



Prayer Resources

Opening Prayers

How is it, O God, that our friendship is important to you?

**And yet it is, because you made us,
fashioned us lovingly with your hands
and breathed into our nostrils the breath of Life.**

How is it, O God, that you will not cast us off?

**And yet you will not, because when we turned our backs on you,
you came in Jesus with arms outstretched in welcome and invitation.
And when we nailed Jesus to a cross, you answered his prayer:
"Father, forgive them!"**

**We thank you because there is nothing that can separate us
from your love for us in Christ Jesus.**

How is it, Jesus, that you call us "friends" and not "traitors"?

**And yet you do. You offer yourself for us in love,
your body broken for our healing,
your blood poured out for our forgiving and our living.**

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth!

**We are here to worship you. Glory to you, earth-maker, star-sprinkler,
galaxy-builder!**

It is God who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like
grasshoppers.

**And yet you love us with a passion that we cannot fathom and a mercy
that we cannot exhaust. Glory to you, earth-lover, people-blessor, grace-
giver!**

He gives power to the faint, and strength to the powerless.

**You are the God of the little people, the forgotten people, the invisible
people. Glory to you, strength-giver, hope-giver, Life-giver!**



They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

We come to wait on your grace, your hope, and your strength. Bless us with your love, your presence, your Life!

Amen.

Morning prayer

You have given us the gift of a new day;

You call us to new faith and new following.

You have given us the gift of Life;

You call us to minister Life to others.

You give us the gift of the Holy Spirit – your Living Presence in us and with us;

You call us to give faith, hope, love, joy and peace to your world.

You have made us a new creation in Christ;

Grant that this day, we may make a difference – for Christ's sake!

Rejoice & Sing 308 & 309

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13, 27-31

Reflection

Confession:

Our ears are so closely tuned to the voices around us and within us that we have to strain to catch the whisper of your Spirit;

Open our ears; teach us to hear you speaking; teach us to love your Voice.

Our eyes are open to the familiar, to the things we long to see, so that we miss what you would show us;

Open our eyes; teach us to see the world through your gaze; show us what you see.



Our hearts are dulled and closed, the shutters up, your ways and your Kingdom kept at a safe distance;

Open our hearts; fill them with new possibilities, new priorities; make us mirrors of your world-transforming grace.

Our hands are clasped shut, grabbing and holding, fearful of giving, sharing and letting go;

Open our hands; scar them with the wounds of love; open them wide to be the means by which you embrace the world in generous, self-giving, Life-giving welcome!

Forgive us the timidity of our faith, the smallness of our hope, the poverty of our love. Grant that today we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, for the sake of Jesus in whose name we pray.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

R&S 497

The Grace

The Water of Life

[a cup/chalice of water in the centre of the table]

Jesus says, "Everyone who drinks will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life!"

Lord, give us this water, so that we may never be thirsty again!

Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Lord, we have given up everything to follow you.

Jesus says, "If you wish to follow me, you must deny yourselves, and take up your cross, and follow me. For whoever seeks to save their life will lose it and whoever loses their lives for my sake and for the gospel will find it."

Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!



Jesus asks, "Do you wish to leave me?"

Lord, to whom should we go? For you have the words of eternal life.

We have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Reflection on the water

[We share the water, passing it to one another with the words, "A spring of living water, gushing up to eternal life"]

Hymn

O Thou who camest from above
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred fire
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return,
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think of Thee.
Still let me guard the holy fire
And still stir up thy gift in me.

The Grace

- Lawrence Moore.