

# PATMOS COMPANIONS

*One heart... One soul... Many companions...*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

to accompany the Daily Office



Lindisfarne Abbey

Celtic Rite of the Catholic Church

## *On The Journey Towards Prayer*

*In our busy, money-driven culture in which we live, who in the world has time to pray? It seems there are so many things to do: go to school, go to work, go to the supermarket, go to a meeting, go to the movies -- make your own list. Who, again, has time to pray? Fortunately, I was taught to pray before I was taught to be busy.*

*I can still see my great-uncle walking around the wide verandah of Harrow Presbytery on the Glenelg River in the southern western districts of Victoria ~ his prayer book opened and his lips moving. He did not teach me how to pray but he certainly taught me that prayer is as much a staple of life as eating and drinking, working and sleeping. It was, no doubt, thanks to his example that at high school age I entered a seminary and later a journey into the heart of God.*

*What I discovered early on was a prayer book that fits all moods, all cultures, all situations. In short, any and every conceivable human need. It is the Psalms, located at the centre of the Bible, as though meant to be its very heart and heartbeat. In a world of increasing complexity, massive shifts from the old and familiar to the new and sophisticated, I find the Psalms an anchor, a plank to hold on to in a world drowning in its own juice. Make the Psalms your school of prayer. Edit what needs editing to fit your own situation. Let the tide of cries from the heart you will find carry you the rest of the way.*

*What is offered here is a companion to the Psalms – a series of Prayers of the People which may aid the grounding of your prayer in some concrete desires and petitions of hope for our times. Again, feel free to use them or not use them as you will.*

*Shalom...*

*Stephen*



## Week One:

### **SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

The earth is your masterpiece, O God, and you have made us its stewards;

-give us eyes to see your handiwork in every creature.

Creator is your name, and all that comes from your hand is good;

-cleanse our hearts and enlighten our minds that our choices may enhance and magnify your work in our world.

Your measuring rod is love;

-give us a love that takes us out of and beyond ourselves.

Jesus, you know the strengths and weaknesses of the human heart,

-share with us your patience and compassion; remind us that another may carry a cross beyond our imagining.

Death is our last chance on earth to say yes to you, O God;

-make us one with your will day by day.

PRAYER:

O loving God we take delight in your people and all of creation. Together we unite our hearts and voices to sing your praise. Be with us this day and help us to treat each other and all living creatures with respect and appreciation. Grant this in the name of Jesus who is our way, our truth, and our life. Amen.

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### **SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Spirit of God, you lead each of us in a direction that is life-giving and fruitful;

-help us to silence all that would deafen us to your call.

As the possibilities of science continue to expand;

-remind us of our creature hood and give us humble hearts.

Life is your gift to us, O God, and your love for us gives meaning to your gift;

-show yourself to those who are tempted to despair.

Jesus, you knew the cares of family life;

-encourage and strengthen heads of families who face the special challenges of our culture.

Jesus you healed on the Sabbath and were persecuted for it;

-be with our present day prophets who make unpopular decisions for the cause of justice and truth

PRAYER:

You, O God are our place of refuge; you continue to call us forth to be your people in a world of division and distress. Help us to be people of faith, joy, and love in the midst of chaos. This we ask through the intercession of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, who imaged community in a captive and oppressed land. Amen.

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### **MONDAY MORNING PRAYER**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you bow to our weakness and need;

-deliver us from temptation and guide us in the way of truth.

Your Spirit prays in us for what we know not how to ask;

-let that same Spirit draw us to a maturity worthy of you.

Jesus, you drew your disciples to yourself and taught them eternal truths;

-bless the young people who must live in our streets, jobless and tempted to crime and despair.

Our minds and hearts are pulled in many directions;

-let the words of your gospel unify and direct our lives.

The sick and the poor were drawn to you;

-help us to find ways to care for all who are terminally ill.

PRAYER:

O Holy God, you continue to bless us with your gifts of creation. We give thanks to you for your kindness to your people, and we take delight in the gifts we share to bring about the fullness of your life in our world. All praise to you, Most Blessed Trinity, living in us and among us through all generations. Amen.

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## **MONDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, you loved the land of your birth;  
-bless all nations torn by war and division.

You were filled with the Holy Spirit, the very Wisdom of God;

-enlighten and guide all who labor to discover insights toward our spiritual and physical healing and growth.

Many believed in you because of your miracles;

-let our love for you and for one another be the sign that draws others to you.

You welcomed outcasts and dined with them;

- teach us how to reverently minister to those who are rejected today.

Your gospel is a call to life;

-bring its message of peace to those who are dying.

PRAYER:

Most loving God, you love justice. Help us to be open to your ways of mercy, compassion, and truth that we may call forth in ourselves and in one another your ways of wisdom and truth. We ask this through the Holy Spirit of Wisdom living in you through all eternity. Amen.

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## **TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, you enabled your disciples to hear your call and to follow you;

-enable all Christians to discern the promptings of your Spirit and to respond wholeheartedly.

Through your death and rising, we have become your body; your Spirit lives on in us;

-awaken us to our responsibility as your people; let us meet each other with openness and good will.

Your apostle Paul prayed for an end to division within his community;

-teach us positive ways to heal our differences and to cultivate peace of mind for our children and ourselves.

Jesus, our Savior, you were taught and nourished by the words of Scripture;

-may our hearing of the word of God today help us to bring quality of life to those who are imprisoned, the oppressed, and the disabled.

O God, time after time you spoke to your people and drew them to conversion of heart;

-grant us the ability to read the signs of the times, that we may hear your call to a change of heart as individuals and as a people.

PRAYER:

Most compassionate God, touch our hearts this morning with your mercy and love. Help us to be a source of love and light to those who are suffering this day. May all who die this day experience the joy of being in your presence. Grant this through the intercession of all who suffered persecution for the sake of justice. Amen

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## **TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you are ever calling us to greater freedom, light, to grow, and to deepen our lives;

-give us the desire and the courage to respond fully to your goodness; make our lives pleasing to you.

Your compassion is boundless; you uphold your gift of freedom to us;

-deliver us from timidity and all that would keep us from turning to you.

Jesus, you respected those who worked with their hands; some became your disciples;

-preserve the dignity of those who work for others; deliver them from harassment of any kind.

You prayed with your people and read to them from the Scriptures;  
-may all who lend their gifts to liturgical service enrich our lives and be blessed in their sharing.  
You promised to be with us till the end of time;  
-may the words of your gospel keep hope alive in our hearts.

PRAYER:

At the close of our day, we turn to you, our God, and with hearts of gratitude, we ask you to remember our deeds of goodness and to have mercy upon our shortcomings. May all who have died this day find peace in you and may all the sorrowing find comfort in those around them and in your compassionate heart. We ask this mindful of your mercy and forgiveness. Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you know our coming and our going, and you bless our every effort to live justly;  
-help us to remember your faithfulness and that our inspiration and strength is your gift.  
You have power over all that you have created;  
-enable warring nations to redeem the wounds of the past and to discover creative ways to peace.  
Jesus, you were rejected by your own people;  
-direct each of us to a milieu that is receptive of our gifts.  
Love is patient and kind, but a stressful world can thin our resources;  
-have mercy on parents who are overworked and fearful; guide and protect teenagers who run away from home.  
Mindful that you call us to be a light in darkness, we pray;  
-be with us in our poverty and need.

PRAYER:

O God, source of our light, you are ever with us to reveal the way of truth and justice. Be with us this day as we struggle to ease the burdens of our sisters and brothers. We ask this in Jesus who is our way, our truth, and our life. Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Everything is a gift;  
-O God, make us good stewards of what we have, and grant us the help we need to be a sign of your kingdom.  
You created our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit;  
-send your healing to victims of rape, incest, and every form of violence that destroys and deforms.  
You call each one of us to be holy;  
-help us to reflect the divine imprint of your creativity in our lives.  
You bless those who bear insult and persecution;  
-give wise advocates to those who are falsely accused; make us humble and just in our speech.  
In the many voices that cry out for attention, help us to recognize you and to pray;  
-"Speak, O God, for your servant is listening."

PRAYER:

In the evening we come to you, O God, to thank you for the blessings of this day. May we be ever mindful of your love in the midst of life's joys and burdens, and may all your people experience your peace this night. This we ask placing ourselves in your care, Most Blessed Trinity. Amen.

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## **THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, the path to holiness includes times of emptiness and darkness;  
-let us realize that you are with us as you walked with Jesus on his journey toward the cross.  
Holy, holy, holy are you, O God; the whole earth is full of your glory;  
-help us to live compatibly with our environment.  
The voice of God said, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us";

-with your help, may I answer: "Here I am! Send me."  
Jesus, you healed many who were sick with various diseases;  
-be with all healers and health care personnel as they give of themselves to care for us.  
Jesus, you have called us to preach the good news by the statement of our lives;  
-help us to live the truth with compassion.

**PRAYER:**

Most gracious God and Father, you are with us as we make our journey throughout this day. Help us to look lovingly upon all people and events that come into our lives today and to walk gently upon our land. Grant this through Jesus who lives and walks among us ever present at each moment. Amen.

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**THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, in the days of your ministry, many traveled far to listen to you;  
-keep alive our search for truth and our efforts to live by it.  
You tell us not to be afraid;  
-let your Spirit guide the oppressed as they seek ways to freedom.  
You call us "salt of the earth";  
-make us your true followers, one with the suffering of the world, and calling down God's blessing on your people.  
You withdrew to lonely places, praying in the night;  
-remind us that you are with us in light or darkness, joy or sorrow; the abiding guest of our hearts.  
Spirit of God, source of our deepest desires for good;  
-show us ways to be light for the world.

**PRAYER:**

You, Mother and God, are our safety in times of distress. Show us your ways of peace that we may gather one another into your loving embrace, into your dwelling place. May you be with us this night and may all those in darkness walk in your light. Grant this, Spirit of Comfort, through Jesus, our brother. Amen.

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**FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you are Truth itself,  
-give us discerning hearts that we may live full and creative lives.  
Jesus, you walked among the outcasts of your day, healing them and drawing them to yourself;  
-help us to walk in your ways, that those who are shunned by society may know your love and healing through us.  
Jesus, you bless with a hundredfold our endeavors to serve you;  
-give us the generosity to enable and support one another.  
Spirit of God, you pray within us for needs we hardly know;  
-make our prayer one with yours that we may be one with you.  
Eternal Shepherd, every person and the future of us all is precious to you;  
-bless those who are tempted to take negative or destructive paths this day.

**PRAYER:**

Forgiving God, look not upon our sins but upon our desire to serve you and one another. Dispel our darkness, and help us to embrace our failings in loving union with your goodness. Heal us this day, and may we be a source of strength and courage for others. Grant this through the intercession of all those who fill up what is wanting in the sufferings of Christ. Amen.

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**FRIDAY EVENING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

The law of God is perfect, refreshing the soul;  
-let your love, O God, be our law of life and perfect guide.

Your forgiveness of humankind flows from generation to generation;  
-heal the nations that continue to seek vengeance; teach us all how to forgive in the name of Jesus.  
Jesus, you stayed in desert places, strengthened there by God.  
-in time of pain or trouble, help us to find God in the solitude of our hearts.  
You are our hope in life and in death;  
-help us to live our belief in you for the strength and courage of all in need of your truth.  
Spirit of God, your gifts abound in humankind;  
-bless the poor whose creativity is buried by a raw search for survival.

**PRAYER:**

Jesus, you heal the sick and brokenhearted. Let your mercy be upon us so that we may be a sign of your mercy in our world. We thank you for your forgiveness and for bringing us to this time of our lives. May all those who died find rest in you. Grant this through the intercession of all who died forgiving those who oppressed them. Amen.

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## **SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, Jesus prayed that we all may be one  
-help us to love one another as you love us.  
All of creation cries out for healing;  
-make us instruments of your peace.  
You are the Center of all that is;  
-teach us to listen to your life within us.  
Many do not know your love and care for us;  
-let our lives bear witness to your unending mercy.  
You call us to live in freedom and happiness;  
-give hope and peace of heart to all in prison or bondage of any kind.

**PRAYER:**

You give and sustain our lives, O God, and in you we find our sanctuary. May all displaced people find a place of sanctuary and safety in our hearts and homes this day, and may all those who seek you find you in the living word among us. Grant this through Jesus who lives and reigns among us. Amen.

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## **SATURDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Heaven and earth will pass away, but your word will remain, O God;  
-let this promise of eternal life in you give meaning to our lives and energize us in your service.  
You bless your people with a variety of talents, O God;  
-give us the courage to develop our gifts for your glory and the good of all.  
Jesus, you foresaw the stark reality of the future, and you encouraged your followers to have  
patience;  
-help us to live the gospel so faithfully that our lives will be a beacon of hope to others.  
We are your children and you look upon us with love.  
-help us to refrain from judging others negatively and to temper justice with mercy.  
Prayer is your invitation to realize our union with you;  
-awaken us to your presence in us; teach us what it means to pray always.

**PRAYER:**

Most loving God, you pursue creation with your love and rescue us with your mercy. Look upon us, your people, this evening with tenderness and compassion. Especially do we pray for all world leaders. May they all find strength in your love and courage in your wisdom. We ask this through the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Week Two:**

## **SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God revealing, forgiving, ever recreating us;

-we thank you for your abiding care, and we pray for those who do not know your love.

You are a God of the living, and your Spirit brings us joy;

-let our lives bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus.

Minorities, countries, the earth itself-all cry out for liberation as never before;

-Spirit of God, flood our lives with the wisdom to make all things new.

You raise up prophets today;

-open our hearts, our community, and our world to their message.

Jesus, your message calls for the new wineskins of openness to your word;

-help us to free ourselves from what is merely familiar and comfortable.

PRAYER:

O God, on this first day of the week, we join all creation and people of all ages in praising you. Your kindness and forgiveness flow like a river through the centuries, refreshing our faith, our hope and our love. May you be forever praised throughout all the ages. Amen.

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## **SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rain and clouds are your gifts of life and beauty to us, O God;

-teach us how to use and preserve the waters of the earth.

You surround us with beauty on earth and in the sky;

-bless those who have lost the gift of sight.

You are always with us, silently guiding and encouraging us;

-help us to quiet our lives with moments for listening to your voice in our hearts.

You love justice, and all your ways are true;

-give us the insight and courage to face our prejudices and blind spots.

Jesus is your supreme gift to us;

-let the words of his gospel be woven into our daily lives, coming easily to mind for our inspiration and your glory.

PRAYER:

God of mystery, God of love, send your Spirit into our hearts with gifts of wisdom and peace, fortitude and charity. We long to love and serve you. Faithful God, make us faithful. This we ask through the intercession of all your saints. Amen.

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## **MONDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you ask us to keep your words in our minds and hearts and so we pray:

-give us the grace to hear you in turmoil and in silence.

Help us to recognize our sinfulness and to be grateful for your gifts of grace;

-give us the strength and courage to act in humility and truth.

God of wisdom and source of all that is sacred;

-help teachers to value and nourish the wisdom and goodness of children.

Jesus, you came to serve and not to be served;

-bless all who serve us daily, in inclement weather, in dangerous jobs, and at work that is tedious or monotonous. We are blessed by the words of your gospel;

-make us aware of the ways we shield ourselves from its challenge to us.

PRAYER:

O God, you have made us in your image and we long to see your face. Quiet our minds and enkindle our hearts, that walking the way of your truth we may leave the imprint of your goodness throughout the world. Grant this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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## **MONDAY EVENING PRAYER PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God, you invite us to: 'Let light shine out in darkness'"

- give us the courage to embrace the darkness and walk with you toward the light.

You hear the prayers of those in need:

- give us the grace to open our hearts, our homes and our spaces of worship to those who are in distress.

You marveled at the faith of the Centurion;

-help us to recognize that truth and wisdom are often found where we least expect.

Spirit of God, guide us in our use of power;

-let our methods be constructive and sensitive to the needs all.

May we realize that life itself is a blessing;

-comfort those who are preparing for the blessings of eternal life.

PRAYER:

God of wisdom, God of our way, we have walked with you from early morning. Renew our strength this night that we may rise to serve you and one another with clear vision and strong hope. We pray especially for all who will awake this night to the vision of your glory. This we ask through Jesus who is the light of the world. Amen.

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## **TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, tax collectors and public sinners experienced your goodness and changed their lives;

-help us to enable others to grow and realize their worth.

You had compassion on the weak and sorrowful;

-open our eyes and hearts to the ways we can comfort others.

You were a gift to all who came to you in faith;

-fill us with love that is creative and fruitful for your people and the world.

No one is beyond the reach of your care;

-bless those in refugee camps and all who are uprooted from their homes and land.

Make us wise as serpents and simple as doves;

-make us a people after your own heart.

PRAYER:

All loving God, let us know your presence as we begin this day. Guide us as we strive to choose what is good and just. Lift up our hearts to you when the demands of the day threaten to lead us astray. This we ask through Jesus who is our way, our truth and our life. Amen

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## **TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Eternal God, you create us and call us to realize our union with you:

- help us to rise above all that undermines our calling.

Jesus, you were called a fool for our sake:

- let us bear the inevitable humiliations of life with equanimity.

You brought joy and a new beginning to those who received you

-give us a hunger for your presence and your truth.

Spirit of God, your realm of love encompasses all of creation;

-in times of temptation and doubt, draw us ever closer to you Your love is eternal;

-bless and heal those who are burdened with hatred or unforgiveness.

PRAYER:

Spirit of God, promise of Jesus, come to our help at the close of this day. Come with forgiveness and healing love. Come with light and hope. Come with all that we need to continue in the way of your truth. So may we praise you in the Trinity forever. Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you have made a covenant of love with us;

-dispel from our minds and hearts the fear that belies your care for us.

You have hidden yourself in every blade of grass and every towering mountain;

-give us eyes to see your creative love at work in our world.

Jesus, you responded to women with affirmation and love;

-show us how to encourage and support women when of hers would prevent them from serving you.

You allowed the words of Scripture to form you and to guide your life;

-let the word of your life be the foundation of all we do and the guide for our lives.

Spirit of God, you are the very life of the churches;

-invade us all with the wisdom, fortitude, and generosity to be the people of God in deed and truth.

PRAYER:

O God, our Creator, each morning we praise the wonder of your love. Your tender care measures our strength and calls us to grow. You give us courage before the challenge of the day. O Eternal God, make us worthy of the time you have given us. This we ask for ourselves and for all of creation through Jesus, our brother and friend. Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you long to draw us to yourself in a realm of peace;

-bless all who struggle with relationships in the home and in the workplace.

Your gift of faith to us grows by use and for the asking;

-make us aware of this treasure; let us taste and share its fruits.

Jesus, you knew the sins of your followers, but you forgave and encouraged them in the way of love;

-let our awareness of our faults lead us to encourage one another to turn to you.

You eased the burdens of so many by healing their sickness and wounds;

- give nurses and doctors the skill and compassion they need to do the same.

The alien and stranger are dear to your heart;

- give us the humility and generosity to welcome those who are different from us.

PRAYER:

O God, we live in constant need. To whom shall we go but to you? You are both father and mother to us, tending our days with delicate care. We thank you for your love and mercy this day, and we ask you to help us to forgive as we have been forgiven; to give as we have received. This we, your children, ask of you in your tender mercy. Amen.

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## **THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, only you know the whole truth about us and our deeds:

-guide us with your wisdom and compassion in our relationships with one another.

Every person and thing that you have created is precious to you;

-bless those who are handicapped and all who assist them.

Jesus, you crossed the sea and encountered its dangers;

-bless sailors and all who travel the waters of our world.

We know the story of your life, O Christ, yet mystery abounds;

-let our search for truth keep u open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit of God, joy is among your many gifts to us;

-bless artists of every kind-all who lift up our hearts and fill the world with beauty and light.

**PRAYER:**

God of the universe, you speak to us in all of creation, but you call to us most surely in the depths of our hearts. Help us to listen for your voice today, gentling  
Our work, our recreation and our relationships with others in ways that let us see you. Deepen in us our faith in your presence to us. Grant this through the intercession of all the prophets who listened with sincerity and truth. Amen

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**THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

You hear our prayers and guide and protect us, O God;  
-be praised and thanked for all that we take for granted and for hidden gifts.  
You offer us the grace to become a new person in Christ;  
-in times of boredom, awaken us to the world of the Spirit we so often ignore.  
Jesus, you were content to hide your glory and to give in secret;  
-strengthen our inward self that we may find our true peace beyond the measure of others.  
You challenged the status quo; you died for being different;  
-give courage and peace to all who live on the fringes of society.  
You promised a peace that the world cannot give;  
-banish war from our world.

**PRAYER:**

Jesus, our Savior and Guide, you gave yourself to us through a meal at the end of a day, at the end of your life. Be with us at the end of this day as we dedicate ourselves to all that you call us to be. Help us to say to God with you, "Thy will be done." Let us conclude this day strengthened by the remembrance of your total gift of self. We ask this through the power of your name. Amen.

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**FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you have created us for what eye has not seen and ear has not heard;  
-give us open minds and largeness of heart that we may see and serve beyond ourselves.  
Jesus, you served and saved others-ridicule did not shrink your compassion;  
-make us single-hearted in our care for others.  
With religious authority against you and disciples slow to understand, you stayed your course to the end;  
-give perseverance to the new and creative in our culture, that your message may live on in us.  
Jesus, you knew the innocence and vulnerability of childhood; -guide and protect the children of our disturbed and violent world.  
Spirit of God, you promote progress, you make all things new; -give us the vision we need to develop for the better without destroying our vital heritage.

**PRAYER:**

O God, your son, Jesus, died giving the message of your love to us. Have mercy on us. Give us the courage to die rather than cause the death of another. Help us to allow his death to mean new life for us. Never let us stand in the way of your saving grace. Grant this through the intercession of Jesus and all who have given their lives for others. Amen.

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**FRIDAY EVENING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, you washed the feet of your followers;  
-teach all civic and religious leaders how to govern with humility and reverence.  
You did not call your disciples servants but friends;  
-help us to establish your kingdom by mutual collaboration and loving respect.  
You shared a meal with one who had betrayed you;

-give us the desire to set aside our mistrust of one another. Jesus, you came into the world to testify to the truth; -make us credible witnesses to the truth of your gospel.  
You suffered at the hands of those you served;  
-enable us to serve one another selflessly without regard for human success.

PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, Living Love of God, you are in the world healing the wounds of sin and death. Warm the hearts of those embittered by sorrow and pain, encourage those crushed by failure, enlighten the minds of those dulled by pleasure or fatigue. Awaken in us all the remembrance of the overwhelming love of God made known to us in the life and death of Jesus. Help us to continue with renewed trust. This we ask of you, Life-giving Spirit, in the name of your Christ, God among us. Amen.

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## **SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you know of what we are made, and you give us all that we need;  
-let us mirror your compassion to one another.  
Jesus, many dismissed your teaching because of your common origin;  
-help us to look beyond surface impressions to the true value of each person.  
Our attachments and addictions lay heavy burdens upon us; -teach us how to listen to your freeing word written in our hearts.  
You knew rejection and derision;  
-give us the desire to serve all and the grace to be at peace when we cannot please everyone.  
Our culture tends to reward the strong and powerful and to dismiss the weak;  
-make all that we do reflect your gospel, your good news to the poor.  
And even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

PRAYER:

Merciful God, we often stray from your call and our own good intentions, but you meet us with forgiveness and creative love. Give us the gift of patience and understanding that we, too, may lure others to new life. May all who die this day enjoy life with you as they see you face to face. Grant this through Mary, who brought new life to us in Jesus. Amen.

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## **SATURDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you grieve for all that afflicts us;  
-give those who struggle with addictions perseverance they need.  
You are father and mother to us, and we bask in your love;  
-inspire persons of integrity and compassion to care for children who are separated from their parents.  
You bless those who employ the talents you have given them;  
-give all in research the insight they need to develop the good you desire for us.  
Jesus, you loved the land and fields of flowers;  
-bless farmers and all who are stewards of the soil.  
You taught your followers to travel lightly through life:  
-call our consumer culture to a change of heart – to values that lead to a simpler life.

PRAYER:

O God, we long to love you with all our heart and mind and soul, but we know we are divided. Give us a single heart. Make us one, as you are one. Amen

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## WEEK THREE

### SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, we are one in you, and all that we do affects the whole;

-make us aware of our power to seed the world with good or ill by every thought, word, and deed.

Our hearts are torn by the realization of the sufferings of others;

-grant that we may never be a stumbling block to others or a culpable cause of their pain.

Jesus, you chose laborers, and tax collectors, to be your companions;

-preserve us from deciding what people are by what they do, and let us see the worth of every person and the value in every kind of work.

Bless those who have lost their life companion through death or divorce;

-let the people of God be a saving support and comfort to them.

Spirit of God, enlighten the minds and renew the hearts of the hierarchy of the churches;

-let their ministry be a healing service for all of your people.

PRAYER:

God of the universe, you create the night as well as the day. You are with us in good fortune and bad times. You order all things for our well being and you lure us to truth and holiness. For these and all your gifts to us we sing your praise through Jesus Christ who is our way, our truth and our life.

Amen.

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### SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Life after death is a mystery to us, O God;

-let the resurrection of Jesus and his Spirit among us witness to your eternal love and care for us.

You ask us to give, to empty ourselves, and to follow you in faith;

-only to fill us with solid nourishment that enables us to live the journey of the gospel.

We know well your law of love; your Spirit lives within us;

-let no other rule take precedence in our lives.

You came to us bringing peace and reconciliation;

-may your gospel be the bridge that reconciles us-families, communities, and nations.

Bless all who have a great fear of death;

-grant them peace of heart and friends to support them.

PRAYER:

God of wisdom, your steadfast love gives meaning to our lives.

Remembering your goodness from ages past, we have hope. Our very desire for you is a gift of your love. Holy Mystery, we do believe; help our unbelief. This we ask for ourselves, but especially for those without hope and those who know no love.

Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

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### MONDAY MORNING PRAYER

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are our Creator, O God, our lives are in your hands;

-make us humble and reverent of heart as we unravel some small part of the mystery of creation.

Jesus, people were drawn to you for you spoke with authority:

-bless our public officials with insight for our good, and protect them from all that is not just in your sight.

You often spoke to those who were closed to your teaching;

-give us a contemplative attitude and the grace to hear and live your message.

Spirit of God, you hovered over chaos and called forth a world of life;

-calm us in times of anxiety; teach us how to live one moment at a time in your loving presence.

Our hearts are drawn to glorify you, O God, and you receive our humble praise;

-bless composers, singers and all musicians who enable us to express our love and gratitude to you.

PRAYER:

O God, we long to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, bringing about your reign of love. Our weakness and sinfulness stop us over and over again. Help us to cooperate with your personal design for each of us and by your strength to embrace your will and to grow in love. Grant this through the intercession of all your saints who inspire, challenge, and call us to the praise of your glory now and forever. Amen.

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## **MONDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

In you, O God, resides all creative energy, and we receive our lives from you;

-inspire us with great desires, and let our hope be larger than our doubt.

We are a wounded people, afflicted by sin and ignorance;

-guide and protect our police and all who are missioned to protect us; arm them with wisdom and compassion.

Jesus, for you and your people, hospitality was a sacred duty;

-help us to transform our world into a place that is safe for mutual aid and neighborliness.

You were content to let weeds grow among wheat until harvest time;

-give us the patience to live with our own shortcomings and those of others.

Our days are often filled with interruptions;

-teach us how to reap the good fruit of patience from these times.

PRAYER:

God our Creator, you have called us by name; we belong to you. Help us to believe in your truth, hope in your mercy, and love all people as you call us to love. Let our lives give joy to you and encouragement to one another. May our efforts to live in love give you praise this night and every day of our lives through all eternity. Amen.

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## **TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you have blessed humankind with understanding, imagination and memory;

-show us how to learn from the past and to plan for the future.

The gifts of the earth are distributed unevenly, and we long to lift up those in need;

-soften the hearts of those who place personal or national gain above the good of the whole.

Jesus, you have gifted us with the revelation of God's love;

-let your love bear abundant fruit in our lives.

You preached to the crowds, inviting them to sit on grassy hillsides;

-open our eyes to the beauty of our world, and make us understand the need to protect our environment.

Spirit of God, life-giving presence to every person;

-make your compassion and love known to those who suffer abuse, torture, and sub-human conditions.

PRAYER:

Giver of hope, we begin a new day confident that you come to us in all circumstances and make all things work for the fulfillment of your purposes. We praise you for your wonderful works through Christ who has shown us the way. Amen.

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## **TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, the wonders of communication have made our world smaller but more complex;

-bless the United Nations with wise and magnanimous leaders.

Jesus, you teach us of the realm of God with wonderful and effective images;

-inspire teachers and writers with the creativity they need to expand our minds and hearts.

' Ask, knock, seek is your invitation to us to take our needs to God;

-make us quick to respond to the needs of those who ask; make us aware of those so needy they cannot ask.

Spirit of God, you take flesh in us and for us;

-keep us open to all who inspire us to grow; prophets, athletes, philosophers, artists, and all who serve us in your name.

Time is your gift to us, O God; let us not take it for granted;

-show us efficient ways to use and share it.

PRAYER:

O God, you are both mother and father to us. Help us to reverence all people with whom we share such great love, and show us the way to peace in our world. We ask this as your children through Jesus, our brother. Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, you preached a kingdom not of this world, but you were ever mindful to provide food for your followers;

-grant success to those who draw food from our waters and fields; keep them safe and their methods environmentally sound.

You blessed little children and warned us against misleading them;

-give wisdom to those who become parents while they are still children themselves.

O God, you call us all to unity through Jesus;

-show yourself to those who are estranged from one another, and bridge their differences with the fire of your love.

Jesus, you frowned upon the ambitions of your apostles;

-let our ambition and goal be to offer you a life of love and dedicated service as we care for one another.

Bless the ministers of your kingdom;

-guide them to serve as you have served.

PRAYER:

God of unity and peace, may the gift of your life within us show itself in concrete ways so that we may make clear with our lives the good news of Jesus Christ. Especially today we pray for all the children of this world, that they may know your love and the hope of peace on earth. Grant this prayer that all may know the gift you gave in Jesus. Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, you knew a laborer's day;

-bless those who live by the work of their hands; help all to find the employment they need.

The world still longs for the peace that only you can give;

-guard and protect those whose work is to keep the peace in lands torn by war and revolution.

In your kingdom the last shall be first and the first last;

-encourage and liberate minorities, those whose lot is mostly last.

Enlighten and encourage those committed to you in religious vocations;

-let their lives reflect their calling.

Have mercy on all who are touched by the drug epidemic in our world;

-lead them to freedom through the good news enfolded in those who reach out to them.

PRAYER:

Jesus, light of the world, for the many who have followed you today

through the darkness of temptation, doubt, or pain, you are the promise of an eternal dawn. We give thanks for all that has been given to us through you, and we ask for the grace to be your faithful disciples. May we praise you all the days of our lives. Amen.

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## **THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, we praise you for the gift of faith and for all that our baptism means to us;

-help us to keep our commitment to you alive and active and to cherish and remember special moments of insight.

You answer our prayers and fulfill our needs;

-make us aware of the needs of others and generous in ministering to them.

Jesus, you were called the carpenter's son, an attempt to discredit you;

-give us the grace we need to see one another in truth, to hold each other's heritage with reverence, and to realize that we are one in you.

Your disciples left all to follow you;

-be praised in the missionaries who leave all that is familiar to them to give your message to the world.

You are resurrection and life to all who hope in you;

-give courage and peace to those who await your coming.

PRAYER:

O God, we are the work of your hands, and you have made us for communion with you and one another. As we begin the business of this day, we recall that you alone can fill our hearts. We ask to remain by love in your holy presence with Jesus who incarnated your presence among us. Amen.

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## **THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, you invited Peter to follow you in ways beyond his courage;

-increase our faith, that we may be ready and willing instruments of your love.

You caution us over and over again to stay awake, to be on guard;

-give us the gift of discernment; help us to live consciously, learning from the past as we plan for the future.

O God, bless those whom you call to the single life;

-let their commitment to the gospel be a joy to you, enrichment for them, and a service to others that mirrors your Christ.

O God, give us a desire for true and lasting values;

-let our faith in you inform all that we are and do.

Spirit of God, you bring both peace and fire to our hearts;

-teach us how to challenge and affirm one another in a spirit of harmony.

PRAYER:

Most gentle God, you have fed us this day with your holy Word and life-giving Bread. May we continue to discern your calls in life, family, community and in the movements of our hearts. May we always be among those who worship you in spirit and in truth. We ask this through the intercession of all those who gave their lives that others may have bread and a better quality of life. Amen.

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## **FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, a humble heart is more pleasing to you than sacrifice;

-lift up all who are humiliated and despised because of their own faults or those of others.

Faith is your free gift to us, O God;

-enlighten us with ways of sharing it with others.

O God, your love is eternal, and we fail you "seven times a day";

-preserve us from measuring you by our own pettiness; never let fear keep us from turning to you.

Jesus, you have made yourself as available to us as bread;

-help us to realize our need to live in your presence and to listen to the voice of your spirit in our hearts.

Spirit of God, love is your gift to us and the gift you desire from us;

-receive our desire and poor efforts to offer you our lives this day.

**PRAYER:**

Direct our activity this day, O merciful God, that we may reflect your goodness and love to our companions. Help us to be mindful of the many people who are oppressed, and may we be aware of the ways that we oppress others. We ask this in the name of Jesus who died to set us free. Amen.

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**FRIDAY EVENING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

You are our Creator, O God, and you know of what we are made;  
-have mercy on those who are forced to work beyond their strength or to bear their limit of suffering.  
We thank and praise you for the talents you have given to those who make our lives less burdensome by invention and more delightful through art;  
-give them the grace to live balanced and holy lives.  
The future is always a mystery to us; our lives are in your hands,  
-grant us a childlike peace as we place our trust in you and do our best to serve you.  
Jesus, you prayed for unity on the night before you died for us;  
-heal us of our prejudices, and grant success to our efforts toward ecumenism.  
You radiated the joy that is the sign of the Spirit;  
-let our joy and good humor reveal your presence in our lives.

**PRAYER:**

Most loving God, at evening's end we pray for all who near the evening of their lives. Grant them your peace and reconciliation with all who love them. May they know the hope and joy that awaits them when they see you face to face. This we ask through the intercession of Joseph and of all who died in your embrace. Amen.

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**SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, you taught your followers the deepest lessons of life;  
-show us how to teach our children your ways of forgiveness, reverence for one another, and mutual support.  
To all who would listen, you revealed God as a tender mother and an understanding father;  
-teach us how to develop and balance the feminine and masculine aspects of our lives.  
O God, our desires are boundless, but we are limited on every  
-let the discipline of reality be a spur to our creativity.  
Bless all children; let their school years be maturing and fruitful ones for them;  
-inspire our teachers with ways to draw out the best in all.  
You left your mother to follow the call of the Spirit;  
-be with those who must leave their families to find work in other countries.

**PRAYER:**

You are a God of Wonder, Most Holy One, as you call us into being and set us free in your loving plan. Help us to grow in understanding the meaning of our freedom, so that we may discern wisely and respect the gift of freedom in all our sisters and brothers. Grant this through the intercession of all who have died that others may be free. Amen.

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**SATURDAY EVENING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you speak to us in many ways;  
-keep us open to your guidance from sources however great or humble.  
We cherish our call to serve you, and we endeavor to be faithful;  
-deliver us from the plethora of idols that beckon to us daily.  
Bless all who are united in marriage;  
-let the grace of the sacrament enable them to love and support one another.  
Jesus, you knew the challenge of choosing your direction in life;  
-send your Spirit to guide those who struggle with vocational choices.  
Spirit of God, grant wisdom, understanding, and fortitude to all involved in the media;  
-let the highest values and principles govern their decisions and programs.

**PRAYER:**

All holy, ever present God, at the close of this day we offer to you the world's struggle toward wholeness. We are confident that our darkness and sin have been redeemed through the life and death of Jesus and that your mercy has no limit. Give us the gift of mercy for ourselves and for others. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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## WEEK FOUR

### **SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, the whole world was changed and raised up by the coming of your son;

-let us never take his life or gospel for granted.

You give us the power to be light or darkness for one another on the way to salvation;

-show us how to transform the stumbling blocks in our lives to ladders of grace for ourselves and for others.

There are many who do not know you or your Christ;

-send laborers into your harvest.

Jesus, you ate with sinners and stayed with them;

-let the Eucharist that we share remind us of your forgiveness and constant presence in our lives.

Spirit of God, lead us to wholesome recreations that delight and nourish us;

-keep us safe as we play, and let us do so with moderation and gratitude.

**PRAYER:**

O God of the morning, you call us to a new day and to a life of resurrection and union with you. Help us to live this day as a people of hope in a world of chaos. May all who face oppression, terror, abuse, or suffering in any way know that you call us to life and happiness in this world as well as the world to come. We ask this through the intercession of all who lived as people of hope in the midst of despair and now live with you in everlasting peace. Amen.

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### **SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you are present to us, yet our minds cannot contain the mystery of your being;

-let what we know of you in the life and love of Jesus draw us to you in ever deepening faith.

It is difficult to wait with hope for what we think is good and just;

-increase our faith, and help us to hold fast to our dedication to you.

Let the harvest of our land yield enough for all;

-banish famine from our world; teach us to share.

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, what you have prepared for those who love you;

-let the hundredfold that we seek be only to love you totally with grateful hearts.

Jesus, you prayed that we all might be one;

-help us to recognize those who differ from us as our sisters and brothers sharing this one earth that you came to save.

**PRAYER:**

O holy God, as evening falls remain with us. Remember our good deeds and forgive our failings. Help us to reflect upon and live according to your covenant of love. Be with our lonely and elderly sisters and brothers in the evening of their lives. May all who long to see you face to face know the comfort of your presence. This we ask in union with Simeon and Anna, and all who have gone before us blessing and proclaiming you by the fidelity of their lives. Amen.

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### **MONDAY MORNING PRAYER**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus, you preached a gospel of love and forgiveness;

-may those who hear your word be freed from unfounded guilt and a misguided conscience.

You healed those who could not hear or speak;  
-may we close our ears to falsehood and endeavor to speak the truth in love.  
We know well how to plan for the things we want;  
-help us to plan as surely for ways to open ourselves to your Spirit within us.  
O God, mobility is a sign of our times; the whole world is within our reach;  
-protect us all, and guide those who are responsible for our trips on land, sea, and in the air.  
You desire our good, and you have compassion on all who suffer;  
-be merciful to those who are in constant pain; comfort and sustain them.

**PRAYER:**

O God of life, you bring us to this day and we are grateful for your gift. Enable us to be and to work for one another in order that justice may reign, that the needs of the poor be met, and that the oppressed may be liberated. We pray this in the name of Jesus who came that we may be free. Amen.

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## **MONDAY EVENING PRAYER PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, slavery is a reality in our world in many forms;  
-grant us a new consciousness of the equality of all people.  
You created a new covenant of peace through Jesus, yet we live in fear of one another;  
-show us how to re-seed the world with trust; help us to put love where there is no love.  
You delight in those who receive your gifts with gratitude;  
-bless all who endeavor to develop their talents; encourage and enlighten all students, and keep them in your care.  
Jesus, you revealed yourself to a woman of Samaria, an unwelcoming land;  
-enable world leaders to overcome national rivalries and centuries of mutual retaliation.  
You gave us the power to bind and to loose;  
-free us from our need to control, and give us the grace to free others from our expectations.

**PRAYER:**

O God, as darkness falls, remain with us as our light. Help us to meet you in the scriptures that we read, in the bread that we break, and in the neighbor that we welcome into our hearts. Grant this prayer that your reign will come, that your will be done in us as it was in Jesus, now and forever. Amen.

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## **TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, your love is greater than our guilt;  
-have mercy on those who are sentenced to death.  
Too often our faith exists only in our minds and words;  
-awaken us to new and practical ways to enfold our commitment to your will.  
Our lives are fragile, and you surround us with men and women in life-preserving professions;  
-guard and guide our police, fire fighters, rescue workers, and all who labor and risk their lives for our safety.  
Open our minds to the ways that we are destroying the gifts of the earth;  
-bless again the land and water and all of the life that sustains us.  
Jesus, you knew the sweetness of friendship, and you gave new life to those who received you;  
-keep us faithful to you and to one another.

**PRAYER:**

O God, you call us to begin this day in dedication to you. May all who need your help today experience your love and compassion through us and through all who have come to know you. Bless all the children of this world; protect them from abuse. May they come to know their worth and dignity as your children, rightful citizens of this earth. This we ask in union with all the innocent and pure of heart who stand in your presence now and forever. Amen.

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## **TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you have created us free, but our prisons are full;  
-help us to cultivate an environment that inspires life-giving choices.  
You have created us to choose the good;  
-bless our children that they may know the good and pursue it.  
You have created us in your image;  
-give us the joy of radiating your goodness, truth, and beauty.  
Jesus, you experienced the worst of human weakness;  
-grant heroic courage and strength to those who are tortured; erase this horror from our world.  
You promised to be with us to the end of the world;  
-let us never lose hope in you, and help us to trust one another.

#### **PRAYER:**

O gracious God, open our hearts and our eyes to the wonders of your presence among us. May we see the signs of your beauty within and about us and ever be in awe of the simple gifts of life. Help us to reach beyond ourselves and to give thanks for all of your creation that shares this universe with us: peoples of every nation, animals of every species, all forms of vegetation, the planets, stars, and all the elements. We pray this in union with the incarnate Word of God in whose image all was created. May you be blessed throughout the ages and for all eternity. Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

You invite us to be co-creators with you, O God; work is our privilege;  
-bless employers with all they need to provide safe and satisfying work for people in their service.  
You have given us stewardship over the earth;  
-make us all responsible workers in time's "vineyard."  
Jesus, you teach us to serve one another and to shun ambitious pride;  
-help us to realize that our nobility lies in our relationship to God, whom you have revealed to us.  
You knew loneliness and misunderstanding;  
-comfort and sustain those who have been betrayed or abandoned.  
You came to serve and not to be served;  
-let all who are elected to leadership rise to the responsibility of their office and serve with justice and integrity.

#### **PRAYER:**

See in us, O God, the face of your Christ, and forgive us our sins. Help all who must live with the strain of broken and tense relationships. Give us the courage to love in spite of loss and the mercy to forgive all who have injured us in any way. May our work this day bring us and all the world nearer to the quality of life to which you call us. Grant this through the intercession of the Holy Family and of all the families like them that image your life in the trinity of love. Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Your justice is governed by mercy, O God;  
-strengthen those whose work exposes them to temptations of greed or unjust dealings.  
Inspire those who can to give aid to worthy endeavors;  
-let their hundredfold be a deepened awareness of your presence in their lives.  
Have mercy on abused spouses and children and on those who abuse them;  
-help us to enable them to begin life anew.  
Spirit of God, joy and peace are your gifts to us;  
-bless all who lighten our burden by their thoughtfulness, humor, and creativity.  
Jesus, you remind us that we cannot serve two masters;  
-give us a single heart that seeks what is good, receiving all from God with trust.

**PRAYER:**

O God, look upon the poverty of our hearts with compassion and love. Enable us to give lovingly and freely of our possessions and gifts. May those who work with the poor and needy receive joy in this life and fullness of life forever. This we ask through the intercession of all the saints, especially of those whose legacy of service we carry on today. Grant that we may be faithful as they were faithful so that we too may live with you forever. Amen.

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**THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, no one is beyond the reach of your love;  
-help us to appreciate one another as we are, not expecting more than we can do or give.  
Our culture is heavy with the lure of material gain;  
-deliver us from the temptation to use others for our own profit.  
Jesus, your Spirit dwells in our hearts;  
-keep us open to the wisdom and gifts of everyone.  
Wealthy men and women were among your followers, and they supported your mission;  
-show us how to use whatever we have in keeping with your gospel.  
We have walked on the moon, and technology reaches deeper and deeper into the galaxies;  
-may scientific research deepen our thirst for the wisdom and knowledge of God.

**PRAYER:**

O God, you call us to be your people and to minister to one another. Look with pity on all who are held captive by the bonds of addiction. Free us from our own destructive impulses that we may choose life and enable others to find what is life-giving for them. Give discernment and wisdom to all who minister to those seeking liberation from any forms of addiction, that we may all know the joy of the freedom that is ours as your children. This we ask of you, who are our Mother, our Father, our Guardian, our God, Creator and Preserver of us all, both now and in eternity. Amen.

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**THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, creator of all that is;  
-bless the work of our hands.  
Jesus, revelation of God to us;  
-teach us to speak and live the truth.  
Holy Spirit, dwelling in our hearts;  
-deepen our love for God and for one another.  
Triune God, Eternal Love;  
-bless our families, communities, and the nations of the world.  
Holy God, Holy Available One;  
-never let us be separated from you.

**PRAYER:**

God of the nations, look upon the lands devastated by war and show us the way to peace. Turn our guns into plows and our bombs into bread. Remove hatred from our hearts and vengeance from our memories. Give us the wisdom and the will to end terrorism and war whether in lands far or near, or in the confines of our families and communities. Help us to remember that we are one world and one family. Grant this through the intercession of all the peacemakers of all times and all places, especially those who suffered persecution and death for the sake of justice and peace. Amen.

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**FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you have planted the seed of your word in our lives;  
-let its nourishment be the deciding factor in what we choose to see and hear.  
Faith as small as a mustard seed is enough for us;  
-give us an appreciation of what we have, living in your presence day by day.

We long to be instruments of unity and peace in the world;  
-teach us how to support partners to be faithful; show us ways to make our culture supportive.  
Jesus, again and again you assured your followers with a calming, "Fear not!"  
-Grant your peace to those who live in fear for their lives or dignity, those for whom fear is an abiding reality.  
Bless the aging who live alone, with family, or in nursing homes;  
-reveal your love for them through those who care for them.

PRAYER:

O God, look with mercy on those who are in prison. Fill their hearts with courage and peace, and let those who minister to them do so with justice built on compassion. Free political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, and all those who are imprisoned unjustly. Grant this through Jesus who was unjustly condemned but now lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen.

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## **FRIDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, you adorn the earth with the beauty of each season;  
-awaken us to your loving care as you lift up our hearts with color and surprise.  
You share your life with us through the talents you give us;  
-make us worthy stewards, eager to grow, mindful of our use of time.  
Your Spirit dwells in our hearts, the very power of your love;  
-let us remember that you are at work in us, never asking what is beyond our power.  
Lord Jesus, teach us to pray as you taught your apostles;  
-show us how to live quietly and to know how to distinguish want from need.  
Heart of Jesus, once in agony,  
-have pity on the dying.

PRAYER:

God, source of all life, have pity on the dying and on those who mourn. Help them to experience this transition as a birth to new life; this loss in time as a realization of eternity. Ease their pain and grant them your peace which Jesus proclaimed after that first Good Friday. We ask this in his name. Amen.

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## **SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, time often leaves us longing for more, for we are created for eternity;  
-help us to find you within, where time and eternity are more clearly one.  
Your commandments are guides for our way to fullness of life;  
-remind us that law follows life.  
Our short lives are a history of your gifts to us;  
-may all that we do give you thanks and praise.  
You are ever present to us in our need;  
-let us never be indifferent to the suffering of others.  
Spirit of God, our advocate and guide;  
-teach us how to be an effective voice for the powerless.

PRAYER:

O God, your love is truth, yet we so often fear you. You regard us with mercy, yet we see you as judge. Open our eyes to your goodness and let us realize the life to which we are called. We ask this through Jesus, who knew and proclaimed your goodness to all generations. Amen.

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## **SATURDAY EVENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, your invitation to grow is ever before us:  
-free us from the need to control; deepen our trust in your desire for our good.

Nothing is impossible for you;  
-let our desires be your own, then grant our requests.  
Jesus, you promise to raise up those who have died with you;  
-help us to remember that the suffering of life is not meaningless.  
Bless those who break under the stress of life;  
-give them understanding and compassionate mentors.  
Help the agencies of the world that help others;  
-enable them to find homes and sustenance for all refugees.

**PRAYER:**

All-loving God, you restored your people to eternal life by raising Jesus from the dead. Make our faith strong and our hope sure. May we never doubt that you will fulfill the promises you have made to us and to all the peoples of this world. Grant this through the prayers of all who without seeing have believed and now enjoy the gift of eternal life. Amen.

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## Patmos Companions - TRIGGERS TO HELP YOU PRAY

Let the peace of this place surround you as you sit or kneel quietly.

Let the hurry and worry of your life fall away from you.

You are of God's heart. God loves you and cares for you.

God is here with you now –and always.

Speak to God slowly and thoughtfully — give yourself time for God to bring things to mind.

**Lord, thank you ...**

for your presence here, for the opportunity to pray,  
for the promise of peace, for the beauty of the world,  
the kindness of people ...  
for all those whom I love...and who love me...  
for your love towards me (and especially for....)  
for the Cross of Jesus and the power of the Spirit.  
Help me to show my gratitude in deeds as well as words.

**Lord, I am sorry ...**

for the times when I have been hasty or unkind (especially to... )  
thought or acted selfishly, failed to forgive or ask forgiveness,  
forgotten your presence, taken your love for granted.  
I thank you for your promise to forgive all those who turn back to you in penitence.

**Lord, I am troubled...**

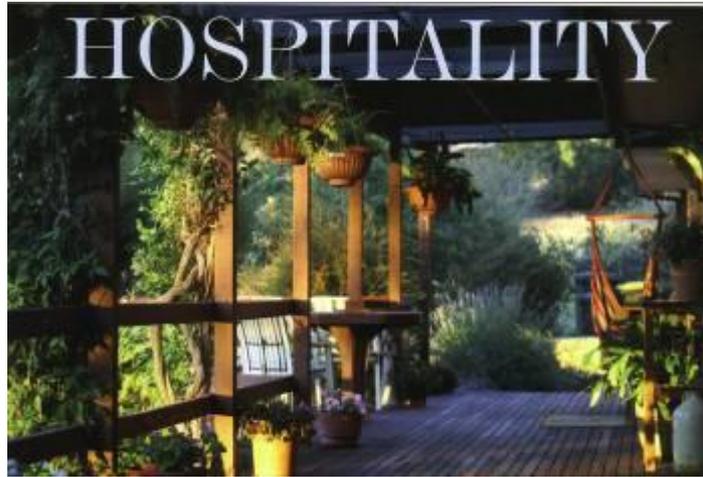
I am anxious and distressed for myself... for others.... especially about ....  
Help me to trust your love, for you carry our sorrows,  
Teach me to act and speak in the way that you want.  
Give me the wisdom to know when not to interfere.  
Calm my fears, for all things are in your hands.

**Lord, I pray for ...**

My family... and friends,  
My neighbours at home, at work, the ones I like... and dislike ...  
for those who are ill... those who are troubled or who mourn,  
for the oppressed, for those involved in disaster or war.  
Bless them Lord in their various troubles and show me how I may help.

**Before you leave say ...**

Go with me, Lord as I leave this place;  
May its memory sweeten my days and fortify my will;  
Help me always to confide in you, your rule of life, and to care for your world.



*Simon, did you welcome me?  
Did you show me hospitality?  
Did you anoint me as I took my seat?  
Or give me water for my feet?*

*This woman who you ostracize  
has bathed me with the tears she cries.  
Her contrition and humility  
have opened up a door for me:  
an invitation to enter in;  
to make my home; to forgive her sin.*

*Is your heart a home for me?  
Do you show me hospitality?  
Is the warmth of welcome there for all  
the poor and needy who may call?*

*Therefore, reach out to the very least;  
invite the outcasts to your feast.  
Do not exclude or turn away  
the homeless who may wish to stay.  
For, on your verandah I sit and wait  
whilst Lazarus lies beside the gate.*

September 2007