

WEEK ONE  
*Reflecting God's Character*

# Monday

## Prayer at Dawn (Upon Waking)

### PREPARE

Take time to be quiet and still. Notice your breathing and slowly greet the new day. When you are ready, continue by praying:

O Lord, open my lips that my mouth may declare your praise.  
O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

### INVITE

“My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD Almighty. (Malachi 1:11)

Almighty God, may you be attentive to our prayers and may our words rise as fragrant incense, a pleasing aroma to you. With a oneness of heart, mind, and soul, we desire to come before you; as whole people we recognize your presence. Amen.

### CONFESS

In light of God’s greatness and goodness, reflect on our failings to reveal the glory of our Creator. When you are ready, continue by praying:

Almighty and most merciful God, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have left undone what we should have done, and we have done that which we should not have done. We have followed after our own ways and the desires of our own hearts. We have broken your holy laws. Good Lord, have mercy on us; restore each of us who is truly penitent, according to your promises declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

And grant, merciful Father, for Jesus’ sake, that we may live a godly and obedient life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## PSALM 95 (NLT)

Come, let us sing to the LORD!  
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come to him with thanksgiving,  
Let us sing psalms of praise to him.  
For the LORD is a great God,  
a great King above all gods.  
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth  
and the mightiest mountains.  
The sea belongs to him, for he made it.  
His hands formed the dry land, too.

Come, let us worship and bow down.  
Let us kneel before the LORD our maker,  
for he is our God.  
We are the people he watches over,  
the flock under his care.

If only you would listen to his voice today!  
The LORD says, “Don’t harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah,  
as they did at Massah in the wilderness.  
For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience,  
even though they saw everything I did.  
For forty years I was angry with them, and I said,  
‘They are a people whose hearts turn away from me.  
They refuse to do what I tell them.’  
So in my anger I took an oath:  
‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”

Pause. Be quiet and reflect on the psalm. If necessary, read through it again.

## PRAISE

Great and marvelous are your works,  
O Lord God, the Almighty.  
Just and true are your ways,  
O King of the nations.  
Who will not fear you, Lord,  
and glorify your name?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come and worship before you,  
for your righteous deeds have been revealed.  
(Revelation 15:3-4, NLT)

## DECLARE

To whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life,  
and we have believed and have come to know  
that you are the holy one of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory.<sup>1</sup>

## READ

As we approach God's message today, may this prayer help us see with fresh and new vision.

O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,  
that he may touch my eyes and make me see;  
show me the truth concealed within thy word,  
for in thy book revealed I see the Lord.<sup>2</sup>

Slowly and prayerfully read today's selections as found in the Devotional Lectionary and/or in one or more of the passages below:

Exodus 15:11-18  
Colossians 2:6-15  
John 14:8-14

## PRAY

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God and Creator, thank you for the dawn of a new day in which:

your mercies are new, overshadowing our weakness;  
 your provisions are more than enough  
 to meet our needs and challenges;  
 your joy enriches and strengthens us;  
 your greatness stretches from horizon to horizon,  
 for those with open eyes to see;  
 and your care extends to each of us as a parent to a child.

May we live each moment of this day knowing in our head and heart that you are ever before, behind, beside, above, and below us. Encircled by your greatness, goodness, and grace, may we reveal your glory to each person we encounter during this day. We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

### Closing Prayer

Great God in heaven, form in us the likeness of your Son and deepen his life within us. Send us as witnesses of Gospel joy into our world of fragile peace and broken promises. Touch all hearts with your love so we may, in turn, love each other. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.<sup>3</sup>

## BLESS

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, praise the Lord.

# Monday

## Prayer at Daylight (Between noon and 3:00 p.m.)

### PREPARE

Find a comfortable spot and take some moments to relax. Breathe. When you are still, focus your attention on God and pray:

The Holy Scriptures remind us that “the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him” (Habakkuk 2:20).

God of heaven, may I be attentive to you in this time of prayer and silence. Amen.

### REMEMBER

In a spirit of gratitude and repentance, review the past twenty-four hours. Ask God to help you become mindful of events for which you are thankful and also of those things for which you need to seek repentance, remembering that “when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).

When you are ready, continue the remainder of the prayer.

### CONFESS

Merciful God, we admit that we need your help. We confess that we have wandered from the straight and narrow path; we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right. You alone can help and rescue us.

Have mercy on us: wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others. Produce in us the fruit of the Holy Spirit, that we may live as followers of Jesus. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

### PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you—  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

Pause. Be quiet and reflect on the psalm. If necessary, read through it again.

### PRAISE

Hark, the glad celestial hymn, angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heavens with sweet accord: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.

Lo! the apostolic train join thy sacred name to hallow;  
prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow,  
and from morn to set of sun, through the Church the song goes on.  
Amen.<sup>4</sup>

### STOP

Re-enter the quiet and keep a few moments of silence before God, recognizing his presence and his work in our midst.

## COMMIT

Teach us, dear Lord, to number our days,  
that we may apply our hearts to your wisdom.  
Oh, satisfy us early with your mercy,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all of our days.  
And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us  
and confirm the work of our hands.  
And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us  
and confirm the work of our hands, dear Lord. Amen.

## PRAY

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God and Creator, thank you for this new day in which:  
your mercies are new, overshadowing our weakness;  
your provisions are more than enough  
to meet our needs and challenges;  
your joy enriches and strengthens us;  
your greatness stretches from horizon to horizon,  
for those with open eyes to see;  
and your care extends to each of us as a parent to a child.

May we live each moment of this day knowing in our head and heart  
that you are ever before, behind, beside, above, and below us. Encircled  
by your greatness, goodness, and grace, may we reveal your glory to  
each person we encounter during this day. We ask this in the name of  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Closing Prayer

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us  
and confirm the work of our hands.  
And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us  
and confirm the work of our hands, dear Lord. Amen.

## BLESS

For he is holy. Bless the Lord, most high. Amen.

# Monday

## Prayer at Dusk

(Between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.)

### PREPARE

Return to a quiet and still posture of heart, mind, and body. When you are in a place of readiness, pray:

Holy God, maker of all, be near.  
Lord Jesus, forgiver and friend, hear our prayer.  
Holy Spirit, light and life, dwell in us.  
Three in one, you are welcome; come be our guest. Amen.

### PRAISE

Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name thee,  
while in essence only one;  
undivided God we claim thee,  
and adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery. Amen.<sup>5</sup>

### PSALM 42 (NLT)

As the deer longs for streams of water,  
so I long for you, O God.  
I thirst for God, the living God.  
When can I go and stand before him?  
Day and night I have only tears for food,  
while my enemies continually taunt me, saying,  
“Where is this God of yours?”

My heart is breaking  
as I remember how it used to be:  
I walked among the crowds of worshipers,  
leading a great procession to the house of God,  
singing for joy and giving thanks  
amid the sound of a great celebration!

Why am I discouraged?  
Why is my heart so sad?  
I will put my hope in God!  
I will praise him again—  
my Savior and my God!

Now I am deeply discouraged,  
but I will remember you—  
even from distant Mount Hermon, the source of the Jordan,  
from the land of Mount Mizar.

I hear the tumult of the raging seas  
as your waves and surging tides sweep over me.  
But each day the LORD pours his unfailing love upon me,  
and through each night I sing his songs,  
praying to God who gives me life.

“O God my rock,” I cry,  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I wander around in grief,  
oppressed by my enemies?”  
Their taunts break my bones.  
They scoff, “Where is this God of yours?”

Why am I discouraged?  
Why is my heart so sad?  
I will put my hope in God!  
I will praise him again—  
my Savior and my God!

Pause. Be quiet and reflect on the psalm. If necessary, read through it again.

## CONFESS

Almighty God, maker of all things, judge of all people and nations,  
we admit and confess our many sins, which we have committed in  
thought, word, and action.

Pause now and remember and recount those sins that come to mind.  
When you're ready, continue:

We sincerely repent and turn from our misdeeds. Have mercy on us,  
merciful God. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all  
that is past and come to our help that from now on we may serve and  
please you with lives that are renewed by your Holy Spirit, to the glory  
of your name. Amen.

## DECLARE

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31, NLT)

## READ

As we open the Bible, we pray,

God, thank you for being one who is relational and revealing. Speak now, for your servants are listening.

Slowly and prayerfully read today’s selections as found in the Devotional Lectionary and/or in one or more of the passages below:

Exodus 15:19-27

Colossians 3:1-17

John 14:15-24

## PRAY

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God and Creator, thank you at the close of this day in which:

your mercies are new, overshadowing our weakness;

your provisions are more than enough

to meet our needs and challenges;

your joy enriches and strengthens us;

your greatness stretches from horizon to horizon,

for those with open eyes to see;

and your care extends to each of us as a parent to a child.

May we live each moment of this day knowing in our head and heart that you are ever before, behind, beside, above, and below us. Encircled by your greatness, goodness, and grace, may we reveal your glory to

each person we encounter during this day. We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Intercede**

Take a few moments to close your eyes and envision the faces of family, friends, neighbors, and others who have known needs. Take time to pray for each person and need that comes to mind. You can pray for each one in your own words or use the prayer below:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one,

Circle around [name of individual] and encompass [him/her] on every side;

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, embrace [him/her] in your perfect care.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **BLESS**

Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name thee,  
while in essence only one;  
undivided God we claim thee,  
and adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery. Amen.<sup>6</sup>