

CONCERNING FAMILY PRAYER

These devotions follow the basic structure of the Daily Office of the Church and are particularly appropriate for families with young children.

The Reading and the Collect may be read by one person, and the other parts said in unison, or in some other convenient manner.

Appropriate Opening Sentences, Psalms, Readings, and Collects are provided in each service. When desired, however, the Collect of the Day, or any of the Collects appointed in the Daily Office, may be used instead. The Opening Sentences may be replaced by those appointed for various seasons in the liturgies for Morning and Evening Prayer.

The Psalms and Readings may be replaced by those appointed in:
the Sunday, Holy Days and Commemoration Lectionary; or
the Daily Office Lectionary; or
some other manual of devotion which provides daily selections for the Church Year.

A concluding sentence from Morning or Evening Prayer may be used at the end of any of these devotions.

FAMILY PRAYER
IN THE MORNING

The following or some other verse of Scripture is said

O Lord, open thou my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. PSALM 51:15^T

PSALM 51:10-12

- ¹⁰ Make me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence, *
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
¹² O give me the comfort of thy help again, *
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Alternatively, Psalm 5:1-3 may be used.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which
according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto

a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

I PETER 1:3

or this

Give thanks unto the Father, who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

COLOSSIANS 1:12-14

or this

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

A period of silence may follow.

A hymn or canticle may be used; the Apostles' Creed (page 75) may be said.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COLLECT

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

AT MIDDAY

The following or some other verse of Scripture is said

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

EPHESIANS 1:3

PSALM 113:1-4

Laudate, pueri

- 1 Praise the LORD, ye servants; *
O praise the Name of the LORD.
- 2 Blessed be the Name of the LORD *
from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 The LORD's Name is praised *
from the rising up of the sun unto the going down
of the same.
- 4 The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.

**Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

JOHN 15:4-5

or this

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COLLECT

Blessed Savior, who at this hour didst hang upon the cross stretching out thy loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look unto thee and be saved; for thy tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

IN THE EARLY EVENING

This devotion may be used before or after the evening meal.

The following or some other verse of Scripture is said

How excellent is thy mercy, O God!

The children of men shall put their trust under the shadow
of thy wings.

For with thee is the well of life,
and in thy light shall we see light.

PSALM 36:7, 9

PHOS HILARON

O Gladsome Light

O gladsome light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, *

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light, *

we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, *

O Son of God, O Giver of Life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord;
and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who
commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in
our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-6

or this

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

JOHN 8:12

or this

Jesus said, Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

REVELATION 3:20

A period of silence may follow.

A hymn or canticle may be used; the Apostles' Creed (page 75) may be said.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COLLECT

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. **Amen.**

AT THE CLOSE OF DAY

The following or some other verse of Scripture is said

I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest;
for it is thou, LORD, only, that makest me dwell in safety

PSALM 4:8

PSALM 134

Ecce nunc

- 1 Behold now, praise the LORD, *
all ye servants of the LORD,
- 2 Ye that stand by night in the house of the LORD, *
even in the courts of the house of our God.
- 3 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary *
and sing praises unto the LORD.
- 4 The LORD who made heaven and earth *
give thee blessing out of Zion.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for the Lord God is everlasting strength.

ISAIAH 26:3-4

or this

May the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I THESSALONIANS 5:23

A period of silence may follow.

A hymn or canticle may be used.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COLLECT

Visit this place, we beseech thee, O Lord, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

The Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, *
according to thy word;

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, *
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, *
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. **Amen.**

LUKE 2:29-32

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us, this night and evermore. **Amen.**

When the Apostles Creed is included in Family Prayer, the text is as follows:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

FOR THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

O Almighty God, who pourest out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw nigh to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THOSE WE LOVE

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE FAMILY

Merciful Savior, who didst love Martha and Mary and Lazarus, hallowing their home with thy sacred presence: Bless our home, we pray thee, that thy love may rest upon us, and that thy presence may dwell with us. May we all grow in grace and in the knowledge of thee, our Lord and Savior. Teach us to love one another as thou hast commanded. Help us to bear one another's burdens in fulfillment of thy law, O blessed Jesus, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

FOR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

O loving Father, we commend to thy gracious keeping all who are near and dear to us. Have mercy upon any who are sick, and comfort those who are in pain, anxiety, or sorrow. Awaken all who are careless about eternal things. Bless those who are young

and in health, that they may give the days of their strength to thee. Comfort the aged and infirm, that thy peace may rest upon them. Hallow the ties of kindred, that we may help and not hinder one another in all the good works that thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR CHILDREN

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst take little children into thine arms and bless them: Bless the children of this family, that they may grow up in godly fear and love. Give them thy strength and guidance day by day, that they may continue in thy love and service unto their lives' end. Grant this, O blessed Savior, for thine own Name's sake. **Amen.**

IN THE MORNING

O God, the King eternal, whose light dividest the day from the night and turnest the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done thy will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night cometh, rejoice to give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

AT NIGHT

O Lord, support us all the day long through this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FAMILY RESPONSES BEFORE MEALS

Traditional

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord;

And thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou openest thine hand;

And fillest all things living with plenteousness.

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless, O Lord, these gifts to our use, and us to thy service, and make us ever mindful of the needs of others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ADVENT ANTIPHONS

In Advent, using the Antiphons found in the Calendar of Holy Days and Commemorations (page 712), families might consider singing the appropriate verse of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" each night beginning on December 16.