LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK

Prepared by
The Commission on Worship
of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
These brief services are intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families, and in other settings.

When more than one person is present, the versicles and responses may be spoken responsively, with one person reading the words in regular type and the others responding with the words in bold type. Prayers that are in bold type are to be prayed by all.

For the readings, several verses have been recommended for each particular time of day. These may be used on a rotating basis. The value in using these few texts lies in the opportunity to learn them well. For those desiring a more complete selection of readings, daily lectionaries, such as the one found on pages 299–304, may be followed. Readings from the Small Catechism (pages 321–330) may also be incorporated into the services.

In the prayers “for others and ourselves,” the following suggestions may be used to establish a pattern of daily and weekly prayer.

**Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

**Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

**Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

**Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

**Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.

**Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

**Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.
MORNING

The sign of the cross ✞ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice; the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch. 

Psalm 5:3

My mouth is filled with Your praise, and with Your glory all the day.

Psalm 71:8

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A hymn, canticle, or psalm may be sung or spoken.

An appointed reading or one of the following is read: Colossians 3:1–4; Exodus 15:1–11; Isaiah 12:1–6; Matthew 20:1–16; Mark 13:32–36; Luke 24:1–9; John 21:4–14; Ephesians 4:17–24; Romans 6:1–4.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read.

The Apostles’ Creed is confessed.

Lord’s Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (441) Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (423) Small Catechism

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

Then go joyfully to your work.
NOON

The sign of the cross ✝️ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✝️ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon
I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;
He will never let the righteous fall.  

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A hymn, canticle, or psalm may be sung or spoken.

An appointed reading or one of the following is read: 1 Corinthians 7:17a, 23–24; Luke 23:44–46; Matthew 5:13–16; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23; Mark 13:24–27; John 15:1–9; Romans 7:18–25; Romans 12:1–2; 1 Peter 1:3–9; Revelation 7:13–17.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. 
O Christ, have mercy upon us. 
O Lord, have mercy upon us. 

Lord’s Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayer:

Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the earth may look to You and see their salvation; for Your mercy’s sake we pray. (442) Amen.

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (443) Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.  

[Psalm 103:1]
EARLY EVENING

The sign of the cross ✝ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A candle may be lighted.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.  

Psalm 141:2

Joyous light of glory:

of the immortal Father;

heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.

We have come to the setting of the sun,

and we look to the evening light.

We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

A hymn, canticle, or psalm may be sung or spoken.


A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read.

Lord’s Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayer:

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for the evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our constant companion on the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope among us, that we may recognize You as You are revealed in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Grant this for Your name’s sake. (444)

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.  

[Psalm 103:1]

Mealtime Prayers

Asking a blessing before the meal

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (445)  

Small Catechism

Returning thanks after the meal

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen. (446)  

Small Catechism
CLOSE OF THE DAY

The sign of the cross ✝️ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning,
Your truth at the close of the day.  

Psalm 92:1–2


The Apostles’ Creed is confessed.

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.

Luke 2:29–32

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:
Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. (447) Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (424) Small Catechism

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.
Christ, the Life of All the Living

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1–2, 5, 7, alt.; tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, St. Louis, 1912, st. 3–4, 6
Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe, Who, Thyself for me once giving
cruel rod: Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, all be whole; Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
shameful scorn And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.

To the darkest depths of woe: Through Thy sufferings,
O Thou sinless Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
Rest to give my weary soul; Yea, the curse of
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou

death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
soul deliverer From the bonds of sin forever.
God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
mightest own me And with heav’nly glory crown me.

Matt. 27:33–46; 1 Cor. 15:57, Is. 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24

JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN

87 87 88 77
5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I might be free; Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security; Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.
   Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently, Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me; Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
   Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore, For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore, Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying, For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I survey the wondrous cross On which the
2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrows and
4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a

Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and
tribute far too small; Love so amazing,
count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872
Text and music: Public domain

Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:8
Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

1 Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
2 Make me see Your great distress, An- guish, and af-fliction,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a-lone Make me see Your pas-sion,
4 Grant that I Your pas-sion view With re-pen-tant griev-ing.

With Your Spirit me en-dow For such med-i-ta-tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch-ed-ness And Your cru-ci-fix-ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter-mi-na-tion.
Let me not bring shame to You By un-ho-ly liv-ing.

Grant that I in love and faith May the im-age cher-ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I al-so and my sin Wrought Your deep af-flict-ion;
How could I re-fuse to shun Ev-ery sin-ful plea-sure

Of Your suf-fering, pain, and death That I may not per-ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
This in-deed the cause has been Of Your cru-ci-fix-ion.
Since for me God’s on-ly Son Suf-fered with-out mea-sure?

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615; setting: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Text and music: Public domain

JESU KREUZ, LEIDEN UND PEIN
76 76 D

Is. 53:3–6; John 3:16; Rom. 12:1–2; 1 John 4:19
5 Well He knows what best to grant me;  
All the longing hopes that haunt me,  
Joy and sorrow, have their day.  
I shall doubt His wisdom never;  
As God wills, so be it ever;  
I commit to Him my way.

6 If my days on earth He lengthen,  
God my weary soul will strengthen;  
All my trust in Him I place.  
Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
Like a stream away is gliding;  
Safe I anchor in His grace.

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O God, Our Help in Ages Past 733

1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:  
Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away.

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op’ning day.  
Our hope for years to come,  
Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come.

3 Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op’ning day.  
Our hope for years to come,  
Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op’ning day.  
Our hope for years to come,  
Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come.

5 If my days on earth He lengthen,  
God my weary soul will strengthen;  
All my trust in Him I place.  
Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
Like a stream away is gliding;  
Safe I anchor in His grace.

6 If my days on earth He lengthen,  
God my weary soul will strengthen;  
All my trust in Him I place.  
Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
Like a stream away is gliding;  
Safe I anchor in His grace.

An eight-stanza version of this hymn may be found in Lutheran Service Builder.
In God, My Faithful God

3 Peligros, lucha y aflicción,
los he tenido aquí;
su gracia siempre me libró,  
consuelo recibí.

4 Y cuando en Sión por siglos mil
brillando esté cual sol,
yo cantaré por siempre allí
a Cristo el Salvador.

AUF MEINEN LIEBEN GOTT

Tune: Kurtzweilige teutsche Lieder, Nürnberg, 1576, alt.; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Psalm 25; Phil. 1:21; 2 Thess. 3:3; Titus 3:4–7

Text and music: Public domain