

Koinonia: Services and Prayers

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Abbreviations

L = Leader

C = Congregation

B = Person(s) affirming Baptism

Morning Prayer: Historic

- L O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
- L Glory to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. [Alleluia.]**

We sing or say one or more morning Psalms.

Psalm 95

- L Come, let us sing to the LORD;*
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
C **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving*
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
- L For the LORD is a great God,*
and a great Sovereign above all gods.
C **The LORD holds the caverns of the earth,*
and sustains the heights of the hills.**
- L The sea belongs to God, who made it,*
whose hands have molded the dry land.
C **Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,*
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.**
- L For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.*
C **Oh, that today you would hearken to God's voice!**
- L [Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit:
C **as it was in the beginning, is now,*
and will be for ever. Amen.]**

We listen to Scripture.

We meditate in silence.

We may sing a hymn or a song.

Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79).

- L Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel;*
for you have come to your people and set them free.
C **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,*
born of the house of your servant David.**
- L Through your holy prophets you promised of old to save us from our enemies,*
from the hands of all who hate us;
C **to show mercy to our forebears*
and to remember your holy covenant.**
- L This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:*
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
C **free to worship you without fear,*
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

L And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*
for you will go before the Lord to pre-prepare the way,
C **to give God's people knowledge of salvation***
by the forgiveness of their sins.

L In the tender compassion of our God*
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
C **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,***
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

L [Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit:
C **as it was in the beginning, is now,***
and will be for ever. Amen.]

We pray for the whole world.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

L That the people of God in all the world may worship in spirit and in truth, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

L That the church may discover again the unity that is your gift, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

L That the nations of the earth, especially the countries of ... , may seek ways that make for peace,
let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

L That the whole creation, laboring to be born anew, may be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of
the children of God, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

L That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death may find the fulfillment of life and
peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

L With all the saints in light, let us offer eternal praise to God:

We may add other prayers, such as:

L Eternal God, the sun never sets on the earth you created. Grant to all your peoples, from east to
west, the light and life that are ever new in Christ. From morning until evening let us praise you,
and in your presence do our work day by day, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven ...

L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

L May the almighty God bless us, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

We may listen to drumming or other music.

We attend to the sound of a bell or a gong.

We light a candle.

We may sing a short song.

We pray with words inspired by Psalm 18.

L God, my friend,

C you give me strength.

L God, my shield, my help,

C you watch over me.

L You bring me out into a broad place

C because you delight in me.

L It is you who light my lamp.

C You light up my darkness.

L By you, God, I can leap over a wall.

C For this I will extol you in the morning and in the evening, now and always. Amen.

We listen to a short reading of Scripture.

We meditate in silence.

L Thank you, God, for this night's rest, for the hours of sleep and dream.

C Open our minds and hearts to all we meet today.

L We are one with each other.

C Show us the people to serve and the work we are to do.

L We cannot live by ourselves.

C God, be near us and lift us up.

L Walk with us,

C step by step, hour by hour.

L We pray to God, our light and salvation, in the words Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven ...

L Circle us, God our shield,

C keep protection near and danger afar.

L Circle us, God our sun,

C keep light near and darkness afar.

L Circle us, God our home,

C keep peace within keep evil out.

L May God embrace you and lead you with love.

C Amen.

After the final bell or gong the candle is extinguished.

Prayer During the Day: Historic

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **the maker of heaven and earth.**

L Glory to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. [Alleluia.]**

We sing or say one or more Psalms.

Psalm 119

L Oh, how I love your law!*
all the day long it is in my mind.
C **Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies,*
and it is always with me.**

L I have more understanding than all my teachers,*
for your decrees are my study.
C **I am wiser than the elders,*
because I observe your commandments.**

L I restrain my feet from every evil way,*
that I may keep your word.
C **I do not shrink from your judgments,*
because you your-self have taught me.**

L How sweet are your words to my taste!*
they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.
C **Through your commandments I gain understanding,*
therefore I hate every lying way.**

L [Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit:
C **as it was in the beginning, is now,*
and will be for ever. Amen.]**

We listen to a short reading of Scripture.

We meditate in silence.

We join in prayers, such as:

L Eternal God, your hand shapes our lives by grace and rescues us from sin with love. We pray that you guide us through this day, shield us from all evil, and strengthen us to do justice and kindness, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven ...

L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

L The God of peace be with us.
C **Amen.**

Prayer at Midday

We may listen to drumming or other music.

We attend to the sound of a bell or a gong.

We light a candle.

We may sing a short song.

L God, in the middle of this day we center ourselves.

C We meditate on you.

L At midday we hunger.

C Feed us with your strength.

L As we work we thirst.

C Refresh us with your presence.

L Our eyes look to you, and you give us our food in due season.

C You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

L Come, Christ, sit at our table, break bread with us.

C Fill us with thankfulness for food and drink, community and conversation. Amen.

After the final bell or gong, the candle is extinguished.

Evening Prayer: Historic

L Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

L Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**

L Let your light scatter the darkness,
C **and illumine your church.**

We may light a candle and sing or say a song praising Christ our light.

L O gladdening light, of the holy glory of the immortal Father*
heavenly, holy, blessed, O Jesus Christ.
C **Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and see the evening light,*
we give praise to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

L Worthy are you at all times to be worshipped with holy voices,*
O Son of God and giver of life:
C **therefore all the world glorifies you.**

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You led your people Israel
by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your
Christ. May his word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you
love your whole creation, and we, your creatures, glorify you, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, now
and forever.
C **Amen.**

We sing or say one or more evening Psalms.

Psalm 141

L O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly;*
hear my voice when I cry to you.
C **Let my prayer rise before you as incense,*
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

L Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD,*
and guard the door of my lips.

Let not my hearth incline to any evil thing;*
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.
C **But my eyes are turned to you, LORD God;*
in you I take refuge; do not strip me of my life.**

L [Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit:
C **as it was in the beginning, is now,*
and will be for ever. Amen.]**

We listen to Scripture.

We meditate in silence.

We may sing a hymn or a song.

Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

- L My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*
C for you Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
- L From this day all generations will call me blessed:*
C you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name.
- L You have mercy on those who fear you*
C from generation to generation.
- L You have shown strength with your arm*
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
**C casting down the mighty from their thrones*
and lifting up the lowly.**
- L You have filled the hungry with good things,*
C and sent the rich away empty.
- L You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,*
to remember your promise of mercy,
**C the promise made to our forebears,*
to Abraham and his children forever.**
- L [Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit:
**C as it was in the beginning, is now,*
and will be for ever. Amen.]**

We pray for the whole world.

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- L For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- L For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- L For the people and the nations of the world, especially ..., let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- L For this city (village), for every city (village) and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- L For good weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- L For those who travel, for those who are sick, lonely, hungry, homeless or persecuted, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- L For our deliverance from all affliction, strife and need, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- L For the remission of our sins and offences, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.

L Remembering all who have gone before us in the faith, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

C To you, O Lord.

L Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening, and the day is almost over. Abide with us with your grace and goodness, with your holy Word and sacrament, with your strength and blessing. Abide with us through the night of affliction and temptation, through the night of fear and despair, into death. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity.

C Amen.

Our Father in heaven ...

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L May the God of peace give us peace at all times and in every way.

C Amen.

Evening Prayer

We may listen to drumming or other music.

We attend to the sound of a bell or a gong.

We light a candle.

We sing an evening song.

We pray with words inspired by Psalm 121.

L My help comes from you, O God,
C **you made heaven and earth.**

L You do not let my foot be moved,
C **you watch over me.**

L You are my keeper, my shade,
C **the sun shall not strike me by day, nor the moon by night.**

L You preserve me from all evil,
C **you keep my life.**

L You watch over my going out and my coming in,
C **from evening until morning, now and always. Amen.**

We listen to a short reading of Scripture.

We meditate in silence.

L God, our Creator and Protector, you illumine the world and breathe life into us. You heal the world with your outstretched arms. You rescue creation and inspire your church. We thank you for this day. Let us remember your gifts and your promises in our thoughts and actions, in our communities and churches.

C **Amen.**

L On our hearts and on our houses,
C **the blessing of God.**

L In our coming and our going,
C **the peace of God.**

L In our life and our believing,
C **the love of God.**

L At our end and new beginning,
C **the arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen.**

After the final bell or gong the candle is extinguished.

Night Prayer: Historic

L May the almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at last.
C **Amen.**

We may confess our sins and receive forgiveness.

L You are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. Let us confess our sin to God.

C **Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ.**

L May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

We sing or say one or more night Psalms.

Psalm 4

L Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;*
you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

C **“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;*
how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”**

L Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;*
when I cry out, the LORD will hear me.

C **Tremble, then, and do not sin;*
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

L Offer the appointed sacrifices*
and put your trust in the LORD.

C **Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!”*
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.**

L You have put gladness in my heart,*
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

C **I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;*
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

L [Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit:

C **as it was in the beginning, is now,*
and will be for e-ver. Amen.]**

We listen to a short reading of Scripture.

We meditate in silence.

We may sing a hymn or a song.

We join in prayers, such as:

L To you, O God, we give up the burdens of this day, trusting in your love and mercy. To you, O God, we surrender ourselves, trusting our risen Lord to lead us always in the way of peace, today, tomorrow and forever.

C **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven ...

Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32)

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

C **Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:*
your word has been fulfilled.**

L My own eyes have seen the salvation*
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

C **a light to reveal you to the nations*
and the glory of your people Israel.**

L [Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit:

C **as it was in the beginning, is now,*
and will be for ever. Amen.]**

L Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;*

C **that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep rest in peace.**

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

C **Amen.**

Night Prayer

We may listen to drumming or other music.

We attend to the sound of a bell or a gong.

We light a candle.

We may sing a short song.

We listen to a short reading of Scripture.

We meditate in silence.

We join in prayers, such as:

- L The night is the cover of your peace, O God,
C **the rhythm of your rest for all your people.**
- L The darkness is the cloak of your gentleness, O God,
C **the warmth of your hand around the earth.**
- L In its blackness is the sign of your eternity,
C **the never-ending living of your love.**
- L In faith we go to sleep and leave our life to you.
C **In childlike trust we end our efforts of this day.**
- L In our sleeping, be our company.
C **In our waking, be the gift of our new day.**
- L We pray to God, our rest and comfort, in the words Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven ...

- L Go in peace, and may God go with you, Christ Jesus take you by the hand, and the Spirit be a cloud of grace around you.
C **Amen.**

After the final bell or gong the candle is extinguished.

Prayers and Blessings

Many of the following seasonal and occasional prayers take this form:

Address to God, usually the first person of the Trinity

Praise to God, specific to the time or occasion

Petition for the community, specific to the time or occasion

Christological or Trinitarian conclusion.

Worship planners should feel free to construct their own prayers following this form.

Seasonal Prayers:

Advent

God of mercy and might, we praise your everlasting presence among us. Remove what would hinder our hearts from receiving Christ with joy, that we may share in his wisdom and become one with him in service, through whom we pray.

Christmas

O God our Redeemer, your majesty is beyond our imagining but your mercy reaches from the heavens to the earth. Let your goodness appear to us that we, made in your image, may conform ourselves to it, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Name of Jesus

Eternal God, you created the mystery of time, and you grant us years to live together in your grace. Be present to us in everything that happens this new year, and give us the protection of the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, in whom we live and through whom we pray.

Epiphany

O God our guide, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Baptism of the Lord

Almighty God, at the baptism of your Son Jesus Christ in the river Jordan you revealed the glory of his divine nature. Let the light of his presence shine in our hearts and his glory in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Presentation of the Lord

Radiant God, we thank you for Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who today is brought to the temple to give life and glory to all people. Open our eyes that with Anna and Simeon we may see your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Annunciation of the Lord

God of great promises, we thank you for revealing to Mary your vision of a world of mercy and justice. Work in us toward the fulfillment of this revelation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Ash Wednesday

Almighty, eternal God, you do not wish any sinner to die, but want all people to turn and live. With prayer and fasting may we walk on the way of the cross to the joy of Easter, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Lent

O Lord, you have mercy on all, take away from us our sins, and mercifully set us ablaze with the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away from us the heart of stone, and give us a human heart, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, to follow and enjoy you, for Christ's sake.

God of mighty waters, for forty days you saved Noah and the animals and washed the world clean of its evil. Drown the sin in us. Renew us daily with the waters of our baptism and bring us to the rainbow of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The Three Days: Maundy Thursday

O gracious God, you gave us Holy Communion as a meal of love, and in the washing of the disciples' feet your Son modeled for us the life of service. Give us life and strength through the mystery of this sacrifice, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The Three Days: Good Friday

Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross. May we walk in the way of his suffering and share in the joy of his resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The Three Days: Easter

We venerate your cross, O Christ, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection, for you are our God, we know no other, we call on your name. Grant that we here on earth may serve you with a pure heart. Glory to you, O Lord.

God of all goodness, because of the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ the morning of the new creation dawns. The day of the Lord has come, the wells of salvation have opened. In Holy Baptism you have joined us to Christ's triumphal procession. Grant to us all the spirit of the resurrection, that we may forever praise you and rejoice in the gift of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Ascension of the Lord

O merciful God, today you take Jesus into heaven and break down the limits of time and space. We thank you that Jesus always intercedes for us before you. Strengthen us by the Holy Spirit to intercede for the whole world, through Jesus Christ, the Risen One.

Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit, light from heaven, giver of gifts, refreshment of the soul, rest in labor; cleanse what is filthy, water what is parched, heal what is wounded, warm what is cold, guide what has gone astray, give everlasting joy.

Holy Spirit, you are the breath, give us life, you are the salve, heal our wounds, you are the fire, warm our hearts, you are the light, guide our feet. Let all the world praise you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Hildegard of Bingen

Holy Trinity

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal God, we praise the depth of your riches, wisdom and knowledge. Give us your life and fill us with joy. Glory to you, blessed Trinity.

Transfiguration of the Lord

O God of light, today you revealed your glory through the mystery of Christ. May we adore you in wonder and be transformed for the life of service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Reformation Day

Faithful God, without your Spirit the church goes astray. Cleanse and renew us and fill us with your love that we may serve you according to your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All Saints' Day

O God of all the ages, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses, those to whom you have revealed yourself and sent into the world to bear testimony to you in words and deeds. We give thanks for the saints and martyrs, and for all the faithful departed. Keep us in communion with them, and bring us to join them in unending praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Last Sunday of the Year

O God of judgment and mercy, you hold our time in your hands. May we be faithful to your reign each day of our life and find eternity in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Occasional Prayers:

Adoring Christ

We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, in all your churches throughout the world, and we bless you, for through your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Francis of Assisi

Beginning Worship

Living God, this is the day you have made. As we come together to worship bless us and give us light. For you are our God, and we give thanks to you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Psalm 118

Confessing Sin

God of all compassion, we confess that we are violent and destructive, cruel and haughty, in ways that we premeditate, in ways that we can rationalize, and in ways that we are unaware. We are captives to our own selfishness, and prisoners of our own broken-heartedness. For Jesus' sake, grant us your compassion and make us whole so that we may be instruments of your peace.

Receiving the Word of God

O God of all goodness, let your Word be a lamp to guide us, a light for our path, our joy all the days of our life and our possession for eternity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Psalm 119

Remembering Baptism

O God, our Creator and Redeemer, you make streams of water come from the rock, you cause mighty waters to flow like rivers, and at the end of time you will bring us to the river of the water of life. We thank you for the living waters of Baptism. Grant that all who have been baptized may live in Christ, in the communion of the church, and in witness and service to the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Before Receiving Communion

As the night watch looks for the morning, so do we look for you, O Christ. Come, illumine us, and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread, for you are our God forever.

After Receiving Communion

We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this salutary gift; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord.

Martin Luther

Concluding Worship

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your Word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2:29-32

About the Church:

Unity of the Church

Remember, O merciful God, your church, deliver it from all evil, perfect it in your love. Bring it united and holy from the four corners of the earth, into your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your loving arms on the wood of the cross to bring everyone into your saving embrace. Stretch out our hands to bring the whole world into your knowledge and love, for the honor of your name.

Service

O God, our life and our salvation, you call us to love one another as you loved us when you gave us your only Son. Give us a heart to honor and serve our sisters and brothers every day of our life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Faithfulness

Faithful God, throughout the ages your grace has given life to countless women and men whose names have been forgotten. May we, like these saints, persevere through all difficulties to follow your way and embody the life of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Communion with the Saints

We thank you, O God, for all your servants and witnesses of times past: for Abraham and Sarah, for Moses, Aaron and Miriam, for Deborah and Gideon, for Samuel and Hannah, for Isaiah and all the prophets, for Mary, Peter and Paul, for Mary, Martha and Mary Magdalene, for Stephen and all the saints in every time and in every land. In your mercy, give us, as you gave them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

About the Cosmos:

Creation

Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Harvest

Bountiful God, we thank you for sending the rain, for making the land fertile, for filling the streams with water, for providing the earth with crops, for nurturing the young plants, for tending the cattle and sheep. With your Spirit inspire us to share your harvest with all the hungry world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Life Together

O God of mystery, in your Triune life you show us how to live as one in joy and peace. Bless our families and all relationships of care. With your Spirit, shape us into communities of respect and affection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The Sick and Suffering

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous, all for your love's sake.

Augustine

The Dead

Living God, your Son Jesus Christ is our resurrection and life. You consoled Martha and Mary in their sorrow. Dry the tears of all who weep. Keep us in communion with all your saints and give us the hope of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

About Society:

Justice

God of the Exodus, your will is known when you feed the hungry, house the poor and free the oppressed. Make us one with all who cry for justice. May we who speak your praise struggle for your justice in all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Solidarity

Almighty and everlasting God, source of holiness, your Son Jesus Christ walked the ways of this world to give meaning to our lives, to break the old mentality of exclusion and to unite us together on new paths of solidarity. Strengthen our trust in your mercy. Enliven our hopes for a more just and humane society, and bring all people who suffer from persecution and discrimination into the joys of your life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Peace

Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Courage

Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Guidance

L Good and gracious God, you guided Noah over the flood waves:

C hear us.

L You brought Hagar to the well:

C hear us.

L You inspired Deborah for her tasks:

C hear us.

L You recalled Jonah from the sea:

C hear us.

L In Christ you taught us the mystery of your love:

C hear us.

L Grant us the guidance of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Many Cultures

O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

In Times of Trouble

God most mighty, God most merciful, our stories tell us that you help and save your people. You are the fortress: may there be no more war. You are the harvest: may there be no more hunger. You are the light: may no one die alone or in despair. God most majestic, God most motherly, grant us your life, the life that flows from your Son and his Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Through the Day:

Morning

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts, words and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked have no power over us.

Martin Luther

O mighty God, you have folded back the mantle of the night and clothed our land in the golden glory of the day. Chase from our hearts all gloomy thoughts and make us glad with the brightness of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Evening

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, that the wicked have no power over us.

Martin Luther

Support us, Lord, all day long, until the shadows lengthen, and evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then Lord, in your mercy, give us safe lodging, rest from our labor and peace at the last.

Before a Meal

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, you bring forth bread from the earth, and you make glad the hearts of your people. Blessed are you.

After a Meal

Give us thankful hearts, merciful God, for these and all your gifts, and keep us mindful of the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Devotion

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

Before Travel

Send your angels, O God, to guide us on our way so we return to our homes in health, in safety and in joy.

Blessing

L O God, you made heaven and earth,
C **watch over us.**

L O God, you embrace your people,
C **keep us from harm.**

L O God, you protect us as we come and go,
C **bless us now and forever.**

Holy Communion

Gathering

We may begin with singing.

L We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

We may confess our sins.

L With sincere hearts and the full assurance of faith, inwardly cleansed from a guilty conscience, and outwardly washed with pure water, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Merciful God, in baptism you have joined us to Christ in his death and resurrection, and you have united us with all who are baptized in Christ's name; but too often we fail to live as one people and to seek the unity of your church.

C **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

L In baptism you have called the church to witness to Christ in all realms of life; but too often we do not seek to discern your will and to carry out your mission in the world.

C **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

L In baptism you have sent us to serve all for whom Christ died; but too often we have ignored the suffering of the oppressed and the needs of the poor.

C **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

L Sisters and brothers: In baptism you were buried with Christ and raised to new life in him. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is drowned, and a new life has begun. I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The presider leads us in the prayer of the day.

Word

The readings are from the Old Testament and the Epistles. We may sing a Psalm.

The gospel is proclaimed. We surround the gospel with alleluias.

The preacher proclaims the Word. The hymn of the day precedes or follows the sermon.

The Creed may follow.

We pray for the whole world in these or similar words.

L Jesus brought justice to the world. He shared our life and took up the lot of the poor and the oppressed. He carried the burden of our guilt, sorrow and suffering. Let us pray for righteousness on earth. God of justice,

C **hear our prayer.**

L We pray for the peace of the whole world. God of peace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L We pray for victims of oppression, violence and injustice. God of mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- L We pray for those who have no home, no education, no work, no land, no medicine. God of compassion,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. God of healing,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for those who work for justice in church and society. God of strength,
C hear our prayer.
- L We bring these prayers to you trusting that you continue your work in the world through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

Meal

- L The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.
- L Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We offer our gifts, including bread and wine.

We stand for the Great Thanksgiving.

- L The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- L Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
- L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We may use one of the following four prayers:

We may pray with the words of Nehemiah and Revelation.

- L Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. You are the Lord, you alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. To all of them you give life, and the host of heaven worships you.

You saw the distress of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea. You performed signs and wonders, and you divided the sea before them. You led them by day with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire, to give them light on the way they should go. For their hunger you gave them bread from heaven, and for their thirst you brought water for them out of the rock. Many years you were patient with them, and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

- C Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty!
 Just and true are your ways, Ruler of the nations!
 You alone are holy, and all nations will come and worship before you.**

- L Now therefore our God, you the great and mighty and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love make your home among mortals. Dwell with us as our God. May we be your peoples. Wipe every tear from our eyes. May mourning and crying and pain be no more. May all who have washed their robes have the right to the tree of life, and give to everyone who wishes the

water of life as a gift. To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever.

C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

L For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, 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 we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

Or we may pray thanking for the gifts of creation.

L It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, holy God, source of healing and life. You brought wholeness into creation through the caress of your hands and the breath of your mouth. In this intimate moment of creation we join the song of fish and birds, trees and flowers, humans and angels:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L Holy God, holy imaginative God, you set your tree of life in the center, enlivening the barrenness, breathing spirit across the dust. You created wholeness. Holy God, holy compassionate God, you saw our brokenness and planted once again in the center the tree of life, the cross from which Christ rose to save and heal us. You reclaimed wholeness. Holy Christ, holy healing Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me." For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Holy God, holy generous God, we remember Christ's life and death, his resurrection and ascension which renew the face of the earth. We give back to you what you have given us in creation, bread and wine, wheat and grapes. We wait for Christ to come in glory.

Holy God, holy Spirit God, shape us together in this earth of . . . , in the soil and rivers, in the sunshine and wind, in animal and human faces. Send your Spirit that we may share your bounty with the whole creation. Help us cry out with one voice for re-creation.

C Glory to the God of creation! Glory to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord! Glory to the Spirit of life! Glory to the Trinity, now and forever!

Or we may pray remembering the mission of the church.

L It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, holy God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his blood ransomed us for God from every tribe and language, people and nation. With a great multitude and with all the angels we proclaim:

C Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

L Holy God, you are worthy of our praises, for you rule from the rising of the sun to its setting. And though you are holy, you dwell with the humble and the needy. You liberate the oppressed, the poor and the abused, and heal their wounds. You bring justice and peace to the world and healing to the whole creation. You come to us in Jesus Christ, our healer.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

As we enjoy this meal, we look toward the day when hunger, thirst and suffering are over and God will wipe away our tears.

C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

L Send your Holy Spirit that all who share this cup may be the salt and light in this world, and partakers of the feast to come. All honor and glory belong to you, O God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Or we may pray adoring the Triune God.

L Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Before all that is, You were God. Outside all we know, You are God. After all is finished, You will be God. Archangels sound the trumpets, Angels teach us their song, Saints pull us into your presence. And this is our song:

C Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

L You beyond the galaxies, You under the oceans, You inside the leaves, You pouring down rain, You opening the flowers, You feeding the insects, You giving us your image, You carrying us through the waters, You holding us in the night,

Your smile on Sarah and Abraham, Your hand with Moses and Miriam, Your words through Deborah and Isaiah, You lived as Jesus among us, Healing, teaching, dying, rising, Inviting us all to your feast.

On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we remember your Son, His life with the humble, His death among the wretched, His resurrection for us all: Your wisdom our guide, Your justice our strength, Your grace our path to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy:

C Mercy!

L And so we cry, Glory:

C Glory!

L And so we cry, Blessing:

C Blessing!

L Holy God, we beg for your Spirit: Enliven this bread, Awaken this body, Pour us out for each other. Transfigure our minds, Ignite your church, Nourish the life of the earth. Make us, while many, united, Make us, though broken, whole, Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

C Come, Holy Spirit!

L And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

C Come, Holy Spirit!

L And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

C Come, Holy Spirit!

L You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three. Our Life, our Mercy, our Might, Our Table, our Food, our Server, Our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove, Our Sovereign, our Water, our Wine, Our Light, our Treasure, our Tree, Our Way, our Truth, our Life. You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Praise

now, praise tomorrow, praise forever.

And so we cry, Amen:

C Amen!

Our Father in heaven ...

We may sing the "Lamb of God."

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

L Taste and see that the Lord is good.

We come forward for the bread and wine.

After communion the presider prays these or similar words.

L Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your Word be deaf to clamor and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you forever.

C Amen.

Sending

L The Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Service of the Word with Baptismal Renewal

Gathering

We may begin with singing.

L We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

We may confess our sins.

L Our loving God has shown us the way of life in Jesus Christ. We confess together that we have failed in following Christ.

Silence for reflection.

L Holy and merciful God, you have joined us to Christ by his death and resurrection. You have united us with all those baptized in Christ's name. We confess that in our lives we have not always chosen the way of unity.

C **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

L Holy and merciful God, you have called the church to witness in all realms of life. Christ was obedient to the point of death. We confess that in our lives we have not always chosen the way of the cross.

C **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

L Holy and merciful God, you have sent us to serve all for whom Christ died. Our Lord has set us an example of true love and humility. We confess that in our lives we have not always chosen the way of love.

C **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

L May the almighty God have mercy on us. May God forgive us all our sins and lead us into eternal life.

C **Amen.**

The presider leads us in the prayer of the day.

Word

The readings are from the Old Testament and the Epistles. We may sing a Psalm.

The gospel is proclaimed. We surround the gospel with alleluias.

The preacher proclaims the Word. The hymn of the day proceeds or follows the sermon.

Renewal

L Sisters and brothers in Christ: In baptism we were incorporated into the body of Christ. Baptism brings us into life with Christians in our neighborhood and around the world, and it calls us to live in solidarity with the whole creation. Baptism is an ongoing way of life. It shapes our lives together day by day, through the generations and across cultures.

Dear friends, let us present ourselves before God to affirm our baptism into Christ. I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church.

- Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
B I renounce them.
- L Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
B I renounce them.
- L Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
B I renounce them.
- L Do you turn to Christ as Savior and Lord?
B In faith I turn to Christ.
- L With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth.**
- L Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 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,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- L Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?
**C 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.**
- L You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace on earth?
B I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.
- C Blessed be God, the source of life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.**

We pray for the whole world in these or similar words.

- L Eternal God, in Christ you have brought us through the waters of baptism and formed us into one body, the communion of saints. In Christ you have gathered us from east and west, from north and south, and called us to witness to your love. We give you thanks for your whole church throughout the world. We thank you for your commandments that we might walk in your ways. We thank you for your gospel that we might witness to Christ in every culture. Especially we bless you for the gift of your Son, in whose name we are baptized in the faith of your church.
- We pray for all the baptized that you will work through us in our daily lives. We pray for the nations and peoples of the world: for the elimination of war, violence, oppression and injustice; for the alleviation of hunger; and for the protection of the water, air, land and creatures of our planet, for all who are poor and homeless, for all who are sick, in pain or grieving, and for all victims of disasters and persecution, that they may know the comfort of your love.

In the waters of baptism you have made us one in Christ, one in the Spirit, and so one in you, O God. Give us unity in the faith, rooting us ever more deeply in your abundant grace. Join our prayers with those of your witnesses of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

C **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven ...

Sending

L The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

We may conclude with a hymn or a song.

Meditation on the Creed

Following Martin Luther we contemplate the Catechism.

We may begin with a hymn or a song.

L We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Psalm 92

L It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,*
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

C **to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning*
and of your faithfulness in the night season;**

L on the psaltery, and on the lyre,*
and to the melody of the harp.

C **For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;*
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

L LORD, how great are your works!*
your thoughts are very deep.

C **The dullard does not know, nor does the fool understand,*
that though the wicked grow like weeds, and all the workers of iniquity flourish,**

L they flourish only to be destroyed forever;*

C **but you, O LORD, are exalted forevermore.**

L The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,*
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

C **Those who are planted in the house of the LORD *
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

L they shall still bear fruit in old age,*
they shall be green and succulent;

C **that they may show how upright the LORD is,*
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.**

L Faithful and loving God, we praise your acts of love and all the works of your hands. Unite us
together in prayer and praise and bring us at last to yourself, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

We recite together the First Article of the Apostles' Creed.

We meditate on this mystery.

We recite together the Second Article of the Creed.

We meditate on this mystery.

We recite together the Third Article of the Creed.

We meditate on this mystery.

We pray with words inspired by Martin Luther.

L Living God, fountain of goodness, we thank you for your great works. In your loving-kindness you
created us out of nothing, and you provide for our daily needs. In your loving kindness you sent

your Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer for us, to die for us, to rise for us and to redeem us from death. In your loving kindness, by your Spirit, you open our hearts to hear your Word, to know Christ and to trust in your promises.

We confess our lack of faith and gratitude in failing to take these great works to heart. Grant us a right and confident faith that sincerely trusts you to be our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven ...

L The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

C **Amen.**

We may conclude with a hymn or a song.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen