

Friday, May 10:

Our Father Who Art in Heaven

Call to Worship

Kneel in prayer to the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth
takes its name;
that out of the treasures of glory
God may grant us strength and power
through the Spirit in our inmost being;
that Christ, through faith,
may dwell in our hearts in love.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Psalm 68:1-10

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.
But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—
his name is the Lord—
be exultant before him.

Father of orphans and protector of widows

is God in his holy habitation.
God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness, Selah
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Lesson

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:7-11

Reading for Reflection

The entire human family is caught up in “our”... every person becomes one whom God loves and for whom God’s grace is constantly outpoured. When we pray “our Father in heaven” with integrity, all of life is grounded in a radically alternative mode of being. *In heaven* is not a statement of location, it is the affirmation

of God's realm of being in which every "our" can find wholeness of life in loving union with God in relationships with others. *In heaven* affirms a realm whose values, perspectives and practices are contrary to those of the pervasively self-referenced structures of our culture; a realm which, as Jesus said, is already in our midst...

If we take these four words, "Our Father in heaven," out into our life, if we make them the subtext of every relationship, the reality of God's shalom and justice will begin to become incarnate in us; public intimacy with God will become the ground of all relationships.

Robert Mulholland, *The Deeper Life*

Prayers for the world, the church, for others, for myself

Closing Prayer

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
Collect for the Human Family

Saturday, May 11: *Hallowed Be Thy Name*

Call to Worship

We have come to the holy mountain
and to the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem;
before myriads of angels,
before the full assembly of the first-born citizens of heaven.

We have come to God who is the judge of all,
and the spirits of the good, made perfect;
we have come to Jesus, mediator of the new covenant.

Let us give thanks,
and worship God with reverence and awe,
for our God is a consuming fire.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Psalm 99

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The Lord is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is he!
Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
Extol the Lord our God;

worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.
He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
Extol the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy.

Lesson

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Isaiah 42:1-9

Reading for Reflection

If, as people of the living Creator God, we respond to the call to be his sons and daughters; if we take the risk of calling him Father; then we are called to be the people through whom the pain of the world is held in the healing light of the love of God. And we then discover that we want to pray, and need to pray, this prayer.

Father; Our Father; Our Father in Heaven; Our Father in Heaven, *may your name be honored.* That is, may you be worshipped by your whole creation; May the whole cosmos resound with your praise; May the whole world be freed from injustice, disfigurement, sin, and death, and may your name be hallowed. And as we stand in the presence of the Living God, with the darkness and pain of the world

on our hearts, praying that he will fulfill his ancient promises, and implement the victory of Calvary and Easter for the whole cosmos, then we may discover that our own pain, our own darkness, is somehow being dealt with as well.

N.T. Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

Prayers for the church, the world, for others, for myself

Closing Prayer

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, May 12:

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is in Heaven

Call to Worship: Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selab*

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. *Selab*

Lesson

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Mark 1:14-28

Reading for Reflection

What then might it mean to pray this Kingdom prayer today? It means, for a start, that as we look up into the face of our Father in heaven, and commit ourselves to the hallowing of his name, that we look immediately out upon the world that he has made, and we see it as he sees it. Thy Kingdom Come: to pray this means seeing the world in binocular vision. See it with the love of the creator for his spectacularly beautiful creation; and see it with the deep grief of the creator for the battered and battle-scarred state in which the world now finds itself.

Put those two together, and bring the binocular picture into focus: the love and the grief join into the Jesus-shape, the kingdom-shape, the shape of the cross - never was Love, dear King, never was Grief

like thine! And, with this Jesus before your eyes, pray again, *Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven!* We are praying, as Jesus was praying and acting, for the redemption of the world; for the radical defeat and uprooting of evil; and for heaven and earth to be married at last, for God to be all in all. And if we pray this way, we must of course be prepared to live this way.

N.T. Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

Prayers for the church, the world, for others, for myself

Closing Prayer

Ruler of the everlasting kingdom,
prince of peace, champion of the despised:
you are the king;
you make a cross your throne;
you wear a crown of thorns;
you call your subjects friends.
Help us to take up our cross,
to hunger and thirst for all that is good;
then will your kingdom come on earth as in heaven.

God,
grant us the serenity
to accept the things we cannot change,
the courage to change the things we can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Amen.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Monday, May 13:

Give us this day our daily bread.

Call to Worship

Jesus, you are the bread of life;
those who come to you will never be hungry;
those who believe in you will never thirst.
You are the living bread from heaven;
the bread you give is your own flesh,
and you give it for the life of the world.

All who eat your flesh and drink your blood
live in you and you in them;
for your flesh is the food we need,
your blood is our salvation;
all who eat your flesh and drink your blood have eternal life.

Look to Jesus in the wilderness,
breaking bread and feeding the multitude.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Lesson

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all

the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”

Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.

Mark 6:30-43

Reading for Reflection

The whole point of the Kingdom... is that it isn't about shifting our wants and desires onto a non-physical level, moving away from the earthly to the supposedly 'spiritual.' It is about God's dimension coming to birth within ours, which is after all what Advent and Christmas are anticipating and celebrating. The Kingdom is to come *in earth as it is in heaven*. Daily needs and desires point beyond themselves, to God's promise of the kingdom in which death and sorrow will be no more. But that means, too, that the promise of the kingdom includes those needs, and doesn't look down on them sneeringly as somehow second-rate.

‘Give us this day our daily bread’; this clause in the Lord’s Prayer, then, reminds us that are natural longings, for bread and all that it symbolizes, are not to be shunned as though they were of themselves evil... God knows our desires in order that we may turn them into prayer; in order that they may be sorted out, straightened out, entangled and reaffirmed. If we truly pray this prayer, with due weight to each clause, we are taking the first steps from the chaos of our normal interior life towards an order and clarity which will let the joy come through to the surface.

N.T. Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

Prayers for the church, the world, for others, for myself

Closing Prayer

God of seed and growth and harvest,
creator of need, creator of satisfaction;
give us, we pray, our daily bread,
sufficient and assured for all.

Give us also, we pray, the bread of life,
and we shall have a care to feed the hungry,
and to seek for peace and justice in the world.
Help us, then, to remember and to know
that you are our life today and every day;
you are the food we need, now and for ever.

God, give us work till our life shall end,
and life till our work is done.

Look kindly on our world, our God,
as we suffer and struggle with one another.
Look kindly on your Church,
driven by the same necessity;

and may the light we have seen in Jesus
illuminate and brighten all the world. Amen.

Tuesday, May 14: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Call to Worship: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

Lesson

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:32-46

Reading for Reflection

To pray this prayer is therefore, in its largest meaning, to pray for the world. ‘Forgive us our trespasses’: lift up your eyes for a moment, away from your own sins and those of your immediate neighbour, and see the world as a whole, groaning in travail, longing

for peace and justice; see the endless tangles in which politicians and power-brokers get themselves, and the endless human misery which results; put yourself in the shoes of the peasant who has lost husband and home and faces a winter in the snow, or of the politician who discovers that he’s in too deep and that all the options open are evil ones; of the men of violence who have forgotten that there was a different way to live.

Collect all these images and roll them into one, that of a young Jewish boy off in the far country feeding the pigs; and then, with your courage in both hands, say ‘Forgive us our trespasses’: ‘I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, Father, I have sinned.’ But, as you say it in your prayer, with the whole world of pain in view, allow your praying heart to see the next scene, with the Father doing the unthinkable, the disgraceful thing, and running down the road to meet his muddled and muddy son. As we pray this prayer for the world, let us be alert to new visions of what the living God wants us to aim at in our society. Could it be that we could work and pray for a Jubilee, for the cancellation of the debts which are crippling half the world and keeping the other half in clover?

N.T. Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

Prayers for the church, the world, for others, for myself

Closing Prayer

Saviour, hanging on the cross, declaring God’s love to us, you are forgiveness.

Beside you hangs a thief,
beneath you waits Mary the forgiven,
and all around watch those many people
to whom you give new life and hope.

To us you give new life and hope.
Forgiven sinners become your body and your Church;
may the reconciliation we share
bring your gospel to all the world.

Eternal God,
by your power we are created
and by your love we are redeemed;
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service
and live this day in love to one another and to you.
Amen.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Wednesday, May 15

Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Let us be at peace within ourselves.
Silence

Let us accept that we are profoundly loved
and need never be afraid.
Silence

Let us be aware of the source of being
that is common to us all
and to all living creatures.
Silence

Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.
Silence

Realising that we are all nourished
from the same source of life,
may we so live that others be not deprived
of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.
Silence

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be
a cause of suffering to one another.
Silence

With humility let us pray for the establishment
of peace in our hearts and on earth.
Silence

May God kindle in us
the fire of love
to bring us alive
and give warmth to the world.

Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth;
lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust;
lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart,
our world, our universe.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Thursday, May 16:

Deliver Us From Evil

Call to Worship: Psalm 37:1-9

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Lesson

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Matthew 26:36-46

Reading for Reflection

Gethsemane suggests the deepest meanings of the prayer: ‘Do not let us be led into the Testing, but deliver us from Evil’ ... in his own moment of agony he fears, with good reason, that the whirlpool of evil which is to engulf him will suck down his own followers as well. Jesus knows that he must go, solo and unaided, into the whirlpool, so that it may exhaust its force on him and let the rest of the world go free.

And his followers must therefore pray, let us not be brought into the Testing, into the great Tribulation; Deliver us from Evil. We therefore have to come to grips with the fact that Jesus gave this prayer to his disciples, but that when he prayed it himself *the answer was 'No.'* He put it together with an earlier part of the Lord's Prayer ('Thy will be done'). When he held the two side by side, he found that God's will involved him in a unique vocation. He would be the one who was led to the Testing, who was *not* delivered from Evil.

N.T. Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

Prayers for the church, the world, for others, for myself

Closing Prayer

Our Father,
save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

Giver of the present, hope for the future:
save us from the time of trial.

When prophets warn us of doom,
of catastrophe and of suffering beyond belief,
then, God, free us from our helplessness,
and deliver us from evil.

Save us from our arrogance and folly,
for you are God who created the world;
you have redeemed us and you are our salvation.

Almighty God,
you see 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.

God of opportunity and change,
praise to you for giving us life at this critical time.
As our horizons extend, keep us loyal to our past;
as our dangers increase, help us to prepare the future;
keep us trusting and hopeful,
ready to recognise your kingdom as it comes.
Amen.

Friday, May 17:

For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory for Ever and Ever

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:10-21

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Scripture Reading

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20

Reading for Reflection

You alone are holy, Lord God, Worker of Wonders.
You are mighty.
You are great.
You are the Most High.
You are omnipotent, our holy Father, King of heaven and earth.
You, Lord God, three and one, are our every good.
You, Lord God, all good, our highest good
- Lord God living and true.
You are charity and love.
You are wisdom.
You are humility.
You are patience.
You are security.
You are peace.
You are joy and gladness.
You are justice and temperance.
You are riches altogether sufficient.
You are beauty.
You are our protector.
You are our strength.
You are our refreshment.
You are our hope.
You are our faith.
You are our most profound sweetness.
You are our eternal life, great and admirable.
Lord, omnipotent God, merciful Savior!

Carlo Carretto, I, Francis

Prayers for the church, the world, for others, for myself

Closing Prayer

Creator of the universe, infinite and glorious,
you give us laws to save us from our folly;
give us eyes to see your plan unfolding,
your purpose emerging as the world is made;
give us courage to follow the truth,
courage to go wherever you lead;
then we shall know blessings beyond our dreams;
then will your will be done.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Saturday, May 18: *Amen*

Call to Worship

There is nothing in death or life,
in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers,
in the world as it is or the world as it shall be,
in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths-
nothing in all creation
which can separate us from the love of God
which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Love never comes to an end.

Scripture Reading

For in him every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.' For this reason it is through him that we say the 'Amen,' to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by

putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22

A Litany for the Mission of the Church

Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,
Have mercy on us.

Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,
Have mercy on us.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,
Have mercy on us.

From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all humankind for your love,
Savior, deliver us.

From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,
Savior, deliver us.

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,
Savior, deliver us.

From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,
Savior, deliver us.

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.
Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.
Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.
Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.
Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.
Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.
Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.
Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely,

dangerous and unresponsive places.
Hear us, O Christ.

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.
Hear us, O Christ

Gathering our prayers into one, as Jesus taught us we now pray:

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

Blessing

All shall be Amen and Alleluia.
We shall rest and we shall see, we shall see and we shall know.
We shall know and we shall love.
We shall love and we shall praise.
Behold our end which is no end.

- St. Augustine, from *An African Prayer Book*