



THY KINGDOM COME

LUKE 1:31-33

PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2018



PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2018

And behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you shall name Him
Jesus. He will be great and will be called the
Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will
give Him the throne of His father David; and
He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and His Kingdom will have no end.

LUKE 1:31-33

PCPC Daily Prayer Guide, No. 7, © 2018 Park Cities Presbyterian Church.
All rights reserved

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Park Cities Presbyterian Church
4124 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75219
pcpc.org | 214-224-2500

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	6-9
PRAYER GUIDE.....	10-79
APPENDIX.....	80-81
APOSTLES' CREED.....	80
LORD'S PRAYER.....	80
A WAY OF PERSONAL EXAMINATION....	81
NOTES.....	82-83

PCPC PRAYER GUIDE INTRODUCTION

This guide has a simple aim: to help us grow in our love for God through time in His Word and prayer. The Bible teaches that in order to love God we need a relationship with Him. Though we had caused alienation from God by our sin, God Himself has nevertheless provided for that relationship in His overcoming the alienation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is God the Son. In union with Christ, we now have intimate access to God as our heavenly Father. Scripture and prayer are the means through which we experience, apply, and enjoy that relationship. As we learn to pray, and as we learn to listen and obey the gracious overtures of God's Word, we learn to live as God's children, loving and trusting Him more fully.

WHY DAILY PRAYER?

Why set aside fixed times every day for prayer? Why not simply pray unprompted, when the stirring comes? Practically speaking, we are creatures attuned to rhythms. We order our lives by sunrises and sunsets, by hours, weeks, seasons, and years. Daily prayer is a way of consecrating our ordinary rhythms to God, ensuring that all of life is offered to Him. C. S. Lewis once wrote, "Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done." And so it must. Our relationship with God should take hold of our schedules as well as our hearts.

Historically speaking, this has been the way of God's people. Consider the testimonies of the psalmists:

"Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates *day and night*" (Psalm 1:1-2).

"*Evening and morning and at noon* I cry out to you..." (Psalm 55:17).

"*Seven times a day* do I praise you..." (Psalm 119:64).

By the time of the first century, the ritual of daily prayer was formally embedded in Jewish spirituality. There were several hours in the day that marked regular times for prayer. The first detailed miracle in Acts happened because Peter and John were going to the temple "at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour" (Acts 3:1) for three o'clock prayers. Peter's vision in Acts 10 confirming God's grace for the Gentiles occurred as he was observing sixth-hour prayer, his noon devotions (Acts 10:9). The community that gathered after Pentecost devoted themselves daily to "the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).

The practice of daily prayer continued through the early church and expanded consistently throughout time and culture wherever the gospel spread. Along with

Sunday worship and the sacraments, daily prayer remains a central way that Christians all over the world express devotion to Christ.

But we might simply hearken back to Jesus Himself. Even being the eternal Son of God, Jesus set aside times to pray regularly. He celebrated His dependence on the Father (John 5:19, 30) and sought sanctuary in solitude with Him (Luke 5:16). If it was necessary for Jesus who is "very God of very God," how much more for us who are made to bear His image?

WHY A PRAYER GUIDE?

A common objection to using a liturgy for devotions is that it restricts freedom, deteriorating into heartless formality. However, if you have ever found yourself repeating the same words and phrases over and over again in prayer "spontaneously," then you know that our own minds and experiences are just as restrictive. Guided prayer is not meant to curb freedom but to bolster it by introducing into our prayer life the language and imagery of the Scriptures.

Here are a few compelling reasons to use a prayer guide:

1. It helps us to pray regularly.

Sometimes we may not pray regularly because we may not know where to begin. A prayer guide takes the pressure off needing to make that decision anew every day. It repeatedly says, "Start here." You do not need a stirring, a reason, a plan, or consistency. Simply "start here" and let God's Word lead you into prayer.

2. It helps us to pray biblically.

In this prayer guide there is no commentary from gifted Christian authors or pastors. It is uncluttered, so to speak. The elements come either directly from Scripture or from common worship. The majority of time is spent in the Psalms, a book of the Bible meant especially for prayer and worship. One of the encouraging messages reiterated in the Psalms is that you do not have to put on a happy face to live the Christian life. Praying biblically allows us to pray the truth of who we are while growing in the hope of who we might yet become.

3. It helps us to pray communally.

Though we are praying individually, we are doing so together, specifically as a church body. This book is meant for this flock, in this time and place. To know that others with whom God has joined us are reading and praying the same words encourages us in our common journey. Prayer is a communal activity as much as much as an individual one.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Use this guide however may be helpful to you. For many, that means using it just as it is. For others who are already committed to daily reading plans or Bible studies, that may mean skipping the Scripture readings and only using some of the other portions. For those who are in the habit of family worship, you can adapt the guide to read and pray together as a family.

Here are suggestions for each of the elements:

The Call to Worship

The Call to Worship is God's initiating with you through His Word. Read the call, perhaps out loud. Receive God's invitation to worship Him as spoken to you in that moment.

The Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise God for who He is as He has shown in His Word and in your life. Thank Him for His presence and gifts in your life.

The Readings

The Psalms follow the readings from The Book of Common Prayer, which covers all the Psalms every thirty days. Get to know the words here and you will better know Jesus Himself. There is no book of the Bible Jesus quoted more often than the Psalms.

The other daily readings for this season are drawn from various passages in the Old and New Testaments that outline the unfolding work of God's grace in redeeming a people for Himself. These passages all anticipate or celebrate one person, our Redeemer and King, Jesus Christ. To pray, "Thy kingdom come," then, is to pray for more of Christ's presence now and for His second Advent, when the fullness of God's power, peace, and love invade our world. May the scope of God's Word continue to fill us with such a singular and vibrant hope.

The Prayers for the Day and for the Night

In the morning, begin by saying The Lord's Prayer, the model for prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. (You can find the words in the Appendix of this guide.) Each phrase of the Lord's Prayer is filled with grace and challenge. Say the prayer expectantly for the day ahead.

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession are opportunities for you to lay out before God whatever burdens you carry as well as those others carry. Ask Him for things. Ask Him for mercy. Ask Him to help you become more like Christ.

The Closing Prayer is a way to conclude. All of the closing prayers draw from The Book of Common Prayer and are unique to either morning or evening. They are called "collects" because they gather our prayers together and present them before God collectively as we go about our scattered lives. Pray

this prayer as your own in the confidence that others are praying with you.

The Confession of Sin

The Confession of Sin occurs at night as we review our days. It is an opportunity to repent for the ways we have missed the mark and to receive the grace we need for renewal and change. In the Appendix you will find a longer explanation for the process of self-examination that fits here.

The Words of Assurance

The Words of Assurance are God's promise to forgive, cleanse, accept, and renew you in Christ. Hold onto these as you would anything of great value. Return to them when doubts or disillusionment grow.

The Grace

The Grace is God's blessing on you as you go out into your day or lay your head down to sleep. Receive it as a final word until you return to pray again.

Sundays

Sundays are unique as our time to gather and worship as a church family, to celebrate once again the victory of Christ over sin and death. There are only Psalm readings on Sunday because the liturgy of corporate worship is our primary focus. Consider using the Sunday morning liturgy again at night for personal prayer.

A Note for Families

This prayer guide can be a great tool for times of family worship. We suggest letting any of those who are able take turns reading each portion: one person reads the Call to Worship, another the Confession of Sin, another the Words of Assurance, and so on. This ensures that everyone is involved in both hearing and speaking the Word of God with one another. During the Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving and the Prayers of Supplication and Intercession, you may each say something aloud, no matter how short or clumsy (we are all learners!). During the Personal Examination and Confession, take a minute to pray to God personally in the quiet of your own thoughts. This is just one way to use the guide as a family. We encourage you to explore how it might best help your own worship and devotion in your life together.

As a final word, there are many great reading plans, devotionals, and exercises to encourage in us a life of prayer. This is a way to pray, only one among many that has grown up in the history of God's people. Most important is not the method, but the reality of loving and trusting God. May your relationship with Him grow.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Morning Psalms: 146, 147

Evening Psalms: 111, 112, 113

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 1, 2, 3

Reading the Bible Together: Isaiah 11:1-9

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!
(Psalm 72:1)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
(Colossians 1:15)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalms: 4, 7

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked upon the humble estate of His servant. (Luke 1:46-48)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 5, 6

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 1:26-31

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! (Psalm 72:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change; open to me a future in which I can be changed; and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalms: 10, 11

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. (Luke 1:49)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 119:1-24

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 3

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May Your king defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! (Psalm 72:4)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
(Colossians 1:17)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalms: 12, 13, 14

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
(Luke 1:50)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:11-12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 18:1-20

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 12:1-7

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May Your king be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! (Psalm 72:6-7)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from Your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalm: 18:21-50

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts (Luke 1:51)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 16, 17

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 15:1-6

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May the name of your king endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in Him, all nations call Him blessed! (Psalm 72:17)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the Cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy, for the sake of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalm: 22

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. (Luke 1:52-53)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 20, 21

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 22:1-14

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. May the whole earth be filled with His glory! (Psalm 72:18-19)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him. (Colossians 1:21-22)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, 'yes,' I don't mean 'yes,' and when I say 'no,' I don't mean 'no.' I like to think well of myself, but find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 110, 116, 117

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever. (Luke 1:54-55)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Morning Psalms: 148, 149, 150

Evening Psalms: 114, 115

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 25, 26, 28

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 28:10-22

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!
(Psalm 72:1)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
(Colossians 1:15)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalms: 9, 15

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek Him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

Grace

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked upon the humble estate of His servant. (Luke 1:46-48)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 26, 28

Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 37:1-36

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! (Psalm 72:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change; open to me a future in which I can be changed; and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalms: 36, 39

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek Him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Grace

He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. (Luke 1:49)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 38

Reading the Bible Together: Deuteronomy 5:1-22

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May Your king defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! (Psalm 72:4)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
(Colossians 1:17)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalm: 119:25-48

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek Him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Grace

His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
(Luke 1:50)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:11-12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 37:1-18

Reading the Bible Together: Joshua 2:1-21

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May Your king be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! (Psalm 72:6-7)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from Your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalm: 37:19-42

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek Him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Grace

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts (Luke 1:51)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 31

Reading the Bible Together: Ruth 1:1 - 2:3

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May the name of your king endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in Him, all nations call Him blessed! (Psalm 72:17)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the Cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy, for the sake of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalm: 35

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek Him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Grace

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. (Luke 1:52-53)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 30, 32

Reading the Bible Together: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. May the whole earth be filled with His glory! (Psalm 72:18-19)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him. (Colossians 1:21-22)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, 'yes,' I don't mean 'yes,' and when I say 'no,' I don't mean 'no.' I like to think well of myself, but find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 42, 43

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek Him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find Him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Grace

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever. (Luke 1:54-55)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Morning Psalms: 36, 98

Evening Psalm: 103

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 41, 42

Reading the Bible Together: 2 Samuel 5:1-5

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Grace

Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!
(Psalm 72:1)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
(Colossians 1:15)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalm: 44

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked upon the humble estate of His servant. (Luke 1:46-48)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 45

Reading the Bible Together: 1 Kings 18:17-39

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Grace

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! (Psalm 72:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change; open to me a future in which I can be changed; and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalms: 47, 48

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. (Luke 1:49)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 119:49-72

Reading the Bible Together: Esther 4

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Grace

May Your king defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! (Psalm 72:4)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
(Colossians 1:17)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalm: 49

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
(Luke 1:50)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:11-12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 50

Reading the Bible Together: Isaiah 9:1-7

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Grace

May Your king be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! (Psalm 72:6-7)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from Your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalm: 33

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts (Luke 1:51)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 40, 54

Reading the Bible Together: Daniel 6

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May the name of your king endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in Him, all nations call Him blessed! (Psalm 72:17)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the Cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy, for the sake of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalm: 51

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. (Luke 1:52-53)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 55

Reading the Bible Together: Micah 5:1-5

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Grace

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. May the whole earth be filled with His glory! (Psalm 72:18-19)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him. (Colossians 1:21-22)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, 'yes,' I don't mean 'yes,' and when I say 'no,' I don't mean 'no.' I like to think well of myself, but find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 138, 139

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of Your Son. Give us courage to speak Your truth, to hunger for Your justice, and to suffer for Your Kingdom with Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever. (Luke 1:54-55)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Morning Psalms: 24, 29

Evening Psalms: 8, 84

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 61, 62

Reading the Bible Together: Luke 1:26-56

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!
(Psalm 72:1)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
(Colossians 1:15)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalms: 112, 115

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked upon the humble estate of His servant. (Luke 1:46-48)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 2, 85

Reading the Bible Together: Luke 2:1-21

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! (Psalm 72:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change; open to me a future in which I can be changed; and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalms: 110, 132

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with You and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. (Luke 1:49)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 72

Reading the Bible Together: Matthew 4:18-25

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May Your king defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! (Psalm 72:4)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
(Colossians 1:17)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalms: 111, 113

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
(Luke 1:50)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:11-12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 80

Reading the Bible Together: Matthew 16:13-28

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May Your king be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! (Psalm 72:6-7)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from Your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalms: 146, 147

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts (Luke 1:51)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 93, 96

Reading the Bible Together: Matthew 28:16-20

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May the name of your king endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in Him, all nations call Him blessed! (Psalm 72:17)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the Cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy, for the sake of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalms: 148, 150

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. (Luke 1:52-53)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 18:1-20

Reading the Bible Together: Acts 4:23-37

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. May the whole earth be filled with His glory! (Psalm 72:18-19)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him. (Colossians 1:21-22)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, 'yes,' I don't mean 'yes,' and when I say 'no,' I don't mean 'no.' I like to think well of myself, but find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 23, 27

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grace

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever. (Luke 1:54-55)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Morning Psalms: 93, 96

Evening Psalm: 34

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 46, 48

Reading the Bible Together: Acts 11:1-11

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!
(Psalm 72:1)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
(Colossians 1:15)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Evening Psalm: 90

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Grace

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked upon the humble estate of His servant. (Luke 1:46-48)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 103

Reading the Bible Together: 1 Corinthians 1:26 - 2:5

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

Eternal Father, You gave to Your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Grace

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! (Psalm 72:3)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change; open to me a future in which I can be changed; and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Evening Psalm: 148

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God our Father, in love You sent Your Son that the world may have life; lead us to seek Him among the outcast and to find Him in those in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Grace

He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. (Luke 1:49)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 34

Reading the Bible Together: Galatians 1:6-24

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May Your king defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! (Psalm 72:4)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
(Colossians 1:17)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Evening Psalm: 33

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Grace

His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
(Luke 1:50)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:11-12)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalm: 68

Reading the Bible Together: Colossians 1:15-22

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May Your king be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! (Psalm 72:6-7)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

O Lord, I cry out to You. You are my refuge and fortress, the only God in whom I trust. Forgive me again for my sins and trespasses. I have strayed from Your counsel, trusted in my own devices, and exalted myself at the expense of others. Even though my sins are numerous, I am confident in Your deliverance because I am held tightly by the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Evening Psalm: 72

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Grace

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts (Luke 1:51)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 85, 87

Reading the Bible Together: Romans 10:12-17

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

May the name of your king endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in Him, all nations call Him blessed! (Psalm 72:17)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You know well that I have not always obeyed You and displayed the fruit of my salvation. I have not humbled myself in the face of my weakness. I have not depended on the power of the Cross, but on my own flawed morality and good intentions. I have cherished comfort more than justice, peace, and goodness. Restore me as I seek Your mercy, for the sake of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

Evening Psalm: 89:1-29

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Grace

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. (Luke 1:52-53)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

MORNING PRAYER

Call to Worship

For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Readings

Morning Psalms: 2, 110

Reading the Bible Together: Revelation 21:22-27

Prayers for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Grace

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. May the whole earth be filled with His glory! (Psalm 72:18-19)

EVENING PRAYER

Call to Worship

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him. (Colossians 1:21-22)

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, though I take Your name on my lips, my heart is often far from You. When I say, 'yes,' I don't mean 'yes,' and when I say 'no,' I don't mean 'no.' I like to think well of myself, but find that my heart is laced with self-protection, malice, and deceit. O Lord, for the sake of Your name, do not remember me according to my sins, but according to Your great love. *Amen.*

Personal Examination and Confession

Words of Assurance

To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. (Acts 10:43)

Evening Psalms: 29, 98

Prayers for the Night

Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

Closing Prayer

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into Your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Grace

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever. (Luke 1:54-55)

APPENDIX

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy catholic church;
The communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

A WAY OF PERSONAL EXAMINATION

Consider God's holiness and grace, manifest in the life of the Son, Jesus Christ.

Pray for God's presence and illumination. Ask God's Spirit to be with you and for your eyes to be open as you consider your day.

Examine yourself prayerfully:

Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalm 139:23-24)

Note the times throughout the day you have seen God at work in your circumstances and in your heart. Name those ways in which you have resisted God and His will.

Pray in deep gratitude for every sign of God's loving presence, and pray in sorrow, repenting of any place you have resisted His loving will.

Receive the Words of Assurance for the day, leaning on the promises and mercy of God.

Conclude in prayer, offering yourself body and soul, in your thoughts, words, and actions, as a living sacrifice to God, which is your spiritual worship.

NOTES





And behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called the Son of
the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him
the throne of His father David; and He will
reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His
Kingdom will have no end.

LUKE 1:31-33