



YORK  
MINSTER

# TRADITIONAL PRAYERS

*from York Minster*

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# Traditional Prayers

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YORK MINSTER has been a place of prayer for many hundreds of years. That tradition of prayer is kept alive at all times, even in the most trying of circumstances. The whole nation currently finds itself journeying through a season of uncertainty in which the world has been turned upside down and the church, as the body of Christ, can no longer physically gather together day by day and week by week.

But the family of church is bound by something stronger than place. The Church is more than a building. We are made one in Christ who is Lord over all things and binds everything together. Our life of prayer extends beyond worship on Sundays, and we are called always to pray seven whole days, not one in seven, whether we are gathered or dispersed.

The prayers that follow are prayed each day in the Minster before, during and after worship. They use the traditional language of years past and remind us of our continuity with people of prayer through the ages. Many of these prayers are sung or said by our clergy and choir before, during and after worship.

We hope you find them helpful.

## Prayers for a Monday

### *Morning*

LET us commend ourselves and ours, and all that we have, to Him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us before the presence of His glory. To the only wise God, and our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and forever, *Amen*.

### *Evening*

LET our prayer be set forth in Thy sight as the incense. And let the lifting up of our hands be an evening sacrifice. Almighty and everlasting God, at evening, and morning, and noon-day, we humbly beseech Thy majesty that Thou wouldest drive from our hearts the darkness of sin, and make us come to the true light, which is Christ, through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

## Prayers for a Tuesday

### *Morning*

PURIFY our hearts and sanctify our minds, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that in peace we may enter into Thy holy presence and offer unto Thee an acceptable service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

### *Evening*

LET Thy word be a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my paths. O Thou true Light Who coming into the world dost enlighten everyman, enlighten now our hearts that we may worthily offer up our prayers and praises unto Thee, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen*

## Prayers for a Wednesday

### *Morning*

RECEIVE O Lord, we beseech Thee, our prayers. Grant what we ask. Remove from us what we dread, for Thou, through Thy Christ, art the only hope of sinners, and through Him we trust to be forgiven our iniquities. *Amen.*

### *Evening*

TURN us again, O Lord, and quicken us, that Thy people may rejoice in Thee. Cleanse our hearts, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, from all vain and wondering thoughts, that we may joyfully praise Thee in this house, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen.*

## Prayers for a Thursday

*In the weekly cycle of prayer Thursday's mark a day of remembrance of the Ascension of our Risen Lord. We are reminded that the church in heaven and the church on earth are unified in their praise of God.*

### *Morning*

O LORD Jesu Christ, Who hast ascended into the heavens to prepare a place for us, help us to worship Thee this day as Thou art ever worshipped by the angels in heaven, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

### *Evening*

KEEP watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, sustain the dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed; all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

## Prayers for a Friday

*In this weekly cycle of prayer, Friday is a day when we remember the passion and crucifixion of Christ. Every Friday is a little Good Friday. We remember that God loved the world so much that he sent his Son, that all who believe in him may have eternal life.*

### *Morning*

ALMIGHTY God, Who didst give Thine only Son to die for our sins, grant that we, always having His blessed Passion in devout remembrance, may offer up our praises with thankful hearts, through the same Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. *Amen*

### *Evening*

GRANT, O God, that we Thy servants who have obtained redemption by the Cross and Passion of Thy dear Son, may with our lips and in our lives shew forth our thankfulness unto Thee for the same his inestimable mercy, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## Prayers for a Saturday

### *Morning*

DEFEND, O Lord, us Thy servants with Thy heavenly grace, that we may continue Thine for ever, and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more, till we come to Thine everlasting Kingdom. *Amen.*

### *Evening*

O LORD Jesu Christ, Who by Thy Glorious Resurrection hast sanctified a day of rest for Thy people, grant that we dying unto sin and rising again to newness of life may worthily offer up our prayers and praises to Thy honour and glory, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## Prayers for a Sunday

*Every Sunday is like a little Easter. It is always a day which is illuminated by the Resurrection. It is a day on which we give our thanksgiving and praise to the Risen Lord.*

### *Morning*

MOST bountiful and benign Lord God, we, thy humble servants, freely redeemed and justified by the passion, death and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ, having our full trust of salvation therein, most humbly desire Thee, so to illumine us with Thy grace, that we may walk and live in Thy favour; and after this life to be partakers of Thy glory in the everlasting kingdom of heaven, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### *Evening*

Verse. Increase, O Lord our faith in Thee.

Response. *That we may work his pleasure only.*

Let us pray:-

MOST bountiful and benign Lord God, we, Thy humble servants, freely redeemed and justified by the passion, death and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesu Christ, having our full trust of salvation therein, most humbly desire Thee so to strengthen our faith and illumine us with Thy grace, that we may walk and live in Thy favour; and after this life to be partakers of Thy glory in the everlasting kingdom of heaven, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

*Peace be unto you. Even Thy peace, O Lord our Saviour, now and evermore. Amen.*

### *The Second Collect at Evening Prayer*

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## *More Prayers*

### *The Lord's Prayer*

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

### *A Blessing before a meal*

MOST GRACIOUS and most bountiful Lord, we give thee thanks for this food thou hast set before us, and for thy providence and loving kindness in creation. In this our plenty, we also make our prayers for those in need this day, and pray that we may never forget those who have little in the worlds' eyes and never squander our blessings; for the love of Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

### *The Collect for Aid against all Perils*

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

## *A General Thanksgiving*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen*

## *Psalm 23*

THE Lord is my shepherd : therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He shall feed me in a green pasture : and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

3 He shall convert my soul : and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil : for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me : thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life : and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## *The Grace*

*Christians use these words to conclude an act of worship. They remind us that we are all surrounded by the love and grace of God.*

The GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen*

*A Prayer before Sleep*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;  
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath  
Our souls are raised to life from death.

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Prayers from 'Short Devotions for the use of Clergy and Choir before and after the daily services in York Minster'