

CHRISTIANS ON THE LEFT.



CONFESSION

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
We come before you, unworthy of your grace,
Unworthy of your love, unworthy of you.
We are sinners. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
Too often have we chosen the fruit over the
garden.
Too often have we bowed down to the golden calf.
Too often have we begged for a sign.
Too often have we declared Caesar to be Lord.
Too often have we demanded to see the wounds
in your hands.
Too often have we substituted our image of you,
for you.
Too often have we neglected your call to be salt
and light.
Too often have we mutilated the body of Christ to
individual parts.
Too often have we reduced Christianity to a moral
code.
Too often have we forgotten Jesus' life, death, and
resurrection.
Too often have we acted on sight and not on faith.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
(Silent Prayers of Confession)
Heal us now of our sinfulness and of the hatred
that divides us.
Take away our hardness of heart.
Open our eyes which are often blind to the needs
of others.
Remove our selfishness and our greed.
Give us self-control at all times, and fill our hearts
with your eternal love.
O Jesus, we ask you now to heal and bless us, and
fill us with your peace.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING - Psalm 145

¹ I lift you high in praise, my God, O my King! and
I'll bless your name into eternity.

² I'll bless you every day,
and keep it up from now to eternity.

³ God is magnificent; he can never be praised
enough.

There are no boundaries to his greatness.

⁴ Generation after generation stands in awe of
your work;

each one tells stories of your mighty acts.

⁵ Your beauty and splendor have everyone talking;

I compose songs on your wonders.

⁶ Your marvelous doings are headline news;

I could write a book full of the details of your
greatness.

⁷ The fame of your goodness spreads across the
country;

your righteousness is on everyone's lips.

⁸ God is all mercy and grace—

not quick to anger, is rich in love.

⁹ God is good to one and all;

everything he does is suffused with grace.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ Creation and creatures applaud you, God;

your holy people bless you.

They talk about the glories of your rule,

they exclaim over your splendor,

¹² Letting the world know of your power for good,
the lavish splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is a kingdom eternal;

you never get voted out of office.

God always does what he says,

and is gracious in everything he does.

¹⁴ God gives a hand to those down on their luck,
gives a fresh start to those ready to quit.

¹⁵ All eyes are on you, expectant;

you give them their meals on time.

¹⁶ Generous to a fault,

you lavish your favor on all creatures.

¹⁷ Everything God does is right—

the trademark on all his works is love.

- ¹⁸ God's there, listening for all who pray,
for all who pray and mean it.
- ¹⁹ He does what's best for those who fear him—
hears them call out, and saves them.
- ²⁰ God sticks by all who love him,
but it's all over for those who don't.
- ²¹ My mouth is filled with God's praise.
Let everything living bless him,
bless his holy name from now to eternity!

Psalm 111

- ¹ Praise the LORD.
I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the
assembly.
- ² Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.
- ³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴ He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.
- ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
- ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
giving them the lands of other nations.
- ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
- ⁸ They are steadfast for ever and ever,
done in faithfulness and uprightness.
- ⁹ He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—
holy and awesome is his name.
- ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good
understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise

More light in the night than darkness in the day

I'm standing at night in this subterranean place of prayer, and perhaps it's the coffee, or the music, or the Spirit, but the darkness doesn't seem too strong. I'm praying for miracles in the city where I live – for healings, and salvations, and justice, and revival, and all those usual Kingdom kind of things. But tonight, as I do so, I find myself suddenly startled - like a boy blinking at fireworks – bewildered by how many miracles there already are.

It occurs to me that here in my city today, doctors dispensed healing – can you imagine anything more wonderful? Neighbours did favours. Dog-walkers in the park silently admired the shape of trees. Jokes were told in nursing homes. Thousands and thousands of people prayed, or wished, or merely unwittingly wanted what God wanted for a moment or two.

Chances are that somewhere today a young man and a young woman began to fall in love (although they don't yet know it). A teenager picked up trash she had not dropped. A single mother decided, just for once, to buy herself a slice of chocolate cake and to celebrate the moment in long, slow, mouthfuls of happiness. A painter-decorator stepped back from a wall he'd just painted the colour of claret, and maybe at that moment the sunlight broke through the window, and he saw that it was a good piece of work. A man resisted the temptation to click the link he wouldn't want his wife to see. Maybe he failed yesterday. Maybe he'll click it tomorrow. But today he overcame. In the hospital perhaps a surgeon pinned a broken arm with immaculate skill. Delicious food was prepared and cooked and served in thousands of homes joyously. A pastor's words, so carefully crafted, brought a little comfort to grieving relatives. People cried, but a check-out girl smiled at a lonely old lady. People died of course, but babies were also born. From time to time today, I was born too. We all were. A million, minor miracles.

We do not pray ex nihilo. We pray for more of whatever it is we see. Nothing comes from nothing – certainly not faith like this. Tonight I'm blessing the evidence of miracles; the pre-existing goodness, the presence of Christ in these streets, these surgeries, these schools, these art galleries, these pubs, these homes, these wards. Witnessing

so many minor miracles I applaud the world. If all of this is happening all around me, what might not happen next?

And so I stand here now in this subterranean place of prayer and it seems self-evident that there is more light in the night than darkness in the day. There is goodness breaking through, everywhere I look. And I'm praying for miracles tonight with greater faith than frustration for once. I can see creation rising like the moon above the Fall. Ultimately, almost inevitably, benevolence wins the day quietly.

Pete Greig www.24-7prayer.com

Prayer of Mother Theresa

O God, we pray for all those in our world who are suffering from injustice:
For those who are discriminated against because of their race, colour or religion;

For those imprisoned
for working for the relief of oppression;
For those who are hounded
for speaking the inconvenient truth;

For those tempted to violence
as a cry against overwhelming hardship;
For those deprived of reasonable health and education;
For those suffering from hunger and famine;

For those too weak to help themselves
and who have no one else to help them;
For the unemployed who cry out
for work but do not find it.

We pray for anyone of our acquaintance
who is personally affected by injustice.
Forgive us, Lord, if we unwittingly share in the conditions
or in a system that perpetuates injustice.

Show us how we can serve your children
and make your love practical by washing their feet.

Whirlwind Spirit

Whirlwind Spirit of God,
Roar through our timidities and fears,
Shake the foundations of our ill-placed securities,
Sweep away the cobwebs of our apathy,
Blow down the walls that separate us, one from

another.

Then into all our empty spaces, breathe
re-strengthened courage to challenge injustice,
renewed belief in the urgency of our vocation,
revitalised passion to change our lifestyles,
re-dedication to speak only words that build and unite.

Let gentle breeze and still small voice
become in us today
mighty wind and loud proclamation.
Make of us a Pentecost people!

Amen

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Fill us with justice

Holy Spirit, give us
tongues of fire and inspire us to
speak of justice without fear or prejudice.

*Response: Fill us with justice through your Spirit,
Lord*

Holy Spirit, change us
so that the language of liberation may spread from
our lips
as we challenge the economics of oppression.
*Response: Fill us with justice through your Spirit,
Lord*

Holy Spirit, teach us
to understand the sufferings of workers who are
forced to labour in sweatshops round the world.
*Response: Fill us with justice through your Spirit,
Lord*

Holy Spirit, guide us
to recognise the temptations of consumer choice
and to dedicate ourselves to universal human
rights.
Make us raise our voices by shouting out loud the
good news
and proclaim global justice for all.
*Response: Fill us with justice through your Spirit,
Lord*

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Hearts ablaze

Beautiful Lord,
may we say "yes" to You

so that the Spirit in our hearts
will once again be set ablaze.

Spirit of Wisdom,
guide our actions so they tell of God's love.
Spirit of Truth,
open our eyes to see the world as it really is.
Spirit of Power,
enthuse us to work for justice throughout the
world.
Spirit of Love,
inspire us to respect the dignity of each person.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill us.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come.

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God's transforming power

God who cannot be bound
Flow into our hearts and minds
Wear down our resistance to your love
And refresh us with the spirit of your compassion

Today, as we commit ourselves once more to your
work
We ask you to show us how to hold the needs of
your world
At the heart of our lives
And to celebrate your many gifts with joy.

May your power transform our lives
May your Spirit set us free
And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with us all now and for ever

Amen

Prayer of the Unemployed

*O God, who made us in your image and intended
us for creative work;
look with love on those of us who are unemployed.
Help us to enjoy life together with those who have
work
and to understand what kind of help we need to
give one another,
whether in paid employment or not.*

*Guide the leaders of our country,
that they may take wise decisions which will
benefit us all.
Finally we ask you Lord to guide us
in the knowledge that we all have worth in
ourselves
and that we are all of equal value in your eyes,
through Jesus Christ Our Lord*

Amen

We pray for all those caught up in conflict situations.

"I shall break the bow and the sword and warfare,
and banish them from the country, and I will let
them sleep secure."
Hosea 2:20

God of peace,
Show us how to put away the weapons of war
and help us destroy the tools of destruction.
God of peace, may your kingdom come.

God of peace,
Teach us to follow the ways of justice
and walk with us the paths of truth.
God of peace, may your kingdom come.

God of peace,
Challenge the weapons of war,
and banish hatred and division,
so that all your children may sleep secure.
God of peace, may your kingdom come.

Amen

(Linda Jones/CAFOD)

I will be busy

O Lord,
you know how busy I must be this day.
If I forget you,
do not forget me.

*(Sir Jacob Astley, before the Battle of Edgehill,
1642)*

Prayer of a Breton fisherman

Lord, the sea is so wide
and my boat is so small.
Be with me.

St Patrick's Breastplate

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the
Invocation of the Trinity
Through belief in the threeness
Through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation

I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth with His
baptism
Through the strength of His crucifixion with His
burial
Through the strength of His resurrection with His
ascension
Through the strength of His descent for the
judgement
Of doom

I arise today
Through the strength of the love
Of Cherubim
In obedience of angels
In the service of archangels
In hope of resurrection to meet with reward
In prayers of patriarchs
In predictions of prophets
In preaching of apostles
In faith of confessors
In innocence of holy virgins
In deeds of righteous men

I arise today
Through the strength of Heaven
Light of sun
Radiance of moon
Splendour of fire
Speed of lightning
Swiftness of wind
Depth of sea
Stability of earth
Firmness of rock

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me
God's might to uphold me
God's wisdom to guide me
God's eye to look before me
God's ear to hear me
God's word to speak for me
God's hand to guard me
God's way to lie before me
God's shield to protect me
God's host to save me
From snares of devils
From temptation of vices
From everyone who shall wish me ill
Afar and near

Alone and in multitude

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me

Christ on my right, Christ on my left
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me
Christ in every eye that sees me
Christ in every ear that hears me

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the
Trinity
Through belief in the threeness
Through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation

AMEN

Pray for an end to poverty

Creator God,
You loved the world into life.
Forgive us when our dreams of the future
are shaped by anything other than glimpses of a
kingdom
of justice, peace and an end to poverty.

Incarnate God,
you taught us to speak out for what is right.
Make us content with nothing less than a world
that is transformed into the shape of love,
where poverty shall be no more.

Breath of God,
let there be abundant life.
Inspire us with the vision of poverty over,
and give us the faith, courage and will to make it
happen.

Further prayers

God of the impossible,
we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation.
And when the challenges seem too many,
remind us of your resurrection power,
and the miracles of your love that happen
whenever injustice is dismantled and rebuilt with
peace.

Help us to hope that the impossible can happen
and live as if it might do so today.
Amen

God of reconciliation and grace,
you promise us a world where all is new,
where love is born when hope is gone,
where broken relationships are restored to
wholeness.
May we live as people who know your story of
love,
and we have the vision to imagine what could be
possible
if we dared to live this story.
God of abundant life,
may we be witnesses of love, hope and peace,
and co-creators of your life in the world.
Amen

Loving God, you make us in your image.
Forgive us when we fail to see your image in each
other,
when we give in to greed and indifference
when we do not question the systems that are life-
denying.
As we are made in your image,
let us live in your image
and be Christ-like
in service, endurance and love.
Amen

**Christian Aid's prayer for the climate
change negotiations**

Christ our Lord,
when we remember the sacrifice you made for the
world,
remind us that we are called to care for the world
and its people,
and challenge us to see how our actions change
the world.
Be with us as we act to make a difference.

Christ, whom we remember in the bread,
remind us of those who are hungry,
and challenge us to see how our actions change
the world.
Christ, whom we remember in the wine,
remind us of those who are thirsty,
and challenge us to see how our actions change
the world.

Christ, as we remember your perfect sacrifice,
inspire us to follow your example
and to work with you to restore a broken world.
Motivate us to take action,
and grant wisdom and courage to the world's
leaders
that they can negotiate a fair deal for the world's
poor in Copenhagen.
Remind us that you are with us,
and that when we live lives of service,
we live them in your name.
Amen.

Christian Aid prayer about tax

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope,
In you is life, and the life is the light of all men.
Your light shines in the darkness.
We give thanks for all through whom your light
shines
And pray for an end to all secrecy that is life-
denying.
Sift out our laws and our lives with the light of your
presence
So that our aim is honesty
And our measure is love.
Amen

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people
so that you may work for justice, freedom and
peace.

May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection,
hunger, and war
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort
them
and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in the
world
so that you can do what others claim cannot be
done.

– Franciscan Benediction