



CLASSIC PRAYERS

You are invited to include the following prayers in your devotional life. These prayers have blessed many people over the years. May each prayer be a blessing to you as well.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

My Heavenly Father, I thank You, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, that You kept me safe from all evil and danger last night. Save me, I pray, today as well, from every evil and sin, so that all I do and the way that I live will please you. I put myself in your care, body and soul and all that I have. Let Your holy Angels be with me, so that the evil enemy will not gain power over me. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

My Heavenly Father, I thank You, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, that You have protected me, by Your grace. Forgive, I pray, all my sins and the evil I have done. Protect me, by Your grace, tonight. I put myself in your care, body and soul and all that I have. Let Your holy angels be with me, so that the evil enemy will not gain power over me. Amen.

FROM "THOUGHTS FROM SOLITUDE" BY THOMAS MERTON

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE IN MINISTRY

by Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back, and take the long view.
The Kingdom of Heaven is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying
That the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.
We will plant the seeds that one day will grow,
We water seeds already planted.
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but everything is a beginning,
a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace
to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results,
But that is the difference between the master builder
and the worker.
We are the workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future of our own.
May that future be filled with grace, peace, and hope. Amen.

ST. THERESA'S PRAYER

May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been
given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom
to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.

MORNING PRAYER

Everywhere I walk

let it be on Your path.
Everything I see
let it be through Your eyes.
Everything I do
let it be Your will.
Every hardship I face
let me place it in Your hands.
Every emotion I feel
let it be Your spirit moving in me.
Everything I seek
let me find it in Your love.
My Dear God,
I thank You for this day.
I ask not to know where I am going.
I ask only to know and feel
in the depths of my heart and soul
that You are with me
that You are guiding me
that I am safe
in the protection of Your loving care.
In Jesus name I offer myself to You.
Amen. (author unknown)

SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can: and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking, as He did, This sinful world as it is Not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will That I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy With Him forever in the next.
(Reinhold Niebuhr)

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS DESALES

Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life, rather look to them with full hope that as they arise God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cared for you today will take care of you then and everyday. God will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace and put aside anxieties, thoughts and imaginations.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is resentment, let me bring forgiveness.
Where there is discord, let me bring harmony.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring joy.
Guide me that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
To be understood and to understand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
In forgetting ourselves that we find ourselves,
In forgiving that we are forgiven.
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



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