–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the very character of Jesus developing in us through the work of the Holy Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22–25; see also Matthew 7:15–20; 12:33–35)

*Which fruit of the Spirit, listed above, are you known for?
Is there one that you need more help with?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

01 We begin together:

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
Psalm 27:13–14

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Among the many gifts of the Holy Spirit named in the New Testament are faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, other languages (“tongues”), the interpretation of other languages, and words of wisdom and knowledge. The Spirit distributes gifts to individuals as he wills for the sake of the Body of Christ. Other gifts in the New Testament include administration, service, encouragement, evangelism, teaching, giving, leadership, and mercy. Jesus promises that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. (Luke 11:13; Romans 12:3–8; 1 Corinthians 12:7–3)

What is something you are good at? What might the differences be between natural talents and the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why does the Holy Spirit give such gifts?

01 We begin together:

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
Psalm 27:13–14

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.
Luke 9:1–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does the Holy Spirit give such gifts?

The Holy Spirit equips and empowers believers with gifts for service in the worship of Jesus Christ, for the building up of his Church, and for witness and mission to the world. (Exodus 31:1–11; Luke 9:1–6; 1 Corinthians 12:12–26; Ephesians 4:12–16)

*When have you seen someone use gifts from the Holy Spirit?
How did that gift bless others?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in me the fire of your love. Direct and rule my heart in all things, empower me for witness and ministry, and daily increase in me your gifts and fruit, to the glory of God the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is the Church?

Day 92

01 We begin together:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28:7

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the Church?

The Church is the whole community of faithful Christians in heaven and on earth, called and formed by God into one people. The Church on earth gathers to worship God in Word and Sacrament, to serve God and neighbor, and to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth. (Exodus 19:4–6; Psalm 22:22–23; Matthew 28:19–20; 1 Peter 2:4–10; Articles of Religion, 19)

*Have you ever thought about the church being all Christians everywhere?
What is most exciting about that?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

How does Holy Scripture teach you to view the Church?

Day 93

01 We begin together:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28:7

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
1 Corinthians 3:16-17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does Holy Scripture teach you to view the Church?

Holy Scripture teaches me to view the Church as God's family, as the Body and bride of Christ, and as the temple where God in Christ dwells by his Spirit. (Isaiah 54:5-8; Hosea 2:16-20; Matthew 12:46-50; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Revelation 5:9-10; 19:6-10)

*How is the church like a family?
How are God's people like a temple?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth, with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.

Why is the Church called the Body of Christ?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28:7

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:4–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is the Church called the Body of Christ?

The Church is called the Body of Christ because all who belong to the Church are united to Christ as their Head and source of life and are united to one another in Christ for mutual love and service to him.

(Romans 12:4–5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 1:22–23; 5:25–30)

How does the idea of the body teach us about the way the church works?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you": Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. Amen.

What are the “marks” or characteristics of the Church?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28:7

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

... For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:26–29

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are the “marks” or characteristics of the Church?

The Nicene Creed expands upon the Apostles' Creed to list four characteristics of the Church: it is “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.” (see Articles of Religion, 8)

What kinds of social barriers does the Church overcome by God's grace?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace to take to heart the grave dangers we are in through our many divisions. Deliver your Church from all enmity and prejudice, and everything that hinders us from godly union. As there is one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so make us all to be of one heart and of one mind, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and love, that with one voice we may give you praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in everlasting glory. Amen.

In what sense is the Church “one”?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28:7

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:2–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

In what sense is the Church “one”?

The Church is one because all its members form the one Body of Christ, having “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” Ephesians 4:5–6. The Church is called to embody this unity in all relationships between believers. (Psalm 133; John 17:11, 20–23; Ephesians 2:11–22)

*Have you ever seen an inspiring example of unity?
What was inspiring about it?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why is the Church called “holy”?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28:7

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.
John 17:17–19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is the Church called “holy”?

The Church is holy because the Holy Spirit dwells in it and sanctifies its members, setting them apart to God in Christ and calling them to moral and spiritual holiness of life. (Exodus 19:3–6; Leviticus 19:1–2; 20:22–26; Psalm 15; Acts 26:16–18; 1 Corinthians 3:16–17; Colossians 3:12–15)

*Do you have anything in your house that is special or set apart for something in particular?
What do you think it means for people to be set apart to God?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why is the Church called “catholic”?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28:7

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
2 Timothy 1:13–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is the Church called “catholic”?

The Church is called “catholic” (“according to the whole”) because it keeps the whole faith it has received from the Lord, in continuity with the whole Church, in all times and places. (Micah 4:1–4; Acts 2:1–11; 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; Jude 3; Revelation 5:9–10)

Is this description of “catholic” new to you?

What do you imagine the whole Church to be like?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly serve you in good works, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Why is the Church called “apostolic”?

01 We begin together:

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18–20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is the Church called “apostolic”?

An apostle is one who is sent. The Church is called “apostolic” because it holds the faith of the first apostles sent by Christ. In continuity with them, the Church is likewise sent by Christ to proclaim the Gospel and to make disciples throughout the whole world. (Matthew 10:1–4, 40–42; Acts 2:42; 13:1–4; Ephesians 2:19–21)

Have you ever been given an important task?

What is the task of the Church?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Who are the saints?

Day 100

01 We begin together:

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” Revelation 7:9–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Who are the saints?

The saints are all those in heaven and on earth who place their faith in Jesus Christ, who are set apart, holy to God in Christ, and transformed by his grace. (Leviticus 19:1–2; Deuteronomy 7:6; Psalm 16:1–3; 1 Peter 2:4–10)

Who are people you know who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ? What makes their lives different?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

What does the word “communion” mean?

01 We begin together:

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:11–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the word “communion” mean?

“Communion” means being “one with” someone in union and unity. For Christians, it refers to the unity of the three Persons within the one Being of God, to our union with God through our union with Christ, and to our unity with one another in Christ. (Psalm 85; Ezekiel 37:24–28; John 17:20–26; 1 John 1:1–3)

Are you close to any particular Christians? If yes, how? If not, what are some ways you could still experience unity with other believers?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical Body of your Son: 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.

What is the “communion of the saints”?

01 We begin together:

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1–2

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the “communion of the saints”?

The communion of the saints is the fellowship of all those, in heaven and on earth, who are united in Christ as one Body, through one Spirit, in Holy Baptism. (Psalm 149; Ephesians 2:13–22)

Is there anything special about the connections between Christians? What makes those friendships different from others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses: Grant that we, encouraged by the good example of your servants, may persevere in running the race that is set before us, until at last, with him, we attain to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

How do you participate in the communion of the saints?

01 We begin together:

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

Acts 2:42–43

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do you participate in the communion of the saints?

I live as a member of the communion of saints through faith in Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit by gathering to worship God with my fellow Christians, by praying for and encouraging one another, and by coming to one another's aid in times of trouble, sickness, or grief. (Psalm 133; Acts 2:42–47; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11–18; Hebrews 10:24–25; James 5:13–20)

*How are you encouraged at church?
How can you encourage others at church?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God of the spirits of all flesh, we praise and magnify thy holy Name for all thy servants who have finished their course in thy faith and fear; and we beseech thee that, encouraged by their examples and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be found meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How are the Church on earth and the Church in heaven joined in worship?

Day 104

01 We begin together:

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How are the Church on earth and the Church in heaven joined in worship?

Through union with Christ, as celebrated in the sacrament of Holy Communion, the Church on earth participates with the Church in heaven in the eternal worship of God. (Exodus 24:9–11; Psalm 148; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; Hebrews 12:18–29; Revelation 19:1–9)

Why are family meals important? Have you ever thought of Communion as a family meal?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What are sins?

Day 105

01 We begin together:

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:21–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are sins?

Sins are intentions, acts, or failures to act that arise out of my corrupted human nature and fall short of conformity to God's revealed will. (Psalm 53; Isaiah 59:1–15; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4–10)

*What kind of rules are hard for you to follow?
Do you think all sin is breaking a clear rule or law?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does God respond to human sin?

01 We begin together:

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

Psalm 30:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:6–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God respond to human sin?

All sin is opposed to the righteousness of God and is therefore subject to God's holy condemnation; yet God in his mercy offers me forgiveness and salvation from sin through his Son, Jesus Christ, the only Savior. (Psalm 130; Isaiah 1:2–4; Micah 7:18–19; John 3:17–21; Romans 1:18–2:4; 3:24–26; 5:6–10)

How do you treat someone after they hurt you?

How does God treat you after you sin against him?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; grant that we, who for our evil deeds deserve to be punished, by the might of your grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does God forgive your sins?

01 We begin together:

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

Psalm 30:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:1–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God forgive your sins?

By virtue of Christ's atoning sacrifice, in which I put my trust, God sets aside my sins, accepts me, and adopts me as his child and heir in Jesus Christ. Loving me as his child, he forgives my sins whenever I turn to him in repentance and faith. (Leviticus 26:40–45; Psalm 78:35–39; Matthew 26:27–28; Luke 15:11–32; 2 Corinthians 5:16–21)

*Does saying, "I'm sorry," restore a relationship?
Is there anything else needed in addition to words?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.

How should you respond to God's forgiveness?

01 We begin together:

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.
Psalm 30:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:12–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you respond to God's forgiveness?

Trusting in God's continual forgiveness, I should live in continual thanks, praise, and obedience to him; and as I have been loved and forgiven by God, so I should love and forgive those who sin against me. (Psalm 51:7–17; Isaiah 44:21–23; Matthew 6:12)

What kinds of sins are hard for you to forgive others for?

What does it feel like to be forgiven by someone?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.

What is grace?

Day 109

01 We begin together:

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

Psalm 30:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace,
according to your word. For my eyes
have seen your salvation, which you have
prepared before the face of all people; To be
a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the
glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the
Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if
many died through one man's trespass, much
more have the grace of God and the free gift
by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ
abounded for many. And the free gift is not
like the result of that one man's sin. For the
judgment following one trespass brought
condemnation, but the free gift following
many trespasses brought justification. For
if, because of one man's trespass, death
reigned through that one man, much more
will those who receive the abundance of
grace and the free gift of righteousness
reign in life through the one man Jesus
Christ. Romans 5:15–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is grace?

Grace is God's undeserved gift of his love,
mercy, and help, which he freely offers to
us who, because of our sin, deserve only
condemnation. (Genesis 50:15–21; Psalm
106; Joel 2:12–13; Luke 7:36–50; Romans
5:15–21; Ephesians 2:4–9; Hebrews 4:14–16)

*What are some of God's gifts and
blessings you've seen in your life?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, we pray that your grace may always
precede and follow after us, that we may
continually be given to good works; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen.

For what purpose does God give you grace?

Day 110

01 We begin together:

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

Psalm 30:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:1–4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

For what purpose does God give you grace?

God gives me grace in Christ for the forgiveness of my sins, redemption from sin's power, healing of sin's effects, and growth in holiness, to my final transformation into the likeness of Christ. (Psalms 25:6–12; 119:29–32; Jonah 3; Matthew 9:1–8; Romans 6:1–11; 2 Corinthians 3:16–18; Titus 3:4–7)

Is there anything you need to stop doing or do differently in response to God's gift of grace?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Can you earn God's grace?

Day 111

01 We begin together:

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

Psalm 30:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Can you earn God's grace?

No. God gives his grace freely and enables me to receive it. Everything I do for God should be in response to his love and grace made known in Christ, for “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us,” and “we love because he first loved us.” (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:19; see also Exodus 34:5–10; Psalm 23; John 10:7–18; Ephesians 2:1–10; 2 Timothy 1:8–10)

What does it mean to you to receive the gift of forgiveness without having to do anything to earn it?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Is God's grace only for your religious or spiritual life?

01 We begin together:

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

Psalm 30:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:31–33

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Is God's grace only for your religious or spiritual life?

No. God wants to redeem every aspect of my life, and his grace in Christ is at work in all of it. (Psalm 40; Isaiah 1:13–20; Matthew 6:25–33; Titus 2:11–14)

What part of your life do you see God working on today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Most merciful Father, we humbly thank you for all your gifts so freely bestowed upon us: for life and health and safety, for strength to work and leisure to rest, for all that is beautiful in creation and in human life; but above all we thank you for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Does God give grace only to Christians?

01 We begin together:

In you, O LORD, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion; deliver me in your righteousness. Psalm 31:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy. You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance. Psalm 65:8b–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Does God give grace only to Christians?

No. God's common grace can be seen in his provision for all people. "He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). However, he shows his saving grace by granting salvation to those who place their faith in Christ. (Psalms 65:5–13; 145:8–9; Acts 14:15–17; Romans 5:1–11)

What good things from God do you see in the world around you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O merciful Creator, your loving hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence, and give us grace to honor you with all that you have entrusted to us; that we, remembering the account we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does Holy Scripture tell you about your body?

01 We begin together:

In you, O LORD, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion; deliver me in your righteousness. Psalm 31:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:13–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does Holy Scripture tell you about your body?

Holy Scripture tells me that my body, though tainted by sin, was created good, bearing the image of God and endowed with great dignity. Therefore, from the moment of conception to natural death, every human body and every human life should be cared for, protected, and loved. (Genesis 1:26–28; Psalm 139:7–18; Matthew 11:2–5; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; James 3:8–10)

What is something amazing about the way God made your body?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why will you die?

Day 115

01 We begin together:

In you, O LORD, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion; deliver me in your righteousness. Psalm 31:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
1 Corinthians 15:20–22

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why will you die?

Because sin and death now corrupt this world, my body will degenerate and die. But, by the will of God, my soul will be with the Lord, and I will rise bodily from death when Jesus Christ returns to judge the living and the dead. (Genesis 2:15–17; 3:22–24; Psalm 82:7; Ecclesiastes 2:16; John 6:35–40; Romans 5:12–14; 1 Corinthians 15:13–28)

How do you, or do you think you would, grieve the death of a friend or loved one?

How would your faith in Jesus shape your grief?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

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. Within thy wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from thee. From the wicked foe defend me. In the hour of my death call me. And bid me come to thee, that with thy saints I may praise thee, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the resurrection of the body?

01 We begin together:

In you, O LORD, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion; deliver me in your righteousness. Psalm 31:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the resurrection of the body?

When the risen Lord Jesus returns to judge the earth, he will raise all the dead to bodily life. The wicked will then receive eternal condemnation, and the righteous eternal life in the glory of God. (Psalm 16; Ezekiel 37:1–14; Daniel 12:1–3; Matthew 25:31–34, 41, 46; John 5:25–29; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17; Revelation 20:11–15)

When Jesus returns, what do you hope will be different from your life now?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, with whom the souls of the faithful who have departed this life are in joy and felicity: We praise and magnify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear; and we most humbly pray that, at the day of resurrection, we and all who are members of the mystical body of your Son may be set on his right hand, and hear his most joyful voice: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

What do you know about the resurrected bodies of believers?

01 We begin together:

In you, O LORD, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion; deliver me in your righteousness. Psalm 31:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What do you know about the resurrected bodies of believers?

They will be fully renewed and glorified in the image of Christ, perfected after the manner of his own resurrected and ascended body. (Job 19:25–27; John 11:23–27; 1 Corinthians 15:35–58; Philippians 3:20–21)

Finish this sentence: My resurrected body will be. . .

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How should you live as you await the resurrection of your body?

Day 118

01 We begin together:

In you, O LORD, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion; deliver me in your righteousness. Psalm 31:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. 1 John 3:1–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you live as you await the resurrection of your body?

Because I put my hope in God's resurrection of my body, I should honor and care for it. I should refrain from any violence, disrespect, or sin that would harm, demean, or violate either my body or the bodies of others. (Psalm 35:9–10; Matthew 25:35–45; Romans 6:5–14; 1 Corinthians 6:9–20; 1 John 3:1–3)

*What are a few things that you will do because your body matters?
What are a few things you won't do because your body matters?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose blessed Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and of mind, and called her to be a witness of his resurrection: Mercifully grant that by your grace we may be healed from all our infirmities and know you in the power of his unending life; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What do you know about the unending resurrected life of believers?

Day 119

01 We begin together:

In you, O LORD, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion; deliver me in your righteousness. Psalm 31:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:2-4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What do you know about the unending resurrected life of believers?

I know that it will be an eternal life of joyful fellowship with our triune God, together with all his saints and angels, singing his praises and serving him in the renewed creation. (John 17:20-24; Revelation 7:9-17; 21:1-4; 21:22-22:5)

*What aspects of your life are so good that they give you glimpses of the "new heaven and new earth?"
Where do you see the need for God to wipe away tears?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy city to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, this city. Renew the ties of mutual regard that form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Deliver us from poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find, together with one another, the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How should you live in light of this promise of unending life?

01 We begin together:

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 32:11

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you live in light of this promise of unending life?

I should live in joyful expectation of the fullness of my transformation, soul and body, into the likeness of Christ. In the midst of suffering or in the face of hostility and persecution, I am sustained by the hope of a new heaven and earth, freed from Satan, evil, suffering, and death. (Psalm 21:1–7; John 14:1–7; Romans 13:11–14; 2 Corinthians 4:16–5:11; Philippians 3:7–21; 1 Peter 1:3–9; 5:6–11)

How does this hope affect how you respond to your challenging circumstances?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you created us in your own image: Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and help us to use our freedom rightly in the establishment of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What is a sacrament?

01 We begin together:

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 32:11

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever. John 6:53–58

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. God gives us the sign as a means by which we receive that grace and as a tangible assurance that we do in fact receive it. (Genesis 17:1–21; John 6:53–58; Romans 2:25–29; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 1662 Catechism)

*What are ways God gives grace in ways you can receive?
In what ways can we demonstrate our faith in Jesus by the way we live?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

How should you receive the sacraments?

01 We begin together:

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 32:11

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:17–29

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you receive the sacraments?

I should receive the sacraments by faith in Christ, with repentance and thanksgiving. Faith in Christ is necessary to receive the grace of the sacraments, and obedience to Christ is necessary for the benefits of the sacraments to bear fruit in my life. (Mark 16:16; John 6:52–58; Acts 2:38–47; 1 Corinthians 11:27–32; 1662 Catechism; Articles of Religion, 28)

On a scale from 1–10, how good are you at self-reflection?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

What sacraments were ordained by Christ?

01 We begin together:

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 32:11

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What sacraments were ordained by Christ?

The two sacraments ordained by Christ that are "generally necessary to salvation" (1662 Catechism) are Baptism and Holy Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Holy Eucharist). These are sometimes called "sacraments of the Gospel." (Articles of Religion, 25; see also Matthew 28:19–20; Luke 22:14–20; John 6:52–58; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; 2 Corinthians 1:21–22)

What do Baptism and Holy Communion mean to you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Are there other sacraments?

Day 124

01 We begin together:

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 32:11

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
2 Timothy 1:6–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Are there other sacraments?

Other rites and institutions commonly called sacraments include confirmation (2 Timothy 1:6–7; Hebrews 6:1–2), ordination (Numbers 8:9–14; 27:18–23; 1 Timothy 4:14), marriage (Genesis 2:18–24; Matthew 19:4–6; John 2:1–11), absolution (John 20:21–23; Acts 2:37–41), and the anointing of the sick (James 5:14). These are sometimes called “sacraments of the Church.”

In what ways can you participate and serve in church? (Think of both small and big things you can do.)

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How do these differ from the sacraments of the Gospel?

01 We begin together:

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 32:11

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
Ephesians 2:8–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do these differ from the sacraments of the Gospel?

They were not ordained by Christ as necessary to salvation, but arose from the practices of the apostles and the Early Church, or were blessed by God in Scripture. God clearly uses them as means of grace. (Articles of Religion, 25)

How can God's love for you motivate you to love and serve others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, through your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?

Day 126

01 We begin together:

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 32:11

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:18–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?

The outward and visible sign is water, in which candidates are baptized “in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Book of Common Prayer 2019; see also Genesis 9:8–17; Matthew 28:19–20; 1 Peter 3:18–22)

*Have you been to a baptism service?
How can a baptism service encourage
the church?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be filled with your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What is the inward and spiritual grace given in Baptism?

Day 127

01 We begin together:

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Psalm 33:20–21

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:25–26

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the inward and spiritual grace given in Baptism?

The inward and spiritual grace is death to sin and new birth to righteousness, through union with Christ in his death and resurrection. I am born a sinner by nature, separated from God. But in Baptism, through faith in Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I am made a member of Christ's Body and adopted as God's child and heir. (Psalm 51:1–2, 7–10; Ezekiel 36:25–26; John 3:3–5; Romans 6:1–11; Colossians 2:9–14)

What do you think the differences are between a heart of stone and a heart of flesh?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death, and brought us into the kingdom of your beloved Son: Grant that, as by his death he has called us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What is required of you when you come to be baptized?

01 We begin together:

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Psalm 33:20–21

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:37–38

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is required of you when you come to be baptized?

Two things are required: repentance, in which I turn away from sin; and faith, in which I turn to Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord and trust the promises that God makes to me in this sacrament. (Psalm 51:3–6, 13–17; Mark 1:14–15; Acts 2:37–38)

Why might repentance be hard for someone?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why is it appropriate to baptize infants?

01 We begin together:

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Psalm 33:20–21

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

Acts 16:30–34

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is it appropriate to baptize infants?

Because it is a sign of God’s promise that they are embraced in the covenant community of Christ’s Church. Those who in faith and repentance present infants to be baptized vow to raise them in the knowledge and fear of the Lord, with the expectation that they will one day profess full Christian faith as their own. (Deuteronomy 6:6–9; Proverbs 22:6; Mark 2:3–5; Acts 2:39; 16:25–34)

What surprises you most about the story of Paul and Silas in jail?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom so to train them, that they may love all that is true, and pure, and lovely, and of good report, following the example of their Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What signs of the Holy Spirit's work should you hope and pray to see as a result of your Baptism?

Day 130

01 We begin together:

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.
Psalm 33:20–21

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:23–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What signs of the Holy Spirit's work should you hope and pray to see as a result of your Baptism?

I should hope and pray that the Holy Spirit, who indwells me, will help me to be an active member of my Christian community, participate in worship, continually repent and return to God, proclaim the faith, love and serve God and my neighbor, and seek justice and peace. (Matthew 22:35–40; Hebrews 10:19–28; 12:14; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 1:9; 2:1)

What might you do when you are tempted to not go to worship on a Sunday?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Why did Christ institute the sacrament of Holy Communion?

01 We begin together:

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Psalm 33:20–21

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why did Christ institute the sacrament of Holy Communion?

He instituted it for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his atoning death, and to convey the benefits of that sacrifice to us. (Exodus 24:1–10; Psalm 23:5–6; Luke 22:17–20; John 6:25–51; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17)

*What might you keep in mind when you take Holy Communion?
How will that help you focus?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

What is the outward and visible sign in Holy Communion?

01 We begin together:

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Psalms 33:20–21

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the outward and visible sign in Holy Communion?

The visible sign is bread and wine, which Christ commands us to receive. (1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

*Have you ever had a uniquely significant experience receiving Holy Communion?
What was that like?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the inward gift signified?

01 We begin together:

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Psalm 33:20–21

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

John 6:52–56

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the inward gift signified?

The inward gift signified is the Body and Blood of Christ, which are truly taken and received in the Lord's Supper by faith. (Deuteronomy 8:1–20; Psalm 78:17–29; 1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 16–18)

Why do you think faith is important when we take Holy Communion?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers saying together:

O Lord Jesus Christ, in this wonderful Sacrament you have given us a memorial of your passion: Grant us, we pray, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of your redemption; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What benefits do you receive through partaking of this Sacrament?

Day 134

01 We begin together:

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. Psalm 37:39

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:33–34

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What benefits do you receive through partaking of this sacrament?

As my body is nourished by the bread and wine, my soul is strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ. I receive God's forgiveness, and I am renewed in the love and unity of the Body of Christ, the Church. (1662 Catechism; Psalms 28:6–9; 104:14–15; John 6:52–56; 17:22–24; Revelation 19:6–9)

*What is your favorite thing to eat when you're hungry?
What do you think it means for your soul to be fed?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, of your goodness, give me yourself, for you are enough for me. I can ask for nothing less that is completely to your honor, and if I do ask anything less, I shall always be in want. Only in you I have all. Amen.

What is required of you when you come to receive Holy Communion?

Day 135

01 We begin together:

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. Psalm 37:39

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:31–32

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is required of you when you come to receive Holy Communion?

I am to examine myself: Do I truly repent of my sins and intend to lead a new life in Christ? Do I have a living faith in God's mercy through Christ and remember his atoning death with a thankful heart? And have I shown love and forgiveness to all people? (Leviticus 10:1–5; Psalm 50)

*Why do we have to prepare ourselves for certain things?
How does the Eucharist service help us prepare to receive Holy Communion?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers saying together:

O God, grant that we may desire you, and desiring you seek you, and seeking you find you, and finding you be satisfied in you forever. Amen.

What is expected of you after partaking in Holy Communion?

01 We begin together:

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. Psalm 37:39

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine. Leviticus 20:26

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is expected of you after partaking in Holy Communion?

I should continue to grow in holiness, avoiding sin, showing love and forgiveness to all, and serving others in gratitude. (1 Corinthians 10:14–32; 1 Peter 4:1–11)

What are ways you like to care for and serve people around you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me only know your will. Amen.

What is confirmation?

Day 137

01 We begin together:

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. Psalm 37:39

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:6–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is confirmation?

Confirmation is the laying on of the bishop's hands with prayer for strengthening by the Holy Spirit, following a period of catechetical formation. In confirmation, I make a mature confession of faith, publicly renewing the vows and promises made at my Baptism. (Deuteronomy 6:4–25; Psalm 119:33–40; Acts 8:14–17)

*Have you ever seen anyone get confirmed?
Why do you think the church has a special service for confirmation?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers saying together:

O Lord, from whom all good proceeds: Grant us the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may always think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may accomplish the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What grace does God give you in confirmation?

Day 138

01 We begin together:

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. Psalm 37:39

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.
Psalm 71:17–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What grace does God give you in confirmation?

In confirmation, I am further empowered and gifted by the Holy Spirit for daily growth in wisdom, courage, and humility before God in every aspect of my life and work. (Psalm 37:3–31; Isaiah 11:2–5; Acts 19:6; Jude 3, 17–25; “Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation,” Book of Common Prayer 2019)

*Have you ever had a teacher, mentor or leader empower you?
How do you think the Holy Spirit empowers believers?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and merciful God, in your goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in mind and body, may accomplish with joyful hearts those things which belong to your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What is the work of all Christians?

01 We begin together:

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. Psalm 37:39

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:6–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the work of all Christians?

All Christians are to bear witness to Christ in their lives; to care for the poor, strangers, widows, and orphans; and, according to their gifts, to serve Christ in the world and in the Church. (Zechariah 7:9–10; Psalms 1; 15; Micah 6:6–8; Colossians 3:1–17; James 1:27; 1 Peter 4:8–11)

*What problems seem too big for any one person to solve?
In what ways can you help towards solving those problems?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is ordination?

Day 140

01 We begin together:

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. Psalm 37:39

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.
1 Timothy 4:11–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is ordination?

Ordination is the laying on of the bishop's hands with prayer, which confirms the gifts and calling of the candidates, consecrates them, and grants them authority to serve Christ and his Church in the office to which they have been called. (Isaiah 6:1–8; Luke 9:1; Acts 6:1–7; 13:1–3; 1 Timothy 3:1–13;

What kind of job would you like God to give you or call you to?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who cares for his flock: We ask you to bestow upon your Church the gifts of the Holy Spirit in abundance, and to raise up from among us faithful and able persons called to the ministries of Deacon, Priest, and Bishop. Inspire them to spend and be spent for the sake of the Gospel, and make them holy and loving servants and shepherds of the flock for whom you shed your most precious blood. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

What grace does God give in ordination?

01 We begin together:

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Psalm 40:13

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:5–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What grace does God give in ordination?

In ordination, God conveys the gift of the Holy Spirit for the office and work of the order being conferred. (Numbers 27:12–23; Ephesians 4:7–16; 2 Timothy 1:6–7)

*When have you felt unprepared to do a job, complete an assignment, or play a game?
What helped you grow more confident and prepared?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone works great marvels: Send down upon our clergy and the congregations committed to their charge the life-giving Spirit of your grace, shower them with the continual dew of your blessing, and ignite in them a zealous love of your Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What are the three ordained ministries in the Anglican Church?

01 We begin together:

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Psalm 40:13

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you. . . .He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Titus 1:5, 9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are the three ordained ministries in the Anglican Church?

The three orders are bishops, priests, and deacons, which we have received from Scripture and the historic Church. (Acts 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 3:1; 5:17–22; 2 Timothy 4:5; Titus 1:5; Ignatius of Antioch, *Letter to the Trallians* 2.1–3; 3.1–2)

*Who is someone you think of and admire when you hear the word "authority"?
Why do you admire them?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly serve you in good works, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What is the work of bishops?

Day 143

01 We begin together:

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Psalm 40:13

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." John 20:21–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the work of bishops?

Bishops represent and serve Christ and the Church as chief pastors, catechists, and missionaries in the tradition of the apostles. They are to confirm and ordain, and to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church. (Isaiah 61:1–11; John 20:19–23; 21:15–19; Acts 20:17–35; 1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:7–9; 1 Peter 5:1–5; Ignatius of Antioch, *Letter to Polycarp* 1.2–2.2)

How does a good leader or teacher help a group be united?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers saying together:

Almighty God, who by your Son Jesus Christ gave many excellent gifts to your holy Apostles, and charged them to feed your flock: Give your grace to all Bishops, the pastors of your Church, that they may diligently preach your Word, duly administer your Sacraments, and wisely provide godly discipline; and grant to your people that they may obediently follow them, so that all may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

What is the work of priests?

Day 144

01 We begin together:

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Psalm 40:13

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the work of priests?

Serving Christ with their bishops, priests (or presbyters) nurture God's people through the ministry of Word and Sacrament and pronounce absolution and blessing in God's Name. (Genesis 14:17–20; Psalm 132:8–18; Luke 10:1–9; John 10:1–16; Ephesians 4:7–13)

*What makes you feel cared for?
How do priests or pastors uniquely care for others?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the work of deacons?

Day 145

01 We begin together:

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Psalm 40:13

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:2-4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the work of deacons?

Serving Christ under their bishops, deacons care for those in need, assist in public worship, and instruct both young and old in the catechism. (Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Psalm 119:1-8; Luke 12:35-40; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

What are some qualities you have noticed in people who serve others? What are some ways you can serve the church, family, and neighbors?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served, but to serve: We ask you to bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the sake of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is Christian marriage?

Day 146

01 We begin together:

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Psalm 40:13

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Genesis 2:24–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is Christian marriage?

Christian marriage, or Holy Matrimony, is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, uniting them in self-giving love, joy, and faithfulness. It is ordained by God for the procreation and spiritual nurture of children, the sanctification of husband and wife, the mutual support of their common life, and the flourishing of family, church, and society. Husband and wife enter into this covenant by exchanging vows before God and in the presence of witnesses. (Genesis 2:18–25; Song of Solomon 4:7–10; Matthew 19:3–9; John 2:1–11; Romans 7:2–3)

Who do you know that has the kind of marriage you would want if you were married?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious and holy Father, please give me intellect to understand you, reason to discern you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you, a heart to meditate upon you, ears to hear you, eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you, a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you, and perseverance to look for you. Grant me a perfect end, your holy presence, a blessed resurrection, and life everlasting. Amen.

What is signified in marriage?

Day 147

01 We begin together:

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Psalm 40:13

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:22–33

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is signified in marriage?

The union of husband and wife in one flesh signifies the communion between Christ, the heavenly bridegroom, and the Church, his holy bride. Not all are called or able to marry, but all Christians are joined to Christ as members of his Body. (Song of Solomon 8:6–7; Isaiah 54:4–8; 1 Corinthians 7:6–11; Ephesians 5:22–33; Revelation 19:6–10; 21:1–4)

What do you see Jesus doing for his people, the Church?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, through your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What grace does God give in marriage?

01 We begin together:

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What grace does God give in marriage?

In Christian marriage, God unites husband and wife and blesses their common life, that they may grow together in love, wisdom, and godliness, patterned on the sacrificial love of Christ. A Christian marriage embodies this grace in the world, especially through hospitality and care for those who are lonely or in need. (Genesis 2:18–25; Psalm 128; Proverbs 18:22; Matthew 1:18–25; 1 Corinthians 13:1–13; “Holy Matrimony,” Book of Common Prayer 2019)

Where have you seen the love described in the 1 Corinthians passage?

What in this description of love do you find difficult to do?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

01 We begin together:

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:15–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is absolution?

In absolution, a priest, acting under God's authority, pronounces God's forgiveness in response to repentance and confession of sin. (2 Samuel 12:1–13; Proverbs 28:13; John 20:22–23; James 5:15–16)

What is the hardest part of confessing your sins to someone else?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers saying together:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What grace does God give to you in absolution?

01 We begin together:

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:8–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What grace does God give to you in absolution?

In absolution, God conveys his pardon through the Cross, removes and cancels my sin, declares me reconciled and at peace with him, and grants me the assurance of his grace and salvation. (Psalm 32; Matthew 18:18; Acts 5:30–32; 1 John 1:8–10)

What do you need God's forgiveness for today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you": Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. Amen.

What is necessary to receive the grace of absolution?

01 We begin together:

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Then I turned my face to the LORD God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules." Daniel 9:3–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is necessary to receive the grace of absolution?

Repentance, in which I intend to resist further sin, accept responsibility for my actions, and endeavor to repair damage I have caused; and faith, by which I thankfully receive God's forgiveness. (1 Kings 8:46–53; Psalm 51; Daniel 9:1–23; Matthew 3:1–12; Romans 2:1–11; 2 Corinthians 7:5–13)

Which of the above aspects or intentions of repentance are the most difficult for you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers saying together:

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Savior by preaching repentance: Make us so to follow his teaching and holy life, that we may truly repent, boldly rebuke vice, patiently suffer for the sake of truth, and proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the anointing of the sick?

01 We begin together:

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay." Matthew 10:5–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the anointing of the sick?

Through prayer and anointing with oil, the minister invokes God's blessing upon those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. (1 Kings 17:17–24; Psalm 107:17–22; Matthew 8:14–17; 10:5–8; Acts 28:8; James 5:15–16)

*Are you sick (suffering in body, mind, or spirit)?
Who could you ask to anoint you with oil and to pray for healing?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose Son took upon himself the afflictions of your people: Regard with your tender compassion those suffering from anxiety, depression, or mental illness; bear their sorrows and their cares; supply all their needs; help them to put their whole trust and confidence in you; and restore them to strength of mind and cheerfulness of spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What grace does God give in the anointing of the sick?

01 We begin together:

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. Isaiah 49:13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What grace does God give in the anointing of the sick?

God gives healing, strength, and peace, either for recovery from injury or illness, or for perseverance in adversity, especially in preparation for death. (Psalms 103:2–5; 119:49–56; Isaiah 49:13; Matthew 8:5–13; 2 Corinthians 1:3–7; 12:7–10)

*Whom do you know who needs healing, strength, and peace?
How do you need healing, strength, and peace from God?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

01 We begin together:

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.
Psalm 123

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is prayer?

Prayer is turning my heart toward God, to listen and to speak with him. (Psalms 84:123; Matthew 7:7–11; John 17:1–9)

Other than silently, how would you like to pray (out loud, by writing, in song, or another way)?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant, O God, that, following the example of your apostle James the Just, kinsman of our Lord, your Church may give itself continually to prayer and to the reconciliation of all who are at variance and enmity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What should you seek in prayer?

01 We begin together:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Matthew 7:7-11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What should you seek in prayer?

In prayer, I should seek not only God's provision for my needs, but fellowship with God, who made me for fellowship with himself. (Exodus 33:7-11; Psalms 27:4, 8; 42:1-2; John 14:18-23; 1 John 1:3)

For you, what feels different about seeking God instead of just seeking answers?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O merciful Creator, your loving hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence, and give us grace to honor you with all that you have entrusted to us; that we, remembering the account we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How can you have fellowship with God?

Day 156

01 We begin together:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:14–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can you have fellowship with God?

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and union with him by the Holy Spirit, I have fellowship with God as his adopted child. I experience this in prayer, worship, God's Word, the sacraments, and Christian community, as I daily follow him by faith. (Nehemiah 9:1–8; Psalm 65:1–4; John 15:9–17; Acts 2:42–47; Romans 8:14–17; 1 John 1:3–7)

Take a moment, remember, and then share: When have you experienced that God is near to you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why should you pray?

Day 157

01 We begin together:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me. Psalm 50:14–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why should you pray?

I should pray because God calls me to do so, because I was made for fellowship with him, because I need the help of his Holy Spirit, and because he has promised to answer the prayers of his people. (Exodus 33:7–11; Psalm 50:14–15; Matthew 7:7–11; Luke 18:1–8; Romans 8:26; 1 Timothy 2:1)

Today, how might you ask for the help of the Holy Spirit?

What might that look like?

(Hint: Galatians 5:22–26 is a great place to start).

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

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. Within thy wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from thee. From the wicked foe defend me. In the hour of my death call me. And bid me come to thee, that with thy saints I may praise thee, for ever and ever. Amen.

What should you pray?

Day 158

01 We begin together:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26–27

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What should you pray?

I should pray the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, the collected prayers of the Church, and my own prayers as the Spirit leads me. (1 Samuel 2:1–10; Psalms 2; 62:8; Luke 1:46–55; 2:25–35; Acts 4:24–30; Romans 8:26–27; Revelation 4:8–11)

How has the Holy Spirit helped you to pray?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When should you pray?

01 We begin together:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

When should you pray?

I should pray at regular times throughout each day, with fellow Christians for prayer and worship, and whenever I am aware of a need for God's grace. And I should learn to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) as I grow in the knowledge of God's presence. (Nehemiah 2:4; Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10; Jonah 2; Matthew 15:21–28; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Hebrews 4:16; 5:7)

What would help you to pray throughout the day (like a notebook or the simple prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit.")?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

What is the prayer our Lord Jesus taught his disciples to pray?

Day 160

01 We begin together:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And he said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

Luke 11:2-4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the prayer our Lord Jesus taught his disciples to pray?

The traditional version of the Lord's Prayer is this: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13; see also Luke 11:2-4)

Reading it now, what word or phrase of the Lord's Prayer stands out to you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in the Name of your Son: Mercifully incline your ear to us as we make our prayers and supplications to you; and grant that what we ask faithfully, according to your will, we may obtain effectually, for the relief of our necessities and the setting forth of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why should you learn the Lord's Prayer?

01 We begin together:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:5–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why should you learn the Lord's Prayer?

I should learn the Lord's Prayer because Jesus taught it to his disciples as both a practice and a pattern for prayer to God the Father. (Matthew 6:5–8; Luke 11:1, 5–13)

What does it feel like, or what do you think about, when you pray the words Jesus gave to you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Holy Spirit, breath of God and fire of love, I cannot pray without your aid: Kindle in me the fire of your love, and illumine me with your light; that with a steadfast will and holy thoughts I may approach the Father in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ my Lord, who reigns with you and the Father in eternal union. Amen.

Why should you practice the Lord's Prayer?

01 We begin together:

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Psalm 47:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. 1 John 5:14–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why should you practice the Lord's Prayer?

I should pray the Lord's Prayer regularly because it teaches me to pray as Jesus commanded and to desire what his Father wills. (Psalm 34; Matthew 12:46–50; 26:36–44; 1 John 5:14–15)

*When do you find it difficult to pray?
When do you find it easy to pray?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and, that we may receive what we ask, teach us by your Holy Spirit to ask only those things that are pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the same Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

How is the Lord's Prayer a pattern for prayer?

01 We begin together:

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Psalm 47:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! Psalm 150

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How is the Lord's Prayer a pattern for prayer?

The Lord's Prayer models the primary types of prayer: praise of God, intercession for his rule, petition for his provision and protection, and confession of sins. I should pray regularly in all these ways. (Psalm 150; Isaiah 63:7–64:12; Acts 9:36–43; 3 John 2)

*What aspects of the Lord's prayer seem important to you?
What aspects seem hard?
What aspects are confusing?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, grant that we may desire you, and desiring you seek you, and seeking you find you, and finding you be satisfied in you forever. Amen.

What are the parts of the Lord's Prayer?

Day 164

01 We begin together:

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Psalm 47:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Pray then like this: "Our Father 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 also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil!"
Matthew 6:9–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are the parts of the Lord's Prayer?

The traditional form of the Lord's Prayer begins by addressing God the Father, makes seven petitions, adds a doxology, and concludes with "Amen."

*When you pray, how do you start?
What do you put in the middle?
How do you end your prayers?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Why do we call God “Father”?

Day 165

01 We begin together:

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Psalm 47:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

1 Corinthians 6:16–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do we call God “Father”?

We call God “Father” because Jesus teaches his disciples that we are God’s children and should call God “our Father.” (Exodus 4:22; Psalm 73:15; Isaiah 43:6; Matthew 23:8–9; 2 Corinthians 6:18)

How do you respond, think, or feel about being a child of God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life: Pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love by your Holy Spirit, that we may delight in the inheritance that is ours as your sons and daughters, and live to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Who are God's children?

Day 166

01 We begin together:

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Psalm 47:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
John 1:12–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Who are God's children?

All who come to God through faith and Baptism in Christ are adopted as children of God the Father. (Deuteronomy 32:1–6; Isaiah 30:1; John 1:12–13; Romans 8:14–16; 1 John 3:1–3)

What is so special about being adopted?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be filled with your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Why does Jesus teach us to pray “our” Father?

01 We begin together:

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Psalm 47:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:14–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does Jesus teach us to pray “our” Father?

Jesus teaches us always to understand ourselves not only as individuals but as members of God’s family of believers, and to pray accordingly. (Psalm 147; Romans 8:14–19; 1 Peter 1:17)

What do you think or feel about being part of God’s family?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

How is God like earthly fathers?

Day 168

01 We begin together:

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Psalm 47:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!
Luke 11:11–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How is God like earthly fathers?

Like all loving and sincere earthly fathers, God loves us in our weakness, provides for our needs, teaches us in our ignorance, and corrects us when we go astray. (Psalm 103:12–14; Luke 11:11–13; Hebrews 12:5–10)

What does having a heavenly (perfectly good and perfectly loving) Father mean to you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

How is God unlike earthly fathers?

01 We begin together:

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

Psalm 51:10

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

Hebrews 12:9–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How is God unlike earthly fathers?

Unlike our natural fathers, our heavenly Father loves us perfectly, is almighty in his care, makes no errors in judgment, and disciplines us only for our good.

(1 Samuel 2:12–17, 22–36; Psalm 145:8–21; Luke 11:11–13; 15:11–32; Hebrews 12:9–11)

How is God as your Father good news to you?

How might it be good news to others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is heaven?

Day 170

01 We begin together:

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

Psalm 51:10

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.

Psalm 11:4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is heaven?

Heaven is the realm of God's presence, power, and glory, which exists invisibly alongside this visible realm, and from which God hears the prayers of his children. (1 Kings 8:27–30; Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 18:10; John 3:31; Ephesians 4:10; Hebrews 9:24; Revelation 21:1–2)

Reach out your hand. Guess what? Heaven is right there too! How is that different from what you have thought about heaven before?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven: May our hearts and minds also there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does your Father in heaven help you here on earth?

01 We begin together:

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

Psalm 51:10

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 1:5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does your Father in heaven help you here on earth?

Because God is in all places and knows all things, he hears and answers my prayers, directs my paths, and strengthens me in times of trouble. (2 Samuel 22; Psalms 23; 46; Matthew 6:6–8, 25–34; James 1:5)

How has God responded to you (i.e. through Scripture, in your dreams, or in your heart)?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers, and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace to keep your commandments, that we may please you in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the first petition?

Day 172

01 We begin together:

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

Psalm 51:10

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Psalm 105:1–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the first petition?

The first petition is “Hallowed be thy Name.” (Matthew 6:9; see also Psalms 99:3; John 12:27–28; see questions 283–89)

“Hallowed” means to be holy or sacred. What is holy about God’s Name? What other things are holy?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, you never fail to support and govern those whom you bring up in your steadfast love and fear: Keep us, we pray, under your continual protection and providence, and give us a perpetual fear and love of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

01 We begin together:

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

Psalm 51:10

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other; nor my praise to carved idols.

Isaiah 42:8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is God's Name?

God's Name reveals who he is—his nature, his character, his power, and his purposes. The Name God reveals to Moses is "I AM who I AM" or simply "I AM" (Exodus 3:6, 14). This Name means that he alone is truly God, he is the source of his own Being, he is holy and just, and he cannot be defined by his creatures. (Exodus 3:6, 14; 15:11; Psalm 99; Isaiah 5:16; 47:4; John 8:58; Revelation 1:8)

*What is important about your name?
What does the name "I AM" tell you
about who God is?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What are some other names for God given in Holy Scripture?

01 We begin together:

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

Psalm 51:10

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are some other names for God given in Holy Scripture?

Throughout the Scriptures, God is known as "Lord." Through the Person and ministry of Jesus Christ, God is also revealed to be one God in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:24)

What name or names do you use for God?

Why have you used those names?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly serve you in good works, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What does “hallowed” mean?

Day 175

01 We begin together:

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

Psalm 51:10

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

So you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD. And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 22:31–33

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does “hallowed” mean?

“Hallowed” means to be treated as holy—set apart, sacred, and glorified. (Exodus 13:1–12; Deuteronomy 6:7–8; Psalm 11:4–7; Isaiah 6:1–8; Luke 2:22–35; 2 Timothy 2:19–22)

*Do you have anything in your house that's set apart just for special occasions?
What does it look like to glorify someone?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How does God hallow his Name?

Day 176

01 We begin together:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 57:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore say to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes." Ezekiel 36:22–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God hallow his Name?

God's Name is holy in itself, and God glorifies his Name by saving fallen humanity, by building his Church, and by establishing his kingdom in this world and in the age to come. (Nehemiah 9:9–10; Psalm 111:9; Ezekiel 36:22–32; Luke 1:49; John 12:23–28; Acts 4:24–31; Ephesians 5:25–27; 1 Peter 2:4–9)

Why do you think we name streets, cities, or other places after people? How can we bring glory to God's Name in our lives?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, your blessed Son fulfilled the covenant of circumcision for our sake, and was given the Name that is above every name: Give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, and to worship him with pure hearts according to the New Covenant; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How can you hallow God's Name?

01 We begin together:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
Psalm 57:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:14–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can you hallow God's Name?

I can honor God's Name as holy by worshiping him, serving others, and living in loving obedience as his child and a citizen of his kingdom. (Deuteronomy 4:6–8; Psalm 105:1–6; Ezekiel 36:16–32; Matthew 5:16; Hebrews 13:15–16)

How does one person's behavior on a team (or in a class) reflect on everyone else?

How can a Christian's actions point others to who God is?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in me the fire of your love. Direct and rule my heart in all things, empower me for witness and ministry, and daily increase in me your gifts and fruit, to the glory of God the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is the second petition?

Day 178

01 We begin together:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 57:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44–46

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the second petition?

The second petition is “Thy kingdom come.” (Matthew 6:10)

What do you imagine when you hear the word “kingdom”?

Why do you think Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy kingdom come”?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

What is God's kingdom?

Day 179

01 We begin together:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
Psalm 57:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
Colossians 1:9–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is God's kingdom?

The kingdom of God is the just and peaceful reign of Jesus Christ over all the world, especially in the lives of his faithful people, through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. (Psalms 103:19; 145:11–13; Isaiah 11:1–9; Daniel 4:28–37; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 17:20–21; Ephesians 1:3–14; Colossians 1:9–14)

*What does it take to keep peace at home, or with friends, or at school?
Why is peace so hard to keep?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

When you pray for God's kingdom to come, what are you asking?

Day 180

01 We begin together:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
Psalm 57:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
Romans 8:22–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

When you pray for God's kingdom to come, what are you asking?

I pray that the whole creation may be renewed and restored under its rightful Lord, now in part and fully in the age to come. (Psalm 72; Daniel 7:27; Mark 14:25; Romans 8:19–25; Philippians 2:9–11; Revelation 11:15–18; 21:5)

What are examples of things worth waiting for?

Is it hard to wait for God to make everything in this world right?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How does God's kingdom come?

Day 181

01 We begin together:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
Psalm 57:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 1 Corinthians 15:20–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom is announced to the people of Israel, arrives in Jesus Christ, and advances through the Church's mission. It will appear in its fullness once Christ returns in glory. (Psalm 102:12–22; Daniel 2:31–45; Matthew 10:5–8; Mark 4:26–32; Acts 1:1–11; 1 Corinthians 15:19–28)

What is an important job or responsibility you've been given? Why do you think God trusts people to help advance his kingdom?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How do you live in God's kingdom?

01 We begin together:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 57:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

1 Peter 2:9–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do you live in God's kingdom?

As a citizen of God's kingdom, I am called to live in obedience to God's Word and will, in loving witness and service to others, and in joyful hope of Christ's return. (Psalm 15; Ezekiel 37:20–28; Mark 4:1–25; Romans 14:17; Philippians 3:17–21; 1 Peter 2:9–12)

What does it mean to you to be a citizen of the country you are from? How does your life show that you are also a citizen of God's kingdom?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, I come to you through the saving work of your Son Jesus Christ upon the Cross. Thank you for adopting me as your child through the Holy Spirit. Grant me the grace to know the fullness of your fatherly love, that I may delight in the promises of your eternal Kingdom, both now and in the age to come. Amen.

What is the third petition?

Day 183

01 We begin together:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the third petition?

The third petition is “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

How would our lives be different if God's will was always done on earth?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is God's will?

Day 184

01 We begin together:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

... 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. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
John 6:39–40

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is God's will?

God's will is to reconcile all things to himself in Jesus Christ and to establish his kingdom on the earth. His will is revealed in the whole of Scripture and especially in Jesus Christ, whom I am called to serve and imitate with my whole life. (Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Psalm 119:1–16, 104–5; Proverbs 4:1–9; Matthew 22:36–40; John 6:39–40; Romans 8:28–30; 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 5:18–19)

*Have you ever done something without being asked in order to please a parent, teacher, or coach?
How does Jesus please his Father?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who can do no good thing apart from you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What do you pray for as you seek God's will?

01 We begin together:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more. Psalm 10:17–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What do you pray for as you seek God's will?

I pray for God to break the dominion of the world, the flesh, and the devil; to establish justice and thwart the plans of the wicked; to strengthen and direct his Church; and to extend the kingdom of his grace. (Psalm 10:17–18; Matthew 16:17–18; Luke 18:7–8; Ephesians 6:10–20; 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2; 1 Timothy 2:1–4)

*Where do you see the need for God to intervene in the world around you?
How can your prayers focus on these needs?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truth our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in time we may come to think your own thoughts after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

How can you do God's will?

Day 186

01 We begin together:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Deuteronomy 30:15–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can you do God's will?

I can walk in God's will by loving him and my neighbor, and by taking my part in the Church's mission to extend his kingdom in the world. (Deuteronomy 30:11–16; Psalm 15; Micah 6:8; Matthew 28:19–20; Mark 12:28–34; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; 1 John 2:15–17)

What can you as a family be doing to love God and your neighbors?

What can you do personally to follow God's will?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why do you pray, “on earth as it is in heaven”?

01 We begin together:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Psalm 103:19–22

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do you pray, “on earth as it is in heaven”?

In heaven, God’s Name is perfectly hallowed, and his will is perfectly obeyed and fulfilled. I pray for his kingdom to be established fully and his will to be accomplished on earth, that his Name may be perfectly hallowed in all creation. (Psalm 103:19–22; Isaiah 11:1–9; Daniel 4:34–35; Ephesians 1:15–23; Revelation 4:8–11)

*In what ways can your world (home, school, community, church, etc.) look more like heaven?
How can you contribute to that?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, through your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is the fourth petition?

Day 188

01 We begin together:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Give us this day our daily bread.
Matthew 6:11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the fourth petition?

The fourth petition is “Give us this day our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3)

What would it feel like to rely on God for a necessity?

What would it feel like to rely on someone else for something as basic as food?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son has taught us to seek our daily bread from you: Behold the affliction of your people, and send us swift aid in our time of need. Increase the fruits of the earth by your heavenly benediction; and grant that we, receiving your gifts with thankful hearts, may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need, and for our own health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Having prayed first for God's glory, kingdom, and will, what do you now pray?

Day 189

01 We begin together:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the LORD! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street.

Lamentations 2:19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Having prayed first for God's glory, kingdom, and will, what do you now pray?

I pray for my needs and those of my brothers and sisters: for daily provision, pardon for sins, and protection from evil. (Psalms 25:16–18; 34:8–10; 71; Lamentations 2:19; Matthew 7:7–11; Philippians 4:6)

Try this: set an alarm for tonight to “cry out,” “pour out your heart,” and “lift your hands” for those, especially children, in need.

How else can we pray for provision for others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What does “our daily bread” mean?

Day 190

01 We begin together:

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!” Psalm 70:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.
Proverbs 30:7–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does “our daily bread” mean?

Daily bread includes all that we need each day for our bodily provision and spiritual nourishment. (Exodus 16:4; Psalm 105:39–42; Proverbs 30:7–9; John 6:1–14, 41–51; Philippians 4:19)

Where are you so full, or have too much, that it is easy to deny or forget that God provides?

When have you been angry because you felt like God was not providing enough?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Why should you pray for daily bread?

Day 191

01 We begin together:

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Psalm 70:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. James 4:2–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why should you pray for daily bread?

God calls me to trust him for the needs of each day, to be concerned for the needs of others, to be content with what I have, and to grow in gratitude for his provision. (Exodus 16; Psalm 78:15–20; Matthew 6:25–34; James 4:2–3)

Trust can be challenging.

Do you have people you trust to take care of you?

What makes trusting in God's provision challenging?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Most loving Father, you will us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on the One who cares for us. Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested unto us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why does God give you daily bread?

Day 192

01 We begin together:

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Psalm 70:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103:13–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does God give you daily bread?

God gives me daily bread because he is a good and loving Father, who gives good things to all his children, sustains us in life, and desires that we grow daily in his grace. (Psalms 103:13–14; 104:27–30; Isaiah 40:11, 29–31; Matthew 7:9–11)

What is one good gift you have received from God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Most merciful Father, we humbly thank you for all your gifts so freely bestowed upon us: for life and health and safety, for strength to work and leisure to rest, for all that is beautiful in creation and in human life; but above all we thank you for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the fifth petition?

Day 193

01 We begin together:

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Psalm 70:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. Luke 11:4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the fifth petition?

The fifth petition is "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." (Matthew 6:12; see also Luke 11:4)

*Do you need to seek forgiveness today?
Is there someone you need to forgive today?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What are trespasses?

Day 194

01 We begin together:

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Psalm 70:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are trespasses?

A "trespass" is a sin—a thought, word, or deed which offends God's holy character and violates his Law, missing the mark of his will and expectations. (Isaiah 53:6; 1 John 3:4)

How do you respond knowing that everyone has "gone astray" and missed God's mark?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: I hold up all my weakness to your strength, my failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the Cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all my ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived, without cowardice and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love. Amen.

01 We begin together:

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Psalm 70:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.
Ecclesiastes 7:20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Do you sin against God's Law?

Yes. I, together with all humankind, sin daily against God's Law, in thought, word, and deed, both by what I do and by what I fail to do. (Psalm 14:2-3; Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:9-18, 23; 1 John 1:8-10)

*Do you think most people think of themselves as good or bad?
How do you think of yourself?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Teach me to seek you, and as I seek you, show yourself to me; for I cannot seek you unless you show me how, and I will never find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you by desiring you, and desire you by seeking you; let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen.

What is God's forgiveness?

Day 196

01 We begin together:

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Psalm 70:4

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. Isaiah 1:18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is God's forgiveness?

God's forgiveness is his merciful pardon of sin and removal of the guilt that results from our disobedience. (Psalms 32:1–2; 51:1–17; Isaiah 1:18; 55:6–9; Jeremiah 33:7–9; Matthew 18:23–27; Colossians 2:13–14)

How does it feel to be forgiven when you have done something wrong?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On what basis do you ask for forgiveness?

01 We begin together:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, my hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:38

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

On what basis do you ask for forgiveness?

I ask God our loving Father to forgive me through his Son, Jesus Christ, who bore my sins upon the Cross, so that through faith and Baptism I can receive his righteousness. (Isaiah 53:4–12; Daniel 9:16–19; Luke 18:9–14; Acts 2:38; 13:38–39; Romans 5:17; Hebrews 9:11–26)

Does being close to someone make it easier or harder to ask for forgiveness?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you show those in error the light of your truth so that they may turn to the paths of righteousness: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Does God forgive your sins?

Day 198

01 We begin together:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, my hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 9–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Does God forgive your sins?

Yes. In Christ, God freely forgives the sins of all, including me, who sincerely repent and in true faith turn to him. (Leviticus 16:29–34; Psalm 103:8–14; Isaiah 55:6–9; Jeremiah 31:31–34; Matthew 6:14–15; Hebrews 10:11–18; 1 John 1:9–10)

How would you describe God's forgiveness to someone who had never experienced it?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why should you forgive others?

Day 199

01 We begin together:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, my hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:12–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why should you forgive others?

I should forgive others because, while I was still a sinner, God forgave me through Jesus Christ. Failing to forgive impedes God's work in my life and gives opportunity to the evil one. (Genesis 50:15–21; Psalm 133; Matthew 18:21–35; Luke 23:34; Ephesians 4:30–32; Colossians 3:12–13)

How can God's forgiveness towards you help you when you need to show forgiveness to someone who has wronged you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How do you forgive others?

Day 200

01 We begin together:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, my hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do you forgive others?

Forgiveness is a decision of my will and an attitude of my heart that seeks the good of my neighbor and chooses not to hold against them the damage they have inflicted. I forgive whether they have asked for forgiveness or not. (Exodus 23:4; Leviticus 19:17–18; Matthew 5:38–48; Luke 17:3–4; 23:34; Acts 7:60; Romans 12:14, 17–21; James 5:9; 1 Peter 3:9)

Which is harder for you: the decision to forgive or having the right attitude when you forgive?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Will your forgiveness of others always result in reconciliation?

01 We begin together:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, my hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Will your forgiveness of others always result in reconciliation?

No. Though my decision and desire to forgive may not result in my neighbor’s repentance or our reconciliation, I am still called to forgive. (Matthew 18:15–35; Romans 12:17–21)

What is it like to forgive someone you think won’t be friends with you even after you forgive them?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life: Pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love by your Holy Spirit, that we may delight in the inheritance that is ours as your sons and daughters, and live to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is the sixth petition?

Day 202

01 We begin together:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, my hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

James 1:13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the sixth petition?

The sixth petition is "And lead us not into temptation."

(Matthew 6:13; Luke 11:4)

Who or what tempts you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be filled with your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What is temptation?

01 We begin together:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1–2

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, my hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. James 1:14–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is temptation?

Temptation is any enticement to turn from faith in God and to violate his commandments. (Proverbs 1:8–19; James 1:14–15)

What happens when we give in to temptation?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What are the sources of temptation?

01 We begin together:

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 89:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:7–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are the sources of temptation?

I am tempted by the false promises of the world, the selfish desires of my flesh, and the lies of the devil, all of which war against God and my spiritual well-being. (Genesis 3:1–8; Proverbs 30:7–9; Mark 7:15; James 1:13; 1 John 2:15–17)

What are some ways we can keep falsehood or temptation away from us?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

What help do you seek from God in the face of temptation?

01 We begin together:

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 89:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:12–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What help do you seek from God in the face of temptation?

I ask God to increase my faith to trust him, enliven my conscience to fear him, soften my heart to love him, and strengthen my will to obey him, that I may resist evil and stand in the face of temptation. (Proverbs 2; Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:31–32; 1 Corinthians 10:12–14; James 4:5–10)

How can you remember to ask God for help when you are tempted to sin?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, give us the increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you have promised, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Does God lead you into temptation?

01 We begin together:

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 89:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:12–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Does God lead you into temptation?

No. God never tempts anyone, nor is he the cause of any sin; but he does allow me to be tested so that I may grow in faith and obedience. (Genesis 22:1–18; Job 1:6–12; Psalm 11:4–5; Proverbs 17:3; Matthew 4:1)

Have you ever been tempted to do something wrong? How did you handle that temptation?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truth our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in time we may come to think your own thoughts after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

What are ways to guard against temptation?

01 We begin together:

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
Psalm 89:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.
Ephesians 6:14–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are ways to guard against temptation?

As I abide in Christ, I can guard against temptation by praying for protection and strength, confessing my sins, recalling God's Word, avoiding tempting situations, and seeking the support of fellow Christians. (Genesis 39:7–12; Psalm 119:9–11; Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 14:38; Romans 13:11–14; 1 Peter 4:1–2, 7)

What is your favorite part of the armor of God from the passage?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you know that we are set in the midst of many grave dangers, and because of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant that your strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry us through every temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How can the Church help you to resist temptation?

Day 208

01 We begin together:

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 89:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

Galatians 6:1–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can the Church help you to resist temptation?

In the fellowship of Christ's Body, I can find companionship when I am lonely or vulnerable, support to resist ungodly influence, wisdom to guard me from folly, exhortation to grow in holiness, and discipline to correct me when I fall into error. (Matthew 18:15–20; 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14–16; James 5:16)

What could it look like to restore someone "in a spirit of gentleness?"

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly serve you in good works, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What is the seventh petition?

Day 209

01 We begin together:

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
Psalm 89:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Matthew 6:13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the seventh petition?

The seventh petition is “But deliver us from evil.” (Matthew 6:13)

Have you ever been afraid of something? What helps you when you are afraid?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord God, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What is evil?

Day 210

01 We begin together:

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
Psalm 89:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.
1 John 3:4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is evil?

Evil is the willful perversion of God's will. Evil defies God's holiness, violates his Law, enslaves us to sin, and mars his good creation. (Genesis 3:1–19; 4:1–8; 6:5; Proverbs 1:10–19; Isaiah 59:4–13; Mark 7:20–23)

*Name some examples of bad things that happen in this world.
How do you respond to these things?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Set us free, loving Father, from the bondage of our sins, and in your goodness and mercy give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

If God is good, why does he permit evil?

01 We begin together:

I will say unto the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I will trust." Psalm 91:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.
Ecclesiastes 7:29

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

If God is good, why does he permit evil?

God created rational creatures free to love, obey, and worship him, but we have used our freedom to reject his love, rebel against him, and choose evil. Yet no evil can thwart God's purposes, and he is able to use evil to bring about even greater good. (Genesis 6:5; Judges 2:19–23; Psalm 10; Romans 8:18–28; Hebrews 2:8–18; Revelation 2:18–29)

How can we remind ourselves of God's goodness when things go wrong?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Is God responsible for evil?

Day 212

01 We begin together:

I will say unto the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I will trust." Psalm 91:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:15–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Is God responsible for evil?

No. The sinful choices of his creatures do not implicate God in evil in any way. (Deuteronomy 30:15–19; Romans 7:7–25; James 1:13–15)

Have you ever been blamed for something that was not your fault?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations, and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Did evil exist before the human race embraced it?

01 We begin together:

I will say unto the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I will trust." Psalm 91:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?"
John 8:42–46

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Did evil exist before the human race embraced it?

Yes. Satan had already opposed God and chosen evil when he tempted Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3: 1–5; John 8:44)

How do you discern or decide if someone is trustworthy?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What are Satan and his demons?

Day 214

01 We begin together:

I will say unto the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I will trust." Psalm 91:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Luke 8:26–29a

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are Satan and his demons?

Demons, of whom Satan is chief, are fallen angels. Satan rebelled against God and led other angels to follow him. They now cause spiritual and sometimes physical harm to mortals, and they sow lies that lead to confusion, despair, sin, and death. (Job 1–2; Daniel 10:20–21; Luke 8:26–29; 9:37–43; 11:14–26; Acts 16:16–18; 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10)

Is it difficult or easy for you to believe in spiritual beings?

What does Jesus' power over demons show about his love and authority?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, you never fail to support and govern those whom you bring up in your steadfast love and fear: Keep us, we pray, under your continual protection and providence, and give us a perpetual fear and love of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How did Satan and his angels turn to evil?

01 We begin together:

I will say unto the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I will trust." Psalm 91:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.
Isaiah 14:12–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did Satan and his angels turn to evil?

Satan and his angels were overcome by envy and pride and rebelled against God. (Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 28:12–19; 1 Timothy 3:6; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7–12)

How can pride draw us away from obedience to God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon himself our nature, and to suffer death upon the Cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and come to share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What are angels?

Day 216

01 We begin together:

I will say unto the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I will trust." Psalm 91:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
Isaiah 6:1–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are angels?

Angels are rational, spiritual beings created by God. God's holy angels joyfully serve him in heavenly worship, and God appoints them to act as messengers, bringing words of guidance and assurance to the faithful, and assisting and protecting them. (Numbers 22:21–31; Psalm 148:1–6; Isaiah 6:2–3; Luke 1:19, 26–33; Acts 12:7–11; Hebrews 1:7–14; 13:2)

What kinds of messages would you like to deliver?

Why do you think God might use messengers?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How does God overcome evil in this world?

01 We begin together:

I will say unto the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I will trust." Psalm 91:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2:13–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God overcome evil in this world?

God has triumphed over all the powers of evil through the death, resurrection, and ascension of his Son, Jesus Christ. God will finally destroy all evil, including death, at the end of the age. (Psalms 46; 110:1; Isaiah 52:7–10; Daniel 7:9–14; Luke 21:25–28; 1 Corinthians 15:24–28; Colossians 2:13–15; Hebrews 2:7–9, 14–15; Revelation 21:1–8)

What do you think of when you hear the word "victory"?
What is surprising about God's victory over evil?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How does God redeem evil?

Day 218

01 We begin together:

Come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God redeem evil?

Though disaster, disease, death, and the evil deeds of his creatures may cause great harm and suffering, the almighty and all-wise God can use them to bring about his good purposes, both in the world and in my life. (Genesis 50:20; Romans 5:3–5; 8:28; Hebrews 12:3–11)

What is something in the world that you would like to see God correct? Why is it important to you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From what evil do you seek to be delivered?

Day 219

01 We begin together:

Come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1 Peter 5:8–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

From what evil do you seek to be delivered?

I seek to be delivered from my own fallen inclination toward evil. I also seek God's deliverance from the devil; from the dangers of the day and night; from sorrow, sickness, and horror; from injustice and oppression; and from everlasting damnation. (Psalm 91; Luke 18:1–8; 22:31–32; Romans 7:15–25; 2 Corinthians 1:8–11; 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2; 1 Peter 5:8–9; "The Great Litany," Book of Common Prayer 1662)

What evil do you need God's help with (your thoughts, dangers, sickness etc.)?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How does God deliver you from evil?

Day 220

01 We begin together:

Come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel 36:24–27

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God deliver you from evil?

Jesus has conquered the dominion of darkness and now grants me victory over sin and evil through the Holy Spirit. He transforms my mind and heart to see and oppose evil, and gives me the power to overcome it. He gives me strength to endure my trials gracefully and may even remove them from me. (Psalm 23; Ezekiel 36:24–27; Matthew 10:16–20; John 17:11–17; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10; James 4:7–8; 1 Peter 5:8–9)

How is God helping you to overcome evil that affects your life?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, through your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is the doxology of the Lord's Prayer?

Day 221

01 We begin together:

Come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
Ephesians 3:20–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the doxology of the Lord's Prayer?

The doxology often added to the Lord's Prayer is "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen" (Matthew 6:13). A doxology is a short phrase or hymn giving glory to God. (Ephesians 3:20–21; 1 Timothy 1:17)

How can you give glory to God in your thoughts, words, and deeds?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What does “kingdom, power, and glory” mean?

01 We begin together:

Come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:11–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does “kingdom, power, and glory” mean?

Mirroring the first half of the Lord’s Prayer, the Church rejoices that God is already reigning over all creation, working out his holy will, and hallowing his Name in earth and heaven. (1 Chronicles 29:11–13; Revelation 5:11–14)

Where or how would you like to see more of God’s kingdom, power, or glory?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, as we live among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why do you end the Lord's Prayer by saying "Amen"?

01 We begin together:

Come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
2 Corinthians 1:19–20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do you end the Lord's Prayer by saying "Amen"?

By saying "Amen," which means "so be it," I declare my agreement with the prayer. I unite with the faithful, and together we pray as Jesus commanded, believing that our petitions please the Father, and trusting that he will hear and answer us. (Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6; Psalms 72:18–19; 106:48; 2 Corinthians 1:19–20; Revelation 19:1–4)

What prayers are you waiting to have answered?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is a “rule” of prayer?

Day 224

01 We begin together:

Come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.
Mark 1:35–39

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is a “rule” of prayer?

A rule of prayer is a regular discipline by which I cultivate a life of prayer and grow to love and glorify God more fully. (Psalms 5:1–3; 119:164; Daniel 6:6–13; Mark 1:35–39; Luke 5:12–16; Ephesians 6:10–20)

*How would you define prayer?
What is your favorite way or place to pray?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace to keep your commandments, that we may please you in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What can hinder your regular prayers?

01 We begin together:

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Psalm 96:9

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And in the hearing of all the people he said to his disciples, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." Luke 20:45-47

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What can hinder your regular prayers?

My prayers may be hindered by many things, such as lethargy or loss, selfishness or sin, distractions or difficulties, or seasons of spiritual dryness. With God's help, a rule of prayer strengthens me to overcome all these. (1 Kings 19:1-18; Psalm 116; Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 20:45-47; Romans 8:22-27)

*What makes it hard for you to pray?
How can you help one another respond to and overcome these challenges?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: Defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that, guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What nurtures a fruitful life of prayer?

01 We begin together:

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Psalm 96:9

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:1–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What nurtures a fruitful life of prayer?

My life of prayer is fed by the regular reading of Scripture, practice of personal prayer, and corporate worship of God. The ancient threefold rule of the Church encourages weekly Communion, the Daily Office, and private devotions to shape this way of life. (Psalm 1; John 15:1–17; Ephesians 5:15–20; Philippians 4:8–9; Hebrews 10:19–25)

Where is a place, or when is a time that you feel closest to God?

How can you help others be with God in the ways they need?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and, that we may receive what we ask, teach us by your Holy Spirit to ask only those things that are pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the same Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

How should the Holy Scriptures shape your daily life?

01 We begin together:

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Psalm 96:9

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should the Holy Scriptures shape your daily life?

I should “hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them” that by the sustaining power of God’s Word, I may grow in grace and hold fast to the hope given to me in Jesus Christ. (Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent, Book of Common Prayer 2019; see also Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Psalm 119:1–48; Luke 2:39–52; James 1:18–27; 2 Peter 3:18)

*Where do you see the need for God to intervene in the world around you?
How can your prayers focus on these needs?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

01 We begin together:

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Psalm 96:9

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. . . . They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. Nehemiah 8:3, 8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you “hear” the Bible?

I should hear the Bible through regular participation in the Church’s worship, in which I join in reciting Scripture, hear it read and prayed, and listen to its truth proclaimed. (Nehemiah 8:1–8, 18; Psalm 81; Luke 4:16–30; 1 Timothy 4:6–16; Revelation 1:1–3)

Do you remember something better by reading it silently or reading it aloud? What is a section of the Bible you would like to read out loud?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How should you “read” the Bible?

01 We begin together:

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Psalm 96:9

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Psalm 119:101–104

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you “read” the Bible?

I should read the Bible daily, following the Church’s set readings (lectionaries) or following a pattern of my own choosing. (Deuteronomy 17:18–20; Psalm 119:97–112; Acts 8:26–40)

*What do you enjoy reading?
Do you find it easy or difficult to read the Bible?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Teach me to seek you, and as I seek you, show yourself to me; for I cannot seek you unless you show me how, and I will never find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you by desiring you, and desire you by seeking you; let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen

How should you “mark” passages of Scripture?

Day 230

01 We begin together:

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.
Psalm 96:9

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
Psalm 119:129

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you “mark” passages of Scripture?

I should study the Bible attentively, noting key verses and themes, as well as connections between passages in the Old and New Testaments. I should study on my own and with other Christians, using trustworthy commentaries and other resources to grasp the full meaning of God’s Word. (Psalm 119:129–44; Luke 24:44–49; Acts 17:1–15)

*Have you ever written or highlighted something in your Bible? If so, why did it stand out to you?
When is a time you can study the Bible with other Christians?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious God and most merciful Father, you have granted us the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word: Assist us with your Spirit, that the same Word may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, and to build us up and edify us into the perfect dwelling place of your Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues; grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

How should you “learn” the Bible?

01 We begin together:

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Psalm 96:9

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you “learn” the Bible?

I should seek to know the whole sweep of Scripture and to memorize key passages for my own spiritual growth and for sharing with others. (Psalm 119:9–16; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:10–17)

*What are some things people memorize?
How can memorizing parts of the Bible help your faith?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How should you “inwardly digest” Scripture?

01 We begin together:

Be assured that the LORD, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:16–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you “inwardly digest” Scripture?

I should meditate on Scripture and let it shape my thoughts and prayers. As I absorb Scripture, it deepens my knowledge of God, becomes the lens through which I understand my life and the world around me, and guides my attitudes and actions. (Joshua 1:1–9; Psalms 1:2; 119:1–8, 113–28; John 15:1–11; Colossians 3:16–17)

What do you think of when you hear the word “meditate”?

Is meditating more about thinking or doing?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

01 We begin together:

Be assured that the LORD, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. Mark 1:35–39

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Are there different ways to pray?

Yes. Prayer can be private or public, liturgical or extemporaneous, spoken or silent. (1 Samuel 1:1–20; 1 Kings 8:22–61; Psalm 142; Matthew 11:25–28; Mark 1:35–39; Luke 6:12–16; Hebrews 5:7–10)

Why do you think Jesus made time to pray?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

What types of prayer are in the Lord's Prayer?

01 We begin together:

Be assured that the LORD, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Pray then like this: "Our Father 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 also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Matthew 6:9–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What types of prayer are in the Lord's Prayer?

The Lord's Prayer includes praise, petition, intercession, and confession to God. (Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4)

Which type of prayer (praise, petition, intercession, confession) do you pray the most?

Which type of prayer do you pray the least?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be filled with your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What is praise?

Day 235

01 We begin together:

Be assured that the LORD, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:3–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is praise?

In praise, I glorify and adore God for his holiness, his sovereign rule over all, and his salvation given in Jesus Christ. (Exodus 15:1–21; Psalm 111; Luke 1:39–56; Ephesians 1:3–14)

What are some things you might praise God for today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is petition?

Day 236

01 We begin together:

Be assured that the LORD, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is petition?

In petition, I make requests to God on my own behalf for his provision and protection. (1 Samuel 1; 2 Kings 20:1–7; Psalm 86; John 17:1–5; 2 Corinthians 12:1–10; Philippians 4:6–7)

What have you needed from the Lord today? How can you ask for God's provision today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

01 We begin together:

Be assured that the LORD, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:18–20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is intercession?

In intercession, I make requests to God on behalf of others, the Church, and the world. (Exodus 32:1–14; Psalm 20; John 17:6–26; Ephesians 3:14–21; 6:18–20)

Who is someone you should pray for today? What is something you'd like someone to pray for you today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is confession?

Day 238

01 We begin together:

Be assured that the LORD, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

Jeremiah 36:1-3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is confession?

In confession, I acknowledge my sins in repentance before God and receive his forgiveness. (Nehemiah 1:4-11; Psalm 51; Jeremiah 36:1-3; Luke 23:39-43; Acts 2:14-41; 2 Corinthians 7:2-12; 1 John 1:9)

How can confessing your sin be frightening? How can confession be healing?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truth our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in time we may come to think your own thoughts after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

What types of prayer are not included in the Lord's Prayer?

01 We begin together:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:15–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What types of prayer are not included in the Lord's Prayer?

Other types of prayer are thanksgiving, by which I give thanks to God for his providential goodness and answers to my prayers; and oblation, by which I offer to him all that I am and all that I do. (2 Samuel 22; Psalm 63; Luke 1:38; 22:39–44; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 10:1–25; 13:15–16)

What do you want to thank God for today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, for ever and ever. Amen.

With what attitude should you pray?

01 We begin together:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

2 Chronicles 7:13–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

With what attitude should you pray?

I should pray with humility, love, and a ready openness to hear and do God's will. (2 Chronicles 7:13–15; Psalms 31; 46:10–11; Luke 18:9–14; Philippians 4:4–7)

What do you think it means to be humble around others?

What does it mean to be humble before God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Most merciful Father, we humbly thank you for all your gifts so freely bestowed upon us: for life and health and safety, for strength to work and leisure to rest, for all that is beautiful in creation and in human life; but above all we thank you for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What prayers should you learn as a part of your rule of prayer?

01 We begin together:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What prayers should you learn as a part of your rule of prayer?

After learning the Lord's Prayer, I should next aim to learn certain psalms (such as Psalms 23, 51, 95, 100, 150) and prayers from the Daily Office. These prayers will ground me in the Christian tradition of prayer and teach me how to pray in my own words.

*Does your household have any prayers you pray together?
What prayers would you like to pray regularly with others?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What should you remember when prayers seem to go unanswered?

Day 242

01 We begin together:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. Habakkuk 3:17–19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What should you remember when prayers seem to go unanswered?

I should be certain that God always hears my prayers and answers them by his wisdom, in his own time and manner, for my good, and for his glory. (Psalm 37:3–9; Isaiah 55; Luke 18:1–8; James 4:2–3; 1 John 5:14–15)

When was a time had to wait for something that you wanted to get right away? What makes waiting on answers to prayer difficult?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How should you pray in times of suffering?

01 We begin together:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:3–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you pray in times of suffering?

I should pray trusting in the sufficiency of God's grace and in joyful assurance that "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame." (see also Job 23; Psalm 22; John 12:23–26; 2 Corinthians 1:3–5; 1 Peter 4:12–19)

What does it look like to trust God even when your surrounding circumstances are difficult?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord our God, whose blessed Son gave his back to be whipped and did not hide his face from shame and spitting; Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is liturgy?

Day 244

01 We begin together:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is liturgy?

Liturgy is an established pattern or form for the worship of God by God's people. The liturgy leads us in the remembrance of God's mighty acts and unites us in grateful response. (Exodus 15:1–21; Psalm 118; Luke 22:14–20)

*What is something that gets better every time you do it?
How can liturgy help us worship?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why do Anglicans worship with a structured liturgy?

01 We begin together:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.' So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

Numbers 6:22–27

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do Anglicans worship with a structured liturgy?

Anglicans worship with a structured liturgy because it embodies biblical patterns of worship, fosters reverence and love for God, deepens faith in Jesus Christ, and is in continuity with the practices of Israel and the Early Church. (Deuteronomy 12:8–14; Psalm 96; Acts 2:42–47; Revelation 15; Didache 8–10)

What patterns do you see in church services or in this catechism resource?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Keep your Church, O Lord, by your perpetual mercy; and because without you the frailty of our nature causes us to fall, keep us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable for our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Does structured liturgy inhibit sincere and vibrant worship?

01 We begin together:

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:3-4

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Your procession is seen, O God, the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary—the singers in front, the musicians last, between them virgins playing tambourines: “Bless God in the great congregation, the LORD, O you who are of Israel’s fountain!” There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead, the princes of Judah in their throng, the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali. Psalm 68:24–27

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Does structured liturgy inhibit sincere and vibrant worship?

No. A structured liturgy provides sincere worshipers biblical language and forms that train our hearts for worship. Liturgy enables us to worship God joyfully and with one voice. (2 Samuel 6:1–4; 2 Chronicles 29; 1 Corinthians 14:26–33, 39–40; Revelation 7:9–8:5)

Have you ever trained for a sport or activity? What difference does training, formation, and repetition make in your faith?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Guide and direct us, O Lord, always and everywhere with your holy light, that we may discern with clear vision your presence among us, and partake with worthy intention of your divine mysteries. We ask this for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

What is the role of Scripture in the Prayer Book?

01 We begin together:

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:3-4

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Psalm 96:7-9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the role of Scripture in the Prayer Book?

The Book of Common Prayer is saturated with the Scriptures, organizing and orchestrating them for worship. It helps us to pray together in words God himself has given us, with order, beauty, joy, deep devotion, and great dignity. (Exodus 34:5-8; 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Psalms 96:9; 118; Matthew 21:1-11; Revelation 7:9-12)

What do you enjoy about re-experiencing a story or movie?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your Holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does the Book of Common Prayer organize corporate worship?

Day 248

01 We begin together:

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:3-4

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts. Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places."
Leviticus 23:1-3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does the Book of Common Prayer organize corporate worship?

The Prayer Book orders our daily, weekly, and seasonal prayer and worship. It also provides liturgies for significant events of life. (Leviticus 23:1-24:9; Psalm 90; John 2:1-12; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

*What is your favorite season: spring, summer, fall, or winter?
Do you have a favorite church season? If so, which season?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

What is the Daily Office?

Day 249

01 We begin together:

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:3-4

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

"Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.
Daniel 6:8-10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the Daily Office?

The Daily Office includes the services of Morning and Evening Prayer. In them we confess our sins and receive absolution, hear God's Word and praise him with psalms, and offer the Church's thanksgivings and prayers. (Psalms 5; 63; Daniel 6:10; Mark 1:35)

*What do you need to do every day to stay physically healthy?
What do you need to do every day to stay spiritually healthy?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

How is the Daily Office observed?

Day 250

01 We begin together:

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:3-4

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:23-25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How is the Daily Office observed?

The Daily Office is primarily designed for corporate prayer. It may also be used by individuals or families, in public or in private, in whole or in part. (Psalm 22:22-27; Acts 10:9-16; Hebrews 10:24-25; Revelation 7:9-12)

What do you enjoy doing alone? What do you enjoy doing with others? Why do you think Christians pray alone and with others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Why do we pray the Daily Office?

01 We begin together:

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:3-4

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do we pray the Daily Office?

We pray the Daily Office because, by it, we learn the Scriptures, join with the Church in prayer, mark our days with praise to God, and sanctify our time. (Joshua 1:6-9; Psalms 92; 119:97; Acts 10:1-8; 1 Timothy 2:1-7)

How does regularly spending time together make a friendship better? What does a growing relationship with Christ look like?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, grant that we may desire you, and desiring you seek you, and seeking you find you, and finding you be satisfied in you forever. Amen

What is a rule of life?

Day 252

01 We begin together:

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:3-4

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is a rule of life?

A rule of life is a discipline by which I order my worship, work, and leisure as a pleasing sacrifice to God. (Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 103; John 15:1-15; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:12-17)

Would you rather have a completely open day or a day with a full schedule? Why? How do you think God invites you to order your day?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.

Why do you need a rule of life?

Day 253

01 We begin together:

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 107:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the
everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ,
holy and blessed! Now as we come to the
setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the
vesper light, we sing your praises, O God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy
at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be
glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I
may share with them in its blessings. Do you
not know that in a race all the runners run,
but only one receives the prize? So run that
you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises
self-control in all things. They do it to receive
a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one
beating the air. But I discipline my body and
keep it under control, lest after preaching to
others I myself should be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:23–27

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do you need a rule of life?

I need a rule of life because my fallen
nature is disordered, distracted, and self-
centered. A rule of life helps me to resist sin
and establish godly habits, through which
the Holy Spirit will increasingly conform
me to the image of Christ. (Psalms 73;
86:11–13; Proverbs 3; 1 Corinthians 9:23–27;
Colossians 3:1–4; 1 Peter 1:13–19)

*What good habits do you need or
have? What bad habits do you need
help overcoming?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our
hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our
imaginings, so control our wills, that we
may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to
you; and then use us, we pray, as you will,
and always to your glory and the welfare of
your people; through our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is included in a rule of life?

Day 254

01 We begin together:

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 107:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the
everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ,
holy and blessed! Now as we come to the
setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the
vesper light, we sing your praises, O God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy
at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be
glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one
another, as good stewards of God's varied
grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks
oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who
serves by the strength that God supplies—in
order that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory
and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is included in a rule of life?

In addition to Scripture, prayer, and worship,
a rule of life includes witness, service, self-
denial, and faithful stewardship of my time,
money, and possessions. (Deuteronomy
5:28–33; Psalm 141; Matthew 5:13–16; 6:19–
24; Mark 8:27–38; 1 Peter 4:10–11)

*Of the elements of a rule of life listed
above, which one seems most exciting
to you? Which one seems scary or
intimidating?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful
people, that bringing forth in abundance the
fruit of good works, they may be abundantly
rewarded when our Savior Jesus Christ
comes to restore all things; who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Why is prayer an essential part of a rule of life?

01 We begin together:

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Psalm 107:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:26–28

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is prayer an essential part of a rule of life?

Through prayer, I rely upon God for strength, wisdom, and humility to sustain and guide me in my rule of life. Without the love of God and the power of his Spirit, I will not attain to the fullness of Christ. (Job 28:12–28; Psalm 143; Romans 8:26–30)

How does talking to God help you in daily life?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Holy Spirit, breath of God and fire of love, I cannot pray without your aid: Kindle in me the fire of your love, and illumine me with your light; that with a steadfast will and holy thoughts I may approach the Father in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ my Lord, who reigns with you and the Father in eternal union. Amen.

01 We begin together:

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 107:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the
everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ,
holy and blessed! Now as we come to the
setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the
vesper light, we sing your praises, O God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy
at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be
glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

(Book of Common Prayer 2019 version from
Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:6–21)

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How would the world be different if everyone followed the Ten Commandments completely?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What are the Ten Commandments?

01 We begin together:

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Psalm 107:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the
everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ,
holy and blessed! Now as we come to the
setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the
vesper light, we sing your praises, O God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy
at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be
glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall be careful therefore to do as the
LORD your God has commanded you. You
shall not turn aside to the right hand or to
the left. You shall walk in all the way that the
LORD your God has commanded you, that
you may live, and that it may go well with
you, and that you may live long in the land
that you shall possess.
Deuteronomy 5:32–33

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What are the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments are a summary
and outline of God's Law. (Exodus 20:18–21;
Deuteronomy 5:28–33; Psalm 78:5–8)

*What is it like for you to try to live in
obedience to God?
In what ways do you need his help?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, give us the increase of faith,
hope, and love; and, that we may obtain
what you have promised, make us love
what you command; through Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

What is God's Law?

Day 258

01 We begin together:

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 107:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the
everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ,
holy and blessed! Now as we come to the
setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the
vesper light, we sing your praises, O God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy
at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be
glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving
the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple; the precepts of
the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD
is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the
LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even
much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and
drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by
them is your servant warned; in keeping them
there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is God's Law?

God's Law (Hebrew, *torah*: "instruction") is
God's direct pronouncement of his will, both
for our good and for his glory. (Deuteronomy
30; Psalms 19:7–11; 119:89–104; Galatians
3:15–24)

*How do you notice your heart or your
mind responding to God's law?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into
our hearts, to direct and rule us according to
your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions,
to defend us from all error, and to lead us
into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

When did God give his Law?

Day 259

01 We begin together:

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 107:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the
everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ,
holy and blessed! Now as we come to the
setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the
vesper light, we sing your praises, O God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy
at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be
glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke
with them from heaven and gave them
right rules and true laws, good statutes and
commandments, and you made known to
them your holy Sabbath and commanded
them commandments and statutes and a law
by Moses your servant.

Nehemiah 9:13–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

When did God give his Law?

After delivering his people Israel from
slavery in Egypt, God established a covenant
with them by giving them his Law through
Moses. (Exodus 19:1–6; Deuteronomy 5:1–5;
Nehemiah 9:13–14; Acts 7:35–38)

*How can the giving of law, rules, and
guidelines be a good gift to you?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O merciful Creator, your loving hand is open
wide to satisfy the needs of every living
creature: Make us always thankful for your
loving providence, and give us grace to
honor you with all that you have entrusted
to us; that we, remembering the account we
must one day give, may be faithful stewards
of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ
our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

How did Jesus summarize God's Law?

01 We begin together:

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:2–3

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 22:37–40

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did Jesus summarize God's Law?

Jesus summarized God's Law by saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37–40; see also Deuteronomy 6:1–9; Leviticus 19:9–18)

How do you imagine the idea of law and love going together? What might that look like in your relationship with parents, friends, and Jesus?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly living; Give us grace thankfully to receive his inestimable benefits, and daily to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

01 We begin together:

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:2–3

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:17–19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did Jesus fulfill God's Law?

For our sake, Jesus fulfilled God's Law by teaching it perfectly, submitting to it wholly, and dying as an atoning sacrifice for our disobedience. (Psalm 119:49–72; Isaiah 53:4–12; Matthew 5:17–20; Romans 8:1–4; Hebrews 10:1–18)

How is fulfilling different from abolishing, correcting, replacing, or even finishing? What might that mean for how Jesus relates to you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, your blessed Son fulfilled the covenant of circumcision for our sake, and was given the Name that is above every name: Give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, and to worship him with pure hearts according to the New Covenant; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How can you obey God's Law?

Day 262

01 We begin together:

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:2–3

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:2–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can you obey God's Law?

As I trust in Jesus' fulfillment of the Law for me and live in the power of the Holy Spirit, God grants me grace to love and obey his Law. (2 Kings 18:1–8; Proverbs 3:1–12; John 15:3–11; Romans 6:15–23; 1 John 5:2–5)

Who are the "children of God?"

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why are you not able to do this perfectly?

01 We begin together:

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:2–3

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. Romans 7:21–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why are you not able to do this perfectly?

Sin has corrupted human nature, inclining me to resist God, to ignore his will, and to care more for myself than for my neighbors. However, God has begun and will continue his transforming work in me, and will fully conform me to Christ at the end of the age. (Psalm 14; Jeremiah 17:1–13; Romans 3:9–23; 7:21–25; Philippians 1:3–11)

*How do you delight in the law of God?
What makes delighting in God's law so hard?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

How should you understand the Ten Commandments?

01 We begin together:

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:2–3

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules. You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words. Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. Psalm 119:137–141

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you understand the Ten Commandments?

I should understand them as God's righteous rules for life in his kingdom: basic standards for loving God and my neighbor. In upholding them, I bear witness with the Church to God's righteousness and his will for a just society. (Deuteronomy 4:1–8; Psalm 119:137–44, 160; Matthew 5:17–48; Romans 7:7–12; 13:8–10)

How do the Ten Commandments “give me understanding that I may live”?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: I hold up all my weakness to your strength, my failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived without cowardice and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love. Amen.

How do the Ten Commandments help you to resist evil?

01 We begin together:

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:2–3

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. Psalm 19:7–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do the Ten Commandments help you to resist evil?

They teach me that God judges the corrupt affections of this fallen world, the cruel strategies of the devil, and the sinful desires of my own heart; and they teach me to renounce them. (Deuteronomy 8; Psalm 19:7–14; John 16:7–15; Romans 2:1–16)

How do the Ten Commandments help you make sense of what is not right in the world?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How do the Ten Commandments help you grow in likeness to Christ?

Day 266

01 We begin together:

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:2–3

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
James 1:22–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do the Ten Commandments help you to grow in likeness to Christ?

They reveal my sin in the light of God's righteousness, guide me to Christ, and teach me what is pleasing to God. (Deuteronomy 4:32–40; Psalms 19; 119:127–35, 169–76; Galatians 3:19–26; James 1:21–25; 2:8–13)

Have you ever looked in the mirror and wanted to fix something like food stuck in your teeth? How do the Ten Commandments help us see how we can become more like Christ?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace to keep your commandments, that we may please you in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How should you keep the Ten Commandments?

01 We begin together:

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalms 115:1

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

Psalms 25:11–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should you keep the Ten Commandments?

Because they both contain God's prohibitions against evil and direct me toward his good will, I should both repent when I disobey them and seek by his grace to live according to them. (Psalm 25:11–18; Romans 6; Colossians 3:5–17)

Why is it important for you to obey the laws in our society? Why is it important for you to be obedient to what the Bible teaches?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the first commandment?

Day 268

01 We begin together:

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalm 115:1

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:2–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the first commandment?

The first commandment is “I am the LORD your God. . . . You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:2–3; Deuteronomy 5:6–7; see also Psalm 97; Luke 4:5–8; 1 Corinthians 8:1–6)

*What is your most valued possession?
How can you make sure nothing
becomes more important than God?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Our God, in whom we trust: Strengthen us not to regard overmuch who is for us or who is against us, but to see to it that we be with you in everything we do. Amen.

What does it mean that the Lord is your God?

01 We begin together:

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalm 115:1

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean that the Lord is your God?

It means that I have faith that the God of the Bible is the only true God and that I entrust myself to him wholly. (Exodus 3:1–15; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Psalm 86:8–13; Mark 12:29–34; Revelation 15:3–4)

*What comes to mind when you think of the phrase "whole-hearted"?
What does it look like for you to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What does it mean to have no other gods?

01 We begin together:

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalm 115:1

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean to have no other gods?

It means that there should be nothing in my life more important than God and obeying his will. I should worship him only and love, revere, and trust him above all else. (Psalm 95; Jeremiah 10:6–10; Luke 16:10–15; 1 John 2:15–17)

How can you show that God is number one in your life by the way you use your time?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Why are you tempted to worship other things instead of God?

01 We begin together:

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalms 115:1

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:13–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why are you tempted to worship other things instead of God?

I am tempted because my sinful heart seeks my own desires above all else and pursues those things which falsely promise to fulfill them. (Deuteronomy 29:16–19; Psalm 10:2–7; Acts 19:23–27; James 4:1–10)

When have you wanted something, but it turned out to be bad for you? What temptations or desires might distract our attention from God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you know that we are set in the midst of many grave dangers, and because of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant that your strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry us through every temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How are you tempted to worship other gods?

01 We begin together:

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalms 115:1

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. . . . Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Romans 1:21, 24–25

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How are you tempted to worship other gods?

I am tempted to trust in myself, my pleasures, my possessions, my relationships, and my success, wrongly believing that they will bring me happiness, security, and meaning. I am also tempted to believe superstitions and false religious claims, and to reject God's call to worship him alone. (1 Kings 11:1–8; Psalm 73:1–17; Matthew 26:14–16; 27:1–5; Romans 1:18–32)

What does it feel like to find out you were wrong about something?

What are some false gods in our world today that people tend to worship?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Can you worship and serve God perfectly?

01 We begin together:

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalms 115:1

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1–2

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Can you worship and serve God perfectly?

No. Only our Lord Jesus Christ worshiped and served God perfectly; but I can seek to imitate Christ, knowing that my worship and service are acceptable to God through him. (1 Kings 15:9–14; Psalm 53:1–3; Luke 4:1–13; Ephesians 5:1–2; Hebrews 7:23–28)

Does anything surprise you about how Jesus served God the Father?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is the second commandment?

01 We begin together:

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
Deuteronomy 5:8–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the second commandment?

The second commandment is “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them.” (Exodus 20:4–6; 34:17; Deuteronomy 5:8–10)

Why do you think people want to worship things they can see or touch?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truth our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in time we may come to think your own thoughts after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

What does the second commandment mean?

01 We begin together:

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
Hebrews 13:15–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the second commandment mean?

God's people are neither to worship man-made images of God or of other gods nor to make such images for the purpose of worshipping them. (Exodus 20:23; 34:17; Leviticus 26:1; Deuteronomy 4:15–20; 27:15; Psalm 97:6–9; Acts 17:22–29; 2 Corinthians 6:16–18)

*Do you think you can make something an idol without realizing it?
What are some ways we can worship God each day?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, for ever and ever. Amen.

How did Israel break the first two commandments?

01 We begin together:

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him.
Judges 10:6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did Israel break the first two commandments?

Israel neglected God's Law, worshiped the gods of the nations around them, and brought images of these gods (idols) into God's temple, thus corrupting his worship. (Exodus 32; Judges 10:6; 1 Kings 12:28–33; 2 Kings 21:1–9; Psalm 106:19–43; Hosea 13:2; 1 Corinthians 10:1–14)

Which do you think is worse: neglecting what you should do or doing what you shouldn't do?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why did the nations make such images?

01 We begin together:

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.
Habakkuk 2:18–19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why did the nations make such images?

Israel's neighbors worshiped and served false gods by means of idols, believing they could manipulate these counterfeit gods for their own benefit. (Psalm 115:2–8; Isaiah 44:9–20; Jeremiah 10:2–15; Revelation 2:18–29)

When are you tempted to trust in something or someone other than God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Are all images wrong?

Day 278

01 We begin together:

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. . . . And he made two cherubim of gold. He made them of hammered work on the two ends of the mercy seat, one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends. The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim.
Exodus 37:1, 7–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Are all images wrong?

No. God forbade the making of idols and the worship of images, yet commanded carvings and pictures for the tabernacle depicting creation. Christians are free to make images—including images of Jesus and the saints—as long as they do not worship them or use them superstitiously. (Numbers 21:4–9; 1 Kings 6:23–35; 7:23–26; John 3:9–15)

Describe a Christian image that you like (e.g., a picture in a Bible or some items in your church, etc.). What do you like about it?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Are idols always images?

Day 279

01 We begin together:

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.
1 Samuel 15:23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Are idols always images?

No. Anything can become an idol if I look to it for salvation from my sin or comfort amid my circumstances. If I place my ultimate hope in anything but God, it is an idol. (Ezekiel 14:3–5; Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5)

*What gives you hope or comfort?
How can we look to God for our
ultimate hope?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does the second commandment teach you about hope?

Day 280

01 We begin together:

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
1 Thessalonians 1:9–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the second commandment teach you about hope?

It teaches me that my ultimate hope is in God alone, for he alone is God and he made me. I must not look for salvation and fulfillment in myself, another person, my wealth or occupation or status, or any created thing. Only in God will I find perfect love and fulfillment. (Psalm 62; Isaiah 45:20–25; Matthew 6:19–24)

What would it look like for you to be perfectly loved?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, of your goodness, give me yourself, for you are enough for me. I can ask for nothing less that is completely to your honor, and if I do ask anything less, I shall always be in want. Only in you I have all. Amen.

How was Jesus tempted to break the first two commandments?

01 We begin together:

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.
Psalm 118:28

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
Philippians 2:8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How was Jesus tempted to break the first two commandments?

Satan tempted Jesus to bow down and worship him, promising him an earthly kingdom without the pain of the Cross. Instead, Jesus served and worshiped God faithfully and perfectly all his life, and calls us to do the same. (Matthew 4:1–11; 16:24; Luke 22:41–44)

*What's something that would be hard for you to say "no" to?
How can you learn from Jesus' humility?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations, and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How will idolatry affect you?

Day 282

01 We begin together:

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

Psalm 118:28

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

Psalm 115:4–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How will idolatry affect you?

If I worship and serve idols, I will become like them, empty and alienated from God, who alone can make me whole. (Jeremiah 2:11–19; Jonah 2:7–9; Romans 1:18–25)

*Have you ever needed help but have felt far away from someone who could help you?
What might it mean to be alienated, or far away from, God?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who can do no good thing apart from you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the third commandment?

01 We begin together:

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

Psalm 118:28

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Exodus 20:7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the third commandment?

The third commandment is “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.” (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11; see also Leviticus 22:32; see days 172–77)

How do you know when to be silly and when to be serious? Is it easy or difficult for you to think about God seriously?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious and holy Father, please give me intellect to understand you, reason to discern you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you, a heart to meditate upon you, ears to hear you, eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you, a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you, and perseverance to look for you. Grant me a perfect end, your holy presence, a blessed resurrection, and life everlasting. Amen.

Why is God's Name sacred?

Day 284

01 We begin together:

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

Psalms 118:28

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation." Luke 1:46–50

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why is God's Name sacred?

God's Name reveals who he is—his nature, his character, his power, and his purposes. All forms of God's Name are holy. (Exodus 3:1–15; 34:5–7; Psalms 8; 54:1; 79:9; Isaiah 57:15; Luke 1:46–49)

How does a name reveal what an organization or group is about? What is the first thing you think of when you think about God's Name?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

What does it mean to take God's Name "in vain"?

01 We begin together:

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.
Psalm 118:28

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."
Romans 2:23–24

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean to take God's Name "in vain"?

"Vain" means empty, meaningless, and of no account. To take God's Name in vain is to treat it as such. (Leviticus 24:10–16; Romans 2:23–24)

*Have you ever had a nickname? When can a nickname be disrespectful or unloving?
Can you use God's name in a disrespectful or an unloving way?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you show those in error the light of your truth so that they may turn to the path of righteousness: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

How can you avoid taking God's Name in vain?

01 We begin together:

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

Psalm 118:28

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

Psalm 86:10–13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can you avoid taking God's Name in vain?

Because I love him, I should use God's Name with reverence, not carelessly or profanely. (Deuteronomy 28:58–59; Psalms 86:11–12; 99:1–5; Revelation 15:2–4)

How can you show respect for God's Name?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How might you use God's Name profanely?

01 We begin together:

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

Psalm 118:28

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, "How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?" — when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not fear him
Deuteronomy 18:20–22

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How might you use God's Name profanely?

By the unholy use of God's holy Name, especially through perjury, blasphemy, and attributing to God any falsehood, heresy, or evil deed, as if he had authorized or approved them. (Deuteronomy 18:20–22; Proverbs 30:7–9; Jeremiah 34:15–16; Ezekiel 36:16–23; Amos 2:6–7; Jude 5–13)

Why would people want to speak on God's behalf? Why could that be dangerous?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy thought can drag down; an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose can tempt aside. Bestow upon me understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that finally may embrace you. Amen.

How might you use God's Name carelessly?

Day 288

01 We begin together:

Let the freewill offerings of my mouth please you, O LORD, and teach me your judgments. Psalm 119:108

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD. Malachi 1:11b-13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How might you use God's Name carelessly?

Cursing, magic, broken vows, false piety, manipulation of others, and hypocrisy all cheapen God's Name. These treat God's Name as empty of the reality for which it stands. (Leviticus 5:4-6; 19:26b, 31; Psalm 10:2-7; Malachi 1:6-14; Matthew 5:33-37; James 3:5-12; Articles of Religion, 39)

Why do you think it hurts when someone mistreats someone or something that you care about? What are some ways people can mistreat God's reputation?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, you never fail to support and govern those whom you bring up in your steadfast love and fear: Keep us, we pray, under your continual protection and providence, and give us a perpetual fear and love of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How can you honor and love God's Name?

01 We begin together:

Let the freewill offerings of my mouth please you, O LORD, and teach me your judgments.
Psalm 119:108

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

Deuteronomy 10:20–22

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can you honor and love God's Name?

I honor and love God's Name, in which I was baptized, by keeping my vows and promises, by worshiping him in truth and holiness, and by invoking his Name reverently and responsibly. (Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 10:20–22; Psalm 105:1–5; Matthew 15:10–20; James 5:12)

*Why do we make vows and promises?
Why is it important to keep them?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is the fourth commandment?

01 We begin together:

Let the freewill offerings of my mouth please you, O LORD, and teach me your judgments.
Psalm 119:108

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

Exodus 20:8–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the fourth commandment?

The fourth commandment is “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8–10; see also Deuteronomy 5:12–14)

What are some ways you and your household can choose to remember the Sabbath?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.

What does it mean to keep the Sabbath day holy?

01 We begin together:

Let the freewill offerings of my mouth please you, O LORD, and teach me your judgments.
Psalm 119:108

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.
Genesis 2:2

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean to keep the Sabbath day holy?

“Sabbath” is from the Hebrew *shabbath*, which means “rest.” “Holy” means “set apart” for God’s purposes. God commanded Israel to set apart each seventh day, following six days of work, for rest and worship. (Genesis 2:2; Exodus 31:12–17; Psalm 23:1–3; Mark 1:21–22)

*What does rest look like for you?
How does rest serve God’s purposes?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why was Israel to rest on the Sabbath?

01 We begin together:

Let the freewill offerings of my mouth please you, O LORD, and teach me your judgments.
Psalm 119:108

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
Exodus 20:11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why was Israel to rest on the Sabbath?

Israel was called to rest in remembrance that God had freed them from slavery and that God rested from his work of creation, bringing joyful balance and rhythm to life, work, and worship. (Genesis 2:1–2; Exodus 20:11; 23:12; Deuteronomy 5:12–15)

*What makes it hard for you to rest?
What do you think God wants you to leave behind in order to rest?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, grant that we may desire you, and desiring you seek you, and seeking you find you, and finding you be satisfied in you for ever. Amen.

How did Jesus teach us to keep the Sabbath?

01 We begin together:

Let the freewill offerings of my mouth please you, O LORD, and teach me your judgments.
Psalm 119:108

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"
Luke 13:14–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did Jesus teach us to keep the Sabbath?

As Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus taught us to keep it not merely as a duty, but as a gift of God to be received with joy and extended to others through acts of love and hospitality. (Mark 2:23–3:6; Luke 13:10–16)

What can you do on the Sabbath that shows love to others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, through your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How does the Sabbath serve as a promise of the future for God's people?

Day 294

01 We begin together:

Let the freewill offerings of my mouth please you, O LORD, and teach me your judgments.
Psalm 119:108

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.
Isaiah 66:22–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does the Sabbath serve as a promise of the future for God's people?

When the Church is perfected in Christ, all believers will dwell in God's new creation, free from sin and its curse, and eternally united to God in love, adoration, and joy. This will be our unending Sabbath rest. (Psalm 132; Isaiah 66:22–23; Colossians 2:16–19; Hebrews 4:1–13)

What is something you look forward to about the new creation?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Teach me to seek you, and as I seek you, show yourself to me; for I cannot seek you unless you show me how, and I will never find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you by desiring you, and desire you by seeking you; let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen.

How do you keep the Sabbath?

Day 295

01 We begin together:

My help comes from the LORD, who has made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 58:13–14

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do you keep the Sabbath?

I cease from all unnecessary work; rest physically, mentally, and spiritually; and join with my family and church in worship, fellowship, and works of love. (Psalm 92; Isaiah 58:13–14; Matthew 12:12; Colossians 2:16–23)

Which area is easier for you to rest: physically, mentally, or spiritually? Which is harder? What does Sabbath look like as a household?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Most merciful Father, we humbly thank you for all your gifts so freely bestowed upon us: for life and health and safety, for strength to work and leisure to rest, for all that is beautiful in creation and in human life; but above all we thank you for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does this commandment teach you about work?

01 We begin together:

My help comes from the LORD, who has made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23–24

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does this commandment teach you about work?

My work is a gift of God that can grant me provision and satisfaction, and serve the common good, but it neither defines my life nor rules over it. I am thereby freed from resentment and sloth to work diligently and with joy for God's glory. (Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:9–11; Psalm 128; Proverbs 6:6–11; 12:11–14; 16:3; Ephesians 4:28; Colossians 3:23–24)

What does work look like for you each week?

How can you remember that your work is a way to serve Christ?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give us all a right satisfaction in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Why does the Church worship on the first day of the week rather than the seventh?

Day 297

01 We begin together:

My help comes from the LORD, who has made heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

Luke 24:1-7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does the Church worship on the first day of the week rather than the seventh?

The earliest Christians came to observe Sunday as "the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10) for their primary day of worship in remembrance of Jesus' resurrection on the first day of the week. (Luke 24:1-7; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Didache 14.1; Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Magnesians 9)

*How does your family celebrate the Lord's Day?
What is a role each of you can have in celebrating the Lord's Day?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity; Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does the Sabbath teach you about time?

01 We begin together:

My help comes from the LORD, who has made heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Psalms 92:1–4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the Sabbath teach you about time?

Through an ordered life of weekly worship and rest throughout the Christian year, and by a regular pattern of daily prayer, I learn that time belongs to God and is ordered by him. (Genesis 1:14–15; Leviticus 23; Psalms 92:1–4; 119:164; Acts 3:1; Hebrews 10:25)

In what ways has God ordered time and the passing of time? What season of the Christian year is it right now? What does this season signify?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truthfulness our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in your good time we may come to think your own thought after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

How does keeping the Sabbath help you to grow in Christ?

01 We begin together:

My help comes from the LORD, who has made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:19–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does keeping the Sabbath help you to grow in Christ?

As I keep a weekly day of rest and worship, my faith in God my Creator is strengthened, my hope in God my Provider is renewed, and my love for God my Redeemer is deepened. (Exodus 16:1–30; Psalm 127:1–2; Hebrews 10:19–25)

What specific Sabbath practice do you want to begin or continue?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant, O Lord, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your providence, that your Church may joyfully serve you in quiet confidence and godly peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the fifth commandment?

Day 300

01 We begin together:

My help comes from the LORD, who has made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the fifth commandment?

The fifth commandment is “Honor your father and your mother.” (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16)

What does it look like to honor, love, and respect someone?

What makes it hard to honor your mother and father?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, give us the increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you have promised, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does it mean to honor your father and mother?

01 We begin together:

My help comes from the LORD, who has made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Colossians 3:20–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean to honor your father and mother?

I should love, serve, respect, and care for my parents all their lives, and should obey them in all things that are reasonable and conform to God's Law. (Genesis 45:7–13; Proverbs 6:20–22; 20:20; 23:22; Ephesians 6:1–3; Colossians 3:20)

Is there a time of life that's harder to honor your parents?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you set the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and true godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy matrimony, have been made one flesh; turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be joined to one another with bonds of loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How should parents treat their children?

01 We begin together:

The LORD himself is your keeper; the LORD is your defense upon your right hand.
Psalm 121:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
Deuteronomy 6:4–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should parents treat their children?

Earthly fathers and mothers should represent to their children the loving care of our heavenly Father by nurturing and protecting them, teaching and modeling to them the Christian faith and life, guiding and assisting them in education, and encouraging them in their lives and vocations. (Genesis 48:8–16; Deuteronomy 6:4–7; Proverbs 19:18; 22:6; Matthew 3:13–17; Ephesians 6:4)

How can parents, grandparents, and mentors help children grow up to know the Lord?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom so to train them, that they may love all that is true, and pure, and lovely, and of good report, following the example of their Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

How did Jesus keep the fifth commandment?

01 We begin together:

The LORD himself is your keeper; the LORD is your defense upon your right hand.

Psalm 121:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.
John 19:25–27

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did Jesus keep the fifth commandment?

As a child, Jesus obeyed Joseph and Mary; on the Cross, he provided for his mother by entrusting her to his disciple's care; in his life, he obeyed the lawful requirements of the civil and religious authorities; and in all things he sought to do his Father's will. (Luke 2:39–52; John 10:22–39; 19:25–27)

How does the example of Jesus' relationship with his parents encourage you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious God and most merciful Father, you have granted us the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word: Assist us with your Spirit, that the same Word may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, to build us up and edify us into the perfect dwelling place of your Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues; grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

How else do you love God in light of the fifth commandment?

Day 304

01 We begin together:

The LORD himself is your keeper; the LORD is your defense upon your right hand.

Psalm 121:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Romans 13:5–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How else do you love God in light of the fifth commandment?

I also keep the fifth commandment by showing respect for teachers and elders; by obeying, as far as is lawful, those who hold authority in the Church, my employment, and civil government; and by conducting myself in all things with reverent humility before God and my neighbor. (Exodus 22:28; Matthew 22:15–22; Romans 13:1–7; 1 Timothy 2:1–2; 5:1–4; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 2:13–15; Articles of Religion, 37)

In what ways can Christians set an example for respecting authority?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served, but to serve: We ask you to bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the sake of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What blessings result from obeying the fifth commandment?

01 We begin together:

The LORD himself is your keeper; the LORD is your defense upon your right hand.
Psalm 121:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What blessings result from obeying the fifth commandment?

Submission to God's appointed earthly authorities helps me to resist pride and grow in humility, and promotes the justice and peace (*shalom*) of society in which human life flourishes. (Exodus 20:12; 1 Chronicles 29:23; Proverbs 10:17; Romans 13:1-4; Hebrews 13:17)

How have you seen pride hurt others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, send down on those who hold public office the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the wellbeing of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Does earthly authority have limits?

01 We begin together:

The LORD himself is your keeper; the LORD is your defense upon your right hand.

Psalm 121:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Daniel 3:16–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Does earthly authority have limits?

Yes. All authority comes from God, the King of kings, who expects me to love, honor, and obey him above all earthly authorities whenever they command me to sin. (Exodus 1:15–21; Daniel 3:4–6, 16–18; Matthew 23:1–4; Acts 5:27–29; Revelation 18:1–4)

What would you do if someone in authority asked you to do the wrong thing?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son among us to proclaim the kingdom of God in cities, towns, villages, and lonely places. Behold and visit, we pray, our community. Renew the bonds of charity that uphold our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Deliver us from poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with mercy. And at the last, bring us to your Holy City, the new Jerusalem, where we shall know perfect unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is the sixth commandment?

01 We begin together:

The LORD himself is your keeper; the LORD is your defense upon your right hand.
Psalm 121:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall not murder.
Exodus 20:13

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Romans 13:9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the sixth commandment?

The sixth commandment is "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17)

Why might God be concerned about murder?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is murder?

01 We begin together:

The LORD himself is your keeper; the LORD is your defense upon your right hand.

Psalm 121:5

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground."

Genesis 4:8–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is murder?

Murder is the willful and unjust taking of human life. (Genesis 4:1–10; Deuteronomy 19:4–13; Acts 7:54–8:3)

*Why do you think Cain killed Abel?
How should you respond when you
feel overwhelmingly jealous?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace to keep your commandments, that we may please you in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why does God prohibit murder?

Day 309

01 We begin together:

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 124:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:19–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does God prohibit murder?

Because every human being is made in God's image, all human life is sacred, from conception to natural death. Therefore, I may not take the life of others unjustly. (Genesis 9:6; Deuteronomy 19:4–13; Psalm 94:1–7; Isaiah 46:3–4; Romans 12:19–21)

What would the world look like if people repaid evil with good?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What other actions are considered murder?

Day 310

01 We begin together:

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 139:15–16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What other actions are considered murder?

Genocide, infanticide, abortion, suicide, and euthanasia are all forms of murder. Sins of murderous intent include physical and emotional abuse, abandonment, willful negligence, and wanton recklessness. (Exodus 1:15–22; 21:28–30; 2 Kings 17:16–18; Psalm 139:13–16; Amos 1:13–15; Acts 9:1–2)

What is the importance of knowing that God formed us in the womb?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

How did Jesus extend the law against murder?

01 We begin together:

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 124:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
1 John 3:13–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did Jesus extend the law against murder?

Jesus taught that this commandment also forbids the vice of ungodly anger. A murderous heart can lead to hatred, threatening words, violent acts, and murder itself, and is counter to God's life-affirming love. (Leviticus 19:17–18; Matthew 5:21–22, 43–45; 15:18–20; 1 John 3:15)

How is hate like murder?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Is anger always sinful?

Day 312

01 We begin together:

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

James 1:19–20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Is anger always sinful?

While godly anger is a just response to wickedness and injustice, we are more often led into ungodly anger by fear, pride, and revenge. We should therefore be slow to anger and quick to forgive. (Psalm 103:8–9; Proverbs 15:18; 16:32; 19:11; Micah 7:18; John 2:13–17; Ephesians 4:26–27, 31–32; James 1:19–20)

How does listening well to others help your relationships?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Is it always wrong to harm or kill another?

01 We begin together:

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 124:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
Romans 12:17–19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Is it always wrong to harm or kill another?

There are circumstances in which justice, the protection of the weak and defenseless, and the preservation of life may require acts of violence. It is the particular task of government to uphold these principles in society. However, our Lord calls us to show mercy and to return evil with good. (Numbers 35:9–34; Matthew 5:43–45; 13:1–4; Articles of Religion 37)

Why can it be hard to show mercy?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you created us in your own image: Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and help us to use our freedom rightly in the establishment of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How should Christians understand the value of life?

01 We begin together:

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Matthew 6:26

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should Christians understand the value of life?

All life belongs to God. Human life is especially sacred because we are created in God's image, and because Jesus came to give us new and abundant life in him. Christians, therefore, should act with reverence toward all living things, and with special regard for the sanctity of human life. (Genesis 1:26–27; 2:5–8; Psalm 104:24–30; John 10:10; Acts 17:24–29; Colossians 1:15–20)

Who is in your household (family members, close friends, pets)?

How can you respect the life around you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Set us free, loving Father, from the bondage of our sins, and in your goodness and mercy give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How did Christ cause life to flourish?

01 We begin together:

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 124:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:17–19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did Christ cause life to flourish?

Jesus sought the well-being of all who came to him: he healed the sick, fed the hungry, cast out demons, raised the dead, preached good news, forgave his enemies, and offered his life to redeem ours. (Isaiah 53:4–5; Matthew 4:13–17; Luke 7:20–22; 23:32–34; Acts 10:34–42)

How can you share good news and love your neighbors like Jesus today?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How else can you obey this commandment?

01 We begin together:

Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice.

Psalm 126:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

James 1:27

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How else can you obey this commandment?

As a witness to the Gospel and a follower of Christ, I can also keep this commandment by forgiving those who wrong me, patiently refraining from ungodly anger and hateful words; defending the unborn, vulnerable, and oppressed; rescuing those who harm themselves; and seeking the well-being of all. (Psalm 37:5–11; Zechariah 7:8–14; Matthew 5:38–48; Ephesians 4:25–5:2)

*How do you forgive people?
What can make forgiveness difficult?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; grant that we, who for our evil deeds deserve to be punished, by the might of your grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the seventh commandment?

01 We begin together:

Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice.

Psalms 126:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself.

Proverbs 6:32

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the seventh commandment?

The seventh commandment is "You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; see also Hebrews 13:4)

*What is it like to make a senseless decision?
How can you avoid making bad decisions?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your grace that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What is adultery?

Day 318

01 We begin together:

Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice.

Psalm 126:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

Romans 7:2–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is adultery?

Adultery is any sexual intimacy between persons not married to each other, at least one of whom is married to another. (Leviticus 20:10)

Why is faithfulness in any kind of relationship (marriage, friendship, etc.) important?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, as we live among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What did Jesus teach about adultery?

01 We begin together:

Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice.

Psalm 126:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:27–28

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What did Jesus teach about adultery?

Jesus taught that even to look at another person with lust violates this commandment. Adultery begins with a lustful heart, but the Lord calls us to be chaste. (Matthew 5:27–28)

Which is a bigger problem: bad habits or bad desires? Why?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord, you never fail to support and govern those whom you bring up in your steadfast love and fear: Keep us, we pray, under your continual protection and providence, and give us a perpetual fear and love of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What does it mean for you to be chaste?

01 We begin together:

Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice.

Psalm 126:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean for you to be chaste?

Whether I am married or single, it means I will love and honor others as image bearers of God, not as objects of lust and sexual gratification, and I will refrain from all sexual acts outside of marriage. (Genesis 39:6b–12; Proverbs 6:25–28; Matthew 5:29–30; Philipians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7)

*When can it be difficult to practice self-control?
How do you think God helps us practice self-control?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious and holy Father, please give me intellect to understand you, reason to discern you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you, a heart to meditate upon you, ears to hear you, eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you, a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you, and perseverance to look for you. Grant me a perfect end, your holy presence, a blessed resurrection, and life everlasting. Amen.

How do you benefit from chastity?

01 We begin together:

Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice.

Psalms 126:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.

Proverbs 11:5–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How do you benefit from chastity?

Chastity establishes wise and godly boundaries that enable me to give freely of myself in friendship, avoid difficulty in marriage, and experience the freedom of integrity before God. (Genesis 39:19–23; Proverbs 11:5–6; Matthew 5:8; 1 Corinthians 7:25–40)

What makes someone a good friend?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is marriage?

Day 322

01 We begin together:

Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice.

Psalm 126:3

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:4–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is marriage?

Marriage is the exclusive, lifelong, covenantal union of love between one man and one woman, and a reflection of the faithful love that unites God and his people. Marriage is therefore holy and should "be held in honor among all." (Hebrews 13:4; see also Genesis 2:18–24; Matthew 19:4–6; Ephesians 5:21–33; see days 146–48)

Who are married people whom you look up to?

What do you admire about their marriage?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Why did God ordain marriage?

Day 323

01 We begin together:

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Psalm 134:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:27–28

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why did God ordain marriage?

God ordained marriage for the procreation of children to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; for a remedy against sin and to avoid sexual immorality; for mutual friendship, help, and comfort, both in prosperity and in adversity; and for the benefit of family, church, and society. (Genesis 1:28; 2:18; Deuteronomy 6:4–9; 24:5; Psalm 127:3–5; Proverbs 31:10–12; 1 Corinthians 7:2–5; "Holy Matrimony," Book of Common Prayer 2019)

What are some of God's purposes for marriage that stand out to you or surprise you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Why does God forbid adultery?

Day 324

01 We begin together:

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Psalm 134:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. Malachi 2:14–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does God forbid adultery?

Adultery is a sin against one's spouse or spouse-to-be; against the sexual partners with whom it is committed; against their children, family, and friends; against human society by undermining the institution of marriage; and against God, in whose Name marriage vows are made. (2 Samuel 11:2–12:14; Proverbs 5; Malachi 2:13–16)

How can one action hurt a lot of people? How can a faithful marriage be a great help to others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, we beseech you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the Cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What else did Jesus teach concerning this commandment?

01 We begin together:

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Psalm 134:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:3–6

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What else did Jesus teach concerning this commandment?

Jesus also taught that divorce violates God's intention for marriage. (Matthew 19:1–9; Mark 10:1–12)

How does divorce impact Church and society?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Is divorce ever permitted?

Day 326

01 We begin together:

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Psalm 134:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

Matthew 19:7–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Is divorce ever permitted?

The New Testament permits divorce in some cases; however, out of love for his people, God hates divorce because it severs what he has joined, causes immeasurable pain, and destroys family life. (Matthew 5:31–32; 19:7–9; 1 Corinthians 7:10–16)

Why are good relationships important to God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy thought can drag down; an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose can tempt aside. Bestow upon me understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that finally may embrace you. Amen.

How should a single person keep the seventh commandment?

01 We begin together:

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Psalm 134:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 1 Corinthians 7:6–9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How should a single person keep the seventh commandment?

Those who are single should honor as holy their own bodies and those of others by refraining from sexual acts, lewd speech, or lustful thoughts. They should nurture chaste and loyal friendships, and uphold the common life of their families, fellowships, and churches. (1 Corinthians 6:12–20; 7:6–9)

How can you nurture loyal friendships?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Are some called to lifelong celibacy?

01 We begin together:

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Psalm 134:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. Deuteronomy 10:20

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Are some called to lifelong celibacy?

Yes. God calls some to an unmarried life of faithfulness and chastity. This calling enables them to devote their lives to God's service without the responsibilities of marriage and family. (Matthew 19:10–12; 1 Corinthians 7:32–35)

What are some ways an unmarried person can devote their life to God's service that a married person could not?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Gracious God and most merciful Father, you have granted us the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word: Assist us with your Spirit, that the same Word may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, to build us up and edify us into the perfect dwelling place of your Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues; grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

How else is the seventh commandment broken?

01 We begin together:

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Psalm 134:1

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the LORD my strength, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight, My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, who subdues the peoples under me. O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, or the son of man, that you so regard him? Man is like a thing of nought; his time passes away like a shadow. Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and consume them. Amen.

Benedictus Dominus (Psalm 144)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:27–28

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How else is the seventh commandment broken?

Violations of this law include sexual harassment and abuse, rape, incest, pedophilia, bestiality, same-sex sexual acts, prostitution, pornography, and any other form of lust in thought, word, or deed. (Leviticus 18:6–30; Matthew 5:27–28; Romans 1:24–28)

Why do you think God cares just as much about what happens in our hearts and minds as about what we do?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the eighth commandment?

01 We begin together:

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136:26

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall not steal.
Deuteronomy 5:19

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the eighth commandment?

You shall not steal. (Deuteronomy 5:19)

How would you define the verb "to steal"?
How do you respond when someone steals from you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

01 We begin together:

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 136:26

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
Luke 19:7–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is stealing?

Stealing is the unauthorized and willful taking of what rightly belongs to another. (Joshua 7:10–26; Proverbs 1:10–19; Luke 19:1–10; Acts 5:1–11)

*Do you think stealing is always tangible?
What about Zacchaeus's response to Jesus stands out to you?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why does God forbid stealing?

Day 332

01 We begin together:

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 136:26

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
Romans 13:9

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does God forbid stealing?

God is Creator and Lord of this world, and all things come from him. Therefore, I must never take what God has not entrusted to me. (Exodus 23:19a; Leviticus 19:10–11a, 23–25; 1 Chronicles 29:14; Psalms 24:1–2; 50:7–12; Romans 13:9; Ephesians 4:28)

*How does viewing everything as a gift from God change how you treat your possessions?
How does it affect how you treat others's possessions?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, you know that we are set in the midst of many grave dangers, and because of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant that your strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry us through every temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

How did God teach Israel to respect the property of others?

01 We begin together:

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136:26

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

Psalm 37:22–23

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How did God teach Israel to respect the property of others?

God required restitution when property was stolen or destroyed; and he forbade unjust loans and oppression of the poor. (Exodus 21:33–22:15; Leviticus 25:35–37; Psalm 37:21–22)

What does it look like to repair a relationship after something has been stolen from you?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty Father, who gave your only Son to die for our sins and to rise for our justification: Give us grace so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve you in purity of life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What things besides property can you steal?

Day 334

01 We begin together:

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136:26

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights?

Micah 6:11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What things besides property can you steal?

I can steal or defraud others of wages, identity, credit, or intellectual property; cheat in school or on my taxes; or fail to pay my debts. I must repay and, to the best of my ability, restore what I have stolen. (Exodus 23:8; Deuteronomy 24:10–15, 17–22; Proverbs 20:23; Jeremiah 22:13; Micah 6:11; James 5:4)

After reading this list, is there anything that comes to mind that you need to make right with God and your neighbor? How can you work on making things right?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What did Jesus teach about this commandment?

01 We begin together:

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalms 136:26

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What did Jesus teach about this commandment?

Jesus taught that I cannot serve God and be a slave to greed. I should seek first his will and rule, and trust that he will provide for my needs. (Matthew 6:19–24; Luke 12:13–34)

*What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "treasures in heaven?"
How has Jesus made a way for you to be healed from greed?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and, that we may receive what we ask, teach us by your Holy Spirit to ask only those things that are pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the same Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

How does this commandment teach you to view your possessions?

Day 336

01 We begin together:

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136:26

02 We glorify God together:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Benedictus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

Proverbs 16:8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does this commandment teach you to view your possessions?

God desires that I be content, responsible, and generous with what he has given me. Everything I own I hold in trust as God's steward, to cultivate and use for his glory and my neighbor's good. (Genesis 1:28–31; Leviticus 25; Psalm 37:16; Proverbs 16:8; Luke 12:32–34; 1 Timothy 6:6–10; Hebrews 13:5; Articles of Religion, 38)

Who is a generous person whom you know? How do they use their possessions to bless others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Most merciful Father, we humbly thank you for all your gifts so freely bestowed upon us: for life and health and safety, for strength to work and leisure to rest, for all that is beautiful in creation and in human life; but above all we thank you for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

As God's steward, how are you commanded to use your possessions?

Day 337

01 We begin together:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

Psalm 139:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land."

Deuteronomy 15:11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

As God's steward, how are you commanded to use your possessions?

As I am able, I should earn my own living, care for my dependents, and give to the poor. I should use all my possessions to the glory of God and the good of creation. (Deuteronomy 15:11; Psalm 41:1; Proverbs 30:8–9; Isaiah 58:6–7; Matthew 25:14–30; Luke 14:13; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–12; 1 Timothy 6:17–19)

What has God given you to bless others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served, but to serve: We ask you to bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the sake of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is an appropriate standard of giving for you as a Christian?

Day 338

01 We begin together:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

Psalm 139:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is an appropriate standard of giving for you as a Christian?

A “tithe,” which is 10 percent of my income, is the minimum standard of giving for the work of God’s Church and the spread of his kingdom; yet I should generously give of all that God has entrusted to me. (Genesis 14:17–20; Leviticus 27:30–33; Deuteronomy 14:22–29; Malachi 3:6–12; Matthew 23:23; Luke 21:1–4; 2 Corinthians 9:6–7)

What are some ways you and your household can give generously or creatively?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Jesus, God the Son, in your incarnation you manifested your heart of mission in the world: Help me so to know and practice your presence, that I may always live for your glory and the spread of your Kingdom; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What is the ninth commandment?

01 We begin together:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

Psalm 139:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exodus 20:16

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment is “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20)

*How do you respond when you have something false said about you?
Why do you think people want to say untruthful things about their neighbor?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is bearing false witness against your neighbor?

Day 340

01 We begin together:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
Psalm 139:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.
Proverbs 12:17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is bearing false witness against your neighbor?

It is to willfully communicate a falsehood about my neighbor, either in legal or in other matters, in order to misrepresent them. (Deuteronomy 19:16–19; Psalm 109; Proverbs 12:17; Matthew 26:57–61)

When might you be tempted to say something false about someone else?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who can do no good thing apart from you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why does God forbid such false witness?

01 We begin together:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

Psalm 139:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.

Proverbs 25:18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does God forbid such false witness?

Because it defames and wounds my neighbor, erodes my love of truth, disobeys my Lord Jesus, and aligns me with Satan, the father of lies. (Psalm 52:1–5; Proverbs 25:18; Jeremiah 9:3–9; John 8:42–47)

*How can saying something false about someone else harm them?
What truth does God speak about you that you can remember every day?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

How is false witness given in public life?

01 We begin together:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

Psalm 139:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit.

Exodus 23:1–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How is false witness given in public life?

Any willful misrepresentation of the truth in legal, civic, or business affairs bears false witness, rebels against God's will, and subverts God's justice. (Exodus 23:1–3; Leviticus 6:1–7; Proverbs 11:1; 24:23–26, 28–29; Acts 6:8–15)

What should a Christian do if they hear someone say something false about another person?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you created us in your own image: Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and help us to use our freedom rightly in the establishment of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How is false witness given in respect to the teaching of the Church?

Day 343

01 We begin together:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
Psalm 139:1

02 We glorify God together:

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. 2 Peter 2:1–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How is false witness given in respect to the teaching of the Church?

All false or misleading teaching concerning the Christian faith bears false witness against the truth of God's Word and abuses the authority given by Christ to his Body. (Deuteronomy 13; Matthew 24:3–14; 2 Peter 2:1–3; 1 John 2:18–27)

*How can we know when teachings about the Christian faith are true?
How can we know when they are false?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What other acts are forbidden by this commandment?

01 We begin together:

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. Romans 16:17–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What other acts are forbidden by this commandment?

This commandment forbids all lying, slander, or gossip; all manipulative, deceitful, or insulting speech; and testifying falsely about myself for personal gain. (Leviticus 19:15–17; Psalm 12:2–3; Proverbs 10:18; 11:12; 16:28; Matthew 5:21–22; Romans 16:17–18; 1 Peter 2:1)

How do we damage relationships when we are not careful about what we say? How can God bring healing through the way you speak about your neighbors?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

What sort of speech should you practice instead?

Day 345

01 We begin together:

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the LORD.

Zechariah 8:16–17

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What sort of speech should you practice instead?

I should speak at all times with love, wisdom, and truth, so that my words may honor God, and comfort and encourage my neighbor. (Psalm 32:2; Proverbs 12:17–20; 14:25; 15:1–4; Zechariah 8:16–17; Matthew 5:33–37; Ephesians 4:25)

What does it do to our reputation when we speak with love, wisdom, and truth? How does speaking with love, wisdom, and truth positively impact those around us?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When is it right to speak of your neighbor's sins?

01 We begin together:

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

When is it right to speak of your neighbor's sins?

I am forbidden to gossip or slander, but I must speak the truth in love, reporting crime, speaking against injustice, and advocating for the helpless. (Leviticus 19:17–18; Proverbs 28:23; 31:8–9; Matthew 18:15–17; Ephesians 4:15–16; James 5:19–20)

What are some ways we can love our neighbors better this week?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truth our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in time we may come to think your own thoughts after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Must you always speak the whole truth?

01 We begin together:

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

Proverbs 11:13

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Must you always speak the whole truth?

To keep a confidence or to protect the innocent, I may at times need to withhold the whole truth; and I should always exercise discretion, that my candor may not needlessly cause harm. (Exodus 1:15–21; Joshua 2:1–14; Proverbs 11:13)

What are some examples of information we should keep quiet about?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

How does keeping this commandment help you to become like Christ?

Day 348

01 We begin together:

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:1-4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does keeping this commandment help you to become like Christ?

By practicing love and truthfulness in speech, I grow in self-restraint, kindness, and honesty, so that I may know God with a mind free of deception, praise him with an undefiled tongue, and more truly love my neighbor. (Proverbs 8:1-17; Matthew 15:10-20; Ephesians 5:1-4; James 3:1-12)

How does thankfulness affect your conversations with others?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

What is the tenth commandment?

01 We begin together:

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

1 Timothy 6:6–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is the tenth commandment?

The tenth commandment is “You shall not covet . . . anything that is your neighbor’s.” (Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21)

What does jealousy do to us?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, of your goodness, give me yourself, for you are enough for me. I can ask for nothing less that is completely to your honor, and if I do ask anything less, I shall always be in want. Only in you I have all. Amen.

What does it mean to covet?

Day 350

01 We begin together:

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

02 We glorify God together:

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

03 One of us reads aloud:

The Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you.

Joshua 7:10–12

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does it mean to covet?

Coveting is the disordered desire for what belongs to another or what I am unable to have by law, by gift, or by right. (Joshua 7:1, 10–26)

Have you ever wanted something that you could not have? How do you respond when this happens?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me only know your will. Amen.

What does the tenth commandment forbid you to covet?

Day 351

01 We begin together:

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 145:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

... if I have looked at the sun when it shone, or the moon moving in splendor, and my heart has been secretly enticed, and my mouth has kissed my hand, this also would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges, for I would have been false to God above.
Job 31:26–28

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What does the tenth commandment forbid you to covet?

It forbids me to covet my neighbor's property, possessions, relationships, or status, or anything else that is my neighbor's. (Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21; Job 31:7–12)

*Are there people you sometimes compare yourself to?
What can be dangerous about comparisons?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Why does God forbid coveting?

Day 352

01 We begin together:

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 145:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

James 4:2

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why does God forbid coveting?

God forbids coveting because it breeds enmity with my neighbor, makes me captive to ungodly desire, and leads me into further sins. (Deuteronomy 7:25; Proverbs 12:12; Ephesians 5:5)

Have you ever been sad or angry that someone else has something you cannot have?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Why do you covet?

Day 353

01 We begin together:

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 145:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.

Proverbs 14:30

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Why do you covet?

I covet because I do not trust God to provide what I need, and I do not remain content with what I have; rather, I persist in envy and desire. (Proverbs 23:17–18; Luke 12:13–21; Galatians 5:17–21)

How can we trust God to provide what we need?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, you called Matthew from collecting taxes to become your apostle and evangelist: Grant us the grace to forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, that we may follow you as he did and proclaim to the world around us the good news of your salvation; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

How can covetousness lead to other sins?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 145:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
James 1:14–15

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can covetousness lead to other sins?

Covetousness begins with discontent and, as it grows in the heart, can lead to sins such as idolatry, adultery, and theft. (2 Samuel 11; 1 Kings 21:1–19; James 1:14–15)

How can we respond when there's something we want but can't have?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: I hold up all my weakness to your strength, my failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the Cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived, without cowardice and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love. Amen.

What did Jesus teach about this commandment?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 145:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:19–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What did Jesus teach about this commandment?

Jesus taught us not to seek anxiously after possessions, but to put our trust in God; and he showed us how to live by taking the form of a servant, and loving and trusting his Father in all things. (Matthew 6:19–34; Acts 8:9–24; Philippians 2:3–11)

When can it be difficult to trust that God will give you what you need?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, as we live among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How can you keep this commandment?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 145:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

1 Timothy 6:6–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How can you keep this commandment?

I can keep this commandment by learning contentment: seeking first the kingdom of God, meditating on God's provision in creation and in my life, cultivating gratitude for what I have and simplicity in what I want, and practicing joyful generosity toward others. (Exodus 35:20–29; 36:2–5; Psalms 104; 145:15–21; Ecclesiastes 5:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6–15; 1 Timothy 6:6–10; Hebrews 13:5)

*What are you thankful for today?
What does expressing thankfulness
to God and others look like?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Most loving Father, you will us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on the One who cares for us. Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested unto us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Is it possible for you to keep these commandments?

01 We begin together:

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 145:8

02 We glorify God together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; For he that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Amen.

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

03 One of us reads aloud:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:8–10

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Is it possible for you to keep these commandments?

No. I fail to keep them perfectly, however hard I try. They show me my inability to obey God's Law and my need for God's grace in Christ Jesus. (1 Kings 8:46; Psalms 53:2–3; 130:3; Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:9–20; 1 John 1:8, 10)

*Have you ever learned something important through failure?
Why do you think God calls people to obey him, even when he knows that we can fail?*

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty Father, who gave your only Son to die for our sins and to rise for our justification: Give us grace so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve you in purity of life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Since you cannot perfectly keep God's Law, what has Jesus done on your behalf?

Day 358

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
Romans 8:1–4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Since you cannot perfectly keep God's Law, what has Jesus done on your behalf?

As the perfect human and unblemished Lamb of God, Jesus lived a wholly obedient and sinless life. He suffered death for my redemption upon the Cross, offering himself once for all as a "full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world." ("Holy Communion, Anglican Standard Text," Book of Common Prayer 2019; see also Isaiah 53:4–6; Mark 10:45; John 1:29; Romans 8:3–4; Colossians 2:13–15; Hebrews 10:10–14)

What is the most generous gift you have ever received? What is it like to receive Christ as a gift?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to die upon the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the devil and the power of death: Grant us grace to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

What do you receive through Christ's sacrifice?

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:18–21

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What do you receive through Christ's sacrifice?

I receive the unmerited gift of God's grace. If I confess my sins, God grants me forgiveness and pardon through Christ's blood shed for me. (Psalm 32:1–2; Isaiah 53:10–11; John 3:16–18; 2 Corinthians 5:19–21; Hebrews 9:11–15; 1 John 1:8–9; 2:1–2)

When have you received forgiveness from a friend, a parent, or a sibling? What is it like for you to receive God's forgiveness?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does God enable you to live in his forgiveness?

Day 360

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
Titus 3:3–7

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does God enable you to live in his forgiveness?

Through faith, repentance, and Baptism, I am made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an heir of the kingdom of heaven. Washed of sin and united to Christ, I am “justified,” being declared righteous by God, and I am given the grace to live continually in repentance and faith. (Psalm 130:4; John 15:26–16:1; Acts 22:16; Romans 5:12–21; Titus 3:3–8)

Which is harder: to ask forgiveness from a friend or from a family member? Why?

What is it like for you to ask forgiveness from God?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Does God's forgiveness excuse you from personal obedience?

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
Romans 6:1–4

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Does God's forgiveness excuse you from personal obedience?

No. God has reconciled me to himself and freed me from bondage to sin in order to conform me to the image of his Son. As I live each day in gratitude for God's forgiveness, I seek to turn from sin and follow Christ in loving obedience. (Romans 6:1–14; 2 Corinthians 5:14–15; 1 John 3:4–10)

When are you tempted to make excuses for not obeying God's commands?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Are you still affected by your sin, despite God's forgiveness?

Day 362

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.
1 Thessalonians 4:3–8

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

Are you still affected by your sin, despite God's forgiveness?

Yes. My sinful actions can harm my relationship with God, do lasting damage to others, and leave me conflicted within myself. I live in constant need of Christ's healing grace. (2 Samuel 12:1–23; Psalm 32:1–5; Matthew 15:18–20; Romans 7:15–25; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8)

Where do you need God's healing grace and forgiveness?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.

How does Jesus heal you?

Day 363

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:17–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does Jesus heal you?

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, as I continue in repentance and faith, Jesus mends my disordered soul from the effects of sin in my mind, will, and desires. (2 Chronicles 7:12–14; Psalms 25:4–11; 41:4; 103:1–5; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18)

What do you think it will be like when we are all made whole and holy?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life: Pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love by your Holy Spirit, that we may delight in the inheritance that is ours as your sons and daughters, and live to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is this healing called?

Day 364

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What is this healing called?

This healing is called “sanctification,” which means to be made whole and holy. By the work of the Holy Spirit, my mind, will, and desires are increasingly transformed and conformed to the character of Jesus Christ. (Proverbs 2; John 17:15–17; Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Ephesians 2:1–10; 3:14–21)

What effects of sin is the Holy Spirit helping you to overcome?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does the Church assist in your sanctification?

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11–12

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does the Church assist in your sanctification?

The Church's joyful worship, faithful teaching, grace-filled sacraments, Gospel-shaped calendar, compassionate ministry, loving discipline, and caring fellowship all assist my growth in Christ and are channels of God's abundant care for my soul. (Ephesians 4:1–16; Philippians 3:12–21)

What is your favorite part of belonging to a church?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, we beseech you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the Cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How does the Lord's Supper assist in your sanctification?

Day 366

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.
John 6:57–58

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

How does the Lord's Supper assist in your sanctification?

In the Lord's Supper or Holy Eucharist, I hear the Law read, receive God's good news of forgiveness, recall my baptismal promises, have my faith renewed, and receive the grace of the Body and Blood of Christ to continue following him in love and obedience. (John 6:53–58; 1 Corinthians 10:15–16)

Do you have any questions about the Lord's Supper? If so, what are they and who else can you talk to about these questions?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Guide and direct us, O Lord, always and everywhere with your holy light, that we may discern with clear vision your presence among us, and partake with worthy intention of your divine mysteries. We ask this for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

For what does sanctification prepare you?

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 3:1–3

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

For what does sanctification prepare you?

Sanctification enables me to serve and bear witness to Christ in this life, and prepares me for the glory of God in the world to come. There I will be completely freed from sin and conformed to the likeness of my Lord, whom I will see face-to-face. (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 13:9–13; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18; 1 John 3:1–3)

What is the first thing you think you'll say to Jesus when you see him face-to-face?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

What marks a life of sanctification?

01 We begin together:

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 150:6

02 We glorify God together:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

03 One of us reads aloud:

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

1 Corinthians 4:16–18

04 We respond to Scripture in conversation:

What marks a life of sanctification?

God calls me to a life marked by gratitude and joy. In gratitude for God's grace in Jesus, I die daily to the desires of my fallen nature. In the joy of knowing that I will become like Jesus, I live each day in service to him. (Luke 9:23–26; Romans 5:1–5; 2 Corinthians 4:5–18; 1 Thessalonians 1:6–10; Titus 2:11–14)

How can you remember the hope set before you as you grow in grace daily?

05 Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

06 We collect our prayers together:

Almighty God, you show those in error the light of your truth so that they may turn to the path of righteousness: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Endorsements

As a servant of the Gospel and minister in the Church, I have come to believe how much catechesis has been undervalued in the 21st-century western Church culture. We need robust thinking and resources. This *Catechism in Family Prayer* is another great addition to a growing body of catechetical materials for the Church. Many thanks to the team for all their hard work and labor of love. I highly commend this resource.

The Rt. Rev. Canon Alan Hawkins

ACNA Chief Operating Officer
The Diocese of Christ our Hope, ACNA

I am so glad to see the Rev. Aaron Buttery undertake this project. Giving young people a winsome and thorough understanding of faith is a core function of the Church. Melding *To Be a Christian* and The 2019 Book of Common Prayer in a relational setting has huge promise.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Todd Hunter

The Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others, ACNA

Families cannot start too early to raise up children in the "training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, NIV). This is a simple and powerful tool for doing just that. I highly recommend it!

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Steven Tighe

The Diocese of the Southwest, ACNA

In the recent past, the Church moved away from an understanding of education as the transmission of content and values, to a more experience-based approach. The results have not been good: Christians are less formed than ever. We forgot that content is necessary to process experience. *To Be a Christian*, our Catechism, is a step in the right direction. *Catechism in Family Prayer* moves us even further, making it easier for parents to educate their children in the faith. My one regret? This fine resource was not available to us when our children were still at home.

The Rt. Rev. Chip Edgar

The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina, ACNA

We live in a world where so much competes to define who we are. This melding of the timeless faith in the catechism with the ancient rhythms of worship roots us deeper in the wonder of who God is and the grace of our rescue and the calling we have as the Kingdom of God. *Catechism in Family Prayer* can be a powerful voice shaping our understanding of our true identity in Christ.

The Rt. Rev. Ken Ross

The Diocese of the Rocky Mountains, ACNA

I am very grateful for this remarkable resource. As we live in the cacophony of competing voices in the culture, this helps center the next generation in the truth of God's word as they worship with their families.

The Rt. Rev. Neil Lebhar

The Gulf Atlantic Diocese, ACNA

Acknowledgments

Catechism in Family Prayer began from a desire to see families, in all of their complexity and beauty, discover the truth of what it means to be Christian together. As Anglicans, it seemed that the best way to do this is through common prayer. Our hope is that whole families and households will pray and learn together, because each household remains the most influential place for spiritual formation. We need catechesis and prayer in our homes.

I began this project while leading a confirmation process in 2019. Since then, an incredible team of writers, organizers, and editors contributed to *Catechism in Family Prayer*. In particular, I am thankful to the Student Leadership Network team who did the vast majority of this work: Julie Moser, Anna Burden, Dave Wright, Eric Overholt, Summer Fariñas, Israel Kolade, Craig Vickerman, and Hunter Myers. Additional support and contributions came from the Rev. Meg Greto and the Family Leadership Network. Thank you kindly to Stephen Smith's careful manuscript review. Thank you also to the Rev. Dr. Jack Gabig of the Catechism Task Force for his reviews and affirmation. The Rev. Dr. Jessica Jones, former Provincial Canon for the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, was a consistent encourager and help in this project. Finally, thank you to the team at Wizardly for making this book beautifully designed with households in mind.

The Rev. Canon Aaron Buttery

Provincial Canon for the
Next Generation Leadership Initiative



NEXT GENERATION
LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE