

Prayers for Self, Church, Community, and World Amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic

For Daily Use

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand gravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.
– “Ministration to the Sick,” *1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP)*, 461

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep [*this night*], and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. Amen. – From “Compline,” *BCP*, 134

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. – “For the Human Family,” *BCP*, 815

For the Sick, Their Families and Caregivers

O Most mighty and merciful God, in this time of great sickness, we flee unto thee for succor. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
– “In Time of Great Sickness and Mortality,” *1928 Book of Common Prayer*, 45

Generous God, we give you thanks for your beloved Jesus Christ, in whom you have shared the beauty and pain of human life. Look with compassion upon all for whom we pray, and strengthen us to be your instruments of healing in the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
– *Enriching Our Worship 2 (EOW 2)*, 54

God of all comfort, our very present help in trouble, be near to me. Look on me with the eyes of your mercy; comfort me with a sense of your presence; preserve me from the enemy; and give me patience in my affliction. Restore me to health, and lead me to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. – *EOW*, 72

Compassionate God, support and strengthen all those who reach out in love, concern, and prayer for the sick and distressed. In their acts of compassion, may they know that they are your instruments. In their concerns and fears may they know your peace. In their prayer may they know your steadfast love. May they not grow weary or faint-hearted, for your mercy’s sake. Amen. – *EOW 2*, 93

For Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

– From Washington National Cathedral; material adapted from Prayer of St. Alphonsus de Liguori (1696-1787) and *A Prayer Book for the Armed Services 2007*

At the Time of Death

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant *N*. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *him* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen. – “A Commendatory Prayer at the Time of Death,” *BCP*, 465

Blessed Jesus, in your last agony you commended your spirit to your Father. We seek your mercy for *N*., and all who are dying. May death become for them, as it was for you, a birth to everlasting life. Receive those whom we commend to you with the blessed assurance that whether we wake or sleep, we remain with you, one God, for ever. Amen. – *EOW 2*, 65

Additional Resources

1979 Book of Common Prayer

- Ministration to the Sick (453-461)
- Ministration at the Time of Death (462-467)
- Burial of the Dead: Rite One (469-486)
- Burial of the Dead: Rite Two (487-502)

Enriching Our Worship 2

- Public Service of Healing (27-45)
- Ministry in a Home or Health Care Facility (46-58)
- Prayers for Those Who Are Sick (64-70)
- Prayers for Use by a Sick Person (71-95)
- Ministration at the Time of Death (96-116);
- A Form of Prayer When Life-Sustaining Treatment Is Withheld or Discontinued (117-127)
- Burial of a Child (131-146)

Prayers of the People during Global Pandemic

**Created and offered at Washington National Cathedral on March 15, 2020
Concluding Collect from Gloucester Cathedral**

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; in this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the Church and the world.

For the Church, that it may not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel of Christ and serve as beacon of hope to a suffering world. We pray for Michael, the Presiding Bishop, ____ our Bishop(s), and all who minister in your name. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For all affected by coronavirus around the world. For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. May barriers that divide be brought down that bonds of trust may be strengthened to benefit the entire human family. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Grant public health and government officials in our nation the strength and will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion in service to all. We pray especially for Donald, President of the United States, the Congress, Governors, and elected officials in local municipalities. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they have access to medical care and regain their strength and health; grant them your healing grace. Give strength to all who are caring for loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For healthcare workers who, with hearts of service, stand on the front lines of providing care. Grant them courage and protection as they put the needs of public safety before their own. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Bless scientists and researchers around the world as they combat the virus, that their work may yield knowledge to develop a vaccine, treatments, and improved measures to reduce its spread. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For the safety and well-being of all who travel and those who remain quarantined. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Remove the presence of fear and anxiety from our hearts, that confident in your providence we may be generous in sharing our resources. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant that our churches and communities of faith may reflect your love, as they minister to the most vulnerable among us; fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be your healing hands and feet to all in need. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have already lost loved ones to the virus and those who will yet suffer such loss, that they may know the consolation of your love. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal. We pray especially for _____. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.