

The Booklet of Common Prayer

with Morning and Evening Prayer
and Selected Psalms and Lessons
and Daily Devotions
and Prayers

Forward Movement, Cincinnati, Ohio

Sample

The forms for Daily Prayer, Daily Devotions, the Psalms, and many of the prayers in this book are drawn from the Book of Common Prayer of The Episcopal Church.

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Table of Contents

Concerning the Booklet iv

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer i

Canticles 6

The Apostles' Creed 11

The Lord's Prayer 12

A Week of Psalms and Lessons 19

Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families 35

In the Morning 35

At Noon 36

In the Early Evening 38

At the Close of Day 39

Prayers 41

For Seasons of Life 45

For Seasons of the Church 48

For Use by a Sick Person 52

Grace at Meals 54

The Baptismal Covenant 55

Emergency Baptism 57

Blessing and Sending 58

Concerning the Booklet

Originally published in 1549, the Book of Common Prayer provided the first complete liturgy in English. Its beautiful phrases and patterns for prayer have woven through diverse cultures. In the centuries since its publication, it has been revised and updated to reflect changing theological and cultural contexts, while continuing to shape Christian worship worldwide.

Based on the 1979 edition of the Book of Common Prayer of The Episcopal Church, this booklet aims to provide a pocket-sized companion of resources for daily spiritual practice.

At the heart of this booklet is an abridged version of Morning and Evening Prayer. These pages also hold a week's worth of selected psalms and scripture readings, shorter devotions for individual and family use, as well as collected personal and seasonal prayers. Though limited, these selections were made with care and a sincere hope of addressing a wide range of needs to sustain our varied journey through life.

Additional Directions

For those new to the prayer book, the section of “Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families” might prove a helpful place to begin: shorter, simpler forms for praying throughout the day.

And of course, we commend Morning and Evening Prayer to all. Often referred to as The Daily Office, these forms have shaped the days—and faith—of countless believers for centuries. If these services are new to you, we hope the brief suggestions that follow will guide you into the practice and help you to find your own rhythm.

Before you begin, take a moment to look over the service. Familiarize yourself with its basic flow: opening sentences, Psalms, Lessons, and Prayers. Since Morning and Evening Prayer follow the same pattern, we have printed their forms in one continuous flow. Select the texts that make the most sense for the time of day in which you pray.

Notice the small directions in red italics; they often give direction or offer options for flexibility or adaptation.

There is no “wrong” in prayer. God doesn’t mind if you read an evening prayer in the morning. Let the Spirit lead.

Pray out loud (even when alone). Speaking the prayers audibly engages your mind and body, helps you stay focused, and lets the words take on life.

Be patient with yourself. Feeling clumsy at first is normal. Liturgical prayer is like a dance; at first you count steps, but eventually you move with ease in the pattern laid before you. After a week or two of steady practice, the rhythm will begin to feel natural.

Check out additional resources to learn: If the structure feels confusing at first, consider following along with a service that is already assembled. Forward Movement offers the podcast “Morning at the Office,” as well as a Daily Office website, which both provide easy-to-follow guides.

Enjoy the journey: Over time, the prayers and responses in this volume will become dear companions. Praying these words, you join a company of millions who have found within the Book of Common Prayer spiritual riches.

Remember, you never pray alone. There is no need to change “we” to “I.” You are joined in prayer by all the Church and the whole communion of saints.

We hope this booklet will be a blessing to you and to all those with whom, and for whom, you pray.

Glossary

Canticle: A song or poetic prayer drawn from Scripture, often said or sung after a reading.

Collect: A short, structured prayer focused on a particular theme or need.

Officiant: The person leading the service. When praying alone, you take this role for yourself.

Suffrages: A set of brief, traditional call-and-response prayers, following the Lord’s Prayer.

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer

The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these sentences of Scripture, or with the Invitatory on page 3.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *Psalms 43:3*

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." *Mark 8:34*

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. *Psalms 74:15-16*

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all
our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen
us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

In the morning

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall
proclaim your praise.

In the evening

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Except in Lent, add Alleluia.

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7* *Morning Prayer*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron* *Evening Prayer*

O gracious 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 your praises, O God: Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit.

You are 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.

Then follows

The Psalms Appointed

A selection of Psalms and Lessons is provided beginning on page 19. The Daily Office Lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer, or another source, may also be used.

At the end of the Psalms is said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading from _____.

After each Lesson the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

Answer Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept after each Reading. One of the following Canticles is said after each Reading.

Then the service continues with the Apostles' Creed on page 11.

The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus*
Luke 1:68-79 *Dominus Deus*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of
 the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare
 his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

You are God *Te Deum laudamus*

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power
and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church
acclaims you;
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven
to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

A Song of Penitence *Kyrie Pantokrator*

Prayer of Manasseh, 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

Especially suitable in Lent, and on other penitential occasions

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.
All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.

O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your
gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of
those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing
all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his
lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.