

**Prayers from
The Hymnal and Order of Service,
The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, 1925**

Revision of the prayers into contemporary English.

Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen. ¹

Evening Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen. ²

Sunday

Almighty Father, dwell among us today and fill us with yourself. Say to each one of us, "I am your salvation." Speak to us so that we cannot fail to hear. Show yourself to us and show us how badly we need you. Uphold your servants who proclaim your Word in your temple and lead the worship of your people. Touch the hearts of the hearers that they may receive and serve you. Hear us, O heavenly Father, for the sake of your only Son. Amen. ³

Monday

Lord God, heavenly Father, it is your will that we love one another. Just as we have received your undeserved blessings, may we love everyone in you and for you. We ask your kindness for all, but especially for the friends whom your love has given to us. Our prayer is cold, because our love is so feeble, but you are rich in mercy. Do what is best for them, according to your will, that being ruled and protected by you always and everywhere, they may receive eternal life in the end; to you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and praise for ever and ever. Amen. ⁴

Tuesday

Lord, you alone can direct the course of my life over life's troubled sea. Lord, bid the storm in my heart to be still and make it calm, that I may look to you and find rest and peace. Focus my wandering thoughts on you alone. Let your Holy Spirit dwell in me and make me your temple. You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. Fill me with your fullness so that I will have comfort, strength, joy and peace forever. Amen. ⁵

Wednesday

O God, you are life, wisdom, truth, bounty, and blessedness, the eternal, the only true good, our God and our Lord, our hope and our heart's delight, we acknowledge with thanksgiving that you have made

us in your image, and that we may direct our thoughts to you. Lord, make us to know you aright, that we may love, enjoy, and possess you more and more. And since, in the life here below, I cannot fully attain this blessedness, let it at least grow in me day by day, until it all is fulfilled at last in the life to come. Here let the knowledge of you be increased, and there let it be perfected. Here let my love to you grow, and there let it ripen; that my joy being here great in hope, may there in fruition be made perfect. Amen. ⁶

Thursday

Almighty God, you care for me as if you thought of me alone, and you care for all as if all were one. I see the things of this earth pass away, and I see other things take their place, but you remain forever. Therefore, my God and Father, to you I entrust all I have received from you, for then, I can lose nothing. You, O Lord, have made me for yourself, and my heart can find no rest until it rests in you. Amen. ⁷

Friday

In all that you require me to do, grant me the knowledge, the desire and the ability, that I may so fulfill it as I ought, and may make my path to you. I pray, keep me safe, straightforward, and perfect to the end.

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give me an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give me an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow on me also, O Lord my God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you. Amen. ⁸

Saturday

I know, O Lord, and with all humility acknowledge myself altogether unworthy of your love. But I am sure you are altogether worthy of mine. I am not good enough to serve you, but you have a right to the best service I can pay. Impart to me some of that excellence, that will supply my own lack of worth. Help me to cease from sin against your will, that I may render you service according to my duty. Enable me so to guard and govern myself, to begin and finish my course, that when the race of life is run, I may sleep in peace and rest in you. Be with me to the end, that my sleep may be rest indeed, my rest perfect security, and that security, a blessed eternity. Amen. ⁹

Prayer before the Reading of the Word of God

Lord Jesus Christ, you commanded us to search the Scriptures and promised us that we will find faith and eternal life in them. You alone are worthy to take the book and open its seven seals. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. Teach me the way of your statutes, and I will keep them to the end. From your throne in heaven, send your Spirit to be with me and work with me that I may realize what pleases you, do my work in your name and to your glory, and that my heart may be filled with true faith, love, hope, humility, patience, meekness, piety, the fear of God, and true blessedness in him. Amen. ¹⁰

Morning Prayer before Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for giving yourself in love as a sacrifice for you. We thank you for the love in which you give us yourself in your holy supper. Stand at the door of our heart and knock, that we may hear your voice and open wide the door. Enter our heart, Lord Jesus, and make us worthy

guests as we approach your table to commune with you. Receive us as your guests at the supper in your heavenly kingdom. Grant us this, so that the work you have already done for us may not have been done in vain. Amen. ¹¹

Prayer Just before Communion

Loving Lord and Savior, look on me with mercy as you looked at Peter when he denied you, and as you looked at the sinful woman in the house of the Pharisee, and as you looked at the thief on the cross. Give me grace to weep over my sins as Peter wept, as the sinful woman to love you with all my heart, and as the thief to be with you in Paradise. Amen. ¹²

Evening Prayer after Communion

Dear God and Father, it is altogether true that I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, but at your own command and invitation I come to you at your holy table. I fully and firmly believe that you have mercifully forgiven my sins. Preserve me in faith and in unbroken communion with you. I do not doubt your word of power. You have fulfilled it in me, a poor wretched sinner, to your glory. Amen. ¹³

Prayer for those in Anxiety for Their Souls

Be gracious to me, God, according to your mercy. Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion. With shame and sorrow I confess that I have sinned against you and have acted wickedly. My sin is great, and it is against you, God, my Benefactor and Savior, that I have sinned. You have showered nothing but blessings on me, and you have often forgiven my sins.

Yet I have neglected to heed your word and warning. I have allowed the desires of my flesh and the temptations of the devil to overpower and defile me. What sin! What foolishness! If you, Lord, kept a record of guilt, O Lord, who could stand? Have mercy on me. Scrub me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I admit my rebellious acts. My sin is always in front of me. Do not count me guilty of sin but let me rejoice in your merciful pardon. For Jesus' sake look graciously on me. Do not cast me from your presence. Create in me a pure heart, O God. Renew an unwavering spirit within me. Then I will strive to please you more earnestly, and will walk more carefully to avoid the snares of sin. Help me and be merciful to me, a sinner. Amen. ¹⁴

Prayer in Temptation

O Lord, you know our hearts, and you see all our temptations and struggles. Have pity on us and deliver us from the sins which war against our souls. You are all powerful. We are weak and erring. Our trust is in you, good and faithful God. Guard us in peril, direct us in doubt, and save us from falling into sin. Graciously deliver us from the evil that is around and within us. Show us the way we should go and keep us on it until the end. Amen. ¹⁵

Prayer for Mutual Forgiveness

I offer my prayer to you, O Lord, for those who have caused me offense or grief, or have unjustly found fault with me, or have injured me. I also pray for those I have vexed, troubled, burdened or caused to stumble by my words or actions. Forgive us our sins and our lack of charity toward one another. Have mercy, Lord, and turn our minds toward one another that we may enjoy your forgiveness and, in the end, receive eternal life. Amen. ¹⁶

Prayer for a Dying Person

Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father through him, always and everywhere you show your mercy. Look with pity on our poor, helpless *brother* you are now calling from this life. Grant *him* grace to remain firm and assured in his faith in you that *he* may die as a true believer. Let *him* hear the words of your Son, our Savior, “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” Do not remember *his* sins but remember the agony and bitter death your Son suffered for *him*. Have compassion on *him* and grant *him* a peaceful departure from this life. Give *him* a portion in the resurrection of the just and let *him* dwell with you forever. Amen. ¹⁷

Prayers on a Birthday

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for leading and preserving me to this day. You have brought me to the light of a new day and have delivered me from the guilt of my first birth by giving me a second birth in holy Baptism. You are a faithful God, for you have fulfilled all your precious promises to me. Dear Lord, forgive all my sins, pardon me, and grant me strength and wisdom to lead a life that is acceptable to you. As I advance in life, grant that I may ever grow in grace and in the knowledge of your will and in favor with you and with my fellow men. Grant that my years may not be spent in idleness or sin, but in labors useful to your Church and all people. And when my last hour is at hand, grant that it may be my birthday in heaven, so that the day of my death may be even better than the day of my birth. Into your hands I commend myself and my whole life. Forsake me never, dear Lord. Amen. ¹⁸

Lord, I do not know what I ought to ask of you. You alone know what I need. You love me better than I know how to love myself. O Father, hear me, even when I do not know what I should pray for. I do not dare ask either for crosses or consolations. I simply present myself before you. I open my heart to you. You see my needs which I do not know myself. See and act according to your tender mercy. Bring bad times or good. Chasten or heal. I accept all your purposes without knowing them. I yield myself to you. I have no other desire than to accomplish your will. Teach me to pray. Pray within me. Amen. ¹⁹

Prayer on a Wedding Anniversary

Lord, to you we confidently entrust our home and those you have given us. We thank you for the comfort and love you have permitted us to enjoy. But earthly happiness is frail. We cannot care for ourselves, or be a refuge for others. Protect our loved ones. Your will be done, O Lord. You alone know what is for our good. Do with us as seems best to you. You alone are our safety. Lead us all on the straight path to the eternal goal. For the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen. ²⁰

¹ Martin Luther, Small Catechism

² Martin Luther, Small Catechism

³ Augustine

⁴ Anselm of Canterbury

⁵ Johann Arndt

⁶ Anselm of Canterbury

⁷ Augustine

⁸ Thomas Aquinas

⁹ Augustine

¹⁰ Wilhelm Loehe

¹¹ Henric Schartau

¹² Source unknown, found in *The Hymnal and Order of Service*, The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, 1925

¹³ Martin Luther

¹⁴ Source unknown, found in *The Hymnal and Order of Service*, The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, 1925

¹⁵ Source unknown, found in *The Hymnal and Order of Service*, The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, 1925

¹⁶ Thomas a Kempis

¹⁷ Olavus Petri

¹⁸ Source unknown, found in *The Hymnal and Order of Service*, The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, 1925

¹⁹ François Fénelon

²⁰ Source unknown, found in *The Hymnal and Order of Service*, The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, 1925