#### 1

# **DAY ONE**

### **Adoration and Praise**

1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Genesis 1:31–2:3 (ESV)

You made heaven and earth for our sake, mighty God. You made the sun and moon for our use, as though they were our servants.

Raise our minds heavenward and upward to think on your true glory, by these your blessings.

May we faithfully worship you alone, surrendering ourselves entirely to you. Even while we enjoy the benefits of all the stars—and also the entire earth—may we know that we are bound to you by so many favors, that we may be more and more roused to do what is just and right.

So we will work to glorify your name on the earth, as we enjoy the blessed glory which comes from Christ our Lord, amen. —*John Calvin* 

# HYMN RESPONSE: FAIREST LORD JESUS (CRUSADERS HYMN) - SING OR SPEAK

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>39</sup> Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins? <sup>40</sup> Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord! Lamentations 3:39–40 (ESV)

Lord, your hand has shown us the everlasting fabric of the world. You created the earth.

You who are faithful throughout all generations, righteous in your judgments, marvelous in strength and excellence ... You who are wise in creating and establishing what you have made ... You who are good, and faithful toward those who trust in you ... You who show pity and compassion ... Forgive us our sins, our unrighteousness, our transgressions, and our shortcomings.

Do not hold us to account for every sin but cleanse us with the cleansing of your truth. Guide our steps to walk in holiness, righteousness, and singleness of heart. Help us to do those things that are good and pleasing in your sight, as well as in the sight of our leaders. Amen. —Clement of Rome

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. Romans 6:16–18 (ESV)

# GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

#### LORD'S DAY 1

1. What is your only comfort in life and in death? That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,<sup>1</sup> am not my own,<sup>2</sup> but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,<sup>3</sup> who with His precious blood<sup>4</sup> has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;<sup>5</sup> and so preserves me,<sup>6</sup> that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head;<sup>7</sup> indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.<sup>8</sup> Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,<sup>9</sup> and makes me heartily willing and ready henceforth to live unto Him.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rom 14:7-9; <sup>2</sup>1 Cor 6:19-20; <sup>3</sup>1 Cor 3:23; Tit 2:14; <sup>4</sup>1 Pt 1:18-19; 1 Jn 1:7, 2:2; <sup>5</sup>Jn 8:34-36; Heb 2:14-15; 1 Jn 3:8; <sup>6</sup>Jn 6:39-40, 10:27-30; 2 Thes 3:3; 1 Pt 1:5; <sup>7</sup>Mt 10:29-31; Lk 21:16-18; <sup>8</sup>Rom 8:28; <sup>9</sup>Rom 8:15-16; 2 Cor 1:21-22, 5:5; Eph 1:13-14; <sup>10</sup>Rom 8:14

2. How many things are necessary for you to know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

Three things: first, the greatness of my sin and misery; second, how I am redeemed from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.

 $^{1}$  Rom 3:9-10; 1 Jn 1:10;  $^{2}$  Jn 17:3; Acts 4:12, 10:43;  $^{3}$  Mt 5:16; Rom 6:13; Eph 5:8-10; 1 Pt 2:9-10

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

11 I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes!
13 With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.

14 In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.
15 I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. Psalm 119:11–16 (ESV)

Almighty God, bestow upon us the meaning of the words, the light of understanding, the nobility of diction and the faith of the true nature. And grant that what we believe we may speak. -Hilary of Poitiers (315-367 ad)

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>7</sup> Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)

Grant to us your servants: to our God, a heart of flame; to our fellow men – a heart of love; to ourselves – a heart of steel. Amen -Augustine of Hippo (354-430 ad)

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

We give you thanks, O heavenly Father, who has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of your Son; grant, we pray, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his presence abiding in us he may raise us to joys eternal; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. —Mozarabic Sacramentary

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13 (ESV)

# **DAY TWO**

## **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9–11, ESV

Lord, your name is good! Sweet and glorious, full of health. We desire your name!

Wicked spirits cannot bear you, when they behold Jesus—either in mind, or if they hear the name actually spoken.

I sought to love Jesus, and the more I grew complete in his love, so much the sweeter and savory was his name to me. So the name of Jesus is blessed forever and ever, and so be it. Amen. —John Wycliffe

# **HYMN RESPONSE: AT THE NAME OF JESUS** (WYE VALLEY [abridged])

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word:

Mighty and mysterious in the highest height, God from everlasting very light of light: in the Father's bosom with the Spirit blest, love, in love eternal, rest, in perfect rest.

#### CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming. Colossians 3:5–6 (ESV)

Great are you, O Lord Almighty, and great is your power. Your understanding is infinite.

Our Creator and Savior, you are generously rich, ever patient, the bestower of mercy. You never take back your salvation from your creatures—because you are by nature good. You spare the sinner and invite us to repent.

Your correction comes from the depths of your compassion. Yet how would we survive if you judged us immediately, today? Because even after so much patience on your part, we can hardly get clear of our miserable condition.

Amen. — Apostolic Constitutions

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:9–10 (ESV)

# **GLORIA PATRI** (Traditional)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary

Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell\*

The third day he rose again from the dead

He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead

I believe in the Holy Ghost

I believe a holy catholic church\*\*; the communion of saints

The forgiveness of sins
The resurrection of the body

And the life everlasting. Amen.

11

\*"DESCENDED INTO HELL" OR "INTO THE PLACE OF THE DEAD" – MEANING HE WAS DEAD AND IN THE TOMB FOR THREE DAYS

\*\*"CATHOLIC CHURCH" REFERS TO THE "UNIVERSAL CHURCH" (THE ONE TRUE

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

CHURCH COMPRISED OF ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST)

<sup>28</sup> But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:28 (ESV)

Lord, the beginning of the fall of man was trust in himself. And the beginning of the restoring of man was distrust in himself, and trust in God.

Our Savior, you lead those who truly trust and commit to you on the right path to immortal blessing. You are the gracious and most wise guide.

But since we are blind and feeble, grant that we may always keep you before our eyes, to follow you as our guide. Help us in obedience to be ready when you call, and to commit ourselves wholly to you. Then you—the only one who knows the way—will lead us to our heavenly desires.

Along with the Father and Holy Spirit, to you be glory forever, amen. —Primer of 1559

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:15–16 (ESV)

O Lord, we will bless you all our days, and our souls will glory in your grace. Your praise will dwell on our tongues, while saints and angels will join our songs. We pray that you will let the heavenly host serve as

We pray that you will let the heavenly host serve as guardians of our land and coast.

May they watch over your flock of grace, that we may lead a life of peace. Amen. —Philip Melanchthon

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; (Psalm 136:1–3, ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever

is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8–9 (ESV)

# **DAY THREE**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

Almighty God, though we see and hear so many testimonies of your glory every day, we can be so blind and shut out all the light by our ingratitude. Teach us to open our eyes. Yes, open them by your Spirit! Help us to spend time thinking on how many, how great, and how deep are your blessings toward us. And while you set before us the proof of your eternal divinity, help us to excel in this school of devotion. May we learn to give you all praise, until there is nothing left to do but to glorify you alone. May we all the more grow in our ardent desire to worship you, the more you bend down to us in grace.

May we also devote ourselves to you and grow to care about this one thing: that your glory may remain and shine forth throughout all the world, through Christ our Lord, amen. —John Calvin

# HYMN RESPONSE: IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE (ST. DENIO - SING OR SPEAK)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might; Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Isaiah 6:4–5 (ESV)

Heavenly Father, I need to confess the prophet Isaiah's confession, which he makes before declaring the word of the Lord:

"Woe to me!" he cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean

lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

If Isaiah said "Woe to me," when he looked upon you, Lord, what do I say of myself? How can I speak of things I fear?

I wish the seraphim would bring a burning coal from the celestial altar, take it in the tongs of the two Testaments, and with that fire purge *my* unclean lips! But while the seraph came down in a vision to Isaiah, you, O Lord, have revealed the mystery and come to us in the flesh.

You—not by any deputy, nor by any messenger, but you yourself—cleanse my conscience from my secret sins. Then I too, once unclean, but now by your mercy made clean through faith, may sing in the words of David: "I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. When I sing praise to you my lips will shout for joy, along with my soul, which you have redeemed" (Psalm 71:22–23).

— Ambrose of Milan

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>23</sup> They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 37:23 (ESV)

# **GLORIA PATRI** (Traditional)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

## THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:6–8 (ESV)

We praise you, unseen Father, provider of immortality. You are the fountain of life, the fountain of light, and the fountain of all grace and truth.

Lover of humanity, lover of the poor, you reconcile yourself to us all. And you draw us all to yourself through the advent of your beloved Son.

We beg you: Make us come alive! Give us a spirit of light, that we may "know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

Give us the Holy Spirit, that we may be able to proclaim your unspeakable mysteries. May the Lord Jesus speak in us and the Holy Spirit, and may we sing praises to you, amen.

—Serapion Scholasticus

(Your daily Scripture reading)

### DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah
Psalm 46:9–11 (ESV)

Lord, since you are Father and King over all, and we are your children, make us obedient to seek and to do your will, as the angels do in heaven. May none of us seek our own will, but all yours. But if rulers command what is contrary to your will, then help us to stand fast by your word, and to offer ourselves to suffer rather than to obey.

You know everything, Lord. Your son Jesus gave us an example when he desired (if it had been possible) that that cup of bitter death might have departed from him, saying, "Yet not as I will, but as you will."

So if we pray to you in our temptations and adversities, and you see a better way to your glory and our profit, then your will be done—not ours.

Amen. —William Tyndale

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

## 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from the evil one.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>9</sup> But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the Lord!" Jonah 2:9 (ESV)

### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV)

# **DAY FOUR**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

"Can you find out the deep things of God?
 Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?
 It is higher than heaven—what can you do?

Deeper than Sheol—what can you know?

Its measure is longer than the earth
and broader than the sea.

Job 11:7–9 (ESV)

O greatest, Supreme Creator of things invisible! You who are yourself unseen, and who cannot be comprehended! You are worthy, you are so worthy—if only we mortals may speak of you.

All who breathe and think should never cease to feel thankful and to give you thanks. Through our entire lives we should fall on our knees before you and offer never ending prayers.

For you are the first cause, and in you all created things exist. You are the foundation for all things. You are limitless, unbegotten, immortal, enduring forever. You are God yourself alone, uncontainable, of virtues indescribable, of greatness indefinable. You cannot be held to a single place; your movement cannot be restricted. Our words cannot define you. To understand you, we must be silent. Our attempts would only track you through a shady cloud.

Grant a pardon, King Supreme, to those who would persecute your servants.

We are not surprised if you are beyond knowing. We are more astonished if you were clearly comprehended.

Amen. —Arnobius

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
 2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV)

Even if we have fallen to the bottom, Lord, reach down your arm after us. It is long and strong enough to pluck us out again.

Deliver us out of the flesh, the world, and the power of the devil. Deliver us from evil! And place us in your kingdom, to the place where we are beyond all jeopardy.

For yours is the kingdom and the power forever, amen. —William Tyndale

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Romans 8:33–34 (ESV)

# HYMN RESPONSE: COME, YE SINNERS, POOR AND NEEDY - SING OR SPEAK

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched, Weak and wounded, sick and sore;

Jesus ready waits to save you, Full of pity, love and pow'r: He is able, He is able, He is willing, doubt no more.

Lo! th'incarnate God, ascended, Pleads the merit of His blood; Venture on Him, venture wholly; Let no other trust intrude: None but Jesus, none but Jesus, Can do helpless sinners good.

# GLORIA PATRI ("Angels from the Realms of Glory")

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit; Ever Three and ever One. One in might and One in glory, Through unending ages run.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

## THE ATHANASIAN CREED (PART ONE)

Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith. Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity,

neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence...

one,

For the person of the Father is a distinct person, the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit still another. But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is

their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

What quality the Father has, the Son has, and the Holy Spirit has.

The Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, the Holy Spirit is uncreated.

The Father is immeasurable, the Son is immeasurable, the Holy Spirit is immeasurable.

The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, the Holy Spirit is eternal.

And yet there are not three eternal beings; there is but one eternal being.

So too there are not three uncreated or immeasurable beings;

there is but one uncreated and immeasurable being.

Similarly, the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty. Yet there are not three almighty beings; there is but one almighty being.

Thus the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three gods; there is but one God.

Thus the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord. Yet there are not three lords; there is but one Lord.

Just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually as both God and Lord, so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.

# BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)

<sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

<sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Proverbs 3:3–4 (ESV)

Now speak, Lord, and I will hear. Now call, Lord, and I will answer. Now command me, impose on me what you will, and I will submit.

None but the Lord, none but Christ, no other lord nor lover. I am yours, Lord, your own.

Do with your own, demand of your own, whatever you please.

What will you have me be, Lord, what will you have me do? That is what I will do and be.

No longer what I will, but your will be done. Amen.

—Richard Alleine

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are,

yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (ESV)

- Lord Jesus, our great high priest, surely you are faithful. Surely you will do the work of the high priest for my soul.
- I have sinned, and sinned greatly. But Lord, it is the work of our high priest to clear my debt. Now, Lord Jesus, I come to you as my high priest. Resolve this for me.
- I confess that my own conscience accuses me. Satan accuses me. Moses accuses me. But it is the work of our great high priest to remove all accusations brought against poor believers.
- So now Lord, I do come to you as my great high priest. Take away the accusations. When I look at what I do, there is so much deadness, so much hardness of heart, and so many distractions. I am afraid my best will never be enough.
- But Lord, it is the job of our great high priest to take away the weeds of the work we do, and to present it to God. Now, O Lord, I come to you as my high priest. Carry my prayers to God the Father.
- When I consider my former life, Lord, I can only conclude that I am a poor sinner, and cursed. Yet it is the job of our great high priest to bless the people.

So Lord, I come to you now as my high priest. Bless me! And by your grace, tell me to increase and multiply. Amen. —William Bridge

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day:
 "Give thanks to the Lord,
 call upon his name,
 make known his deeds among the peoples,
 proclaim that his name is exalted. Isaiah 12:4 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah <sup>2</sup> that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1–2 (ESV)

# **DAY FIVE**

## **Adoration and Praise**

- There is none like you, O LORD;
   you are great, and your name is great in might.
   Who would not fear you, O King of the nations?
   For this is your due;
   for among all the wise ones of the nations
   and in all their kingdoms
   there is none like you. Jeremiah 10:6–7 (ESV)
  - O Lord, let me not henceforth desire health or life, except to spend them for you, with you, and in you. You alone know what is good for me; do, therefore, what seems best. Give to me, or take from me; conform my will to yours; and grant that, with humble and perfect submission, and in holy confidence, I may receive the orders of your eternal providence; and may equally adore all that comes to

me from you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Blaise Pascal

# HYMN RESPONSE: OU GREAT GOD (FERNANDO ORTEGA) - SING OR SPEAK

Eternal God, unchanging
Mysterious and unknown.
Your boundless love, unfailing
In grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight
Around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone.

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God. Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God.

Let every creature in the sea.
And every flying bird;
Let every mountain, every field
And valley of the earth.
Let all the moons and all the stars
In all the universe;
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His word.

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God. Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. Isaiah 64:6 (ESV)

Almighty, eternal, living, and true God, you are creator of heaven and earth and men, together with your coeternal Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who was crucified for us and raised from the dead, and your living, pure, and true holy Spirit.

You are the wise, good, faithful, gracious and just God. The pure and faithful Savior, who gives life and law. You have said: "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezekiel 33:11). And "call upon me on the day of trouble; I will deliver you" (Psalm 50:15).

I confess that I am a poor sinner before you. I am burdened with many sins. I have broken your holy commandments in many ways, and I mourn from my heart that I have offended you. For the sake of your dear Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who was

nailed to the cross for our sakes and raised again from the dead, I pray that you would have mercy on me. Forgive me my sins, and justify me by and for the sake of the Lord Jesus. He is your eternal Word and image. Led by your wonderful and indescribable guidance, and by your inscrutable wisdom and mercy, you delivered him as a sacrifice, mediator, redeemer, and savior.

I also appeal to you: Set me apart, sanctify me by your holy, living, pure, and true Spirit. That way, I can truly acknowledge and firmly believe, obey, thank, fear, and call upon you. That way, I can behold your grace-filled appearance with joy throughout all eternity. That way, I can serve you forever.

I have hoped in you, Lord. Let me never be perplexed. Deliver me. Make me righteous, and bring me into eternal life.

You have redeemed me, God of faithfulness and truth.

Amen. —Philip Melanchthon

# **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

<sup>11</sup> "This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:11–12 (ESV)

# GLORIA PATRI. ("Angels from the Realms of Glory")

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run. Amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

# THE ATHANASIAN CREED (PART TWO)

Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith.

Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity,

neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten from anyone.

The Son was neither made nor created;

he was begotten from the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit was neither made nor created nor begotten;

he proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Accordingly there is one Father, not three fathers; there is one Son, not three sons; there is one Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits. Nothing in this trinity is before or after, nothing is greater or smaller; in their entirety the three persons are coeternal and coequal with each other. So in everything, as was said earlier, we must worship their trinity in their unity and their unity in their trinity.

Anyone then who desires to be saved

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

should think thus about the trinity.

<sup>5</sup> Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. <sup>6</sup> Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. Proverbs 30:5–6 (ESV)

Lord, you have given us your Word for a light to shine upon our path; grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. — Jerome

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1–2 (ESV)

Lord, give us all that the necessity of this life requires, day by day. We do not want to store up a supply that would last for many years, to preclude all necessity of praying to you. We do not want to forget you.

But minister it day by day, so that we may daily feel your benefits and never forget you.

Or if you give us an abundance above what we desire, then give us a heart to use it for the purpose you intend—including sharing with our neighbors. Help us not to be overly attached to what you provide, but to remember it is yours, and that you may take it away whenever you like.

In that way help us to be content with whatever you do, always keeping in mind that whatever you provide is simply our daily bread. Amen. —William Tyndale

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

1 Timothy 4:4–5(ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>19</sup> And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:19–20 (ESV)

## **DAY SIX**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>9</sup> And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Revelation 4:9–11, ESV)

Supreme One, who is over all, what other name can we call you, in your greatness? How else can we celebrate your fame?

- You are indescribable! How can song or tongue describe the measure of your praise?
- How can the human mind catch a glimpse of your dazzling throne, where you dwell alone, or probe your unapproachable depths?
- The one unknown! All we can know or see have had their birth in you.
- Mindful and mindless, all things yield to you, the ultimate parent. We honor and obey you, our life and shield.
- Night and day, through our common needs and troubles, all revolve around you. All our prayers end with you.
- You put everything in its place, and the universe sings its silent song of majesty to you.
- We see how everything draws its life from you, and you have shown your divinity in your design.
- You are the goal. One being. All things, yet none.
- How do we address you, Mysterious One? Who brings a worthy name? All-named from your own qualities?
- How do we speak of you, as you should be spoken of? You are unlimited, alone. Beyond the range of thought.
- How can even a heaven-born intellect part the clouds above?
- Have mercy! Send us a token of your love, Supreme One, over all. What other name may we use to call on your greatness, or celebrate your fame?
- Amen. Gregory Nazianzen

# HYMN RESPONSE: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - SING OR SPEAK

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early In The Morning Our Song Shall Rise To
Thee;
Holy, Holy, Merciful And Mighty!

Holy, Holy! All The Saints Adore Thee, Casting Down Their Golden Crowns Around The Glassy Sea;

Cherubim And Seraphim Falling Down Before Thee.

God In Three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

Who Was, And Is, And Evermore Shall Be.

Holy, Holy! Though The Darkness Hide Thee, Though The Eye Of Sinful Man Thy Glory May Not See;

Only Thou Art Holy; There Is None Beside Thee, Perfect In Power, In Love, And Purity.

Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy Works Shall Praise Thy Name, In Earth, And Sky, And Sea;

Holy, Holy, Holy; Merciful And Mighty! God In Three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- <sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
- <sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- <sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? Psalm 130:1–3 (ESV)

Almighty God and heavenly Father, we, poor, miserable sinners, confess that from our childhood until this very hour we have sinned against your commandments by evil thoughts, words, will, and works, which we cannot count, and first of all by vast unbelief. Therefore, we are not worthy to be called your children, nor lift our eyes up to heaven. O God and Father, we wish that we had never provoked you to anger. In your mercy and for the sake of your glory, we ask you to receive us into your grace by the forgiveness of our sins. -Johannes Oecolampadius

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
- <sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
- <sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning. Psalm 130:4–6 (ESV)

GLORIA PATRI. "Praise the Savior, Ye Who Know Him")

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit, Ever Three and One. As it was in the beginning, Now and evermore shall be; World that shall never end, Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

### THE ATHANASIAN CREED (PART THREE)

Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith.

Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity,

neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence...

But it is necessary for eternal salvation that one also believe in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully. Now this is the true faith:

That we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and human, equally. He is God from the essence of the Father, begotten before time; and he is human from the essence of his mother. born in time: completely God, completely human, with a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as regards divinity, less than the Father as regards humanity. Although he is God and human, yet Christ is not two, but one. He is one, however, not by his divinity being turned into flesh, but by God's taking humanity to himself. He is one, certainly not by the blending of his essence, but by the unity of his person.

For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh,

so too the one Christ is both God and human. He suffered for our salvation; he descended to hell; he arose from the dead; he ascended to heaven;

he is seated at the Father's right hand; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will arise bodily and give an accounting of their own deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life, and those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith: one cannot be saved without believing it firmly and faithfully.

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:16-17 (ESV)

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe and believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen. - Huldrych (Ulrich) Zwingli

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (ESV)

You are holy, Lord God, who alone works wonders. You are strong. You are great. You are most high. You are the Almighty King, you, holy Father, King of heaven and earth. You are the Lord God Triune and One; all good. You are good, all good, highest good, Lord God living and true. You are charity, love. You are wisdom. You are humility. You are patience. You are security. You are quietude. You are joy and gladness. You are justice and temperance. You are all

riches to sufficiency. You are beauty. You are meekness. You are protector. You are guardian and defender. You are strength. You are refreshment. You are our hope. You are our faith. You are our great sweetness. You are our eternal life, great and admirable Lord, God Almighty, merciful Saviour. - Francis of Assisi

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

47

# 2 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)

### **DAY SEVEN**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—<sup>14</sup> so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13–14(ESV)

We lift up our hearts. We give thanks to You, the Lord our God. It is truly very fitting, right, just, and salutary, that we should give you thanks at all times and in all places. O Lord, holy, almighty Father, eternal God, you obtained salvation for us through the wooden cross, so that life should come from the same as that from which death originated, and so that the enemy, who by the transgression of the tree overcame us all in Adam, would be conquered through the obedience offered on the tree, through Christ Jesus our

Lord. Through his majesty and glory, the angels and all the heavenly host together rejoice and praise you with one voice. With these, we pray in all humility. Accept also our voices and the cries of our hearts. Amen. (Adapted from the "German Mass 1524.")

# HYMN RESPONSE: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS - SING OR SPEAK

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suff'ring and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, Such a wonderful beauty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me.

### Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown. 49

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' (Luke 18:14, ESV)

I, poor sinner, confess myself before God Almighty, that I have gravely sinned by the transgression of his commandments; that I have done many things which I should have left undone, and I have left undone that which I should have done, through unbelief and distrust in God and weakness of love toward my fellow servants. God knows the guilt I have incurred, for which I am grieved. Be gracious to me, Lord. Be merciful to me, a poor sinner. Amen.

"German Mass 1524."

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:14 (ESV)

**GLORIA PATRI.** ("Praise the Savior, Ye Who Know Him")

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit, Ever Three and One.
As it was in the beginning,
Now and evermore shall be;
World that shall never end,
Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation)

# TRIUNE GOD. "We believe..."

That there is one God, infinitely great and good, the creator and sustainer of all things visible and invisible, the one true source of light and life, who has life in himself and lives eternally in glorious light and sovereign love in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14) – co-equal in nature, majesty, and glory. Everything God does in creating, sustaining, judging, and redeeming the world reflects who God is, the one whose perfections, including love, holiness, knowledge, wisdom, power, and righteousness, have been revealed in the history of salvation. God has freely purposed from before the foundation of the world to elect and form a people for himself to be his treasured possession (Deut. 7:6), to the praise of his glory (Eph. 1:3-14).

## **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16 (ESV)

O most loving Jesus, of all masters the best, grant to me, I ask you, that I may with a thirsting heart drink in the streams of your saving doctrine; that I may diligently give my mind to, wisely discern, and lovingly delight in, the words which then fell from your sacred lips. Incline my heart unto your testimonies; open my ear to the words of your mouth; turn away my eyes that they may not behold vanity, and quicken me in your way. For although the meaning of the gospel may appear simple and easy to be understood, yet it is so deep and lofty, and so full of heavenly mysteries, that the whole world would not be large enough to contain them.

-Thomas à Kempis

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; 52

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Romans 8:31–34(ESV)

O you plenteous source of every good and perfect gift, shed abroad the cheering light of your sevenfold grace over our hearts. Yes, Spirit of love and gentleness, we most humbly implore your assistance. You know our faults, our failings, our necessities, the dullness of our understanding, the waywardness of our affections, the perverseness of our will. When, therefore, we neglect to practice what we know, visit us, we ask you, with your grace, enlighten our minds, rectify our desires, correct our wanderings, and pardon our omissions, so that by your guidance we may be preserved from making shipwreck of faith, and keep a good

conscience, and may at length be landed safe in the haven of eternal rest; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Anselm

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

It is very right and our bounden duty to give thanks unto you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, for all your bounties known and unknown; but chiefly are we bound to praise you that you have ransomed us from eternal death, and given us the joyful hope of everlasting life through Jesus Christ your Son, whom 54

you sent into the world to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. You, God the Father unbegotten; You, the only begotten Son; You, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; the holy, undivided Trinity, we confess and praise with heart and mouth; saying, with angels and archangels, and all the company of Heaven, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full of your glory: Glory be to you, O Lord Most High.

- Marvin R. Vincent

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (ESV)

# DAY EIGHT

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he

sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,... Hebrews 1:1–3 (ESV)

Father of your beloved and blessed Son, Jesus Christ, we have come to know you through him. You are the God of angels, powers, creation, and the entire race of the righteous who live in your presence.

I praise you for everything. I bless and glorify you, through the eternal high priest, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, through whom and with him, in the Holy Spirit, be glory unto you, both now and for the ages to come.

Amen.

—Polycarp

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>9</sup>Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

<sup>10</sup> Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. Psalm 32:9–10 (ESV)

Lord, even though I walked the wrong path since I was young, I appear now before your throne of grace. I know you are merciful and kind, and you do not want sinners to die. You want us to repent—and live! Your prophets preached the way of repentance. So did your faithful servant, Moses. They spoke against sin

and proclaimed your grace far abroad. Your sharp, piercing word was in their mouths. They taught the truth.

And you sent your beloved Son, the dear pledge of your grace. He preached your word, fulfilled your righteousness, and accomplished your will. He bore our sins, blotted them out with his blood, and brought about reconciliation. He conquered the devil, hell, sin, and death. And he obtained grace, mercy, favor, and peace for all who truly believe on him.

His command is eternal life. He sent out his messengers, ministers, and apostles of peace to spread this grace through the whole world. And they shone as bright, burning torches before all, that they might lead me and all erring sinners into the true way.

O Lord, not unto me, but unto you be praise and honor. I believe your Son, Christ Jesus, whom they preached to me. I believe! I seek his will and his way. I acknowledge your abundant, great love—not through me, but through you.

For you are good, and I am evil. You are true, and I am deceitful. You are righteous, and I am unrighteous. Teach me the right way, dear Lord. Adopt me; I am of your pasture. Take me into your care, under the shadow of your wings. Protect me! Amen.

-Menno Simons

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:

though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Isaiah 1:18, ESV)

### GLORIA PATRI. (Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah)

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit; Ever Three and ever One. One in might and One in glory, Through unending ages run. Through unending ages run.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

# **HOLY SCRIPTURE** "We believe..."

That God has spoken and continues to speak in and through Scripture, the only infallible and sufficiently clear rule and authority for Christian faith, thought, and life (sola scriptura). Scripture is God's inspired and illuminating Word in the words of his servants (Psa. 119:105), the prophets and apostles, a gracious self-communication of God's own light and life, a means of

grace for growing in knowledge and holiness. The Bible is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it commands, trusted in all that it promises, and revered in all that it reveals (2 Tim 3:16).

### **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>5</sup> Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Proverbs 4:5 (ESV)

HYMN OF ILLUMINATION: EVERY PROMISE OF YOUR WORD (Keith & Kristyn Getty) - SING OR SPEAK

From the breaking of the dawn to the setting of the Sun

I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word. Words of power, strong to save, that will

never pass away.

I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

For Your covenant is sure

And on this I am secure;

I can stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in

I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word. You are faithful to forgive that in freedom I might live
So I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Guilt to innocence restored
You remember sins no more;
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice, I will listen for Your voice
And I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with Your hand
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
And You've promised to complete
Ev'ry work begun in me;
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

Lord God, let us keep your Scriptures in mind and meditate on them day and night, persevering in prayer, always on the watch. We beg you, Lord, to give us real knowledge of what we read and to show us not only how to understand it, but how to put it into practice, so that we may deserve to obtain spiritual grace, enlightened by the law of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose power and glory will endure throughout all ages. Amen. -Origen of Alexandria

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

- 1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
  Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Isaiah 55:1–3 (ESV)

We pray you to impress upon us a deep sense of the importance of eternity. May we be looking

continually to the end of our course; and remembering how soon all in which we here delight shall have passed away forever, may we prepare to give up our account of all things done in the body; and day by day may we have our conversation in heaven, moderating our affections toward the things of this world, and living here below a life of faith in the Son of God. Henry Thornton

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day:

- "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.
- <sup>5</sup> "Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 12:4–6 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (ESV)

# **DAY NINE**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

- 40 <sup>3</sup> Then Job answered the LORD and said:
- <sup>4</sup> "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?

I lay my hand on my mouth.

- <sup>5</sup> I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further." (Job 40:3–5, ESV)
- 42 <sup>1</sup> Then Job answered the LORD and said:

- <sup>2</sup> "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
- <sup>3</sup> 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
- <sup>4</sup> 'Hear, and I will speak;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.'

- <sup>5</sup> I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;
- <sup>6</sup> therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:1–6 (ESV)

I weave a silence on to my lips

I weave a silence into my mind

I weave a silence within my heart

I close my ears to distractions

I close my eyes to attractions

I close my heart to temptations

Calm me O Lord as you stilled the storm Still me O Lord, keep me from harm Let all the tumult within me cease

Enfold me Lord in your peace

Circle me Lord

**Keep protection near** 

And danger afar

Circle me Lord

Keep hope within

Keep doubt without

Circle me Lord

Keep light near

And darkness afar

Circle me Lord

Keep peace within

Keep evil out. — Celtic Prayer

**HYMN RESPONSE:** THERE IS A PLACE OF QUIET REST - SING OR SPEAK

There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God; A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God; Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release, Near to the heart of God; A place where all is joy and peace, Near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God; Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Deliver us, O Lord, from evil.

O Lord Jesu Christ, guard ever in all good works.

O fount and author of all good things,

O God empty us from faults,

And replenish us with good virtues.

Through Thee, O Christ Jesu. -Celtic Prayer

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8–9 (ESV)

GLORIA PATRI. ("Angels from the Realms of Glory")

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit; Ever Three and ever One. One in might and One in glory, Through unending ages run. Amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

#### **HUMAN BEINGS.** "We believe..."

That God communicates his goodness to all creatures, but in particular to human beings, whom he has made in his own image, both male and female (Gen. 1:26-27), and accordingly that all men, women, and children have been graciously bestowed with inherent dignity (rights) and creaturely vocation (responsibilities).

#### **FALLENNESS.** "We believe..."

That the original goodness of creation and the human creature has been corrupted by sin, namely, the self-defeating choice of the first human beings to deny the Creator and the created order by going their own way, breaking God's law for life (Rom. 3:23). Through disobedience to the law-giver, Adam and Eve incurred disorder instead of order (Rom. 8:20-21), divine condemnation instead of approval, and death instead of life for themselves and their descendants (Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-20).

## **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." 1 Samuel 3:10 (ESV)

Creator help us to hear Saviour help us to hear Sanctifier help us to hear

Creator help us to see Saviour help us to see Sanctifier help us to see

Creator help us to be aware Saviour help us to be aware Sanctifier help us to be aware

Creator help us to care
Saviour help us to care
Sanctifier help us to care

Creator sharpen our senses

Saviour sharpen our senses

Sanctifier sharpen our senses. — Celtic Prayer

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

36 For from him and through him and to him are all

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33–36 (ESV)

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
 be gracious to me and answer me!
 You have said, "Seek my face."
 My heart says to you,
 "Your face, Lord, do I seek."
 Psalm 27:7–8 (ESV)

O God, we thank Thee for the Truth, the helpful, encouraging, wondrous Truth that illuminates our minds, encourages our hearts, and cheers us in discouragement. We thank Thee that we feel Thy heartbeat in it and we feel the warmth of Thy presence in it. We sense Thy great care and

lovingkindness as we read together and hear Thee say, oh, that Thou wouldest. And it makes our hearts want to respond to Thee and say, "O Lord, we will. We will follow Thee, O God, and we'll obey Thee." Amen. — A. W.Tozer

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 (ESV)

70

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:10–11, ESV)

## **DAY TEN**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. <sup>28</sup> You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. Ezekiel 36:25–28 (ESV)

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

# -Book of Common Prayer

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

14 Seek good, and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,
as you have said.
15 Hate evil, and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.
Amos 5:14–15 (ESV)

We give thee thanks—yes, more than thanks, O Lord our God, for all thy goodness at all times and in all places, because thou has shielded, rescued, helped and guided us all the days of our lives and brought us to this hour. We pray and beseech thee, merciful God, to grant in thy goodness that we may spend this day, and all the time of our lives, without sin, in fullness of joy, holiness and reverence of thee. But drive away from us, O Lord, all envy, all fear and all temptations. Bestow on us what is good and meet. Whatever sin we commit in thought, word or deed, do thou in thy goodness and mercy be pleased to pardon. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; through the grace, mercy and love of thine only-begotten Son. Amen.

-Liturgy of St. Mark

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:7 (ESV)

**HYMN RESPONSE:** CREATE IN ME A NEW HEART, O GOD - SING OR SPEAK

Create in me a clean heart, oh God, And renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, oh God, And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord; And take not Thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And renew a right spirit within me.

# GLORIA PATRI (By Sarah Kroger) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, Glory be to the Spirit, God is Three-in-One. As it was in the beginning, it will be at the end; Glory be, glory be, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

#### **JESUS CHRIST.** "We believe..."

That Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God become human for us and our salvation (John 3:17), the only Mediator (solus Christus) between God and humanity (1 Tim. 2:5), born of the virgin Mary, the Son of David and servant of the house of Israel (Rom. 1:3; 15:8), one person with two natures, truly God and truly man. He lived a fully human life, having entered into the disorder and brokenness of fallen existence, yet without sin, and in his words, deeds, attitude, and suffering embodied the free and loving communication of God's own light (truth) and life (salvation).

## **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>2</sup> All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord.

But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. Isaiah 66:2 (ESV) Almighty God, We earnestly implore You and ask You graciously to reveal Your holy, eternal Word to us poor men, and to introduce us to the knowledge of Your will, and also to direct all those who err in Your Word to the right way again, so that we may live according to Your divine will.

- Heinrich Bullinger

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV)

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>18</sup> Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18–20 (ESV)

O Lord our God, teach us, we ask you, to ask you aright for the right blessings. Steer the vessel of our life toward yourself, you tranquil haven of all stormtossed souls. Show us the course wherein we should go. Renew a willing spirit within us. Let your Spirit curb our wayward senses, and guide and enable us unto that which is our true good, to keep your laws, and in all our works evermore to rejoice in your glorious and gladdening presence. For yours is the glory and praise from all your saints, for ever and ever. Amen. -Basil the Great

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>4</sup> to him who alone does great wonders,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>5</sup> to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;

Psalm 136:1–5 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>24</sup> The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26 (ESV)

### DAY ELEVEN

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>12</sup> Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the

presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, <sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:12–16 (ESV)

Great God, let all things that are in heaven above and in earth beneath bless you, for you are great and great is your name. O unfading Beauty of the most high God, and purest Brightness of Eternal Light; O Life enlivening all life, O Light enlightening all light, and sustaining in eternal splendour the thousand thousands of lights that blaze before the throne of your divine majesty, on from the distant dawn of their first early shining. O welling Fountain, hidden from mortal sight in the eternal and exhaustless outgushing of your fresh limpid floods, whose springs have no beginning, whose deeps are deep and infinitely deep, whose height attains no limit, whose breadth broadens onwards without limit forever, whose purity is unruffled through eternity! The bosom of

unfathomable God pours you forth from the unsearchable abyss of His own profound, Life begetting Life, Light begetting Light, God begetting God, eternal God begetting eternal God, infinite God, God infinite and in all things coequal with Himself. And of your fullness we have all received.

-Anselm

**HYMN RESPONSE:** O WORSHIP THE KING - SING OR SPEAK

O worship the King all-glorious above, O gratefully sing his power and his love: our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space. His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail. Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

79

O measureless Might, unchangeable Love, whom angels delight to worship above! Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze, in true adoration shall sing to your praise.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>8</sup> To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. <sup>9</sup> To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him <sup>10</sup> and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. Daniel 9:8–10 (ESV)

Father of heaven, Son of God, Redeemer of the world, and Holy Spirit who proceeds from them both, three persons and one God—have mercy on me, a miserable sinner.

I have offended heaven and earth, more than my tongue can express. So where do I go, and where do I flee for relief? I am ashamed to lift up my eyes to heaven, and in earth I find no refuge.

So what do I do? Lose hope? Give up? God forbid.

O God, you are merciful. You never turn away anyone who comes to you for help. So I run to you. I humble myself before you. My sins are great, but have mercy on me for your great mercy.

You did not become a man for our small offenses. You did not give up your Son to death just for small sins, but for all and the greatest sins of the world, so sinners could return to you in their hearts—as I am doing right now.

So have mercy on me, O Lord. Although my sins are great, yet your mercy is greater.

I crave nothing, O Lord, on my own account. This is for your name's sake, to make it holy, and for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come!

Amen. —Thomas Cranmer

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:7 (ESV)

## GLORIA PATRI (By Sarah Kroger) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, Glory be to the Spirit, God is Three-in-One. As it was in the beginning, it will be at the end; Glory be, glory be, amen.

AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

# THE ATONING WORK OF CHRIST "We believe..."

That God who is rich in mercy towards the undeserving has made gracious provision for human wrongdoing, corruption, and guilt, provisionally and typologically through Israel's Temple and sin offerings, then definitively and gloriously in the gift of Jesus' once-forall sufficient and perfect sacrificial death on the cross (Rom. 6:10; 1 Pet. 3:18) in the temple of his human flesh (Heb. 10:11-12). By his death in our stead, he revealed God's love and upheld God's justice, removing our guilt, vanquishing the powers that held us captive, and reconciling us to God (Isa. 53:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:21; Col. 2:14-15). It is wholly by grace (sola gratia), not our own works or merits, that we have been forgiven; it is wholly by Jesus' shed blood, not by our own sweat and tears, that we have been cleansed.

### **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; Proverbs 2:6 (ESV)

Lord, your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105). It shows us where to walk, not

to the right or the left, but the way you have appointed, to live and please you.

Your law is perfect and undefiled. It turns souls and gives wisdom—even to infants. Your ways are right, and cause the heart to rejoice.

Your commands are pure, and give light to our eyes. Your word heals all. Through the word you have left for us, we are made clean. It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). It is sweeter than honey and more precious than gold...

And since neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:7), we pray that the seed of your word planted here will fall into good ground in our hearts. May it not be choked by thorns, dried up for lack of moisture, or carried off by birds.

But through the working of the Holy Spirit may it take root in our hearts and bring forth plenty of good fruit, for your glory and the health of our souls, amen. — Thomas Becon

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:5–6 (ESV)

If you had not been my shield and defense, innumerable evils would have surrounded and danger have overcome me, that I could not have left my bed and risen in health—therefore it becomes me to praise my God. Early do I seek you, and in the morning shall my prayer ascend unto you, that you would this day preserve me and all mine, from the devices and power of the Devil, from sin and shame, and from all evil. - Johann Habermann

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from the evil one.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–19 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (ESV)

### **DAY TWELVE**

85

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for

"'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. (Acts 17:24–29, ESV)

Almighty God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intellect to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you and life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Attributed to Benedict of Nursia

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>1</sup> Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,

or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

<sup>2</sup> but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,

and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. Isaiah 59:1–2 (ESV)

Lord, accept the sacrifice of my confessions from the ministry of my tongue, which you have formed and stirred up to confess your name.

Heal all my bones, and let them say, "Oh Lord, who is like you?"

Those who confess you do not teach you what is inside them. A closed heart does not keep you out, and a person's hard heart cannot hold back your hand. You dissolve it at will, in pity or in vengeance, and nothing can hide from your heat.

But my soul will praise you, and love you. Let my soul confess your mercies, that it may praise you.

Your entire creation does not stop praising you, and it is not silent in your praises. Our weary souls arise toward you, leaning on creation.

That is refreshment. That is true strength.

Amen. —Augustine of Hippo

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,... Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

## GLORIA PATRI (Traditional) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

#### **THE GOSPEL** "We believe..."

That the gospel is the good news that the triune God has poured out his grace in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that through his work we might have peace with God (Rom. 5:1). Jesus lived in perfect obedience yet suffered everything sinners deserved so that sinners would not have to pursue a righteousness of their own, relying on their own works, but rather through trust in him as the

fulfillment of God's promises could be justified by faith alone (sola fide) in order to become fellow heirs with him. Christ died in the place of sinners, absorbing the wages of sin (Rom. 6:23), so that those who entrust themselves to him also die with him to the power, penalty, and (eventually) practice of sin. Christ was raised the firstborn of a renewed and restored creation, so that those whom the Spirit unites to him in faith are raised up and created a new humanity in him (Eph. 2:15). Renewed in God's image, they are thereby enabled to live out his life in them. One with Christ and made alive in him who is the only ground of salvation, sinners are reconciled with God – justified, adopted, sanctified, and eventually glorified children of the promise.

### BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)

HYMN OF ILLUMINATION: SPEAK, O LORD (Keith & Kristyn Getty) - SING OR SPEAK

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us, Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of pow'r that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace, we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith, we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Our Father in heaven, whose light is perfect, converting souls, whose testimony is true, providing wisdom to the ignorant and enlightening the eyes of little children (Ps. 19), we humbly entreat you, for the sake of your boundless mercy, to condescend to illuminate our otherwise blind minds by the light of your Holy Spirit, so that we might be able both to understand rightly your holy law and to model what we understand even through our whole life.

- John à Lasco

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
<sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4–7 (ESV)

Almighty God, who sees that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us, both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.] -The Gregorian Sacramentary

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and

honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Revelation 7:9–12 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (ESV)

### **DAY THIRTEEN**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:3–7 (ESV)

O God, who did look on humanity when they had fallen down into death and resolve to redeem them by the advent of your only-begotten Son, grant, we ask you, that they who confess his glorious incarnation may also be admitted to the fellowship of him their Redeemer; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Ambrose

# **HYMN RESPONSE:** LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS - SING OR SPEAK

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms! What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms! O how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms! I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. - Isaiah 53:6–7 (ESV)

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, look on us and have mercy on us, you who are both victim and priest, reward and redeemer; keep safe from all evils those whom you have redeemed, O Savior of the world. - Old Gallican Missal

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>11</sup> And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,... Hebrews 10:11–12 (ESV)

### GLORIA PATRI (Traditional) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

#### **THE GOSPEL** "We believe..."

That the gospel is the good news that the triune God has poured out his grace in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that through his work we might have peace with God (Rom. 5:1). Jesus lived in perfect obedience yet suffered everything sinners deserved so that sinners would not have to pursue a righteousness of their own, relying on their own works, but rather through trust in him as the fulfillment of God's promises could be justified by faith alone (sola fide) in order to become fellow heirs with him. Christ died in the place of sinners, absorbing the wages of sin (Rom. 6:23), so that those who entrust themselves to him also die with him to the power, penalty, and (eventually) practice of sin. Christ was raised the firstborn of a renewed and restored creation, so that those whom the Spirit unites to him in faith are raised up and created a new humanity in him (Eph. 2:15). Renewed in God's image, they are thereby enabled to live out his life in them. One with Christ and

96

made alive in him who is the only ground of salvation, sinners are reconciled with God – justified, adopted, sanctified, and eventually glorified children of the promise.

### **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12–13 (ESV)

Almighty, gracious Father, since our whole salvation depends on our true understanding of your Holy Word, grant us all that our hearts—freed from worldly affairs—may hear and understand your holy Word with all diligence and faith, so that we may rightly discern your gracious will, cherish it, and live by it with all earnestness, to your praise and honor, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. — Martin Bucer

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

<sup>11</sup> Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in

the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. - 1 Chronicles 29:11 (ESV)

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>18</sup> The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.
Psalm 145:18–19 (ESV)

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>13</sup> And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:13 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

11 May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace! Psalm 29:11 (ESV)

### **DAY FOURTEEN**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

## The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
<sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; <sup>6</sup> for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 1:1–6 (ESV)

#### Good God!

What a mighty felicity is this to which we are called? How graciously hast thou joined our duty and happiness together, and prescribed that for our work, the performance whereof is a great reward?

O the happiness of those souls that have broken the fetters of self-love, and disentangled their affection from every narrow and particular good, whose understandings are enlightened by thy Holy Spirit, and their wills enlarged to the extent of thine, who love thee above all things, and all mankind for thy sake!...

O teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God, thy Spirit is good, lead me unto the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O Lord, for thy Name's sake, and perfect that which concerns me: Thy mercy, O Lord, endures for ever, forsake not the works of thine own hands. Amen. -Henry Scougal

# **HYMN RESPONSE:** LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS - SING OR SPEAK

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! your God does undertake
To guide the future as he has the past;
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.

<sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

<sup>3</sup> My soul also is greatly troubled.

But you, O Lord—how long?

<sup>4</sup> Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

Psalm 6:1-4 (ESV)

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess before thee our sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all our shortcomings and offenses. Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned in wandering from thy way, in wasting thy gifts, in forgetting thy love. But thou, O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased thee. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of thy dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father, help us, we beseech thee, to live in thy light and walk in thy ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Henry van Dyke

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>8</sup> ...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:7–11 (ESV)

# **GLORIA PATRI** ("Angels from the Realms of Glory") - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run. Amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

# THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT "We believe..."

That the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, the unseen yet active personal presence of God in the world, who unites believers to Christ, regenerating and making them new creatures (Tit. 3:5) with hearts oriented to the light and life of the kingdom of God and to peace and justice on earth. The Spirit indwells those whom he makes alive with Christ, through faith incorporates them into the body of Christ, and conforms them to the image of Christ so that they may glorify him as they grow in knowledge, wisdom, and love into mature sainthood, the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph.

4:13). The Spirit is the light of truth and fire of love who continues to sanctify the people of God, prompting them to repentance and faith, diversifying their gifts, directing their witness, and empowering their discipleship.

### **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

17 ...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might... Ephesians 1:17–19 (ESV)

Grant us, O Lord God, the knowledge of your divine words, and fill us with the understanding of your holy gospel and the riches of your divine gifts and the indwelling of your Holy Spirit; and give us with joy to keep your commandments and accomplish them and fulfill your will and to be accounted worthy of the blessings and the mercies that are from you now and at all times. -Syrian Jacobite Liturgy

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

<sup>11</sup> Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 1 Chronicles 29:11 (ESV)

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

- The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
- He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

Psalm 145:18–19 (ESV)

#### O God ...

Thou hast commanded us to pray always, with all prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, and to watch thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; to continue in prayer; and in every thing by prayer and supplication to make our requests known to God.

Thou hast directed us to ask, and seek, and knock, and hast promised that we shall receive, we shall find, and it shall be opened to us.

Thou hast appointed us a great High Priest, in whose name we may come boldly to the throne of grace, that

we may find mercy and grace to help in time of need....

Thou art he that hears prayer, and therefore unto thee shall all flesh come.

Thou sayest, "Seek ye my face," and our hearts answer, Thy face, Lord, will we seek. For should not a people seek unto their God? Whither shall we go but to thee? Thou hast the words of eternal life.

Amen. - Matthew Henry

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

1 Chronicles 29:12–13 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. - The Book of Common Worship (1932)

## **DAY FIFTEEN**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

"It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.
When he utters his voice there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth.

He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

17 Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them.

18 They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.

Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name.

Jeremiah 51:15–19 (ESV)

Stir up, we ask you, in our hearts, the true fear of God, and true faith and knowledge of your mercy, which the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has promised us, for his Son's sake. Be unto us a helper and comforter in all counsels, and dangers, and so endue our minds with your grace, that we may with true obedience glorify the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. - Philip Melanchthon

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:8–10 (ESV)

Almighty God, who art rich in mercy to all those who call upon Thee; Hear us as we come to Thee humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring Thy mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Thy holy laws by our deeds and words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before Thee our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; And all our failures and shortcomings toward Thee and our fellow men. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; And of Thy great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life; Through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Louis F. Benson

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28–30, ESV)

**HYMN RESPONSE:** HIS MERCY IS MORE (MATT PAPA) - SING OR SPEAK

What love could remember no wrongs we have done, Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum; Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore, Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam; What Father, so tender, is calling us home. He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor, Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness, new every morn, Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

**GLORIA PATRI** ("Angels from the Realms of Glory") - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run. Amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

#### **THE CHURCH** "We believe..."

That the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church is God's new society, the first fruit of the new creation, the whole company of the redeemed through the ages, of which Christ is Lord and head. The truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, is the church's firm foundation (Matt. 16:16-18; 1 Cor. 3:11). The local church is both embassy and parable of the kingdom of heaven, an earthly place where his will is done and he is now present, existing visibly everywhere two or three gather in his name to proclaim and spread the gospel in word and works of love, and by obeying the Lord's command to baptize disciples (Matt. 28:19) and celebrate the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19).

### **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

We ask you, God, and the Holy Spirit, to graciously to dispel every shred of those clouds and vapors, the product of our filthy sins, which with their darkness impede our hearts' vision. Then we shall be able to understand the spirit of his Law and the marvels of it: which was what the prophet meant when he said:

"Clear sight be mine, to contemplate the wonders of thy law." - Origen

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

- <sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
- <sup>5</sup> Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.
- <sup>6</sup> This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.
- <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Psalm 34:4–7 (ESV)

Thou who guidedst Noah over the flood waves, *Hear us* 

Who with thy word recalled Jonah from the abyss, *Deliver us* 

Who stretched forth thy hand to Peter as he sank, *Help us O Christ*.

Son of God, thou didst marvellous things of the Lord with our Fathers,

Be favourable in our day also; Stretch forth thy hand from on high.

Celtic prayer from the Stowe Missal

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THANKSGIVING**

- <sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:4–5 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27 (ESV)

# DAY SIXTEEN

#### **Adoration and Praise**

8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

<sup>10</sup> For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
 the Lord bestows favor and honor.
 No good thing does he withhold
 from those who walk uprightly.
 O Lord of hosts,
 blessed is the one who trusts in you!
 Psalm 84:8–12 (ESV)

O Eternal, almighty, and most gracious God, heaven is your throne, and earth is your footstool, holy and revered is your name; you are praised by the heavenly hosts and in the congregation of your saints on earth, and will be sanctified in all that come near unto you. We are sinful and unworthy dust, but being invited by you, are bold, through our blessed Mediator to present ourselves and our supplications before you. Receive us graciously, help us by your Spirit; let your fear be upon us: let your Word come unto us in power, and be received in love, with attentive, reverent, and obedient minds. Make it to us the sayour of life unto life. Cause us to be fervent in prayer, and joyful in your praises, and to serve you this day without distraction, that we may find that a day in your courts is better than a thousand, and that it is good for us to draw near to God; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen. - Richard Baxter

**HYMN RESPONSE:** CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER - SING OR SPEAK

Children of the heav'nly Father, Safely in his bosom gather; Nesting bird nor star in Heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own does tend and nourish; In his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them; In hi mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; Unto them his grace is showing, And their sorrows all is knowing.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

For I know my transgressions,
 and my sin is ever before me.
 Against you, you only, have I sinned
 and done what is evil in your sight,
 so that you may be justified in your words
 and blameless in your judgment.

Psalm 51:3–4 (ESV)

O dreadful and most mighty God, who from the beginning has declared yourself a consuming fire against the condemners of your most holy precepts, and yet to the penitent you have shown yourself a favorable Father and a God full of mercy; we, the

workmanship of your own hands, confess ourselves most unworthy to open our eyes unto heaven, for our conscience accuses us, and our manifest iniquity bears witness that we have declined from you. We have been polluted with idolatry and superstition; we have given your glory to creatures, and have sought support where it was not to be found. The manifest corruption of our lives evidently proves how far we have offended against you and against your just and most holy commandments.

We most humbly ask you, O Father of mercies, for Christ Jesus your Son's sake, to remove the remembrance of our past iniquities, and by the power of your Holy Spirit so to govern us in all times to come that all the actions of our life may tend to the advancement of your glory, and to the comfort of your troubled flock. - John Knox

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever,

because he delights in steadfast love.

19 He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Mica

Micah 7:18–19 (ESV)

# **GLORIA PATRI** ("Angels from the Realms of Glory") - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run. Amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

#### **BAPTISM AND LORD'S SUPPER** "We believe..."

That these two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which some among us call "sacraments," are bound to the Word by the Spirit as visible words proclaiming the promise of the gospel, and thus become places where recipients encounter the Word again. Baptism and the Lord's Supper communicate life in Christ to the faithful, confirming them in their assurance that Christ, the gift of God for the people of God, is indeed "for us and our salvation" and nurturing them in their faith. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are physical focal points for key Reformation insights: the gifts of God (sola gratia) and the faith that grasps their promise

(sola fide). They are tangible expressions of the gospel insofar as they vividly depict our dying, rising, and incorporation into Jesus' body ("one bread ... one body" – 1 Cor. 10:16-17), truly presenting Christ and the reconciliation he achieved on the cross. Baptism and the Lord's Supper strengthen the faithful by visibly recalling, proclaiming, and sealing the gracious promise of forgiveness of sins and communion with God and one another through the peace-making blood of Christ (1 Cor. 11:26; Col. 1:20).

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

With my whole heart I seek you;
 let me not wander from your commandments!
 I have stored up your word in my heart,
 that I might not sin against you.
 Blessed are you, O Lord;
 teach me your statutes!

Psalm 119:10–12 (ESV)

Be gracious, O Instructor, to us your children, Father, Charioteer of Israel, Son and Father, both in One, O Lord. Grant to us who obey your precepts, that we may perfect the likeness of the image, and with all our power know Him who is the good God and not a harsh judge. And you yourself cause that all of us who have our conversation in your peace, who have been translated into your commonwealth, having sailed tranquilly over the billows of sin, may be wafted in calm by your Holy Spirit, by the

ineffable wisdom, by night and day to the perfect day; and giving thanks may praise, and praising thank the only Father and Son, Son and Father, the Son, Instructor and Teacher, with the Holy Spirit, all in One, in whom is all, for whom all is One, for whom is eternity, whose members we all are, whose glory the æons are; for the All-good, All-lovely, All-wise, All-just One. To whom be glory both now and forever. Amen. - Clement of Alexandria

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (ESV

God of Israel, God of Jesus Christ, our God forever and ever; help us now by the sacred Spirit, to approach you aright, with deepest reverence, but not with servile fear; with holiest boldness, but not with presumption. Oh teach us as children to speak to the Father, and yet, as creatures to bow before our Maker. - Charles Spurgeon

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day:

121

"Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. Isaiah 12:3–4 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,... Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)

# **DAY SEVENTEEN**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>2</sup> And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, <sup>3</sup> the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. <sup>4</sup> But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear. <sup>5</sup> I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet. <sup>6</sup> You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God. <sup>7</sup> And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out

against us to battle, but we defeated them. <sup>8</sup> We took their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites. <sup>9</sup> Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

Deuteronomy 29:2–9 (ESV)

We thank You, holy Father, for your holy name which you caused to tabernacle in our hearts, and for the knowledge and faith and immortality which you made known to us through Jesus your Servant; to you be the glory forever. You, Master almighty, created all things for your name's sake; you gave food and drink to men for enjoyment, that they might give thanks to you; but to us you did freely give spiritual food and drink and life eternal through your Servant. Before all things we thank you that you are mighty; to you be the glory forever. Remember, Lord, Your Church, to deliver it from all evil and to make it perfect in Your love, and gather it from the four winds, sanctified for your kingdom which you have prepared for it; for yours is the power and the glory forever. Let grace come, and let this world pass away. Hosanna to the God of David! If anyone is holy, let him come; if anyone is not so, let him repent. Maranatha. - The Didache Amen.

**HYMN RESPONSE:** GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH - SING OR SPEAK

Guide me, O Thou great \*Jehovah, [\*Redeemer]
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

Lord, I trust Thy mighty power,
Wondrous are Thy works of old;
Thou deliver'st Thine from thralldom,
Who for naught themselves had sold:
Thou didst conquer, Thou didst conquer
Sin and Satan and the grave,
Sin and Satan and the grave.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- 19 Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall!
- <sup>20</sup> My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.
- But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
- The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
- they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."
- The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.
- It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.Lamentations 3:19–26 (ESV)

Almighty God, who while your people were ejected from their heritage, thought them worthy of the continual grace of your Spirit, raising up, even in the gates of death, a prophet, to revive as it were their life; leave not your church destitute, though now afflicted by your hand; leave her not destitute of consolation; but show even in death, that life may be hoped for from your mercy. Thus may we with patience bear your chastisement, till you show yourself, again our tender Father, and thus may we at

length be called together into that blessed kingdom, wherein we may enjoy our full felicity in Christ Jesus our Lord. - John Calvin

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- 31 For the Lord will not cast off forever,
- but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
- <sup>33</sup> for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men.

Lamentations 3:31–33 (ESV)

### GLORIA PATRI (Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah)

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run.
Through unending ages run.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

#### **HOLY LIVING** "We believe..."

That through participating in baptism and the Lord's Supper, as well as prayer, the ministry of the Word, and other forms of corporate worship, we grow into our new reality as God's people, a holy nation (1 Pet. 2:9, 10), called to put on Christ through his indwelling Spirit. It is through the Spirit's enlivening power that we live in imitation of Christ as his disciples, individually and corporately, a royal priesthood that proclaims his excellent deeds and offers our bodies as spiritual sacrifices in right worship of God and sacrificial service to the world through works of love, compassion for the poor, and justice for the oppressed, always, everywhere and to everyone bearing wise witness to the way, truth, and life of Jesus Christ.

## **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

With my whole heart I seek you;
 let me not wander from your commandments!
 I have stored up your word in my heart,
 that I might not sin against you.
 Blessed are you, O Lord;
 teach me your statutes! Psalm 119:10–12 (ESV)

God, who has taught us your divine and saving oracles, enlighten the souls of us sinners for the comprehension of the things which have been before spoken, so that we may not only be seen to be hearers of spiritual things, but also doers of good deeds,

striving after guileless faith, blameless life, and pure conversation. In Christ Jesus our Lord, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good, and quickening Spirit, now and always, and forever.

- DIVINE LITURGY OF JAMES

(Your daily Scripture reading)

# **DOXOLOGY** (TRADITIONAL)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1–2 (ESV)

Turn us, O good Lord, and so shall we be turned. Be favorable, O Lord, be favorable to your people, who turn to you in weeping, fasting and praying; for you

are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and of great pity. You spare, when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath think upon mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare them, and let not your heritage be brought to confusion. Hear us, O Lord, for your mercy is great, and after the multitude of your mercies look upon us, through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen! - George Whitefield

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

129

#### **THANKSGIVING**

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

Psalm 28:7 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:5–7 (ESV)

# **DAY EIGHTEEN**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>17</sup> 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. <sup>18</sup> You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts, <sup>19</sup> great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all

the ways of the children of man, rewarding each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds. Jeremiah 32:17–19 (ESV)

I believe, O sovereign Goodness, O mighty Wisdom, that you do sweetly order and govern all things, even the most minute, even the most noxious, to your glory, and the good of those that love you. I believe, O Father of the families of heaven and earth, that you so dispose all events, as may best magnify your goodness to all your children, especially those whose eyes wait upon you. I most humbly ask you, teach me to adore all your ways, though I cannot comprehend them; teach me to be glad that you are King, and to give you thanks for all things that befall me; seeing you have chosen that for me, and have thereby set to your seal that they are good. And for that which is to come, give me your grace to do in all things what pleases you; and then, with an absolute submission to your wisdom, to leave the issues of them in your hand. - John Wesley

**HYMN RESPONSE:** GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY (W. COWPER) - SING OR SPEAK

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea And rides upon the storm. Deep in unfathomable mines Of never failing skill He treasures up His bright designs And works His sov'reign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace; Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flow'r.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:12–13 (ESV)

O blessed Jesus, who is a God whose compassions do not fail, and in whom all the promises are yes and amen—you who sit between the cherubim, show yourself among us. Let us now see your outgoings! O let us now taste that you are gracious, and reveal your almighty arm! Get yourself the victory in these poor sinners' hearts. Do not let the word spoken prove like water spilled upon the ground. Send down, send down, O great high priest, the Holy Spirit, to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. So will we give thanks and praise to you, O Father, you O Son, and you O blessed Spirit; to whom, as three Persons, but one God, be ascribed by angels and archangels, by cherubim and seraphim, and all the heavenly hosts, all possible power, might, majesty, and dominion, now and for evermore. Amen, Amen, Amen. - George Whitefield

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

<sup>29</sup> The next day he (John) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' John 1:29–30 (ESV)

GLORIA PATRI ("May the Grace of Christ, Our Savior")

Glory, glory to the Father! Glory, glory to the Son!

Glory, glory to the Spirit! Glory to the Three in One!

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

The Reforming Catholic Confession (A "Mere Protestant" Statement of Faith to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation)

#### **LAST THINGS** "We believe..."

That in God's own time and way, the bodily risen and ascended Christ will visibly return to consummate God's purpose for the whole cosmos through his victory over death and the devil (1 Cor. 15:26). He will judge the world, consigning any who persist in unbelief to an everlasting fate apart from him, where his life and light are no more. Yet he will prepare his people as a bride for the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9), giving rest to restless hearts and life to glorified bodies (1 Cor. 15:42-44; Phil. 3:21) as they exult in joyful fellowship with their Lord and delight in the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-2). There they shall reign with him (2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 22:5) and see him face to face (1 Cor. 13:12; Rev. 22:4), forever rapt in wonder, love, and praise. Soli Deo Gloria!

## **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Psalm 19:7–10 (ESV)

Enlighten, O our Lord and God, the movements of our meditations to hear and understand the sweet listenings to your life-giving and divine commands; and grant unto us through your grace and mercy to gather from them the assurance of love, and hope, and salvation suitable to soul and body, and we shall sing to you everlasting glory without ceasing and always, O Lord of all.

- Liturgy of the Blessed Apostles

135

## (Your daily Scripture reading)

### **DOXOLOGY**(TRADITIONAL)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every 1 Timothy 2:1–2 (ESV) wav.

Almighty God and merciful Father, we humbly submit ourselves to you. Since in our weakness we are unable to do anything without your help, and you are well aware of the great temptations that surround us, let your strength sustain our weakness, Lord. When we are defended by the force of your grace, we are preserved against all the assaults of Satan, who roams about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us. Increase our faith, merciful Father, so we do not swerve

from your word. Build us up in hope and love and help

us to carefully keep your commands. May no hardness of heart, hypocrisy, lust of the eyes, or enticements of the world draw us away from obedience to you.

And since we live in such dangerous times, protect us in your fatherly providence against the violence of our enemies, which follows us everywhere.

We pray not only for ourselves, but also for all those who still do not know you. Bring them out of that miserable captivity of blindness and error into a pure understanding and knowledge of your heavenly truth. Then with one consent of unity of minds we may all worship you, our only God and Savior.

We bring you these petitions in his name. Amen.

— John Knox

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

Eternal God and merciful Father, I give you thanks by your well-beloved Son, our only mediator, Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ, for all your gifts and benefits—physical gifts as well as spiritual, temporal as well as eternal. Each gift is more and far greater than my mind can understand or my words express. Amen.

— Niels Hemmingsen

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2 (ESV)

## **DAY NINETEEN**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

and with his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:4–6 (ESV)

Gracious God, we praise you with our whole hearts for the wondrous revelation of your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. We think every day of his passion, for all our hope lies in his death. But as often as we think on it, we are still filled with astonishment that you should so love the world as to give your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life; that heaven's eternal darling should come to earth to be made a man, and in manhood's form to be despised and rejected of the very men whom he came to bless; and then should be made to bear the sin of many and to be numbered with the transgressors, and, being found in that number, to die a transgressor's death, a felon's death upon the gibbet of the cross.

Give us more tenderness of heart, give us to feel the wounds of Jesus till they wound our sins to death.

Give us to have a heart pierced even as his was, with deep sympathy for his griefs, and an all-consuming love for His blessed person. - Charles Spurgeon

# **HYMN RESPONSE:** HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE (STUART TOWNEND) - SING OR SPEAK

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss —
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life —
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart —
His wounds have paid my ransom.

140

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,...

Acts 3:19–20 (ESV)

Grant, Almighty God, that as we are in this life subject to so many miseries, and in the meantime grow insensible in our sins—O grant that we may learn to search ourselves and consider our sins, that we may be really humbled before you, and ascribe to ourselves the blame of all our evils, that we may be thus led to a genuine feeling of repentance, and so strive to be reconciled to you in Christ, that we may wholly depend on your paternal love, and thus ever aspire to the fullness of eternal felicity, through your goodness and that immeasurable kindness, which you testify is ready and offered to all those who with a sincere heart worship you, call upon you, and flee to you, through Christ our Lord. Amen. - John Calvin

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with

the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 10:8–10 (ESV)

**GLORIA PATRI** ("Angels from the Realms of Glory") - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run. Amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

### TE DEUM

We praise you O God, we confess you as the Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers it holds;

to you cherubim and seraphim cry in endless praise: Holy, holy, Holy Lord, God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory.

The glorious company of the apostles praise you, the noble fellowship of the prophets praise you, the white-robed army of martyrs praise you, the holy Church throughout all the world confesses you:

the Father of infinite majesty, your venerable, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

You are the King of glory, O Christ.
You are the everlasting Son of the Father.
When you took it upon yourself to deliver man,
you did not disdain the virgin's womb.
When you had overcome the sting of death,
you opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at the right hand of God in the glory of
the Father.

We believe that you will come to be our judge. We therefore beg you to help your servants, whom you have redeemed with your Most Precious Blood.

Make them to be numbered with your saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord save your people and bless your inheritance. Govern them and exalt them forever.

Day by day we magnify you,

and we worship your name, forever and ever.

Be pleased, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Have mercy on us, O Lord; have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let your mercy be upon us, as we place our trust in you.

In you, O Lord, have I put my trust, let me never be put to shame.

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>29</sup> "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV)

I give thanks to Thee, Almighty God, for revealing thyself to me, for sending thy Son Jesus Christ, that he might become a sacrifice, that through him I might be forgiven and receive eternal life. I give thanks to Thee, O God, for making me a recipient of thy great favor through the Gospel and the Sacraments, and for preserving thy Word and thy Holy Church. O that I might truly declare thy goodness and blessings! Inflame me, I earnestly beseech Thee, with thy Holy Spirit that thanksgiving may shine forth in my life.... Enlighten my heart, I beseech Thee, that I may be more fully aware of thy favor toward me and forever worship Thee with true thanksgiving. - Philip Melanchthon

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord,

or who has been his counselor?"

35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33-36 (ESV)

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16 (ESV)

O merciful Father, we cry unto thee in all trouble, and call upon thee through the crucified Jesus. Suffer us not to sink in great afflictions, give us not over unto our own strength; but the more the enemy presseth upon us, the more be thou our assistance: for in all anguish and trouble thou art the right helper and most faithful friend. If temptation then come upon us by thy fatherly will, grant us grace, O Lord, patiently to bear it, and to lay the burden upon thy mercy; that in all trouble we, being else destitute of all consolation, may put our whole trust only in thee. Amen. - Miles Coverdale

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! Psalm 100:4 (ESV)

### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,... Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY**

## **Adoration and Praise**

Praise the Lord!
 Praise, O servants of the Lord,
 praise the name of the Lord!
 Blessed be the name of the Lord
 from this time forth and forevermore!
 From the rising of the sun to its setting,
 the name of the Lord is to be praised!
 Psalm 113:1–3 (ESV)

May he, who with a calm mind slept in the stern, then got up and commanded the winds and the sea,

grant that, while my limbs rest here, weary with heavy work,

my mind may keep vigil with him.

Lamb of God, who bore all the sins of the world, keep my calm rest safe from the enemy.

-Alcuin, 735–804

**HYMN RESPONSE:** WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES - SING OR SPEAK

When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer, To Jesus I repair\*;

May Jesus Christ be praised!

\*'repair' – to go to, to return; to turn to Jesus for comfort and guidance

The night becomes as day
When from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
The pow'rs of darkness fear
When this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, My song of love divine: May Jesus Christ be praised! Sing this eternal song Through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Yet even now," declares the Lord,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

13 and rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster. Joel 2:12–13 (ESV)

Father of mercies, hear our prayers, we beseech thee; spare them who repent, that they whose consciences by sin are accused, by thy merciful pardon may be absolved; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- The Gelasian Sacramentary

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:26–27 (ESV)

**GLORIA PATRI** ("Angels from the Realms of Glory") - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run. Amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 1-5)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

Lord, your word has taught me many mysteries which my weak and short-sighted reason cannot comprehend. But I desire to sit at your feet; your word will shape my outlook. And this I understand: you who are very truth can neither deceive nor be deceived. So I find infinitely more reason to believe anything you tell me than to disbelieve it—even if it seems impossible.

Since you have spoken it, I fully assent. And I deliver up all the cheeky impudence of my reason to be chastised and tutored by faith. Amen.

—Ezekiel Hopkins

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. 1 John 5:14–15 (ESV)

You who commands and hears prayer! You who helps your people to pray!

Pour out the spirit of grace and supplication, that your throne of grace may be surrounded by supplicants, that there may be a great flocking to the mercy seat, and grace may be imparted abundantly to your own glory, through Jesus Christ the high priest, who is passed into the heavens, and is at your right hand forever. Amen. —Nathanael Vincent

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>10</sup> ... walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:10–14 (ESV)

### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isaiah 43:1–3 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-ONE**

### **Adoration and Praise**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.
 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!
 Psalm 118:28–29 (ESV)

O for grace, for love, for life, for every gift of my God and Savior. O that my lips would praise you constantly and unceasingly, forever, as the drops of the honeycomb which follow each other—sweetly and freely, from the abundance of my heart, not constrained, except in the constraint of your love. I pray that prayer would follow praise, and praise grow into prayer. That there may be a movement to magnify and adore the riches of your grace. That the name of Jesus may be always in my mouth—from that one blessed source, that Jesus lives in my heart, and rules, and reigns, and is formed there in the hope of glory.

Blessed Jesus, you are the one your people will praise. You are the next of kin, the nearest of all relations, and the dearest of all relatives. And by your blood you have redeemed both soul and body, both lands and inheritance. You have redeemed the whole, never more to be lost or forfeited.

And now, Lord, your jubilee trumpet sounds, and the everlasting gospel is heard in our land, to give liberty to the captive, sight to the blind, to bring the prisoners out of the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of prison.

Make me know the joyful sound, and daily walk in the light of your countenance. Cause me, by the sweet influence of your Spirit, to live in the constant expectation of the year of the everlasting jubilee—when the trumpet of the archangel will finally sound, and all your redeemed return to Zion with songs and everlasting joy.

Your people will obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Hallelujah! Amen! —Robert Hawker

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>4</sup> As for me, I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!"

Psalm 41:4 (ESV)

O Lord, I bless you, not only for your pardon of those sins I have committed, but also for your goodness in preserving me from those many thousands of other sins I was prone to fall into.

If I could repent to the highest degree, or achieve the holiness of men and angels, it could not make up the damage sin has made upon me.

Who was more plunged into sin than I? Whose diseases were greater than mine? It may be that thousands and thousands of other souls are now taking their place in hell, for less and fewer sins than I have committed.

I do not call upon you to repeal any threat or nullify your word. I do not ask you to become unjust. But your wisdom has found out a way that I may be pardoned and you may be satisfied.

Your overflowing goodness overcomes me. If only I had the hearts of all men and angels to praise you.

Amen. —Anthony Burgess

# ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
<sup>2</sup> He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord. Psalm 40:1–3 (ESV)

# **HYMN RESPONSE:** NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD (ROBERT LOWRY) - SING OR SPEAK

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, Nothing but the blood of Jesus; Naught of good that I have done, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus; This is all my righteousness, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

**GLORIA PATRI** ("May the Mind of Christ, Our Savior" Margaret J. Harris) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory, glory to the Father! Glory, glory to the Son! Glory, glory to the Spirit! Glory to the Three in One!

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 6-11)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:2–3 (ESV)

Lord, our souls have told you: you are our God. Other lords have had dominion over us, but we affirm the Lord this day to be our God.

We will walk in your ways, keep your commandments, honor your judgments. We will listen to your voice and give ourselves to you as your people—for your praise, and for your glory.

Lord, truly we are your servants, born in your house. You have loosed our bonds. We are bought with a price, so we are not our own, but yield ourselves to you. We join ourselves to you in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.

We are yours. Save us, for we seek your ways. We give you what is yours, that which comes from your hand. Amen. —Matthew Henry

# (Your daily Scripture reading)

### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—

12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:11–13 (ESV)

Dearest Lord, for your mercy's sake never let me distrust you again! Oh me of little faith.

Lord, your judgments are like the great deep. Your footsteps are not known. Just and holy are you, O King of saints!

In the season of night, let me arise and give you thanks. Let my speech be of your lovingkindness and tender mercies, all day long.

May it be my sleep, my food and drink, to do the will of my Heavenly Father.

You who holds the wind in your fists, and the waters in the palms of your hands, accept our thanks for your past mercies. Set apart our travels, and if it is best, carry us with speed to where we should go. Send me wherever and whenever it seems good to your divine majesty.

Raise my heart and make your power known in the hearts of your people. Add daily to your church those who will be saved. They are noted in your book; let them also be written on my heart.

And now let your servants depart in peace, for our eyes have seen and our hearts have felt your salvation.

Even so come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen and amen. —George Whitefield

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

# 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

10 ... walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:10–14 (ESV)

Lord God, our heavenly Father, we give praise and thanks for your gracious gifts which you provide so faithfully.

Help us enjoy these blessings with gratitude and reverence, that we may be strengthened to praise you and serve our neighbors;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Wilhelm Löhe

160

## **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-TWO**

#### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:1–5 (ESV)

The heavens declare your dominion, and the earth shakes with earthquakes, and, hanging upon nothing, declares your unshaken steadfastness. The sea raging with waves, and feeding a flock of ten thousand creatures, is bounded with sand, as standing in awe at your command. The choir of stars strikes us with admiration, declaring him that numbers them, and showing him that names them; the animals declare him that puts life into them; the trees show him that makes

them grow: all which creatures, being made by your Word, show forth the greatness of your power.

- Apostolic Constitutions

**HYMN RESPONSE:** NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD (ROBERT LOWRY) - SING OR SPEAK

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, and sun in its orbit, obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim Him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing, with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Isaiah 64:6 (ESV)

O Lord God almighty, who pardons guilty men and has no pleasure in the death of a sinner: to you, O Lord, I stretch forth the hands of my heart and I implore of you forgiveness for all my unlawful deeds, albeit unworthy. I ask you to keep my mind from the operations of the enemy, my eyes that they do not look incontinently, my ears that they do not listen to vanities, my hands from the service of hateful things, and my reins that they be moved in you, so that I may be entirely yours. And grant unto me the gift of your divine mysteries, O Christ our Lord and our God, forever. Amen. - *Syrian Jacobite Liturgy* 

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>7</sup> I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. <sup>8</sup> I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. Jeremiah 33:7–8 (ESV)

**GLORIA PATRI** ("May the Grace of Christ, Our Savior") - SING OR SPEAK

Glory, glory to the Father! Glory, glory to the Son!

Glory, glory to the Spirit! Glory to the Three in One!

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 12-14)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>22</sup> Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup> since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup> for

"All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:22–25 (ESV)

Grant, Almighty God, that as almost the whole world give such loose reins to their licentiousness, that they do not hesitate either to despise or to regard your sacred Word as of no value—Grant, O Lord, that we may always retain such reverence as is

justly due to it and to your holy oracles, and be so moved, whenever you deign to address us, that being truly humbled, we may be raised up by faith to heaven, and by hope gradually attain that glory which is as yet hid from us. And may we at the same time so submissively restrain ourselves as to make it our whole wisdom to obey you and to do you service, until you gather us into your kingdom, where we shall be partakers of your glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen. - John Calvin

(Your daily Scripture reading)

### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—
<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and

strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:11–13 (ESV)

May God the Father and the eternal high priest Jesus Christ build us up in faith and truth and love and grant us our portion among the saints with all those who believe on our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for all saints, for kings and rulers, for the enemies of the cross of Christ, and for ourselves we pray that our fruit may abound and we may be made perfect in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Polycarp

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THANKSGIVING**

Almighty God, who by the death of your dear Son Jesus Christ has destroyed death, by his rest in the tomb has sanctified the graves of the saints, and by his glorious resurrection has brought life and immortality to light; receive, we ask you, our unfeigned thanks for that victory over death and the grave which he has obtained for us and for all who sleep in him; and keep us in everlasting fellowship with all that wait for you on earth, and with all that are around you in heaven; in union with him who is the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

- A. A. Hodge

## **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20–21 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-THREE**

# **Adoration and Praise**

16 Thus says the Lord:
 "Stand by the roads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way is; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16 (ESV)

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that as I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. - Thomas Merton

**HYMN RESPONSE:** ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME (FANNY CROSBY) - SING OR SPEAK

All the way my Savior leads me, What have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my Guide? Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, Here by faith in Him to dwell! For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well; For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me, Cheers each winding path I tread, Gives me grace for every trial, Feeds me with the living Bread. Though my weary steps may falter And my soul athirst may be, Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see; Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see.

All the way my Savior leads me,
Oh, the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way;
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?

Numbers 14:11 (ESV)

Almighty, eternal God, Lord of the whole world, the Creator and Governor of all things, who has exhibited man as the ornament of the world through Christ, and gave him a law both naturally implanted and written, that he might live according to law, as a rational creature; and when he had sinned, you gave him your goodness as a pledge in order to his repentance: Look down upon these persons who have bended the neck of their soul and body to you; for you do not desire the death of a sinner, but his repentance, that he turn from his wicked way, and live. You who accepted the repentance of the Ninevites, who wills that all men be saved, and come to the acknowledgment of the truth; who accepted that son who had consumed his substance in riotous living, with the bowels of a father, on account of his repentance; now accept the repentance of your supplicants: for there is no man that will not sin; for "if you, O Lord, mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with you there is propitiation." And restore them to your holy Church, into their former dignity and honour, through Christ our God and Saviour, by whom glory and adoration be

to you, in the Holy Ghost, forever. Amen.

- Apostolic Constitutions

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>38</sup> Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup> and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. Acts 13:38–39 (ESV)

**GLORIA PATRI** ("Praise the Savior, Ye Who Know Him")- SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit, Ever Three and One. As it was in the beginning, Now and evermore shall be; World that shall never end, Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 15-17)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

"For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

Deuteronomy 30:11–14 (ESV)

Grant, Almighty God, that since you continue daily to exhort us, and though you see us often turning aside from the right course, you yet do not cease to stretch forth your hand to us, and also to rouse us by reproofs, that we may repent—O grant that we may not be permitted to reject your Word with perverseness; but rule us by your Spirit, that we may meekly and obediently submit to you, and with such teachableness, that if we have not until now been willing to become wise, we may not at least be incurable, but allow you to heal our diseases so that we may truly repent, and be so wholly given to obey you, as never to attempt anything beyond the rule of your Word, and without that wisdom which you have revealed to us, not only by Moses and your prophets, but also by your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. - John Calvin

# (Your daily Scripture reading)

# **DOXOLOGY** (ZACH HICKS)

Your perfect Law exposes me
I feel my sin and desperate need
My best good works are powerless
To satisfy Your righteousness

But there is One who lived for me His life, my only victory His death forever sealed in time That I am His and He is mine

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow Praise Him, all creatures here below Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1 (ESV)

O Eternal and ever-blessed God, clouds and darkness are round about you, but justice and judgment are the

habitation of your throne; mercy and truth go before your face. Our flesh and our heart fail; but you are the strength of our heart, and our portion forever. Merciful God and heavenly Father, who has taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men, look with pity, we ask you, upon the sorrows of your servants, that while they mourn they may not murmur or faint under your rod; but, remembering your unnumbered past and present mercies, your promises, and all your love in Christ, may resign themselves meekly into your hands, to be taught and disciplined by you. Sanctify your fatherly correction to them. Endue their souls with patience under their affliction, and with resignation to your blessed will. Comfort them with a sense of your goodness and compassion; and grant that, loosened from earthly ties, they may cleave the more closely to you, who brings life out of death, and who can turn their grief into eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. - Marvin R. Vincent

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

### 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from the evil one.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-FOUR**

### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

# from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:1–2 (ESV)

Lord, you do not change; you are always there, and you always will be.

We praise you for your greatness, which holds our smallness; for your majesty, which was once clothed with our humanity; for your sovereignty, which embraces our frailty; for your holiness, which exposes our sinfulness; for your wholeness, which heals our brokenness; for your glory, which fills our emptiness; for your love, which gives us life; for your Son, who claims us for his own; for your Spirit, who empowers us for worship, witness, and service.

Lord of all time and space and all things, we praise you that in Christ you came and shared all that life means to us so that we, by your grace, might enter into all that heaven is with you.

We have come to praise you for the coming of Christ our Savior and the Savior of the world.

In his name. Amen. - David Clowes

**HYMN RESPONSE:** O GOD, OUR HOPE IN AGES PAST (ISAAC WATTS) - SING OR SPEAK

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home. Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

John 13:8–9 (ESV)

Lord Jesus, you will to wash our feet, as you said to Peter—and to all the faithful—"Unless I wash you, you have no part with me" (John 13:8).

Come then, Lord Jesus. Clothe us with your mercy and your everlasting life. Pour water into the basin, and wash not only our feet but also our head. And not only the body, but also the footsteps of my soul.

I want to put off all the filth of my frailty.

As a servant, you washed the feet of your disciples. As God, you send dew from heaven. And not only do you

wash the feet, but you also invite us to sit down with you, and you exhort us by saying,

"You call me 'Teacher,' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:13–14).

So I want to wash the feet of my brothers and sisters. I want to fulfill your command. I will not be ashamed nor disdain what you did first. This is the mystery of humility: while washing away the dirt of others, so is my own washed away. Amen. —Ambrose of Milan

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:1–5 (ESV)

# **GLORIA PATRI** ("Praise the Savior, Ye Who Know Him")- SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit, Ever Three and One. As it was in the beginning, Now and evermore shall be; World that shall never end, Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 18-20)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe,... Ephesians 1:17–19 (ESV)

Lord, have mercy on me, and hear my desire. It is not of the earth, and it is not about gold, silver, or

- precious stones. It is not about nice clothes, or honors, or a good position. And it is not about the pleasures of the flesh or necessaries for the body on this life's pilgrimage.
- All these things will be added to those who seek your kingdom and righteousness. But see, O Lord my God, here is my desire ...
- Would you see, Father, and approve? If it pleases you in your mercy, may I find grace before you, that the inner parts of your word would be opened to me?
- I am knocking.
- I ask in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who is on your right hand, the Son of Man, who you have established as your mediator and ours. I ask in the name of him through whom you sought us, so that we might seek you.
- I ask through your Word, through whom you made all things (and among them, also me). He is the only begotten, through whom you called believers to adoption (and so also me).
- I ask by him who sits on your right hand, and who intercedes with you for us, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- I seek those treasures in your word. If it pleases you in your mercy, may I find grace before you, that the inner parts of your word would be opened to me? I am knocking.

  —Augustine of Hippo

(Your daily Scripture reading)

# **DOXOLOGY** (ZACH HICKS)

Your perfect Law exposes me
I feel my sin and desperate need
My best good works are powerless
To satisfy Your righteousness

But there is One who lived for me His life, my only victory His death forever sealed in time That I am His and He is mine

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow Praise Him, all creatures here below Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

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

We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of thy Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. – The Book of Common Prayer (1979)

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

# **THANKSGIVING**

You are blessed, O Lord. You are the one who has fed and nourished me since I was young, and who gives food to all living things.

Fill our hearts now with joy and gladness. And, since we always have enough, may we then abound to do every

good work, in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom glory, honor, and power be to you forever, amen.

— Apostolic Constitutions

### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

- <sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you and keep you;
- <sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-FIVE**

### **Adoration and Praise**

- O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
- <sup>3</sup> Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.
- <sup>5</sup> My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
- <sup>6</sup> when I remember you upon my bed,

and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

- <sup>7</sup> for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.
- <sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. Psalm 63:1–8 (ESV)

Lord, teach us how to pray aright,
With reverence and with fear;
Though dust and ashes in thy sight,
We may, we must draw near.
We perish if we cease from prayer;
O, grant us power to pray!
And when we meet thee we prepare,
Lord, meet us by the way.

- James Montgomery (1771–1854)

**HYMN RESPONSE:** FILL MY CUP, LORD (RICHARD BLANCHARD) - SING OR SPEAK

Like the woman at the well, I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy.
And then I heard my Savior speaking—
"Draw from My well that never shall run dry."

Fill my cup, Lord;
I lift it up Lord;
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

There are millions in this world who are seeking For pleasures earthly goods afford. But none can match the wondrous treasure That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.

Fill my cup, Lord;
I lift it up Lord;
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

So my brother if the things that this world gives you Leave hungers that won't pass away,
My blessed Lord will come and save you
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray—

Fill my cup, Lord;
I lift it up Lord;
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>17</sup> Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house." 2 Samuel 24:17 (ESV)

As David, seeing your angel with his sword ready drawn, most righteous Lord, to plague Jerusalem, cried out unto you, "It is I, Lord, who have sinned, and I who have done wickedly; your hand, Lord, be on me, and not on your poor sheep"; because of which you were moved to mercy, and commanded your angel to put up his sword—even so we, gracious Lord, seeing your fearful sword of vengeance ready drawn and presently striking against this commonwealth and your church in the same, we are occasioned now to cast off our eyes from beholding and narrowly spying out other men's faults, and to set our own only in sight, so that, with the same David your servant, and with Jonah in the ship, we may cry, "It is we, O Lord, who have sinned, and procured this your grievous wrath."...

Upon this (that you "in your anger remember your mercy" before we seek and ask for it) we take boldness, as you command us to do in our trouble, to come and call upon you to be merciful unto us. And of your goodness now we humbly in Christ's name pray you to hold your hand and cease your wrath, or at the least so to mitigate it that this realm may be quietly governed, and the same once again to be a shelter for your church and true religion: which do restore to us again, according to your great power and mercy, and we shall praise your name forever, through Jesus Christ our only Mediator and Saviour.

Amen.

- John Bradford

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Isaiah 49:13 (ESV)

GLORIA PATRI ("Praise the Savior, Ye Who Know Him")- SING OR SPEAK
Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
Ever Three and One.
As it was in the beginning,
Now and evermore shall be;
World that shall never end, Amen, amen.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 21-24)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious

inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe,...

Ephesians 1:17–19 (ESV)

God, who has taught us your divine and saving oracles, enlighten the souls of us sinners for the comprehension of the things which have been before spoken, so that we may not only be seen to be hearers of spiritual things, but also doers of good deeds, striving after guileless faith, blameless life, and pure conversation. In Christ Jesus our Lord, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good, and quickening Spirit, now and always, and forever.

- Divine Liturgy of James

(Your daily Scripture reading)

# **DOXOLOGY** (ZACH HICKS)

Your perfect Law exposes me
I feel my sin and desperate need
My best good works are powerless
To satisfy Your righteousness

But there is One who lived for me His life, my only victory His death forever sealed in time That I am His and He is mine Praise God from Whom all blessings flow Praise Him, all creatures here below Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

- <sup>6</sup> Blessed be the Lord! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

  Psalm 28:6–7 (ESV)

Almighty and everlasting God, who has given unto us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the divine Majesty to worship the Unity; we ask you that you would keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who lives and reigns one God, world without end. Amen! - George Whitefield

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

2 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:4b–6 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-SIX**

### **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>23</sup> "Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? <sup>24</sup> Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:23–24 (ESV)

Give us grace, Almighty Father, to address you with all our hearts as well as with our lips. You are everywhere present: from you no secrets can be hidden. Teach us to fix our thoughts on you, reverently and with love, so that our prayers are not in vain, but are acceptable to you, now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jane Austen (1775–1817)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>17</sup> Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what

have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house." 2 Samuel 24:17 (ESV)

Helper of all who turn to you, light of all who are in the dark,

Creator of all that grows from seed,
Promoter of all spiritual growth,
Have mercy on me.
And make me a temple fit for you.
Do not look to closely at my sins,
For if you are quick to notice my faults
I shall not dare to appear before you.
In your great mercy,
In your boundless love,
Wash away my sins
By the hand of Jesus Christ,
Your only Child, the chief healer of souls.
— Author unknown, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Isaiah 49:13 (ESV)

**HYMN RESPONSE:** How Deep the Father's Love for Us (Stuart Townend) - Sing or speak

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure

That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss.

The Father turns His face away

As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders. Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished;

His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.

But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

GLORIA PATRI ("May the Grace of Christ Our Savior" John Newton) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory, glory to the Father! Glory, glory to the Son! Glory, glory to the Spirit! Glory to the Three in One!

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 25-29)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>4</sup> But he (Jesus) answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

Almighty God, as you shine on us by your word and show us the way of salvation, we may with open eyes look on that light. And as we are blind also at midday, open our eyes!

May the inward light of your Spirit lead us to the light of your word. Help us to never doubt that you alone are sufficient to supply us with all things necessary for enjoying life with you. Distill and refresh us so the light of faith once kindled in our hearts by your grace may never be extinguished—until we attain to the fullness which has been laid up for us in heaven.

May we now in part be satisfied with the measure of knowledge you have given us, until at last we see you face to face. And so transformed to your image, we may enjoy the fullness of that glory into which Christ our Lord has been received. Amen.

— John Calvin

(Your daily Scripture reading)

# **DOXOLOGY** (TRADITIONAL)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

We come to you, Lord, on behalf of humanity, for those who are not Christians, and for the conversion of those who do not know you. We pray for restoration in the lives of all who are sick in their false beliefs and sins, and for all to whom you will grant truth and grace.

We pray that you would encourage all who are ill and discouraged, all who are in need or unsettled, men and women. We pray for all who are cheerful and healthy; show them how to be thankful.

We pray for the increase of your church worldwide—for deliverance, peace, and unity. Supply what we lack and strengthen what remains.

We pray for all in authority in government. For judges, for those who serve in the armed forces and law enforcement, for farmers and fishers, merchants and mechanics, for workers and the poor.

We lift up the younger generation to you, and those who care about us—even those we do not know. We lift up all who are undertaking any good work which will bring you glory. For all who support the poor. And for all who have ever been offended by me, either in word or in deed.

Have mercy, Lord. Direct my life toward your commandments. Purify my body and soul. Direct my thoughts and cleanse my desires. Renew me thoroughly, O God. For if you want to, you can.

Amen. — Lancelot Andrewes

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

O God and Father, we would thank thee for all the bright things of life. Help us see them, and to count them, and to remember them, that our lives may flow in ceaseless praise; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

– J.H. Jewett (1846-1923)

# **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:17 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-SEVEN**

## **Adoration and Praise**

66:1 Thus says the Lord:

"Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is the place of my rest?

2 All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things came to be,
declares the Lord.
But this is the one to whom I will look:

he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. Isaiah 66:1–2 (ESV)

O All-Transcendent God
what words can sing Your praises?
No word does You justice.
What mind can probe Your secret?
No mind can encompass You.
You are alone beyond the power of speech,
yet all that we speak stems from You.
You are alone beyond the power of thought,
yet all that we can conceive springs from You.
All things proclaim You,
those endowed with reason and those bereft of it.
All the expectation and pain of the world coalesces
in You.
All things utter a prayer to You,

a silent hymn composed by You.
You sustain everything that exists,
and all things move together to Your orders.
You are the goal of all that exists.
You are one and You are all,
yet You are none of the things that exist,
neither a part nor the whole.
You can avail Yourself of any name;
how shall I call You,
the only unnamable?
All-transcendent God! - St. Gregory of Nazianzen

# HYMN RESPONSE TRANSCENDENT GOD, BEYOND FINITE WORLD (CONSTANCE CHERRY) - SING OR SPEAK

Transcendent God, beyond our finite world, majestic Other, who the heavens hurled, who with the cosmos sang and danced and swirled: In awe we exalt you; in love, embrace you.

Endearing God, your presence always near, close as the sunset seems when it appears, your cheering voice and touch dry every tear: In awe we exalt you; in love embrace you.

Remind us, God, of our determined place: you the Creator, know no time or space; we the created need your power and grace. In awe, we exalt you; in love embrace you.

Beyond and near, not one but both are cause for earth-held wonder, and for heav'ns' applause; so, all creation to God's way gives pause: In awe, we exalt you; in love embrace you.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>6</sup> "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens." Ezra 9:6 (ESV)

Lord, as we add day to day, so we add sin to sin. If a righteous person sins seven times a day, I sin seventy times seven! What a wonderful, horrible thing, Lord. I conceal nothing. I make no excuses.

But I turn with groans from my evil ways, and I return into my heart, and with all my heart I turn to you. You are the God of those who repent and the Savior of sinners. And evening by evening I will return from the innermost marrow of my soul, and out of the deep of my soul I will cry to you:

I have sinned, O Lord, against you, heavily against you. I have destroyed myself!

I repent, Lord. I repent! Spare me. I repent; help my lack of repentance. Give me hope and comfort me.

Remember what I am made of: the work of your hands, your likeness, your blood price, a name from your Name, a sheep of your pasture, a child of the

covenant. Did you make your own image and likeness for nothing? Yes for nothing, if you destroy me.

So spare me, O Lord. Have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you. Have mercy upon me in your great goodness. Do away with my offenses in the cloud of your mercy. Drain away the guilt, heal the wound, blot out the stains, deliver me from the shame, rescue me from the control of sin.

Lord, bring me out of my trouble and cleanse me from my secret faults. Protect me, your servant, from my most arrogant sins. Do not condemn me for wanderings of mind and idle words.

Remove the dark and muddy flood of foul and wicked thoughts, Lord. Whatever I have done wrong, pardon me in your mercy. Do not deal with me as my sins deserve. Look on me with mercy, and for the glory of your all-holy name, turn from me all those evils and miseries which my sins (and I) most certainly deserve.

Lord, tell me that my sins are forgiven, for your name's sake. No other name is given, by which we may be saved. Say to me, "My grace is sufficient." Tell my soul that you are my salvation.

Amen. —Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>2</sup> He (David) said,

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,

my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. <sup>4</sup> I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. 2 Samuel 22:1–4 (ESV)

**GLORIA PATRI** ("May the Grace of Christ Our Savior" John Newton) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory, glory to the Father! Glory, glory to the Son! Glory, glory to the Spirit! Glory to the Three in One!

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 30-34)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

<sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:7–11 (ESV)

Gracious Father, for this present holy business we have now in hand; we humbly beseech thee to let thy blessings be mightily upon thy Word at this time, that it may pierce and enter through to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, of the joints and the marrow, and to discover the very thoughts and intents of the heart. Keep we pray thee out of our hearts and heads all troubles, cares, wanderings, humors, passions, prejudice, distractions, deadness or whatsoever ... shall be suggested by the devil, or our own wicked hearts. So sanctify unto our souls this holy ordinance of thine, that we may handle and hear it with all feeling power and reverence as the Word of thee the true and ever-living God, and as that by which we must be judged at that last dreadful day....

[All this] for the Lord Christ Jesus' sake: in whose glorious name and mediation we beg these and all other needful blessings. Amen. - Robert Bolton

(Your daily Scripture reading)

# **DOXOLOGY** (TRADITIONAL)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

O God,

Save thy people, bless thine inheritance, rule them also, and lift them up forever....

Preserve that little flock unto whom thou hast promised to give the kingdom....

Unite thy people together, let them not bite and devour one another, but endeavor by all lowliness and meekness, longsuffering, and forbearing one another, in love to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Make thy way known upon earth, and thy saving health among all nations.... Bring in those sheep that are not yet of thy fold, and cause them to hear the voice of the great Shepherd.

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so be thou round about thy people from henceforth and for ever.

Amen. - Nathaniel Vincent

# (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! <sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good 205

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:1–5 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>3</sup> Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. 2 John 3 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-EIGHT**

## **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

<sup>3</sup> You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. Psalm 90:1–4 (ESV)

God, You are the infinite God. You existed before time, and You exist outside of time. You exist after time as well. In You all things are held together. Were You to let loose of Your order over all for even a moment, we would unravel and come to immediate

ruin and destruction. We're at Your mercy for every moment of our lives because You hold our lives in Your hand.

I praise and honor You for how great You are and how powerful is Your mighty arm. I worship You for Your ability to know all things, see all things, be over all things, and keep all things working together for Your good and Your glory—especially in my life when I seek You. -Tony Evans

**HYMN RESPONSE:** ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE (WILLIAM WHITING) - SING OR SPEAK

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave, who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard and hushed their raging at thy word, who walkedst on the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage didst sleep: O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

Most Holy Spirit, who didst brood upon the chaos dark and rude, and bid its angry tumult cease, and give, for wild confusion, peace: O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power, thy children shield in danger's hour; from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go; thus evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?

Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins?

Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven: Lamentations 3:37–41 (ESV)

Precious Jesus! I do remember my faults this day. So grant me from now on to live wholly to you, gracious Lord, to keep you always in view, walking with you, cleaving to you, hanging upon you. Help me always to remember you and your love more than anything else.

You, my dearest Redeemer! I pray for grace to set you always before me, to record in my heart your mercies, and to set you in my heart. To follow you wherever you go, and to watch the steps of Jesus. To pursue you in all your paths, at your table, at your ordinances, in your words, in your house of prayer, in your providence, in your promises.

Everywhere, and in all things, where Jesus is, I pray that there may my soul be. Though I have no way to pay you back for this bounty, Lord, still in your grace may I follow you, to bless you, and to live out the truth that all I am and all I have is yours.

Grant me in this sweet sense to know you, precious Jesus, and to enjoy you in everything, for riches and honor come from you.

Yes, Lord, the work is yours, salvation is yours, glory is yours—everything is yours. All that remains for me is to be forever giving you the praise that is due your most holy name, content to be nothing—even less than nothing—that the power of Jesus may rest on me. Because when I am most weak in myself, then am I most strong in you, Lord, and in your power, amen.

—Robert Hawker

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight... Ephesians 1:7–8 (ESV)

# GLORIA PATRI (Isaac Watts) - SING OR SPEAK

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One, Be honor, praise and glory giv'n, By all on earth, and all in heav'n.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 35-42)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. Psalm 18:30 (ESV)

Give us grace, O Lord, not only to hear your Word with our ears but also to receive it into our hearts and to show it in our lives; for the glory of your great name. Amen (Author unknown)

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

Visit each of our children and young friends, O Lord, with your mercy. Animate them to walk in your truth and bless them—even when nothing remains of all the love we have bestowed but the memory of our exhortations and examples.

Fill and expand our hearts more and more with true generosity. May we act toward strangers, and especially fellow believers, in a way that is worthy of you, whenever they need our assistance. And especially let our love abound to those who have a desire to spread the gospel.

Send forth, O Lord, the gentle influences of your Spirit. Melt those hearts which will not be broken by

the weightiest strokes of your vengeance, and deliver us from the tempter. Amen.

—Philip Doddridge

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you

do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:15–17 (ESV)

### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>23</sup> Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. Ephesians 6:23–24 (ESV)

# **DAY TWENTY-NINE**

## **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

- <sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;
- he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.
- <sup>23</sup> To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might,

and have now made known to me what we asked of you,

for you have made known to us the king's matter." Daniel 2:20–23 (ESV)

I appeal to you, Lord, God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob and Israel, You the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Infinitely merciful as You are, it is Your will that we should learn to know You. You made heaven and earth, You rule supreme over all that is. You are the true, the only God; there is no other god above You.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ...and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, grant that all who read what I have written here may know You, because You alone are God; let them draw strength from You; keep them from all teaching that is heretical, irreligious or godless. - St Irenaeus of Lyons, 130-202 AD

**HYMN RESPONSE:** BE THOU MY VISION - SING OR SPEAK

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine Inheritance, now and always: Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Revelation 3:17 (ESV)

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

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to

save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)

# GLORIA PATRI (Isaac Watts) - SING OR SPEAK

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One, Be honor, praise and glory giv'n, By all on earth, and all in heav'n.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 43-45)

# BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)

<sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord.
<sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 23:28–29 (ESV)

Lord, inspire us to read your Scriptures and meditate on them day and night. We beg you to give us real understanding of what we need, that we in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet we know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So we ask that the words of Scriptures may also be not just signs on a page but channels of grace into our hearts.

Origen

(Your daily Scripture reading)

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>3</sup> And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of

Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:3–6 (ESV)

O Thou who art King of kings and Lord of lords, we worship Thee.

"Before Jehovah's awful throne We bow with sacred joy."

We can truly say that we delight in God. There was a time when we feared Thee, O God, with the fear of bondage. Now we reverence, but we love as much as we reverence. The thought of Thine Omnipresence was once horrible to us. We said: "Whither shall we flee from His presence?" and it seemed to make hell itself more dreadful, because we heard a voice, "If I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there." But now, O Lord, we desire to find Thee. Our longing is to feel Thy presence, and it is the heaven of heavens that Thou art there. The sick bed is soft when Thou art there. The furnace of affliction grows cool when Thou art there, and the house of prayer when Thou art present is none other than the house of God, and it is the very gate of heaven.

Come near, our Father, come very near to Thy children. Some of us are very weak in body and faint in heart. Soon, O God, lay Thy right hand upon us and say unto us, "Fear not." Peradventure, some of us are alike, and the world is attracting us. Come near to kill the influence of the world with Thy superior power...

We lift our voice to Thee in prayer; also, for all our dear ones. Lord bless the sick and make them well as soon as it is right they should be. Sanctify to them all they have to bear. There are also dear friends who are very weak; some that are very trembling. God bless them. While the tent is being taken down may the inhabitant within look on with calm joy, for we shall by-and-by "be clothed upon with our house that is from heaven." Lord help us to sit very loose by all these things here below. May we live here like strangers and make the world not a house but an inn, in which we sup and lodge, expecting to be on our journey tomorrow.

We ask in the name of Jesus Christ Thy Son. Amen.

—C. H. Spurgeon

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

## 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **THANKSGIVING**

Accept, O Lord, our feeble efforts to praise You and thank You.

You never cease to love us;

You never fail to preserve us from the evil one; and You never skimp in showing us mercy.

You will never cast us away;

Christ has promised never to leave us or forsake us; and Your Holy Spirit is with us—and in us—forever. You faithfully preserve Your saints eternally.

- John MacArthur

# **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>18</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen. Galatians 6:18 (ESV)

# **DAY THIRTY**

# **Adoration and Praise**

<sup>1</sup> Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. <sup>2</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. <sup>3</sup> And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. <sup>4</sup> As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east, <sup>5</sup> the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

<sup>6</sup> While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, <sup>7</sup> and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever.

Ezekiel 43:1–7 (ESV)

I pray with my whole soul, with my whole mind: Glory be to you, Lord, glory to you and to your all-holy name.

Glory to you for your divine perfection. Glory to you for your incomprehensible and incomparable goodness. Glory to you for your mercy toward sinners and unworthy people—and toward me—of all sinners the most unworthy by far.

For all this and for the rest, Lord, I give you glory and praise, blessing and thanks. I join my voice in the concert of mortals and angels, of all your saints in heaven, and all your creatures in heaven or on earth—though I remain beneath their feet, an unworthy and wretched sinner.

221

I am your humble creature, now, in this day and hour, and every day until my last breath, and until the end of the world, forever and ever, amen.

—Lancelot Andrewes

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." John 3:19–21 (ESV)

Lord, we show you our wounds so that you may heal us. And even if we do not, you know, and you wait to hear our voice. Do away our scars by tears, like the woman in the Gospel who washed your feet with hers.

You know how to help the weak, when there is no one who can prepare the feast, or bring the ointment, or carry along a spring of living water. You come yourself to the grave.

So come to this grave of mine, Lord Jesus, that you would wash me with your tears. With my dry eyes I have no such tears as to be able to wash away my offenses. With your tears I will be saved, if I am worthy of your tears.

With them you will call me out of the tomb of this body and say, "Come forth." Then my thoughts will not be kept pent up in the narrow limits of this body, but may go forth to you, and move into the light, that I may think no more on works of darkness, but on works of light. Amen. —Ambrose of Milan

# **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." Romans 1:16–17 (ESV)

GLORIA PATRI (Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run.
Through unending ages run.

AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 46-50)

223

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31–32 (ESV)

Come, Lord, and use your keys. Open, so we understand.

You reveal so much, yet you are not believed. You warn us from the Scriptures, yet are not understood. Where hearts are closed, open and enter in.

"Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45).

Open, Lord—yes, open the hearts of those who doubt you. —Augustine of Hippo

**HYMN RESPONSE:** HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION - SING OR SPEAK

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent word! What more can He say than to you He hath said—To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed, For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand. "The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

(Your daily Scripture reading)

## **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. 1 John 5:13–15 (ESV)

O Sovereign and Almighty Lord, look down from heaven on your Church, on all your people, and on all your flock. Save us all, your unworthy servants, the sheep of your fold. Give us your peace, your help, and your love, and send to us the gift of your Holy Spirit, so that with a pure heart and a good conscience we may salute one another with a holy kiss, without hypocrisy, and with no hostile purpose, but guileless and pure in one spirit, in the bond of peace and love, one body and one spirit, in one faith, even as we have been called in one hope of our calling, so that we may all meet in the divine and boundless love, in Christ Jesus our Lord, with whom you are blessed. - Divine Liturgy of Mark

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

# 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

# **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>14</sup> For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:14–16 (ESV)

#### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

May the love of God enfold us, the wisdom of the Son enlighten us, the fire of the Spirit inflame us; and may the blessing of the triune God rest upon us, and abide with us, now and evermore. Amen. (Author unknown)

# **DAY THIRTY-ONE**

# **Adoration and Praise**

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,

for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalm 115:1 (ESV)

Grant, Almighty God, that as we have not only been created by you, but when you have placed us in this world, you have also enriched us with abundance of all blessings—O grant that we may not transfer to others the glory due to you, and that especially since we are daily admonished by your Word, and even severely reproved, we may not with an iron hardness resist, but render ourselves pliable to you, and not give ourselves up to our own devices, but follow with true docility and meekness that rule which you have prescribed in your Word, until at length having put off all the remains of errors, we shall enjoy that blessed light, which you have prepared for us in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-John Calvin

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

<sup>1</sup>But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV)

Raise us up, O blessed Jesus, from the awful death of sin, so we may walk in newness of life with you from now on.

May your death, O Christ, put to death the old Adam in us, and may your resurrection call into new life our inward being!

May your precious blood cleanse us from all our sins, and your resurrection clothe us as in a robe of righteousness!

We who have been dead in sin most ardently yearn for you, O true life.

We who have so foolishly wandered away through our sins, turn with longing hearts to you, the true and only righteousness.

Condemned to eternal death for our sins, we look with yearning hearts to you, the true salvation.

Make us alive by your Spirit! Justify us by your grace! And save us for your mercy's sake! Amen.

—Johann Gerhard

# **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)

**HYMN RESPONSE:** HIS MERCY IS MORE - SING OR SPEAK

What love could remember, no wrongs we have done. Omniscient all-knowing, He counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea, without bottom or shore; Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait, as we constantly roam. What Father so tender, is calling us home. He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more! Stronger than darkness, new every morn. Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness, He lavished on us His blood was the payment, His life was the cost We stood 'neath a debt, we could never afford Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more! Stronger than darkness, new every morn. Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

GLORIA PATRI (Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah) - SING OR SPEAK

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit; Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
Through unending ages run.
Through unending ages run.

# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND CATECHESIS)

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM (QUESTIONS 51-54)

# **BIBLE READING (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)**

<sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Matthew 24:35 (ESV)

Lord, bless your word unto us, which now we have heard with our outward ears.

For those of us that you have reclaimed from any error in opinion or foolishness in life, make us also careful of passing along such errors or foolishness to others.

And for those of us still holding on to errors and foolishness, Lord, we pray that you would frame us according to your will, so that we may listen and follow your wisdom and turn our hearts to understanding.

Remove far from us all vain pretense of our own praises, and open our mouths to praise you, as often as needed for your glory.

Lord, wean us completely from any confidence in outward things, and instead settle all our confidence in yourself and your Son Christ Jesus. Amen.

—Henry Airay

(Your daily Scripture reading)

# **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.

# APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE (PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/REQUESTS/THE LORD'S PRAYER)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Almighty God and most merciful Father, we do not present ourselves here before your Majesty trusting in our own merits or worthiness, but in your manifold mercies. You have promised to hear our

prayers and grant our requests which we shall make to you in the name of your beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and you have also commanded us to assemble ourselves together in his Name, with full assurance that he will not only be among us, but also be our Mediator and Advocate toward your Majesty, so that we may obtain all things which shall seem expedient to your blessed will for our necessities. Therefore we ask you, most merciful Father, to turn your loving countenance toward us, and impute not unto us our manifold sins and offenses, whereby we justly deserve your wrath and sharp punishment; but rather receive us to your mercy for Jesus Christ's sake, accepting his death and passion as a just

recompense for all our offenses, in whom only you

are pleased, and through whom you cannot be

(PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION)

offended with us. - John Knox

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

<sup>23</sup> The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me;

to one who orders his way rightly
I will show the salvation of God!"
Psalm 50:23 (ESV)

## **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

<sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Jude 20–21 (ESV)