

WOW PRAYER
Lord Jesus, Teach Us to Pray
September 15, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are all called to go and share Christ's love with the world.

We gather to grow deeper in faith.

We learn to recognize grace everywhere, in every life.

We wait for God's saving love.

We remember our purpose through the means of grace.

God's love is remaking the world! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

The Doxology

UMH#95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above the Heavenly host

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:12-13

Luke 18:1

Luke 23:39

Jesus Chooses the Twelve Apostles

¹² Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles.

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

. Jesus taught his disciples to pray by teaching them the Lord's prayer, Jesus tells them and to have faith, persevere, and pray unceasingly. Even more, he taught them unabashedly by example. In the Gospels, we have at least ten prayers of Jesus recorded. some are lengthy; some are very short. There are many more references that tell us Jesus prayed. He prayed before meals, when crowds gathered, when swamped, early in the morning, and sometimes all night.

The gospel writers record that Jesus prayed before and after the significant events of his ministry: his baptism, calling his disciples, walking on water, raising Lazarus, the Transfiguration, his crucifixion. There were requests for himself, but many more for others. He prayed on mountain tops, in the wilderness, the streets, the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, on the cross, and the road to Emmaus.

We, like the apostles, can listen and watch as Jesus models for us how, when, what, and where to pray. We can overhear his stories and teachings on prayer. Only ask, "Lord, teach us, teach me, to pray."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace who renews your people every day in every breath,
help us find the balance in life that keeps us aligned with your will.
Help us not neglect rest for the sake of work,
or neglect feeding our souls for the sake of feeding our bodies,
Open our eyes and hearts to see the answer to our request,
"Lord Jesus, teach us how to pray." **Amen.**

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

The saying is sure: If we confess our sins,
God is merciful and just and forgives us our sins,
and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

In Christ, our rock, and our redeemer, we pray.

All: Glory to God! Amen!

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We go with hope, O God, with an intentional faith:
By studying the scriptures, constantly praying,
and joining holy conversations that reflect your grace and Gospel.
Wherever we encounter those made in your image, we
bring the covenant hope that is written on our hearts.
**As we grow deeper in faith and live well for others,
we pray for your church and the world you so love.**

(personal prayers of intercession may be offered)

For a new passion to search scripture for the words of life
that mend our connection and our world.

God, hear our prayer.

(personal prayers of intercession may be offered)

With all who are called to follow you and lead others to faithful life in Jesus Christ.

God, hear our prayer.

(personal prayers of intercession may be offered)

With your persistent friends who are called to serve and witness
through deeds and words that heal and free.

God, hear our prayer.

(personal prayers of intercession may be offered)

Hear our prayer, O God, and help us reflect your life, hope, and salvation –
amplifying your call for love and justice in a distracted and all too indifferent world. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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, forever. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
UMN #526

1. *What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.*

2. *Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

3. *Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.*