



PRAYER & COMMUNION
SERVICE FOR
MILITARY, FIRST RESPONDERS,
FAMILY, & FRIENDS



POLICE • EMS • SHERIFF • FIRE
FIRST RESPONDERS

The Word of God

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant : The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant : Let us pray.

BLESS O GOD, all who have left their homes to fight for the world's freedom, and those who risk their lives to serve them. Give them wisdom, courage, and fidelity to the highest. Let no ordeal separate them from the love of Christ. Sanctify the strong, uphold the weak, stretch forth thy gracious hand to the dying, in mercy receive the dead. And hasten the coming of Godly peace, through the power of the Holy Spirit who cometh from thee, O Father, and thee, O Christ, world without end. *Amen. (1945)**

The Celebrant says the Collect.

People: Amen.

Collect for 1st Responders:

Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for creating the human family with a diversity of gifts and talents. We thank you especially for those people who willingly serve others when it puts themselves in harms way. We remember before you this day police officers, sheriffs, firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians. Protect them Lord and provide all that they need as they serve others in distress. We pray that you would give them courage when they are afraid, wisdom when they need it, strength when they are weary, and compassion for all whom they serve. Let them be ready for whatever a day may bring, and honor them for their faithful service. Give peace to them and their families as they care for others wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect for Saint of the Day (if applicable)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Lessons

The people sit. One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying:

A Reading (Lesson) from _____ .

After each Reading, the Reader says:

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

An appointed Psalm may follow each Reading and may be found in the Book of Common Prayer.

Then, all standing, the Gospel is read, first saying:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to _____ .

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel, the Reader says
The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Prayers of the People

All stand. Leaders offer prayers, people respond "Amen."

People may add their own intentions during the silence that follows each prayer.

For those we Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Remembering especially (read list). Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Firefighters, Police Officers, Sheriffs, Emergency Technicians.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for all public servants and particularly those who put themselves in dangerous situations in the service of others. Be with them as their protector and guide. Look favorably upon their work that others may be assisted and brought out of harms way; that violent situations may be averted, fires put out safely, and accidents and medical emergencies be handled effectively. Shield them from all harm (remembering especially read list) and grant them an ongoing awareness of your presence and help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Quiet Confidence

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All pray together:

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

At the Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant gives thanks to God the Father for his work in creation and his revelation of himself to his people;

Recalls before God, when appropriate, the particular occasion being celebrated; incorporates or adapts the Proper Preface of the Day, if desired.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we say,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant now praises God for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. The Prayer continues with these words

And so, Father, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again. Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People and Celebrant

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and for ever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: [Alleluia,] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia]

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ was born, lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion at our table. If you do not want to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

or with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Gracious God, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Grant, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through your grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The service concludes with a blessing and the dismissal:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Supplemental Prayers

For Protection

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by your gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Peace Among the Nations

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For our Enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For our Country

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly pray that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many nations and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace.

Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State (or Commonwealth), and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Unemployed

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Future of the Human Race

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

For Families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sets the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we pray, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh.

Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For the Absent

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Travelers

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life;

In the Evening

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen.*

For Guidance

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

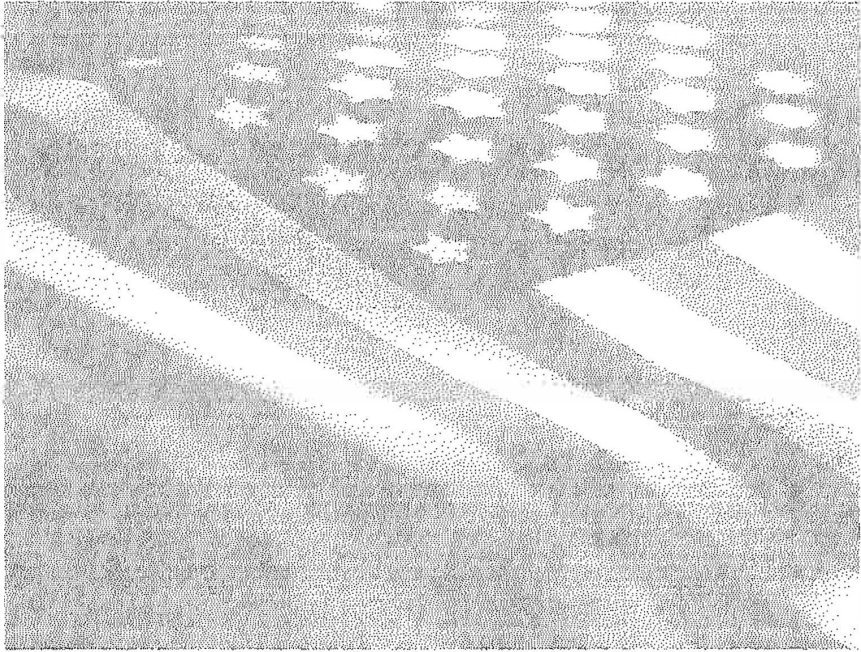
Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979 according to the use of The Episcopal Church was used as the source for this service.

***Forward Day By Day** was the source for this prayer.





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Sunday Services: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Tuesday Service: 7:00 AM

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday

8:00 AM until 11:00 AM