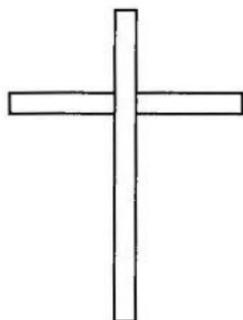


Prayer Book



Arranged and translated by
Josef Imberg

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First edition 1967/1979
New, revised edition 2001
© Judith Imberg
Printed in Sweden, Centraltryckeriet AB, Borås

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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, for ever and ever. Amen

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.
The Lord make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

MORNING PRAYER EVERY DAY

I give thanks unto you, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all danger and harm. I also beseech you to preserve and keep me this day from all sin and evil, that in all my thoughts, words and deeds I may serve and please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all that is mine. Let your holy angels have charge concerning me, that the wicked one have no power over me. Amen

EVENING PRAYER EVERY DAY

I give thanks to you, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected me. I beseech you to forgive me all my sins and the wrong which I have done, and by your great mercy defend me from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all that is mine. Let your holy angels have charge concerning me, that the wicked one have no power over me. Amen

SUNDAY MORNING

Almighty Father, come to visit us today. Fill our hearts with your heavenly power. Say to each one of us: I am your Salvation. Speak to us in such a way that we may hear. Show unto us, O Lord, that you are everything to us. Help all your servants who are going to preach your Word today and together with your congregation pray in your holy Temple. Open the hearts of their listeners so as to make them receive and serve you. Hear us, Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, your only begotten Son. Amen

SUNDAY EVENING

Eternal God, Heavenly Father, take care of all your children who are spread all over the world. You have promised to gather them from all parts of the world. You know each one of them. Bless them all. Refresh their spirits with the living water of the Gospel. Save all your children out of distress and trouble. In prayer we are united with them all, wherever they stay. Together with them we cry to you for all your Christian Church, and for all congregations. Increase in all your children faith, love, and hope. And finally, let us all meet in our eternal home. Amen

MONDAY MORNING

Holy God, Heavenly Father, you prepare and guide everything. Guide all my deeds through your Holy Spirit, so as to make everything work for your glory. Make me capable of doing my work. Advise me how to use properly the gifts you have put in my trust. And since I know, neither to begin, nor to continue or finish my work, make the beginning for me, dear God, guide the progress, bless the outcome, and give me a happy end, because you keep everything in your hands. You guardian of Israel, watch over me and my people, now and evermore. Amen

MONDAY EVENING

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, by your great mercy you have brought to light my great sins. I pray you humbly: continue with your great mercy upon me. Give me a true repentance which is according to your will. Have mercy upon me for the sake of your dear Son. Throw all my transgressions into the depth of the sea, so that you will no more remember them according to your severe judgment. Help me to fear strongly those enemies. But also give me grace to live continuously according to your will. Comfort my soul, O Lord, through your great mercy, and give me strength. Hear me, poor sinner, for Jesus' sake. Amen

TUESDAY MORNING

Blessed and praised be your name, O God of our fathers, because you have once more scattered the shadows of the night and made us wake up to see the clear light of the day. We lift up our hearts to you. Look down in grace upon us, sinners. Receive in mercy our prayers, you who are our refuge from generation to generation. Let the true sun of your righteousness spread its light into our hearts, enlighten our understanding, and purify our minds. Give us power to conduct ourselves becomingly, as in the day, according to your commandments, until we reach the eternal life and there rejoice in your Light. Because you are the fountain of Life, and in your light do we see light. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING

We turn to you, O Lord. Be our helper and guardian. Save those who are in distress. Have mercy upon those who are oppressed. Raise those who have fallen. Make those repent who have gone astray. Make yourself known to those who cry to you. Satisfy those who are hungry. Give freedom to those who are imprisoned. Heal those who are wounded. Strengthen those who are discouraged. Let all people see that you are the only God, and Jesus Christ your Servant, and that we are your people and the sheep of your fold.

We pray you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Dear Father in Heaven. You extend your mercy unto all people in the whole world. Think of your children who pray together with us and with whom we are united in the unity of the Spirit. All who have shown love to us we commend to your fatherly care. Everybody we love we put in your arms. Keep and protect those whom we are now commending to you. Relieve them in every trouble and adversity, so that they may be saved, both with regard to their bodies and souls, and praise your holy and glorious name.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Almighty God, we commend to your mercy all people who are sick, all who are distressed, all who are poor, and all people who suffer in other ways. Be their comfort and consolation. Do not allow their suffering to pass what they can endure. Look in mercy upon those who are now going through their last hours of life. Help them quietly to surrender their souls into your hands. Receive them, and lead them to where there is no death, nor any more suffering. Prepare us all in such a way, that when suffering comes, or death is at hand, we may follow your call without fear, having full trust in you. Your name be praised and glorified, now and evermore. Amen

THURSDAY MORNING

Holy God, Heavenly Father, you have chased away the night and now allow us to lift up our hands to you. We invoke your mercy. Let the sun of your righteousness shine into our hearts. Make us the children of light and heirs of your eternal gifts. Remember in mercy your people, and all our brethren, wherever they are in your great Kingdom, needing your grace and help. Help us all to remain steadfast in faith and to be saved forever. Then we will praise your wondrous name. For Jesus' sake. Amen

THURSDAY EVENING

O God, Father of all mercy. You know every creature. You also know his need. You are his only right helper. Mercifully turn your face to your servants who are calling upon you. We are weak. Make us strong in you, O powerful God. Cares press upon us, but give us joy in yourself, O God of eternal happiness. We are uncertain about the road. Be our Shepherd, since you are the Lord of all who wander on the paths of life, and of all who have already reached the mansions of peace. From your mercy we expect grace here and eternal salvation there.

Glory be to you without end, through Jesus Christ. Amen

FRIDAY MORNING

O God, Heavenly Father, let me have the health of my body and the soundness of my mind, as long as I have to stay in this world. Help me to use in a proper and Christian way the time of life that will be given to me. But direct my thoughts from worldly matters to the eternal ones, so that in my thoughts I concern myself with the life of heaven. Keep me ready to depart from this world at any time. And when I have finished my course, then give me a blessed departure, for the sake of your great mercy. And then fulfill upon me your great promise that those who hear your voice and follow you will never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of your hand. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING

O God, Holy Spirit, who will always flee from the wicked but come to faithful souls and make them the friends of God and his chosen people. Come into my heart. Chase away from there everything that is against you. Instead of those things, create such things that come from you. You teach the humble one. You support the one who stumbles. You strengthen the one who is tired. You give power to the one who is dying, when he is about to pass the border of eternity. Therefore, sanctify me, O Lord, completely, spirit, soul, and body. Make me your temple, where you can dwell forever. Amen

SATURDAY MORNING

O God, give unity and peace to all peoples of the world. Help us to keep your great and blessed name holy. Help us, according to your will, to obey those who have been put to be our rulers and masters. Give them health, peace and prosperity. Turn their minds to what is good and agreeable to you. Help them to exercise the power you have given to them, in fear of you, and in a mild and righteous manner. Glory and power belong to you, O Lord, King of all generations, through Jesus Christ, who is the High Priest of our souls and the true Lord, now and evermore. Amen

SATURDAY EVENING

Now we thank you, O Lord, for your merciful guidance, since you have led us to the end of this week. The six days of work have had their full share of labour and hardships. Therefore, let the day of rest be a day of joy, when we sit down at your feet to listen to your Word, or come before you in our prayers, or kneel at the table of your Holy Communion. And finally, when the week of labour of our life draws to an end, let us stand before you in joy. At your coming in glory, let us see you without fear, and thereafter enter the eternal Sabbath rest in heaven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen

SUNDAY MORNING

O Christ, the Bread of Life. You have come down from Heaven to give life to the world. Come to me also, in order that I may have everlasting life. Come to cleanse my heart from all sins, that I may enter the Holy of Holies, in full assurance of faith, sprinkled clean from an evil conscience. Come and sanctify my soul. Be my protection. As long as you stay with me, O Lord, I have nothing to fear. Remain with me, and at last allow me to come and stay where you are, that I may see you face to face. Amen

SUNDAY EVENING

Almighty God, Father in Heaven. You have given your only Son unto fear and anxiety, in order that we should have peace through him. Grant us that our faith may rest upon him only, so that we may have peace in our hearts. Comfort us with your Word. Give us already in this world that peace which is a beginning of the Sabbath rest of your people in heaven. While the turmoil of this life passes by, let your Holy Spirit guide all our undertakings, in order that we may be kept in your peace.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

MONDAY MORNING

Almighty and Eternal God. You give to each one his work, just as a father divides the tasks between his children. Dear Father, help us to be diligent in everything that belongs to our work. Help us always to behave as your obedient and faithful children. But prepare and guide everything for us in such a way that we do not keep our hearts fixed to the things of this world. Instead, help us to enjoy and use these things in such a way, that we lift up our hearts to you in thanksgiving and praise. Take away from us, dear Lord, both laziness and cares which have been carried too far. Cleanse us from all things that do not please you. You know everything we need. Therefore, give it to us, through your great love.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

MONDAY EVENING

O God, you have ordered us to seek you, but you are present, even before we start to cry for you. I humbly pray you to stay with me, and to rule over me, and to make my heart the dwelling-place of your majesty. Because, to enjoy you is to own a kingdom, and to praise you is the happiness and the eternal bliss of the soul. Remember that my thirst for you is your own work. Keep it, and satisfy it day by day. O Lord, our true Life, help us to find you. And keep us near you, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen

TUESDAY MORNING

Grant me, Almighty and Merciful God, earnestly to ask and eagerly to carry out everything that is pleasing to you. Help me that all my life in this world may serve to glorify your name. And whatever you may want me to do, give me willingness to do it, and power to do it according to your holy will. Help me to come before you in confidence, and honesty, and truth, to the end. Give me, O Lord, a faithful heart that will not be dragged down by impure affections. Give me a heart that will not be defeated by any worries whatever. Give me an honest heart that will not be carried astray by any unholy purposes. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

TUESDAY EVENING

Holy and Almighty God. I do confess before you with all my heart that I have not been as obedient to you as I ought to be. O, dear Father, forgive me my sinful disobedience, and help me to walk in obedience as a true child. I pray to you like Solomon that it may please you to give me an obedient heart. Lord Jesus, you were obedient unto death. Create in my heart such an obedience that I may walk on the path of your obedience. O, Holy Spirit, you are given to those who remain in true obedience. Remove from my heart all disobedience. Create in my heart that kind of obedience that belongs to a holy life, in order that God may be glorified in everything. Amen

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Thanks and praise be to you, O Lord, for all your mercy. Give your children a spirit of wisdom and fear. Help them to know themselves, that they may not look down upon others or consider themselves to be better. Keep us from all sins, but especially from the sin of regarding ourselves as good or outstanding. Give us a true fear of you, that we walk in truth and godliness. Grant us that we may get to see your love and mercy. Grant, that those who live in your grace may not be turned to love this world. Awaken all those who do not know you. Make all your children confident that you are willing to help them, when they are tempted, and to give them consolation when they do need it. Hear us, and help us that all may work for the good. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Lord Jesus, true Saviour, worthy of our thanks and praise. We thank you for your suffering and your death. Above all we thank you for the suffering of your soul and the great anxiety you had to pass, O Lamb of God, because you carried the burden of our sins. Lord Jesus, help us to understand that your tribulation was the suffering of the good Shepherd, who suffered to save his sheep. O Lord, you have said: "I give them eternal life." You have also said that you want to keep your hand over the small ones, your sheep and your lambs. May it please you, therefore, to have mercy upon us and to grant us a living and strong faith. Help us to live, not to ourselves, but to you, since you have suffered for us, and died for us and been raised for us. Amen

THURSDAY MORNING

Almighty God, Heavenly Father. It was not enough for you to give your Son to the people of Israel. You also made him a Light to the Gentiles. I praise you for this great mercy, because my fathers were also among the gentiles, but you led them to your wonderful light. I thank you and praise you, because you revealed your Son in the same manner to the poor shepherds who watched their flock, as to the wise men from the East, when they followed the star. I pray you, O Lord, to give me such a wisdom, that I will not be led astray by worldly glory or greatness. Instead, do help me to follow your Word, which is the true star, until I reach your eternal light.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

THURSDAY EVENING

Dear God, Heavenly Father. Look down in mercy upon me. I am a poor child that walks about in this world, surrounded by many enemies, and exposed to so many temptations and dangers. My God, in this foreign country, so far away from my heavenly home, I can easily go astray and fail to get the road which is leading to my heavenly home. But you have promised, O Father, that you will not abandon or forget your children, but have charge of them as a good father, while they dwell in this foreign country. You have promised to send your Holy Spirit who will lead us. Lord Jesus, I trust your promises, and pray you to remember me. Send me, your poor child, your Holy Spirit to guide me. Help me to fight and struggle as a true Christian, that I may, at the end, receive the crown of victory. Amen

FRIDAY MORNING

I praise you, O Lord, that you have sometimes put a cross on my shoulders. By doing so you have helped me to see your almighty power and my weakness, your majesty and my smallness. You have also shown me how faithful you are to your children. By the confidence of a little child I surrender myself to your holy will. Even if I remain a child of toil and trouble, I will remain a child of God, the Most High. You love me, O Lord, even if you have to punish me many times. Your wisdom is greater than mine, and you know much better when I need your help. Therefore I pray you, Lord, to do with me as you wish. Your will is the best one for me, your child.

Through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. Amen

FRIDAY EVENING

O God, Father Almighty. Give us true and God-fearing preachers in your Church, such preachers as will reveal and proclaim your name even to the world. You are full of grace and mercy, and you give us eternal life for the sake of Jesus Christ, your dear Son, who was crucified and killed for us. You do want to give us eternal life, in order that all people may trust your grace and mercy and call upon you in prayers and praise and thank you. Give us your Holy Spirit, that he may rule us and keep us, that we may not fall back into the dominion of evil, because the evil power wishes to do away with your Holy Word, the saving faith and the true divine service. From such evil keep and protect us, Almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord. Amen

SATURDAY MORNING

Almighty God, in times of deep distress give us the consolation that we have the forgiveness of sins. In times of darkness give us a blessed hope. In times of sickness give us a strong courage, full of confidence. When our hearts are low-spirited, when our souls are sore, when life is a burden and even pleasant things look like a burden, then let your Spirit, the Spirit of consolation, come to us. After the time of darkness let the light from Heaven shine clearly. Then let us walk through life, carried by your grace, in quiet confidence. Give us the patient hope that through your great love and mercy we will be saved from the power of death and enter a year of exultation. Hear us, for your love's sake, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

SATURDAY EVENING

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your mercy upon us and all the gracious gifts we have received throughout this week. But when we look back we also find many things we have done against your holy will, and things we have not done which we ought to have done. Forgive us all this, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Bless the approaching Sunday, to us, to our homes, to our congregations, and to our Church. Help us all to come together in your temple tomorrow, that we may get food for our souls, strength for our Christian life, and a new willingness to serve you and our neighbour. Bless the leaders of our Church. Help and guide your servants who are going to preach your Word and to administer your Sacraments, that all may be done according to your will and to your glory. Amen

SUNDAY
(Morning or Evening)

Almighty Father, enter into our midst today, and fill us with yourself. Say to each one of us: "I am your salvation." So speak to us that we do not fail to hear. Show us yourself and our need of you. Uphold your servants who today proclaim your Word in your temple and with your people worship you. Touch the hearts of the hearers, so that they may receive and serve you. Hear us, O Heavenly Father, for the sake of your only begotten Son. Amen

MONDAY
(Morning or Evening)

Lord God, Heavenly Father, whose will it is that we should love one another, give us grace to love every one we meet in our daily life. We pray you to be merciful to all men, but we pray especially for those whom your love has given to us. Though our prayers are weak and faint, do bestow upon them greater blessings than we know how to pray for. For your love surpasses the love of men. Do unto them according to your will, that they may always and everywhere be under the shadow of your wing. Help them to love you, so that they may wish and speak and do that which is pleasing in your sight. And may they at last attain everlasting life. To you be all praise forever. Amen

TUESDAY
(Morning or Evening)

Lord, you alone can direct my course over life's troubled sea. Arise, O Lord, bid the storm within my heart be still, and make it calm, that I may look up to you and in you find rest and peace. Stay my wandering thoughts, and fix my mind on you alone. Let your Holy Spirit ever dwell within me, and make me your temple. O Lord, Giver of every good and perfect gift, fill me with your fullness. Then I shall have comfort and strength, joy and peace forevermore. Amen

WEDNESDAY
(Morning or Evening)

O God, you are life and wisdom and blessedness. You alone are God, faithful and eternal. In you I have a never-failing source of joy. Teach me more and more to know you, that you may be fully mine, and that my joy in you may be full. And though my faith is unable in this present life to receive you in such a way, grant that my faith may increase day by day, until it is perfected in the life everlasting. My joy, while here, is the joy of hope. There it shall be the joy of perfect realization. Amen

THURSDAY
(Morning or Evening)

Almighty God, you care for me as if you took care of me alone, and you care for all as if all were one. I see things of earth pass away, and I see other things come in their stead, but you do abide forever. Therefore, my God and Father, to you I will commend all that I have received from you. For so I can suffer no loss. You, O Lord, have made me for yourself, and my heart can find no rest until it rests in you. Amen

FRIDAY
(Morning or Evening)

Grant me, I beseech you, Almighty and most merciful God, fervently to desire, wisely to search, and perfectly to fulfil, all that is pleasing unto you. Order my worldly condition to the glory of your name. And grant me the knowledge, desire, and ability to do what you require of me, in order that I may walk with you unto the perfect end. Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart which no unworthy affection may debase. Give me an enduring heart which no tribulation can wear out. Give me an upright heart which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon me also, O Lord, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you. Amen

Saturday
(Morning or Evening)

I confess, O Lord, with all humility that I am an object altogether unworthy of your love. But I am also sure that you are an object altogether worthy of my love. You have a right to my best service. Yet there is no goodness in me to serve you. Therefore, impart to me that excellence that will supply my want. Help me, according to your will, to cease from sin, that I may be capable of serving you according to my duty. Enable me so to guard and govern myself, so to begin and finish my course, that when the race of life is run I may sleep in peace, and rest in you. Be with me unto the end, that my sleep may be rest indeed, my rest perfect security, and that security a blessed eternity. Amen

PRAYER BEFORE THE SUNDAY
SERVICE

Almighty God, dear Heavenly Father. Through the abundance of your steadfast love I will enter your house. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness. I love your dwelling-place. I wish to dwell in your congregation which praises and glorifies you. How lovely is your dwelling-place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

I pray you, Lord God, listen to my prayers according to your great mercy; give me help according to your love. Amen

PRAYER BEFORE THE HOLY COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the love you showed us when you gave yourself as a sacrifice for us. We thank you for the love you will show us today when you give yourself to us in your Holy Supper. We pray you today to stand at the door of our hearts and knock, that we may hear your voice and open wide the door. Enter, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, and make us worthy guests as we approach your table to meet you. Then you will also allow us to sup with you in your Heavenly Kingdom. Grant us this, O Lord, in order that the gracious work which you have already done for us may not have been done in vain. Amen

PRAYER WHEN SOMEBODY IS SICK

Almighty and Eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You gave your only begotten Son and let him share pains and suffering. You put burdens upon us, but you also help us to carry them. O Father, remember in mercy your child who has been taken ill. Restore him/her to health again, according to your merciful will. Strengthen him/her, and bring him/her back to us again. You have visited us with sufferings. Therefore we know that you have not abandoned us. Now pour into our hearts your Spirit who is the spirit of power and consolation. Your will be done.

Praise be to you who live and reign with your Son and the Holy Spirit, now and evermore. Amen

PRAYER ON ADVENT SUNDAY

Lord Jesus Christ, who came to Israel of old, just and having salvation. We thank you that you still come to your Church in your Word and Sacraments, to preach good tidings to the poor, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind: Grant us by your Holy Spirit to receive you with willing hearts and joyfully to hail you as our King. Strengthen us that we may fearlessly confess you before the world. Grant us grace that with watchfulness we may await your coming in glory, and in that hour be found ready to stand before you and with you to enter into your eternal joy. Amen

PRAYER ON CHRISTMAS EVE

We thank and praise you, Heavenly Father, because you so loved the world that you gave your only Son and let him be born and become our brother. You have let the eternal life come among us, that we may live. That we should get light you have allowed the eternal life to descend into our darkness. That we should become your children you have made your own Son become a poor child among men. My Lord and God! What a wonderful wisdom and grace you have used in order to save us. We pray you humbly at the manger of your Son. Do not despise our feeble praise and thanksgiving. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen

PRAYER ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Heavenly Father, rich in love and mercy!
We thank and praise you that you have so graciously fulfilled the word of your promise to the fathers and suffered your only-begotten Son to become man for our salvation. Lord Jesus Christ, to you be everlasting praise, that you, being rich, for our sake became poor that we through your poverty might become rich. You have become our Brother that we might become the children of God. You Brightness of the Father's glory and image of his person, renew us in your holy likeness. You Heavenly Light, light us through the darkness of this world. You Eternal Life, give us life in you. You great Prince of Peace, grant us your peace, and keep us ever in your Kingdom, that we may praise and magnify you in your glory, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign forever. Amen

PRAYER ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Almighty and Eternal God, great in mercy, unchangeable in faithfulness! You are the same, and your years shall have no end. To you we render thanks and praise on this first day of the year for all the mercy which you have so abundantly shown us in the days that are gone. We beseech you that you will henceforward grant us to enjoy the blessing which you have prepared for us in Christ Jesus, your Son. Create in us a new heart with this New Year. Teach us to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness, and so all we need of earthly good will be added unto us. In your name, Lord Jesus, we wish to begin and finish all our work. Pour out upon us your blessing, and also upon all who with us call upon your holy Name. Amen

PRAYER ON GOOD FRIDAY

Lord Jesus, you Lamb of God that take away the sin of the world! We thank you for your great love towards us, miserable sinners, that you for our sake did humble yourself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. You have borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. The chastisement of our peace was upon you, and with your stripes we are healed. Praised be your Holy Name!

Cleanse us now from our sins by your blood, and grant us your peace. Help us by the power of your death to die unto sin and to take up the cross and follow you. Keep us in communion with you, that with all who have overcome by your blood we may finally thank and praise you forever. Amen

PRAYER ON EASTER SUNDAY

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father! We praise you that for our sins you gave your only-begotten Son, and that for our justification you have raised him again and made him the Conqueror of sin and death. Lord Jesus, you Prince of Life, grant us by your Holy Spirit that in the power of your resurrection we may arise and walk in a new life. Give us the comfort of a living hope. Come unto us as you came to your first disciples, and give us your peace. In the hour of death help us to hold fast to you, who are the Resurrection and the Life. Raise at last our lowly bodies, and make them become like your glorified body, that with the Church Triumphant we may finally sing: "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Amen

PRAYER ON THE DAY OF
PENTECOST

O God, we praise you, that on the first day of Pentecost you poured forth your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people, and thereby founded your Church upon earth. We thank you that we, too, have been received into your Church. We thank you for your Word and Sacraments, by which you want to sanctify us through the power of your Holy Spirit. We beseech you, send forth your Holy Spirit upon us, upon our congregations, and upon our homes. Come, Holy Spirit, quicken our dull hearts; cleanse us from sin; increase our faith and kindle in us a fervent love one to another, that we may preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Spirit of Truth, guide us in your Truth, and grant us whatever is profitable for life and godliness, to your glory and our salvation. Amen

PRAYER ON REFORMATION DAY

Almighty, ever-living God, we thank and praise you that in the time of our fathers you caused again the clear light of your gospel to shine forth, and that you gave your servants grace fearlessly to confess your truth. Forbid, O God, that we should change your gospel and use our freedom for a cloak of wickedness. Mercifully keep us from error. May your Word and your Sacraments be handed over pure to those who come after us. Grant to the ministers of your Word today, as you did to its first confessors, power and wisdom rightly to bear witness to you, and overcome the enemies of your gospel. Grant that your Church may be united more closely in truth and love. Help us by your power to be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand, to the praise and glory of your name. Amen

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray you for our children, because you have shown us so clearly that you love them. When other people despised the children and tried to keep them away from you, you took them up into your arms and blessed them and promised them the Kingdom of Heaven.

Lord Jesus, help us to look upon our children with your mind and your love. Help us to look after them in such a way that we do not make them stumble but instead lead them to you and so help them to inherit your Kingdom and there rejoice for ever.

We praise you that you want us all to be children in your Kingdom for ever.
Amen

PRAYER FOR THE YOUNG

O Lord, our heavenly Father. We pray you to bless our boys and girls and guide them through life. Save them from all dangers. Help them to ask for wisdom and strength from you, so that they may walk in your light and according to your holy commandments. Help us, dear Father, to be good and kind to them, to try to understand them and their best, and to set good examples to them. Give us all such a love for them that we are ready to forgive and to start anew, when things have gone wrong. Above all, heavenly Father, we pray you to make us share with them the eternal hope we have in Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen

PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

Dear Heavenly Father. We pray for the Christian congregation at this place. Help it to be a congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered. When our people hear your Word, help them to live accordingly, as your good children.

Give us more of your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. Let your name be kept holy among us and your Kingdom gain the victory over all enemies here and everywhere. Strengthen us, and help us to remain steadfast in your Word and in faith in all our days.

To you be glory and praise now and evermore. Amen

PRAYER IN TIMES OF FAMINE

Heavenly Father, look down upon us in your great mercy. We are all suffering because of the hunger of the country. Our children are hungry. We are all hungry. O Lord, Creator and Father, we pray you in Jesus' name: Give us enough to eat. Give us water to drink. But when you give us what we pray for, then help us to remember those who suffer with us. Give us thankful hearts, so that we become ready to help.

Help us, Father, to lift our souls to you, that you may feed them with the Bread of Life. In all our need, help us to drink from the Fountain of Life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

PRAYER IN SICKNESS

Lord Jesus, you have said: "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

My Lord Jesus, I am sick and in great need of your help. I am laden with many sins. I pray you to remove from me that heavy burden. I am unclean, cleanse me from all evil. I am blind, give me my sight again. I am poor, make me rich in you.

Lord Jesus, let your Holy Spirit teach me about what you have done for me. O Jesus, there is no limit to your love. Everything is in your power, to give me my health again, or to give me the strength I need to carry the burden you want to put upon me. I believe it is your will to do what is best for me. Give me, therefore, what is according to your holy will. I pray you in your own holy name. Amen

PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

O Lord, heavenly Father, we pray you to give us pious and faithful shepherds in your Church. Help them to look after your herd and to preach your holy Word. Give your Church good leaders, such as will turn off false teaching but encourage Christian life among the believers in all congregations. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all Christian hearts. Make the knowledge about Jesus Christ increase among us all.

Heavenly Father, help us to be united in love and to show true obedience to you and to your holy will. Help your Church that it may not fear the gates of hell but remain steadfast in faith and love to the end. Amen

PRAYER FOR THE COUNTRY

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for unity and peace in our country. May your blessed name be kept holy among us. Help us all to assist and obey those you have allowed to be our leaders and spokesmen. Give them health, peace and happiness. Turn their minds to what is good and pleasing to you. Help them to carry out their duties in godliness, fairness and mildness.

To you, King of ages, belongs all honour, power, and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Supreme Ruler, now and evermore. Amen

PRAYER IN TIMES OF WAR

Almighty, Holy, and Eternal God, you alone are our strength and refuge in all need. We pray you, our eternal Saviour, to take us through these difficult times to a blessed end. Heavenly Father, have mercy upon us. Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, help us to come through. Holy Spirit, strengthen us to carry out without fear the fight we have to go through.

Almighty God, whatever happens to us, to our country, or to the world, help us to come through in the right way, that we may reach the eternal life. O Lord, be on our side, since the help of men is not enough. May your life be our life. In you we put all our hope. Let us remain in your hands, in life and death, now and evermore. For Jesus' sake. Amen

PRAYER IN TIMES OF PERSECUTION

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, you are the God of all creation and of all the righteous who walk before you.

We praise you that you have considered us worthy to suffer for the Truth and to be among your witnesses, although we are only unworthy servants.

We pray you, Father, to keep us humble. Make us sincere and quiet. Make us strong enough to endure, so that we may get through and your name be glorified and praised among us.

Create in us such a heart, that all we do and speak and think may be an offering, pleasing to you, our faithful and true God. We praise and bless and glorify you because of all we have received through Jesus Christ, our eternal and heavenly High Priest. Amen

PRAYER WHEN APPROACHING THE TIME OF DEATH

My Heavenly Father. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of all comfort and consolation.

I thank you because you have revealed to me your dear Son, Jesus Christ. In him I believe. His name I wish to confess. Him I love and praise and glorify. In his hands I wish to commit my poor soul in the moment of death.

O, Heavenly Father, when I am carried off from life, then I know for sure that I remain with you and that nobody can snatch me out of your hands. You have loved the world and given us your only Son, in order that I should not perish but have eternal life. This is a faithful word. Amen