

# A treasury of prayers

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## Eastern Church Liturgy , Third Century

We give thee hearty thanks for the rest of the past night,  
for the gift of a new day,  
with its opportunities for pleasing thee.  
Grant that we may so pass its hours  
in the freedom of thy service,  
that at eventide we may again give thanks unto thee;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

## Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

O thou who art the light of the minds that know thee,  
the life of the souls that love thee,  
and the strength of the hearts that serve thee;  
help us so to know thee that we may truly love thee;  
so to love thee that we may fully serve thee,  
whom to serve is perfect freedom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

## Liturgy of Malabar , Fifth Century

Grant, O Lord, that the ears which have heard  
the voice of thy songs  
may be closed to the voice of clamour and dispute;  
that the eyes which have seen thy great love  
may also behold thy blessed hope;  
that the tongues which have sung thy praise  
may speak the truth;  
that the feet which have walked thy courts  
may walk in the region of light;  
and that the bodies which have partaken of thy living Body  
may be restored in newness of life.  
Glory be to thee for thine unspeakable gift.

All Amen.

## Columba (c.521-597)

WKRXDEULJKWDPHEHIRUHPH  
be thou a guiding star above me,  
be thou a smooth path below me,  
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
today, tonight and for ever.

All Amen.

## Mozarabic Sacramentary , Seventh Century

Grant us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace,  
without stumbling and without stain;  
that reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation,  
we may praise thee, the eternal God,  
who art blessed, and dost govern all things,  
world without end.

All Amen.

## Gregorian Sacramentary

May God Almighty direct our days in his peace,  
and grant us the gifts of his blessing;  
may he deliver us in all our troubles,  
and establish our minds in the tranquillity of his peace;  
may he so guide us through things temporal  
WKDWZHQOOORVHQRWWKHWKLRVHWHUQO

All Amen.

## Gelasian Sacramentary

Almighty and everlasting God,  
WKH&PIRUWRIWKHVDGWKH6WUHQWKRIVX#HUHUV  
let the prayers of those that cry out of any tribulation  
come unto thee;  
WKDWDQOPDUHMRLFHWRFQWKDWWKPHUF\  
LVSUHVHQZLWKWKHPLQWKHLUD%FWLRQ  
through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

## Alcuin (735-804)

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,  
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,  
Eternal Power, be our support,  
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,  
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us;  
that with all our heart and mind  
and soul and strength we may seek thy face  
DQEHEURXJKWEWKLELQWHPHUF\  
to thy holy presence;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Sarum Breviary , Eleventh Century

O God, who through the grace of thy Holy Spirit,  
dost pour the gift of love into the hearts of thy faithful people;  
grant unto us health, both of mind and body,  
that we may love thee with our whole strength,  
and with entire satisfaction may perform those things  
which are pleasing unto thee;  
through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Merciful God, to thee we commend ourselves  
and all those who need thy help and correction.  
Where there is hatred, give love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is sadness, joy;  
where there is darkness, light.  
Grant that we may not seek so much  
to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for in giving, we receive,  
in pardoning we are pardoned,  
and dying we are born into eternal life.

All Amen.

Richard of Chichester (c.1197-1253)

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
IRUDOOWKHEHEWVWKRXKDVWZRORUPH  
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brfer, w,Omay nl

Mechthild of Magdeburg (c.1210-c.1280)

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All Amen.

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;  
yours are the only hands with which he can do his work,  
yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world,  
yours are the only eyes through which his compassion  
can shine forth upon a troubled world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

All Amen.

after John Donne (c.1571-1631)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening  
into the house and gate of heaven,  
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,  
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,  
but one equal light;  
no voice nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;  
in the habitation of thy glory and dominion,  
world without end.

All Amen.

Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)

Strengthen us O God, to relieve the oppressed,  
to hear the groans of poor prisoners,  
to reform the abuses of all professions;  
that many be made not poor to make a few rich;  
for Jesus Christ's sake.

All Amen.

Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth,  
in a serious seeking after thee,  
DQLQDHFVLRQWHZDONLQZLWKWKHH  
every day of our lives;  
that when thou comest,  
we may be found not hiding our talent,  
nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished,

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

O Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon us:  
let thy peace rule in our hearts;  
and may it be our strength and song,  
in the house of our pilgrimage.  
We commit ourselves to thy care and keeping this day;  
OHWWKJUDFHEHPLJKWLEVDQVXFLHWRIRUXV  
and let it work in us both to will and to do  
of thine own good pleasure,  
and grant us strength for all the duties of the day.  
Keep us from sin; give us the rule over our own spirits,  
and keep us from speaking unadvisedly with our lips.  
May we live together in peace and holy love,  
and do thou command thy blessing upon us,  
even life for evermore.  
Prepare us for all the events of the day;  
for we know not what a day may bring forth.  
Give us grace to deny ourselves;  
to take up our cross daily,  
and to follow in the steps of our Lord and Master.  
All Amen.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Bless me, O Lord,  
and let my food strengthen me to serve thee,  
for Christ's sake.  
All Amen.

John Angell James (1785-1859)

O Holy Spirit, the Comforter,  
come and dwell in our souls;  
make our bodies thy temple.  
Fill our minds with thy light,  
and our hearts with thy love,  
that over our whole character thy power may be seen  
in the beauties of holiness.  
May we live as something sacred to thee  
as well as perfected by thee.  
Come in all thy sevenfold energy,  
and replenish us with thy illuminating,

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

O Lord, in whom is our hope,  
remove far from us, we pray thee,



and we would lift many voices as one voice,  
and many petitions as one petition,  
to the throne of thy grace.

Lead us into the fellowship of holy worship,  
and weave the varied strains of many hearts  
into one symphony of praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

William Temple (1881-1944)

O Lord Jesu Christ, who didst pray  
for thy disciples that they might be one,  
even as thou art one with the Father:  
draw us to thyself, that in common love  
and obedience to thee we may be united to one another,  
in the fellowship of the one Spirit,  
that the world may believe that thou art Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

### Prayer of General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we, your unworthy servants,  
give you most humble and hearty thanks  
for all your goodness and loving kindness  
to us and to all people.