

THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Let us ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
Let us worship him in spirit and in truth.

For this we extol thee, O Lord, among the nations,
and we sing praises to thy name.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER:

O Lord our God, we unite our minds and hearts in adoring praise and in humble prayer. Come into every life reverently open to Thy presence now, to cleanse each of us of all sin, that, with the joy of forgiveness, with more perfect love and a more serene hope, we may worship Thee in the spirit and grace of Thy Son. We bless and praise Thee for all Thou art to us, for all Thou art doing for us, and for all Thou givest us, day by day, and month by month. We thank Thee for protecting us in weakness; for renewing our strength; for guiding us into opportunities to help others and to set forward Christ's cause in our community and in our time.

Most of all, we thank Thee for sending Thy Son to be our Savior, for His life and His acts of healing and restoration of lost souls; for His sufferings and death on the cross; and for His resurrection and reign.

(Eternal Father of peace, and God of love, we pray for the peace of the world and of our country. In politics help men to set the nation above the party, and set thy will above all else. Direct and strengthen the President, his counselors, our legislators and leaders to seek to know thy just and compassionate purpose and to do it. Grant that when Christians differ on major issues, they may tolerate differences and love each other and the community of Christ in all its divisions and expressions. Send thy peace within ourselves, O God.

Help us to live in peace with our fellow men.

Rid us of the bitter and unforgiving spirit, the uncontrolled temper, and unkind speech.

Take from us anxieties which distract and weaken us; take from us doubts which have no foundation and weaken our faith and service. Take from us wrong desires, false ambitions, and above all take from us

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our sins and grant us the peace and joy of sins forgiven.

(All this we ask through our Mediator and Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us when we prayed to say: "OUR FATHER, WHICH ART IN HEAVEN...")

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

O God, from Thee we receive both all that we have and are, and also the power to share our gifts and ourselves with others for Christ's sake and the Kingdom's. Let these offerings be used for thy glory as they are used to maintain and extend thy cause. In Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERMON:

O Lord our God, illumine our hearts with the pure light of thy truth that we may understand thy gospel and apply it in our daily lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

PRAYER AFTER THE SERMON:

O God, who didst call men in times past to serve thee and witness for thee, help us today here to respond to thy call. We confess that our souls are restless until they rest in thee. Having found thee, help us to love our neighbors as ourselves, not out of condescension, but as our simple duty; and seeking not our own success, but the well being of all, may we find our treasure not in what we have, but in what we share, and so be true disciples of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION:

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; defend the oppressed; help the afflicted; honor all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.