

A Treasury of Communal Opening And Closing Prayers

Father Tobin started every meeting with prayer and very often a reading and reflection on Scripture -usually the upcoming Sunday gospel, then he proceeded with the business at hand. His Commentaries on the Sunday Readings although intended for Small Christian Communities have wonderful Opening and Closing Prayers that are also appropriate for ministry meetings and other gatherings that have their own intent and purpose, but where we wish never to drift too far from the essence of our work and our prayer. These prayers have been consolidated into this single resource for you.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS A OPENING PRAYERS

God of history, present, past and future, be with us as we begin our Advent journey in this new liturgical year. Make us aware of your presence in one another and in all creation. Prepare us to celebrate your birth and to anticipate your coming at the end of time. Protect us from deeds of darkness and shed your light upon us. Help us to be spiritually awake to your comings in the events and encounters of daily life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Come, Emmanuel, to us and to our world. Where there is hatred and division, bring your peace and harmony. Where there is discouragement, bring your hope. Where there is deception and falsehood, bring your truth. Come open our hearts to your Spirit. Prepare our hearts and all the people of the world for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, who is peace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, creation rejoices in the hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts for our Lord's coming and remove all the things that hinder us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow. Be with us now, Lord, as we gather to share our lives and your holy Word. Amen.

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory, and to open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. Amen.

Almighty God and Father of light, a Child is born for us and a Son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Jesus, God and man, you were born into a human family to model for us the sanctity of family life. Teach us and empower us to love our families as you love them. Show us how to reverence and respect each other, especially the aged and vulnerable members of our family. Be with us now as we gather to break open your Word. Amen.

Father, source of light in every age, the Virgin conceived and bore your Son who is called Wonderful God, Prince of Peace. May her prayer, the gift of a mother's love, be your people's joy through all ages? May her response, born of a humble heart, draw your Spirit to rest on us your people. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Light of Lights, you showed forth the light of God's love to all nations. In your coming, God's saving love is revealed from east to west. You have made us co-heirs and sharers in the promise of salvation. Illuminate our minds and hearts with your love. May we, like the Magi, always seek and search for you. Enlighten us as we contemplate your Word today. We pray in your light and in your love. Amen.

God our Creator, you offered your servant Jesus as Savior to all humankind. His coming among us opened our eyes to the light of justice, peace and salvation. By the River Jordan you anointed Jesus to carry out his mission. Anoint us now with your Holy Spirit so that we can hear the Word you are speaking to us. This we pray through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS B OPENING PRAYERS

God of light and love, thank you for gathering us together as we begin the holy season of waiting and watching for your coming. Rouse us from spiritual drowsiness and open our hearts to receive the Word you place before us. Increase our longing for your Son, Jesus. May we be flexible clay in your hands as you seek to transform us into the likeness of your Son. Amen.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS C OPENING PRAYERS

God, Giver of Life, you sent John the Baptist to prepare people for the coming of Jesus, our Savior. Open our minds and hearts so that we will be ready for his coming. Help us to identify whatever it is that might be blocking us from recognizing Jesus' presence and activity in our midst. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of History and Time, you promised a Savior who brings good news, freedom, and joy to the humble of heart. Give us a humble spirit to listen attentively to your voice, to discern your truth in all situations, and to be an instrument to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. We pray through your Holy Spirit who guides us and teaches us your ways. Amen.

Lord God, Spring of Joy, come and be with us as we gather to listen to your Word. Mary our Mother, pray for us and help us to follow your example by saying 'yes' to what God asks of us. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in faith, respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

O Light of Lights, you showed forth the light of God's love to all nations. In your coming, God's saving love is revealed from east to west. You have made us share in the promise of salvation. Illuminate our minds and hearts with your love. May we, like the Magi, always seek and search for you. Enlighten us as we contemplate your Word today. We pray in your light and in your love. Amen.

Thank you, Jesus, for gathering us together as we prepare to celebrate your baptism and the beginning of your public ministry. Open our eyes to the meaning of our baptism. Fill us with your Spirit and help us never to be afraid to be public about our commitment to you. This we pray through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

God of mercy, we gather together as sons and daughters of your promise. You gave us the prophets to show us how to hope in days of mourning. You gave us John the Baptist as a signpost to Jesus. You gave us Jesus that all the peoples of the earth might see the salvation of God. As we gather today, open our hearts to hear your word so that it can teach us and transform us in the true spirit of this season. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to our Church, the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow. For he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

Father, your eternal Word took flesh on earth when Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Help us to open our whole being to you so that your word may also take flesh in us. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

WINTER A OPENING PRAYERS

Good and gracious God, you have called each of us by name from our mother's womb, consecrated us and commissioned us to be a light to the nations. Help us to become more deeply aware and responsive to your call. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of love, thank you for gathering us together to share your holy Word. Help us to listen to these readings with a fresh mind and heart. Anoint us with your Holy Spirit so that we may have the courage to share our lives with each other and to hear the message you want us to hear. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty One, you are a God who values the humble and lowly of this world. Give us humble and open hearts to allow your Word to find a home in us. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All powerful Father, Christ your Son became man for us and was presented in the temple. May he free our hearts from sin and bring us into your presence. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus, our Brother, you came among us to show us the way to live. You call us to be the salt of the earth and a light for people living in darkness. You call us to work not for our own glory but that our actions may lead others to praise you and follow your ways. May your Holy Spirit be with us now and open our hearts to hear your Word. Amen.

Good and loving God, you created us out of love and you call us to live according to your way of love. Fill us with your heavenly wisdom as we gather together to share life and share your Word. This we pray through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Good and holy God, in our Word today, you call us to be holy. As we prepare to listen to your Word, cleanse our being of all unholy thoughts and distractions. Teach us the way of holiness. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WINTER B OPENING PRAYERS

Good and gracious God, thank you for gathering us together to share life and listen to your holy Word. Today you show us how you call out to us in the events and encounters of daily life. May we discern your call to us and respond with generosity and obedience. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, our loving Father, we gather in your name to share your holy Word. May your Spirit break open for us the true meaning of the Word we share. May your Spirit bind us together so that we may become a praying and loving small Church family. Above all, help us to become doers of your Word. We make our prayer through your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Loving and caring God, you send messengers like Moses, Paul and Jesus to speak your divine Word to us. Give us ears to hear your Word and strength to act on it. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Good and gracious God, thank you for drawing us together for fellowship and the sharing of your holy Word. Open our minds and hearts to hear the message you want to convey to us. May your Word grow strong in our hearts so that others may come to know and love you through the witness of our lives. Amen.

Good and gracious God, thank you for enabling us to gather together to listen to your holy Word and to share life and fellowship. May your Holy Spirit show each of us the message you want us to hear today. Cleanse our hearts of all that would prevent us from hearing your Word and acting on it. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WINTER C OPENING PRAYERS

We are back to ordinary time, O Lord. No fasting or feasting, just common, plain time – days drifting into nights and then dawning new days again. Ordinary time is your time to do extraordinary things, like changing water into wine, into ice and snow; tears into laughter, into hugs and kisses. Let us notice your ways of keeping ordinary time. Help us keep time with you. Amen.

“Gracious God, you have revealed your word to us. Your word is always near to us. Open our minds to hear your word, our mouths to speak your word and our hearts to cherish your word. Amen.”

Loving God, thank you for gathering us together. You formed each of us in our mother’s womb and appointed us to be your ambassador in our families and communities. May your Holy Spirit breathe upon us so that we will understand and act on the word you speak to us during our time together. Amen.

Thank you, Lord, for gathering us together to share our lives and your holy Word. Anoint us with your Holy Spirit so that each of us may hear the word you want us to hear. Unworthy though we are, may we, like Isaiah, Paul and Peter, say ‘Yes’ to your call and never be afraid to launch out into the deep. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, in your Word today, you say to us, “Blessed are those who meditate upon your Word and place their trust in you.” Bless us now, Lord, as we gather together to meditate upon your word and help us to always place our trust in you and not in the things of this world. Amen.

Merciful God, thank you for gathering us together to share life and your Word. In your Word today you challenge us to forgive all who have hurt us. Bless us with your saving mercy so that we may show mercy to all who have offended and hurt us. This we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen

Merciful God, thank you for gathering us together to share life and your Word. In your Word today you challenge us to forgive all who have hurt us. Bless us with your saving mercy so that we may show mercy to all who have offended and hurt us. This we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen

LENT A OPENING PRAYERS

Creator God, you formed the first man and woman from the clay of the earth and breathed into them the spirit of life, but they turned from you and sinned. We have also turned from you and your ways. During this Lenten season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, you call us back to you and to repent of our sins. Be with us when we face temptations. Give us the strength we need to remain faithful to you. Draw the Elect preparing to join the Church this Easter, and all of us, closer to you during this season. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving God, in today’s Gospel you call Jesus “beloved son.” Through Baptism, we are your adopted sons and daughters. May we never forget our wonderful identity in you. Fill us with your light and wisdom as we prepare to share our lives in the context of your holy Word. Lead us with the Elect and Candidates to a fuller life in you. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, you are the Living Water that brings us here today. Thank you for pouring the living waters of faith, new life and love into us at Baptism. Bless us as we journey together during this Lenten season. May Easter find us washed of sin and more ready to embrace you and your ways. Amen.

Blessed are you, God of Light, for you have opened our eyes to see your truth and to know your love. Open the eyes of our heart as we journey through Lent so that we may perceive even more clearly the signs of your love that surround us. Enlighten our minds and hearts so that we may recognize the Word you wish us to hear this week.

God of all creation, we gather together to share our lives in the context of your life-giving Word. You came that we might have life in abundance. Help us to reject sin and evil so that we might come to a fuller life in you. Open our graves to new life in your Son, Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given the human race Jesus Christ, our Savior, as a model of humility. He fulfilled your will by becoming man and giving his life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to you by following his example of suffering and make us worthy to share in his Resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

LENT B OPENING PRAYERS

God, our Father, you have chosen us to be your sons and daughters. You love us even more than Abraham loved Isaac. You cherish us as you cherish your beloved Son. Though we do not deserve it, we rejoice in your love. Help us to trust in that love and to find more ways to share your love with others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed are you, God of the Covenant. You formed Israel as your covenant people. You invite us into a new covenant of love in your Son. Help us to live always in accord with your will. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of our ancestors, we thank you for gathering us together in your name, we thank you for continuing to be patient with us when we fail to follow your ways. Help us during this Lenten journey to commit ourselves more fully to you. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of our ancestors, you have entered into a new covenant with us through the death and Resurrection of Jesus. Help us to be more faithful to our covenant relationship with you. Bless us now as we prepare to share our lives and your Word this we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father, we once again prepare to celebrate the holiest week in our Church year, the celebration of Jesus' passion, death and Resurrection. Through his blood you established a new covenant with your people. May your Holy Spirit give us new and fresh insight and appreciation of those events in your Son's life. Bring us one day to the glory of his resurrection.

LENT C OPENING PRAYERS

Good and gracious God, in today's readings you give Abraham, Peter, James and John a glimpse of your awesome nature. Open our minds and hearts to the Word you want us to hear and act upon as we gather together to pray and share your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Liberating God, thank you for gathering us together as your people to share life and your Word. Just as you revealed yourself to Moses, reveal yourself to us as we listen to your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of compassion, we rejoice in your holy Word, Jesus, who again and again offers us mercy for our sins and helps us to forgive one another. As we continue our journey to Easter, may heaven grant us the courage to change what needs to be changed in our lives and fill us with the joy that comes from experiencing you as a God of mercy. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of mercy, this week we listen to readings that powerfully speak to us of your mercy and, at the same time, call us to turn away from sin. Help us to make this message our own. Help us to always remember that while you hate and condemn sin, you always love the sinner. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus, you emptied yourself of your divinity to take on the form of a human person, humbling yourself even to death on the Cross. May this Cross be a sign for all generations of your triumph over evil, suffering, sin and death. Unite us with your passion that we may truly recognize you in our own suffering. Amen.

EASTER A OPENING PRAYERS

O Light of Lights, Risen Jesus, enter our hearts with your Good News. Enlighten our minds to understand that you have overcome death by your own dying and rising. Melt our frozen hearts with this Easter fire, that in our hearts of flesh we might come to believe that you forgive even our sins. Help us to see your presence everywhere as the first light of dawn beams upon our clouded vision. O Radiant Light, be in our midst as we gather to more clearly hear your Word of Life. Amen.

[This Easter Sunday Opening Prayer is used in all three liturgical cycles]

Risen Christ, we gather in your name to celebrate your victory over sin, evil and death. As you breathed your Spirit on those gathered in the Upper Room, breathe your Spirit on us so that we may recognize your presence in our midst and come to know you in the breaking open of your Word. Amen.

Lord Jesus, in today's Gospel you appear to two disciples who have begun to lose hope and open their eyes to what the Scriptures foretold: that you must die first and then rise and ascend into your Father's glorious presence. May you breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may recognize your presence in our breaking open your Word and follow you in your risen life. Amen.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, though your people walk in the valley of darkness, no evil should they fear, for they follow in faith the call of the Shepherd whom you have sent for their hope and strength. Attune our minds to the sound of his voice and lead our steps in the path he has shown, that we may know the strength of his outstretched arm and enjoy the light of your presence forever. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Risen Christ, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You lead us to the Father. Today, as we gather in your name, nurture us with your Word. May your Spirit breathe on us as we break open your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving God, thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit to guide us, teach us, comfort us and convict us of sin. Help us to be more aware of and responsive to your Spirit's presence and activity in our lives and in the world. May the Holy Spirit be with us now as we gather together to break open your holy Word. Amen.

God our Father, make us joyful in the Ascension of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we follow him into the new creation, for his Ascension is our glory and our hope. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful gathered in your name. Enkindle in us the fire of your divine love. Allow your dormant gifts within us to manifest themselves in our lives so that all will know your presence and activity in our lives. Amen.

EASTER B OPENING PRAYERS

Holy Spirit, we thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Fill us with the same fervor that empowered Peter to proclaim Jesus and his message. Just as you opened the eyes of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, open our eyes to recognize your holy presence in our midst. Amen.

God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, though your people walk in the valley of darkness, no evil should they fear, for they follow in faith the call of the Shepherd whom you have sent for their hope and strength. Attune our minds to the sound of his voice and lead our steps in the path he has shown, that we may know the strength of his outstretched arm and enjoy the light of your presence forever. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

Christ our Vine, we gather in your name so that we may grow in our understanding of and love for your Word, and bear fruit in your name. Prune and remove all sin doubt, and clutter from our lives. Help us, like St. Paul, to boldly proclaim our faith in you. Amen.

God, in today's first reading, you pour out your Spirit on the Gentiles and remind believers of the command to give and receive your love. Open our hearts as we gather in your name and pour out on us your Holy Spirit and fill us with your love. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EASTER C OPENING PRAYERS

Risen Christ, we rejoice in your presence and in your offer of new life. May we never be afraid to speak in your name and may we willingly share in our Church's mission to feed all those who are hungry for your Word. Open our hearts to the message of the readings we are about to share. Amen.

Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd who calls each of us by name. You lead us to the rich pastures of your Word. Open our hearts today that we may hear the Word you wish us to hear as we gather in your name, this we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, during this Easter season we celebrate the new life you gained from your death and Resurrection. Help us to open our hearts more and more to your gift of new life. Bless our sharing of your Holy Word. Amen.

Spirit of Peace, dwell with us as we gather in your name. You have been sent to be our counselor, comforter and strength. You are the divine guide for our Church. Light a fire of love in our hearts that we may become signs of peace in our world. Amen.

SUMMER I A OPENING PRAYERS

Father, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Through them we come to enter into the mystery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you living among us in the sacrament of your Body and Blood. May we offer to our Father in heaven a solemn pledge of undivided love. May we offer to our brothers and sisters a life poured out in loving service of that Kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving God, thank you for gathering us together to share your Word and our lives. When fear, betrayal and threats of any kind enter across our path, help us to turn to you and believe that with your help, we can fight any battle. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving and caring God, you welcome us as we gather in your name to share life and your Word. Just as the woman in the first reading welcomed the prophet, may we always welcome your Word and allow it to be the light that guides our lives.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, you invite us to come to you when we are weary and find life burdensome. You do not promise to remove our burdens, but you do promise to help us carry them and to give us refreshment when we are tired. Be with us today as we share your Word. Bless us with your wisdom and discernment so that we may know the message you have for us. Amen.

Lord of the Harvest, you send your Word into our hearts, Church, and world so that it may provide fruit in our lives. Open our sluggish hearts to receive your Word. May our sharing of your Word this day lead us to live more fully in your light. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving and caring God, thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Send your Holy Spirit into our midst so that we may hear the message you want us to hear in these readings. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All wise and loving God, you bless us with a share of your divine wisdom and life. May we always have the wisdom to choose you above all things. Grace us now with the wisdom and heart to hear and respond to the Word you place before us today. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen

SUMMER I B OPENING PRAYERS

God of all ages, you are all loving, slow to anger and rich in kindness. We praise you for your goodness. You are the Creator and Sustainer of our lives. You are our Savior. We honor you for your total gift of self. You are the Spirit of life, forgiveness, and peace. We delight in your tender love. One God in three persons, be near to us who are formed in your image. Dwell in us. We ask this, gracious God, living and true, forever and ever. Amen.

Loving and nourishing God, we gather together to contemplate the great gift of the Holy Eucharist. Open our eyes to the holy presence of Jesus in our eucharistic celebrations, and now open our minds and hearts to the message you wish to convey to us in the Scriptures we are about to share. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, let your Scriptures be my chaste delight. O Lord, perfect me and reveal those pages to me! See, your voice is my joy. Give me what I love. May the inner secrets of your words be laid open to me when I knock. This I beg by our Lord Jesus Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. These are the treasures I seek in your books. (St. Augustine)

Loving and powerful God, you are the Rock in the storms of our lives. Your love is always with us, no matter what we face. Deepen our faith in your presence and love. Turn us toward you when we attempt to rely on ourselves. Open our hearts to the Word you want us to hear today. This we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jesus, thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Open our minds and hearts to hear and understand your Word for us today. Help us to see your presence in the midst of sickness, suffering, destruction and death. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, help us to be alert to the presence of your Spirit as we seek to discern your message for us in today's Word. Help us to recognize the true prophets in our midst and may we not be led astray by the false ones. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus, we gather in your name to listen to your Word. You have called us and commissioned us to be your agents in the world. Help us to be faithful witnesses no matter what the cost. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Good Shepherd, we are the people whom you have gathered beside restful waters so that we can listen to your Word and allow it to penetrate our minds, hearts and deeds. Bless our sharing today and keep us close to your heart. Amen.

God our Father, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendor of creation and in our daily lives. Touched by your hand, our world is holy. Help us to cherish and share the gifts and blessings that surround us. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUMMER I C OPENING PRAYERS

Jesus, in today's Gospel you begin your journey to Jerusalem where death awaits you. Give us the courage to follow you and trust you in all things. May your Holy Spirit be with us as we share life and your Word. Amen.

Caring God, in our first reading today you are imaged as a caring mother comforting her children. As we gather today to share your Word, may we experience your motherly care for us. This we pray through Christ the Lord of the Harvest. Amen.

Loving God, we gather once again to share life in the context of your holy Word. Today, you tell us that your Word is very near to us, in our mouths and in our hearts. Reveal to us the word you want us to hear this day. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you, Lord, for gathering us together to share life in the context of listening to your Word. Help us to grow in the grace and ministry of hospitality. Help us to listen well to your Word and to always be ready to extend hospitality especially to the stranger and to the person in need.

Father in heaven, Lord of the earth, we humbly place ourselves in your holy presence. In our readings today you teach us about prayer. Help us to be good students and help us especially to pray well. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving and caring God, all riches come from your generous hands. You give them to us so that we can enjoy the good things of this world and generously share them with those who are less fortunate. May we now generously share ourselves with each other as we break open your Word in our midst. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUMMER II A OPENING PRAYERS

Good and gracious God, you invite us to feast on your Word and to come to your table so that we can be nourished by you. May your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts as we gather for this breaking open of your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of Creation, you make yourself known to us in the gentle breezes and storms of life. You come to reassure us of your saving presence and care for us. Be with us now as we gather to share life and break open your Holy Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of all creation, in your Word today you tell us that all people are invited to your house of worship. With you there are no outsiders. Open our hearts to a spirit of hospitality to all people of good will. Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us as we gather to share life and your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of Creation, you have placed certain persons in roles of authority in our world, Church and homes. Give these brothers and sisters wise and understanding hearts that they may guide us well. Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us as we gather to share life and your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving and challenging God, in today's readings you place before us the challenge of carrying the Cross so that we can become more like you. Help us to find meaning in the crosses of daily life. Breathe your Spirit upon us as we share life and your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving God, you created us for a relationship with you. When we stray from you, you call us back. When our brothers and sisters begin to follow a sinful lifestyle, you call us to help them see their erring ways. Give us the wisdom and courage to help each other to follow your ways. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Merciful God, in today's readings, you challenge us to forgive life's hurts and not bottle them up in our heart. You forgive us over and over. Help us to offer the same forgiveness to others. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving God, we gather together to share life and to seek your ways which are always beyond what we can understand. May your Holy Spirit breathe upon us as we reflect on the Word you place before us today. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUMMER II B OPENING PRAYERS

Lord God, you provided food from heaven for the grumbling Israelites and you give us Jesus to nourish our souls. May our sharing of your Word today bless us and nourish our relationship with you and each other. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed are you, O God, who has given us the bread of your Word to nourish our minds, and the bread of your Eucharist to nourish our souls. Be with us as we break open your Word. May your Spirit enlighten our minds and help us not only to be hearers of your Word, but also doers of your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving Father, thank you for gathering us together to prepare for the special feast of Mary. In your divine plan, she who bore your Son in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow Mary's example of obedient love and one day find ourselves joining her in heaven. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Jesus, we once again gather in your name to share your Word. In the readings today, people are asked to decide for you. May we always say a strong "No" to other gods and proclaim a strong "Yes" to you and your ways. Nourish us now with the bread of your Word. Amen.

Loving God, we thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Help us to humbly welcome your Word that you have planted in our hearts. Help us also to be doers of your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving and caring God, thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Help us to humbly welcome the Word you speak to us today. Remove our fears so that we may be free to serve you with our whole heart. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving and caring Father, thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Teach us your ways and give us the strength to embrace the cross when it becomes our path. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving God, in today's Word you teach us that an important part of true discipleship involves humble trust in you and a willingness to serve others. As we reflect on your Word together, deepen our love for you and each other. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father, thank you for gathering us together to share life and your Word. Open our minds and hearts to hear the Word you want us to take with us today. Open our hearts to the surprising ways of your Spirit. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUMMER II C OPENING PRAYERS

Lord, in your Word today you place before us the faith of Abraham and Sarah. They placed their trust in you when it was difficult to do so. Help us to also place our trust in you. May your Holy Spirit breathe on us as we share life and share your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FALL A OPENING PRAYERS

Jesus, we are gathered in your name to share life and to share our reflections on your Word. May your Holy Spirit purify our minds and hearts of anything that will hinder us from hearing the message you want us to hear. Amen.

Lord, your desire is for all people to be saved. Help us to open our hearts to your saving grace and to the Word you have placed before us today. Amen.

Lord God, your creation reveals the magnitude of your love for us. We thank you for our lives and for the gift of your love made known to us through our brothers and sisters. Teach us humility and gratitude as we come before you and help us now to receive the message you wish us to hear in today's readings. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving and all-wise God, you call us together to listen to your Word and share life. Fill us with your holy wisdom so that we may comprehend your Word, and fill us with love so that we may follow your ways no matter what the cost. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, we thank you and praise you for gathering us together to share life and your Word. In today's readings, you reveal yourself to be a God of mercy. Help us always to celebrate your mercy. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father, we come into your loving presence to share life and your Word. Grant us wisdom and courage when we are confronted with crisis situations in our lives. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Thank you, Lord, for gathering us together. Today, you speak a strong Word to us about responding to the needs of the poor. Grant us a portion of your compassion for the hurting members of society. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of mercy, lead us on your path of goodness. Enlighten our minds so that we may come to know your truth and guide our footsteps in the way of righteousness. Be with us as we gather to break open your holy Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus, we gather in your name to share our lives and your Word. We thank you for this opportunity. Breathe your Spirit on us so that we may know the message you have for each of us today. Amen.

Good and gracious God, you lavish us with your Word and bless us with your presence. Be with us now as we gather to share life and break open your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord of the Universe, we gather in your name to share your Word. Open us that we might believe in you more fully. Mold us that we might place our hope in you even in difficult times. Melt our hearts that we might love all that you have created. In the name of Jesus who has redeemed us, we pray. Amen.

Loving and compassionate God, today you place before us the Great Commandment of Love. You call us to love the stranger and people at risk in our society. Fill us with your love for all people and breathe your Spirit upon us as we gather to share life and your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, we praise you today for setting before us the witness of so many holy men and women who have gone before us in the faith, and who have modeled for us the ways of Jesus. As we break open your Word, may your Holy Spirit be with us to guide us in our sharing. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, in today's Gospel, you call us to be always ready for your coming. Help us to develop a spirit of vigilance. Be with us as we share our lives and listen to your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving God, in your Word today, you call us to be wise and industrious stewards of all that you have placed in our care. Help us to develop and utilize all that you have given us to bless the communities we belong to. Breathe your Spirit upon us as we gather to share life in your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, our good Shepherd and King, rescue us from the power of sin and heal our wounds. Instruct us in your ways and guide us as we journey in faith and love. Let your coming at the end of time be an occasion of rejoicing for each of us as we strive to live out your Great Commandment of Love. Amen.

FALL B OPENING PRAYERS

Loving Creator, you created men and women to be your partners in creation and to love one another. Teach us how to live in harmony with each other. Free us from all hardness of heart that blocks us from understanding and embracing your ways. This we pray through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

God of Wisdom, pour out your spirit of wisdom upon us as we gather to share your word. Help us to value you above all things. Open our eyes to see the "one thing" that prevents us from having a closer relationship with you. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving God, you ask us to believe that in accepting the Cross, we will come closer to you. Help us to understand the mystery of the Cross through the example of Jesus. Speak your word to our hearts as we reflect and pray together during this time. We ask this through Jesus who obediently took up his Cross for our redemption. Amen.

God of Light, in today's Gospel you restore sight and light to the blind man, Bartimaeus. As we gather in your name, heal the blindness in our hearts. Give us a clearer vision to see you and your ways. Open our hearts now to hear your word and help us to respond to it with generosity. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving and providing God, we give you thanks for harvest blessings. You give us food to nourish our bodies and give us your Word to nourish our souls. Open our minds and hearts so we can hear your word for us today. Teach us how to walk the path of love. Amen.

Loving and gracious Lord, thank you for gathering us together. Bless our time together and open our minds and hearts to hear the Word you want us to hear in this time of faith-sharing and fellowship. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of creation and history, you created all things to be fulfilled and brought to completion at the end of time. Make our hearts ready to greet you in glory in the fullness of time. Let your coming in glory be a time of rejoicing for each of us. Break open the meaning of your Holy Word as we share it together this day. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christ our King, you are the Ancient One promised from the beginning. Your earthly coming and Death on the Cross freed us from sin and made of us a royal nation in the service of God. Your Kingdom is an everlasting reign, steadfast and glorious. For you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. You will come on a throne of glory and power to judge the living and the dead at the end of time. May the power of your kingship over the cosmos deeply touch our hearts today as we probe your word of life. Amen.

FALL C OPENING PRAYERS

Loving and caring God, we gather in your name. We thank you for the grace that moves us to say 'yes' to your call to come together to break open your holy Word. Open our minds and hearts to hear the message you want us to hear this week. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Loving God, as we gather today, we give you thanks for the many blessings you have bestowed on us. Help us to develop an attitude of gratitude and to never take your blessings for granted. Open our minds and hearts to the message you want us to hear in your Word this day. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, thank you for gathering us together. In your Word today, you speak to us about the importance of persevering in our prayers of petitions and intercession. Teach each of us how to be prayer warriors before your holy throne. Grant us your Spirit so that we may hear the message you have for us today. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you, good and caring God, for gathering us together once more to share life and your Word. May our prayer and sharing help us to grow in sensitivity and responsiveness to those in need of our compassion. Amen.

Loving and merciful God, thank you for gathering us together to share life in the context of your Eternal Word. Today, your Word speaks to us about your wondrous mercy. Help each of us to internalize this message in the deepest core of our being, and to share it with all who have offended us. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All good and gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared a place for us in heaven. Bless us who gather this day to give you thanks for his Resurrection, and bestow on us the gift that someday we may praise you with all the angels and saints in that glorious state called Heaven, where Jesus lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

God, all-powerful and ever-living source of all that is good, from the beginning of time, you promised your people salvation through the future coming of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to drink of his truth and expand our hearts with the joy of his promises, so that we may serve you in faith and in love and know forever the joy of your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father, all-powerful God of love, you have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from death to life, resplendent in glory as King of Creation. Open our hearts, free all the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, to live in his love. Bring all mankind together in Jesus Christ your Son, whose kingdom is with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

ADVENT A CLOSING PRAYERS

*Father in heaven,
our hearts desire the warmth of your love
and our minds are searching for the light
of your Word.*

*Increase our longing for Christ our Savior
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming
may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.*

*Emmanuel, you have come into our world
through people like Mary, Joseph, and Paul,
and have made God's presence known
through prophets like Isaiah.
Make my life a sign of the power of your love
that invites others to faith and trust that
God is with us still.
Amen.*

*Heavenly Father,
today we celebrate the birth
your only son
Help me, to love your more
by bringing Jesus into a world
crying out for the joy and
peace and love that only Christ can give.
Amen*

Prayer for Family Unity

*Lord Jesus, with Mary and Joseph,
you lived in a family;
Teach me to appreciate the gift
of being part of a family.
Show me ever new ways of protecting
and comforting those closest to me;
and, each day, let me do something
that will say 'I love you'
without speaking those words.
Let me never part from any of my family in anger;
prompt me always to turn back without delay to
forgive and to be forgiven.
Let me see your image in my family,
in each of them, and in my larger family too,
knowing that, in your kingdom,
we will be truly one family,
united by your sacrifice on the cross.
Amen.*

Prayer to Our Blessed Mother

*Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of Mercy,
since Jesus from the Cross gave you to me,
I take you as my own.
And since Jesus gave me to you,
take me as your own.*

*Make me docile like Jesus on the Cross, obedient to
the Father, trusting in humility and in love.*

*Mary, my Mother,
in imitation of the Father who gave
his Son to you, I too give my all to you;
to you I entrust all that I am,
all that I have and all that I do.*

*Help me to surrender ever more
fully to the Spirit.
Lead me deeper into the Mystery of the Cross,
and the fullness of Church.*

*As you formed the heart of Jesus by the Spirit, form
my heart to be the throne of Jesus in his glorious
coming.*

Amen

*Lord Jesus,
you continue to come into the world as light
that pushes back the darkness.
Continue to enlighten our minds and hearts, opening
them to receive you in whatever
way you come to us.
Help us to find you in our daily lives by removing
whatever prevents our seeing your light.*

Amen

*When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When shepherds are back with their flocks
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the captives
To rebuild nations
To bring peace among peoples
To make music in the heart.*

- Howard Thurman

*God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the creator of all of us.*

We are your handiwork.

*Fill me with an awareness of your Holy Spirit
that I might see all people the way you do.
Empower me to follow the example of your Son
and servant, Jesus Christ.*

Amen.

ADVENT B CLOSING PRAYERS

*God, you are the Potter,
we are clay in your hands.*

Hold us gently and firmly.

Mold us into your image and likeness.

*Help us to be more aware
of your presence in our midst.*

This we pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Caring and loving God,
you sent Isaiah to comfort
a people who had lost hope.*

*Help us to be signs of hope
for all we meet this week.*

This we pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*God of joy,
fill our hearts with joy.*

*Help us to be grateful in
all circumstances.*

*Help us to bring your light
to the world.*

Amen.

*Come and dwell among us, O Lord,
as we wait to celebrate the moment
when your Word became flesh.*

*Help us to sense your presence this
Christmas and to witness to it
when we get the opportunity.*

Amen.

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.*

*Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my work, too, may be holy.*

*Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
that I may love but what is holy.*

*Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
to defend all that is holy.*

*Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
that I always may be holy.*

Amen.

- St. Augustine

ADVENT C CLOSING PRAYERS

*Lord, awaken us to your love
and grant us your salvation,
so we might bring new life to our world
by what we say and do.*

*Bless this new year of grace,
and may our call to holiness alert the
world to your transforming power.*

In Jesus' name.

Amen

*God who comes,
help us hear your call to prepare
for you to come into our lives.
May this holy season set our hearts afire
with the desire to put on the garments of truth
and loving kindness so your light and love
may come more fully into our world.*

Amen

*O God, who created all things
and who sent Jesus to be with us until
the end of our days,
hear our prayer this day that we may
know the joy of the risen Lord.*

*Give us an awareness that the
Lord is indeed near,
and send the peace that surpasses
all understanding into our hearts.*

Amen

*Beloved God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
help us in these final hours of Advent
to set aside anything that prevents us
from entering into the joy befitting
the birth of your Son.
Send us that same Spirit
that came upon Elizabeth,
filling her heart and soul
with such great joy.*

Amen

*Loving Father, you have created all who have
ever lived in your image and likeness.
Help us to recognize all others as our brothers
and sisters and to honor, respect,
forgive, and love them as your children.
Together, enable us to bring your peace and justice,
healing and reconciliation to our world.*

Amen

WINTER A CLOSING PRAYERS

*Loving God,
You formed me in my mother's womb,
and in Baptism anointed me to be your servant.
May I respond to your love each day
by the ways in which I seek your will
and then live it, even when that is difficult.
Amen.*

*Generous God,
I want to believe that I will see
your bounty in the land of the living,
both in heaven and here on earth.
Give me courage
not only to see your light
but also to become your light
that brings rejoicing, peace,
and hope to our world.
Amen.*

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for
the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you
and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you
falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven."*

Matthew 5:2-12

*God of glory
on this day of presentation,
we present ourselves to you.
Purify us to become more holy.
We see in others what beauty
a lifetime of grace can create.
We want to be like that.
Lead us in your everlasting way.
Amen.*

*Jesus, you call us to be salt and light
to the world.
Help us to not lose our flavor
nor allow us to hide our light.
Help us daily to give glory
to your heavenly Father.
Amen.*

*Instruct us, O Lord, in your ways.
Free us to seek you,
even when you ask from us
more than we think we are able to give.
Help us to be an example
that invites others to you
rather than leads them away.
Amen*

*Holy God,
You call us to be holy for you are holy.
Holiness means we live the way of Jesus.
This comforts us at times,
and challenges us deeply at other times.
Open my mind and heart to your Spirit within
so that my struggle to walk Jesus' talk
can make what seems impossible possible
and worth the effort.
Amen.*

WINTER B CLOSING PRAYERS

*Inviting God,
You have called us to follow your son,
Jesus Christ, and to live as temples of your
Holy Spirit.
Help us to hear the voice of Jesus today,
reflect upon it,
and then give us the courage
to act upon what we hear.
Amen.*

*Merciful God,
You call us to daily conversion
to your ways of seeing and doing things.
Help us to notice your call.
Help us to overcome any resistance
we may have to your call.
Help us also to overcome any fear
we may have of sharing
our faith with others.
This we pray through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.*

*Father, you have given us Jesus
to show us your face in our daily lives.
Open our eyes to the familiar and surprising ways
that he heals us and empowers us each day.
May your Holy Spirit help us to expel
all that is evil and impure in our lives,
all that is opposed to you and your ways.
This we pray through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.*

*Merciful God,
there are some times when we feel like Job,
when we wonder what is the meaning
and purpose of our lives here on earth.
Help us and others to know
that you are always close to us
even when we do not feel your presence.
Help us to be a healing presence for others.
This we pray through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.*

*God of all people,
remind us that your love knows no boundaries.
You love the outcasts and the oppressed
with a love that is fierce
in its protection and grace.
When our lives get too comfortable,
nudge us into going beyond
our own boundaries,
bringing outsiders into the warmth
of our communities.
This we pray through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.*

WINTER C CLOSING PRAYERS

*Lord God,
you have given us your revealed word as
spiritual food to nourish your people,
and to strengthen your church as the
Body of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we recognize and partake of this food
when we gather at the table of the Word.
Amen*

Prayer of Spouses for Each Other

Lord Jesus, grant that I and my spouse may have a true and understanding love for each other.

Grant that we may both be filled with faith and trust.

Give us the grace to live with each other in peace and harmony.

May we always bear with one another's weaknesses and grow from each other's strengths.

Help us to forgive one another's failings and grant us patience, kindness, cheerfulness, and the spirit of placing the well-being of one another ahead of self.

May the love that brought us together grow and mature with each passing year. Amen.

From Treasury of Prayers by
Father Eamon Tobin

*Source of love and life,
you have called us to be your instruments
from the moment of our existence.
Give us a prophet's courage and a disciple's
ability to love, even when living the words
and ways of Jesus is difficult.
Help us remember that you are always with us
so that we can do unto others as you do
unto us – love without end.*

Amen

*O Holy God,
we pray that we may be open
to recognizing your holy presence wherever
and however you show yourself to us.
Do not let fear of our unworthiness prevent us
from responding to your invitation to serve you
in whatever way you ask.
Amen*

*Ever-loving God,
you promise to be with us at
all times and in all places.*

*In times of blessing, help us give thanks
by sharing that blessing with others.*

*In times of woe, help us remember to turn to you,
refresh the waters of Baptism in which we are
planted, and live with Resurrection hope.*

Amen

*Merciful God,
how many times have you forgiven me
when I have sinned or taken me back
when I have turned away from you?*

*Thank you for the many ways in
which you love me.*

*Help me learn how to love others
the way that you love me:
unconditionally, compassionately,
kindly, and with great mercy.*

*Help me learn how to do unto others
as you do unto me each day.*

See Fr. Tobin's book *How to Forgive Yourself & Others*,
Liguori Publications.

*Holy God,
you have spoken your Word to us in the life,
death and resurrection of your Son,
Jesus Christ.
Help me learn from his use of words
to remove whatever blinds me or keeps me
self-centered and to see as you see in order to
produce the fruit of healing and life-giving love that
Jesus speaks to us.
Amen*

LENT A CLOSING PRAYERS

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

*Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.*

*Be our defense against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.*

*May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.*

Amen.

*Holy God, Baptism has made us
your beloved daughters and sons.*

*Free us to answer your call
wherever it leads.*

*Help us to put our trust in you
on the peaks and in the valleys of life.*

Amen.

*Blessed are you, God of all life,
we praise you for the water of life you offer us.
Scrutinize us, heal us, and strengthen us
along with the Elect.*

*We make our prayer through your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Amen.

*Jesus, who heals all ills,
open my eyes to see as you see.*

*Fill me with your light
so that I choose to see your goodness
in others, the world, and myself.*

*Heal the self-righteousness
that keeps me blind.*

Amen.

With Jesus, we pray:

*Father, we thank you for hearing us.
Help us to go to the tombs in our lives
so your Spirit can open our graves
and raise us from them.*

Amen.

*Lord, as we enter this most sacred week
of our Church year,
give us new eyes to see what great love
you have for us.*

*May your example of laying down your life
inspire us to lay down our lives
for all we are called to serve.*

Amen.

LENT B CLOSING PRAYERS

*Blessed are you, God of Creation,
for you have placed us in a world of wonders
and then sent your Son to redeem us
and teach us your wisdom.*

Help us to use your gifts as you intend.

*Draw the Elect and all of us closer
to you in this holy season.*

*We make our prayer
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Blessed are you, God of Abraham.
You called him to serve you obediently.
Give us the courage to respond
as wholeheartedly as he did.*

*May we always listen to your beloved Son
and be obedient to your will.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

*Lord Jesus, you cleansed the Temple
so that it would be dedicated to worship.
Cleanse our hearts that we might
be dedicated to you.*

*We ask this of you who live and reign
with the Father and the Spirit forever.
Amen.*

*Thank you, God of love,
for loving us so much
that you sent your Son to save us.
Free us from any tendencies we have
toward believing we must earn our salvation.*

*Help us to cooperate with your grace.
This we pray through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

*Blessed are you, Father of Jesus,
for you have brought us into the new covenant.
You have made us brothers and sisters
of Jesus and of one another.
Help us always to live in your love.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

*Merciful God, You call us to follow your son,
Jesus Christ, and to live as his disciples.
Help us to hear the voice of Jesus today
and like him surrender to your will.
Give us the courage to act upon what
we hear no matter the cost.
Amen.*

*Blessed are you, Father
for raising your beloved Son, Jesus,
from the dead and bringing us to faith
in his saving death and Resurrection.
Give us a taste of the joy
that filled the hearts of the first disciples
and help us to trust in the life
that is promised through faith in him.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.*

LENT C CLOSING PRAYERS

*Lord Jesus,
as you had the help of the Spirit
to turn aside from the temptations that came
to you during the time in the desert
and the years of your ministry,
help us to turn to this same Spirit
to help us in our efforts to grow in faith,
hope and charity this Lent.
Amen*

When I Ask You to Listen

When I ask you to listen to me
and you start giving advice,
you have not done what I asked.
When I ask you to listen to me,
and you begin to tell me
that I shouldn't feel that way,

you are trampling on my feelings.
When I ask you to listen to me,
and you feel that you have something
to solve my problem,
then you have failed me,
strange as that may seem.
Listen! All I ask is that you listen,
not talk, not do; just hear me.
Advice is cheap,
and I can do things for myself.
I'm not helpless,
you contribute to my fear and weakness.
But when you accept as a simple fact
that I do feel what I feel,
no matter how irrational,
then I can stop trying to convince you,
and get on with the business of understanding
what's behind my feelings.
Perhaps that's why prayer works,
sometime, for some people,
because God is quiet,
and He doesn't give advice or try to fix things.
He just listens and lets you work it out for yourself.
So please listen and just hear me.
And if you want to talk,
wait a minute for your turn,
and I'll listen to you.

Anonymous

AN IRISH TOAST

May you have many friends
and may they be as mature in taste
and health and color
and sought after as the contents of this glass.
May you have warm words on cold evenings,
a full moon on a dark night,
and the road downhill all the way to your door.
May every hair on your head turn into a candle
to light your way to heaven.
And may God and his holy Mother
take the harm of the years away from you.
And...may you have no frost on your spuds,
no worms on your cabbage;
may your goat give plenty of milk,
and if you buy a donkey,
please, God, she be pregnant!

*I am grateful that you are kind
and merciful, dear Lord.
Too often, I am more aware of my sins
than my goodness.*

*Help me to see all people the way
that you see us.*

*As you led your people out of slavery,
lead me out of my slavery to sin.*

*Through Jesus, your kindness and mercy
have been given flesh.*

*Open my arms to receive it and give thanks
by being kind and merciful to all,
person at a time.*

Amen

*Loving Lord, when we look at the Cross,
we see the love of the Father embodied in your
saving death for our salvation.*

*Because of your death and Resurrection,
we are part of a new creation, reconciled to the
Father. Make us your worthy ambassadors,
able to embody your merciful love.*

Amen

*Lord Jesus,
if we did not know you,
where would we be?
What would we be like?
What would we become?
What would we be seeking,
pursuing, hungering for?
What would we hope for?
You came as a light into the
darkness of the world,
a light that the darkness
has not overcome. Amen*

*Passionate God,
your unconditional love and concern for us
is made clear in the birth, death,
and Resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Help me walk the way of the Cross
with him this week.*

*Teach me to pray with renewed sincerity
and depth, "Thy will be done."*

Amen

*Blessed are you, Father,
for raising your beloved Son, Jesus,
from the dead and bringing us to faith
in his saving death and Resurrection.
Give us a taste of the joy that filled the hearts of
the first disciples, and help us to trust in the life
that is promised through faith in him. Amen.*

EASTER A CLOSING PRAYERS

*Blessed are you, Father,
for raising your beloved Son Jesus
from the dead and bringing us to faith
in his saving death and Resurrection.
Give us a taste of the joy
that filled the hearts of the first disciples,
and help us to trust in the life
that is promised through faith in him.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.*

Prayers for Priests and for Vocations

*Jesus, good and gentle Shepherd,
I thank you for the men
who have heard and responded
to your call to priesthood.
Place in their hearts a deep desire
to love and serve you and the people
you have placed in their care.
May their word to us be your Word.
And may we hear and act on your Word.*

*Protect and guard your priests
from false and sinful ways.*

Keep them in your truth.

Help them to grow in holiness.

*Help us, your people, to love and
support your priests by word and deed.*

*Lord of the harvest, may all those whom
you are calling to the priesthood and
religious life hear and answer your call.
Show us, as a parish, ways to foster vocations.*

*Jesus, bless all Vocations Directors;
help them to discover effective ways
to call men and women
to the priesthood and religious life.*

Amen.

*Jesus,
breathe on us your Holy Spirit
so that we can live our lives more like you
and be filled with your peace, joy and mercy.
Amen.*

*Jesus,
walk with us in the journey of life.
Make our hearts burn with a
sense of your presence.
Help us to be zealous messengers
of your love and mercy.
Amen.*

*Jesus,
You are the Way, the Truth and the Life.
Help us daily to be a little more aware
of this great belief.
Thank you preparing a permanent place
for us in Heaven.
Amen.*

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
that I always may be holy.
Amen.*

- St. Augustine

*Jesus,
Thank you for your promise
to be with us at all time until
the end of the world.
May your presence help us in our baptismal call
to make disciples of all nations.
Amen.*

Breathe On Me, O God
*Breathe on me, breath of God,
Fill me with the life anew,
That I may love the things you love,
And do what you would do.
Breathe on me, breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with you I have one will,
To live and to endure.
Breathe on me, breath of god,
My soul with grace refine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with your fire divine.
Breathe on me, breath of God,
So I shall never die,
But live with you the perfect life
In your eternity.*

-Liturgy of the Hours

EASTER B CLOSING PRAYERS

Prayer for God's Mercy

Almighty Lord God,
Your glory cannot be approached,
Your compassion knows no bounds,
Your love for all mankind
is beyond human expression.
In your mercy look on us
and on all your people;
Do not leave us to our sins,
But deal with us according
to your goodness.
Guide us to the haven of your will,
And make us truly obedient
to your commandments,
so that we may
not feel ashamed when we come
before your judgment seat.
For you, God, are good and ever-loving.
We glorify you, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit,
Now and forever, to the ages of ages. Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

Heavenly Father, I come before you as your child,
in need of your help.

Many of my problems have been caused
by my own failure, neglect and
sinfulness, for which I humbly beg
your forgiveness.

I also ask you to forgive the sins of my
ancestors whose failures have
left their effects on me in the form of
unwanted tendencies, behavior patterns
and defects in body, mind and spirit.
Heal me, Lord, of all these disorders.

With your help I forgive all who have hurt me,
especially living or dead members of my
family tree, who have directly offended me
or my loved ones in any way,
or those whose sins have resulted in
our present sufferings and disorders.

In the name of your divine Son, Jesus,
and in the power of his Holy Spirit,

I ask you, Father, to deliver me and my entire family
tree from the influence of the evil one.

Free all living and dead members of my family tree,
including those in adoptive relationships,
and those in extended family relationships,
from every contaminating form

of bondage. By your loving concern for us,
Heavenly Father, and by the shed blood
of your precious son, Jesus,

I beg you to extend your blessing to me and
to all my living and deceased relatives.

Heal every negative effect transmitted through all
past generations, and prevent
such negative effects in future generations
of my family tree.

I symbolically place the cross of Jesus over
the head of each person in my
family tree, and between each generation;

I ask you to let the cleansing blood of Jesus purify
the bloodlines in my family lineage.

Set your protective angels to encamp around us, and
permit Archangel Raphael,
the patron of healing, to administer your divine
healing power to all of us,
even in areas of genetic disability.

Give special power to our family members' guardian
angels to heal, protect, guide
and encourage each of us in all our needs.
Let your healing power be released at this
very moment, and let it continue as long as
your sovereignty permits.

In our Family Tree, Lord, replace all bondage with a
holy bonding in family love.

And let there be an ever-deeper bonding with you,
Lord, by the Holy Spirit, to your son, Jesus.

Let the family of the Holy Trinity pervade our
family with its tender, warm,

loving presence, so that our family may recognize
and manifest that love in
all our relationships.

All of our unknown needs we include
with this petition that we pray in
Jesus' precious Name. Amen

Rev. John H. Hampsch, CMF

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

When Fearful

Lord, we ask you to deliver us from fear
of the unknown future:
from fear of failure; from fear of poverty;
from fear of bereavement;
from fear of loneliness;
from fear of sickness and pain;
from fear of age; and from fear of death.

Help us, Father, by your grace
to love you above all, and to fear nothing.

Fill our hearts with cheerful courage
and loving trust in you;
Through our Lord and Master,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

For Guidance

Lord, take me where you want me to go;
Let me meet who you want me to meet;
Tell me what you want me to say,
and keep me out of your way.
Father Mychal Judge

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

PRAYER OF LOVE

I love you, O my God,
and my only desire is to love you
until the last breath of my life.
I love you, O my infinitely lovable God,
and I would rather die loving you,
than live without loving you.
I love you, Lord,
and the only grace I ask is
to love you eternally.
My God, if my tongue cannot
say in every moment that I love you,
I want my heart to repeat it to you
as often as I draw breath. Amen
St. John Vianney

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

I HAVE A MISSION

God has created me
To do Him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me
Which He has not committed to another.
I HAVE A MISSION
I may never know it in this life
But I shall be told it in the next
I AM A LINK IN A CHAIN
A bond of connection between persons
He has not created me for naught
I shall do good - I shall do his work
I shall be an angel of peace
A preacher of truth in my own place
While not intending it

If I do but keep his commandments
THEREFORE I WILL TRUST HIM

Whatever I am,
I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness,
my sickness may serve Him.
In perplexity,
my perplexity may serve Him.
If I am in sorrow,
my sorrow may serve Him.
HE DOES NOTHING IN VAIN
He knows what he is about
He may take away my friends
He may throw me among strangers
He may make me feel desolate
Make my spirits sink
Hide my future from me—still
HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS ABOUT.

John Cardinal Newman

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

EASTER C CLOSING PRAYERS

*Blessed are you, Father, for raising your beloved
Son Jesus from the dead and bringing us to faith
in his saving death and Resurrection.*

*Give us a taste of the joy that filled the hearts
of the first disciples, and help us to trust in the
life that is promised through faith in him.*

Amen.

*Almighty Lord God,
your glory cannot be approached,
your compassion knows no bounds,
your love for all mankind
is beyond human expression.
In your mercy look on us and on all your people;
do not leave us to our sins,
but deal with us according to your goodness.
Guide us to the haven of your will,
and make us truly obedient to your
commandments, so that we may not feel ashamed
when we come before your judgment seat.*

*For you, God, are good and ever-loving.
We glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and forever, to the ages of ages.
Amen.*

PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION

*God of truth,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
hear our prayer for those
who do not know you
so that your name may be praised
among all people of the world.
Sustain and inspire your servants
who bring them the Gospel.
Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith;
sustain our faith when it is still fragile.
Renew our missionary zeal.
Make us witnesses to your goodness,
full of love, of strength, and of faith,
for your glory and for the salvation
of the world. Amen.*

- Pope Paul IV

*Loving God,
you became one with us
that we might become one with you
and with one another.
May your love for us
made uniquely visible in Jesus,
teach us how to love one another
as he did,
so you can make all things new.
Amen.*

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you promised that we would receive power
when the Holy Spirit comes to us.
In the midst of life's downward movements,
remind me to pray, "Come, Holy Spirit,"
that I might ascend to find you with me,
leading me to new life, renewed hope, and joy.
Amen*

SUMMER I A CLOSING PRAYERS

A Mystic's Prayer

*You, Eternal Trinity, are a sea so deep
that the more I enter in, the more I find;
and the more I find, the more I seek of you
for when the soul is satisfied in your abyss,
it is not satisfied,
but it ever continues to thirst for you,
Eternal Trinity, desiring to behold you
with the light of your light.
As the heart desires the springs of living water,
so does my soul desire to leave
the prison of this dark body
and to behold you in truth.
O how long shall your face be hidden
from my eyes?
O abyss, O eternal Godhead, O deep sea!
Clothe me with yourself, Eternal Trinity,
so that I may run this mortal life
with true obedience,
and with the light of your most holy faith.
Amen.*

- St. Catherine of Siena

Anima Christi

*Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Separated from you let me never be.
From the Evil One, protect me.
At the hour of my death, call me.
And close to you bid me.
That with your saints I may be praising
you forever and ever.
Amen.*

When Fearful

Lord, we ask you to deliver us
from fear of the unknown future:
from fear of failure,
from fear of poverty,
from fear of bereavement,
from fear of loneliness,
from fear of sickness and pain,
from fear of age, and
from fear of death.
Help us, Father, by your grace to love you
above all, and to fear nothing.
Fill our hearts with cheerful courage
and loving trust in you.
Through our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayer of Abandonment

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do
with me as you will.
For whatever you do, I thank you;
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let your will be done in me as in
all creatures; I ask nothing else.
Into your hands I commend my soul;
I give it to you with all the love of
my heart.
I love you and I want to give myself
into your hands with a trust
beyond all measure
because you are my Father.
- Charles de Foucauld

I thank God for my handicaps,
for through them, I have found myself,
my work, and my God.
- Helen Keller

For Trust and Confidence In God

My God, I want to have confidence in your love, but
so many things seem to hold me back:
past wounds, past hurts, past betrayals,
past sins—mine and others’.
Open my eyes. Open my heart.
Enable me to take the leap of faith
that is needed now.
Holiness isn’t a matter of starting to love you some
time in the future, or even tomorrow.
I don’t have to wait until I become a better person,
more worthy, more virtuous.
It’s a matter of trusting in your mercy today,
just as I am.
You showed this to the saints; show me, too,
and give me a spirit of great confidence.
I ask this through your beloved Son,
our merciful Saviour.
Amen.

- Elizabeth Ruth Obbard

*Loving God,
We thank you for sending your Son Jesus
to sow the seed of your life-giving word
in our hearts,
so that it might do your will
and achieve your purpose in our world.
Open our hearts to receive this word.
Increase our desire to live it out wholeheartedly.
Amen.*

*Lord of the harvest,
help me to recognize and nurture
what is good in my life.*

*May I often remember
that one day may be my last day.*

Amen.

*Holy Spirit, fill us with heavenly wisdom.
Help us to see what really matters.
Give us the strength to follow where you are.
Amen.*

SUMMER I B CLOSING PRAYRS

Prayer to the Blessed Trinity

You, Eternal Trinity, are a sea so deep
that the more I enter in,
the more I find;
and the more I find,
the more I seek of you;
for when the soul is satisfied in your abyss,
it is not satisfied,
but it ever continues to thirst for you,
Eternal Trinity, desiring to behold you
with the light of your light.
As the heart desires
the springs of living water,
so does my soul desire
to leave the prison of this dark body
and to behold you in truth.
O how long shall your face
be hidden from my eyes?
O abyss, O eternal Godhead, O deep sea!
Clothe me with yourself, Eternal Trinity,
so that I may run this mortal life
with true obedience,
and with the light of your most holy faith.
Amen.

St. Catherine of Siena

SOUL OF CHRIST

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, heal me.
Blood of Christ, drench me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
In your wounds, shelter me.
From turning away, keep me.
From the evil one, protect me.
At the hour of my death, call me.
Into your presence, lead me,
to praise you with all your saints
For ever and ever.
Amen.

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Prayer of Native Americans

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds,
And whose breath gives life to all the world,
hear me!
I am small and weak.
I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes
ever behold the red and purple sunset!
Make my hands respect the things
you have made and
my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise that I may understand
The things you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden
In every leaf and rock.
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
But to fight my greatest enemy – myself.
Make me always ready to come to you
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when my life fades, as fading sunset,
My spirit may come to you without shame.
Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers*
by Father Eamon Tobin

For People Who Are Hurting

I bring before you, O Lord,
the troubles and perils
of people and nations,
the sighing of prisoners and captives,
the sorrows of the bereaved,
the necessities of strangers,
the helplessness of the weak,
the despondency of the weary,
the failing powers of the aged.
O Lord, draw near to each, for the sake
of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

Prayer for Healing

Dear Jesus, I believe you have designed
and created me; Therefore, you can also
repair and restore me.

In the comfort of your love, I pour out to you the
memories that haunt me, the anxieties that bewilder
me, the fears that stifle me,
and the sickness that besets me.

I confess my frustration in dealing with
the emotional, physical
and spiritual pain of my life.

Help me to image your gentle touch as you
tenderly enclose me in your arms.

Give me the gift of faith to believe in your merciful
love each step of my earthly journey.

I trust your tender care will yield peace
to my mind, serenity to my heart, renewal to my
spirit and Healing to my body.

I offer you a sacrifice of praise in the midst
of my suffering, knowing that you promised to
never leave me or forsake me.

Amen.

Barbara Ryan

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

Prayer for the United States

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that you
will keep the United States in your holy protection;
that you will incline the hearts of the citizens to
respect government and entertain a brotherly
affection and love for one another and
for the fellow-citizens of the United States at large.
Dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to
demean ourselves with that charity, humility and
pacific temper of mind which were the
Characteristics of the Divine Author of
our blessed religion and without which we can
never be a happy nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech you, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon

Prayer to Radiate Christ

Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance
Everywhere I go today;

Flood my soul with your spirit and life;
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly
That all my life may only be a radiance of yours.

Shine through me and be so in me

That every soul I come in contact with

May feel your presence in my soul;

Let them look up and see no longer me,

But only Jesus!

Amen.

Saint John Henry Newman

From *Treasury of Prayers*
by Father Eamon Tobin

Prayer for a Giving Heart

I do not know how long I'll live,
but while I live, Lord,

let me give some comfort to someone in need

By smile or nod – kind word or deed.

And let me do whatever I can

To ease things for my fellow man.

I want nothing but to do my part

To lift a tired or weary heart.

To change folks from frowns to smiles again –

Then I will not have lived in vain.

And I'll not care how long I'll live

If I can give – and give – and give.

Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by
Father Eamon Tobin

SUMMER I C CLOSING PRAYERS

*O Most Holy Trinity, undivided Unity,
when we try to understand you,
it can make our head spin.*

*Deepen our relationship with you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*Fill us with your delight
and help us pour your love out
into a world so in need of that love.*

Amen.

*Lord God,
We sometimes put the words,
"I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back"
on our lips.
When I am tempted to turn back,
remind me of the blessings
I have gained by following you, Lord.
Then fill me with an even greater determination
to live under the guidance of your Holy Spirit
each and every day.
Amen.*

*Almighty God,
You feed us with signs of new life
each and every day.
Give us eyes to see you present in our midst.
Give us arms to carry you into our world.
Give us mouths that drink fully
of the milk of your comfort,
so that we might make your kingdom visible now.
Amen.*

*Your words are Spirit and life, O God.
Help me do more than memorize or recite
your commands and the teachings of Jesus.
Help me to meditate on them
and find them deep within me,
so that I can think with your mind
and love with your heart
and help others know your mercy.
Amen.*

*Generous God,
You invite all people into your tent
and welcome us with open arms.
Whether we sit at the feet of your Son, Jesus,
or are busy baking, cooking, and cleaning,
make us aware of the ways in which
our daily lives can welcome others
and accept the welcome they offer to us.
Amen.*

Prayer before Meditation

*Give me a candle of your Spirit, O God,
as I go down into the deep of my own being.
Show me the hidden things.
Take me down to the spring of my life,
and tell me my nature and my name.
Give me freedom to grow
so that I may become my true self—
the fulfillment of the seed
which you planted in me at my making.
Out of the deep I cry unto thee, O God.
Amen.*

- George Appleton

SUMMER II A CLOSING PRAYERS

*Jesus, at your last supper,
you created a lovely way
by which you can continue to feed our souls
in a tangible manner.
May we never lose our hunger
for you in the Eucharist
and may we be ready and willing to share
our spiritual and material bread with others.
Amen.*

*Jesus, just as you beckoned Peter to come to you,
you invite us to come to you.
It is especially lovely when we can come to you
with our small community of friends.
Keep us all close to you and to each other.
Amen.*

*Lord Jesus,
you love all people without exception.
You love us even when we fail you
and show prejudice. Change our hearts.
Make them big and compassionate like yours.
Amen.*

Loving God,
lead us to a deeper knowledge and
understanding of your Son Jesus.
We trust that this understanding will lead us
to a deeper commitment on our part to
continue your work here on earth.
Amen.

Jesus,
in the first reading today,
Jeremiah compares his relationship to you
to a 'fire burning in his heart.'
Help us to burn with love for you.
Amen.

Lord Jesus,
during your time on earth,
you found yourself in several sticky situations.
You modeled for us the power to speak up
when we should.
But sometimes it may be better not to speak.
May your Holy Spirit be with us to help us to know
when to speak up and when to be quiet.
Mother Mary, un-doer of knots, pray for us.
Amen.

Jesus, you know the way I feel
about_____.
You know my lack of desire to forgive. You know that
all I want to do is to get even with him. But I also
know that holding onto a hardened, unforgiving
heart is bad for my body, mind, and spirit. It hurts
me more than it hurts my offender. It also hurts my
relationship with you.

Jesus, I admit my helplessness and powerlessness
when it comes to even thinking about
forgiving_____. But I also know that all things are
possible for those who cooperate with your grace.
With Saint Paul, I believe that I can do all things in
you who strengthens me. Empower me, Jesus, to do
this work of forgiveness. Place within my heart the
desire to forgive _____. I find it so hard to even
make that request because my heart has so much
venom toward _____. But I make the request,
however feebly, hoping that you will give me the
grace to do what I am powerless to do for myself.

The Weaver

My life is but a weaving
between my Lord and me.
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.
Oft time He weaveth sorrow
and I in foolish pride
forget He sees the upper,
and I, the underside.
Not 'til the loom is silent
and the shuttles cease to fly,
shall God unroll the canvas
and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful
in the Weaver's skillful hand
as the threads of gold and silver
in the pattern He has planned.
(Author Unknown)

SUMMER II B CLOSING PRAYERS

Protection from Negative Attitudes

God, keep me from grumbling.
I know that there are few people harder to put up
with than those who are always complaining.
Don't let me become like that.
Don't let me have discontent written
all over my face.
If I can't get my own way, don't let me
sulk about it.
If I can't get what I want, help me to make
the best of what I have.
Don't let me take offense easily,
getting into a huff,
even when no harm is intended.
Help me all day and every day to see
the best in people.
Help me, too, to live in the certainty that
you are working all things together for good.
May I have the patience to wait for your
purposes to work out.
This I ask for your love's sake. Amen.

William Barclay

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin

To Be Filled with God

O Divine One,
To thee I raise my whole being,
a vessel emptied of self.
O Accept, gracious God,
This my emptiness, and so fill me with thyself,
thy light, thy love, thy life,
That these precious gifts may radiate through
me and overflow the chalice of my heart
into the hearts of all those with whom
I come in contact this day.
Revealing unto them the beauty of thy joy and
wholeness and the serenity of thy peace,
which nothing can destroy.
Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin

Prayer for a Godly Heart

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart,
which no unworthy affection
may drag downwards.
Give me an unconquered heart,
Which no tribulation can wear out.
Give me an upright heart,
Which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.
St. Thomas Aquinas

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin

For Those Suffering Affliction

Be merciful, Lord, to all our brothers and sisters
who suffer any kind of persecution or affliction,
whether in mind or body,
especially those who suffer for
your name and gospel.
Give them patience, constancy and steadfast hope
until you send them full and good
deliverance of all their troubles.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin

Prayer of Surrender

Take and receive, Lord, all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding and my will,
all that I have and own.
You gave them to me; to you, Lord,
I return them.
They are all yours;
do with them what you will.
Give me your love and your grace;
these are enough for me;
then I am rich enough.
I do not ask anything more.
Amen.

St. Ignatius Loyola
From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin

SUMMER II C CLOSING PRAYERS

Prayer of Pope Clement XI (excerpted)

*Lord, I believe in you: increase my faith.
I trust in you: strengthen my trust.
I love you: let me love you more and more.
I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow.
I worship you as my first beginning.
I long for you as my last end.
I praise you as my constant helper.
And I call you as my loving protector.
I want to do what you ask of me,
in the way you ask, for as long as you ask,
because you ask it.
Let me love you, Lord, and my God,
and see myself as I really am: a pilgrim
in this world;
a Christian called to respect and love
all whose lives I touch.
Amen*

*Jesus,
you came to enlighten the eyes of our hearts
so that we might see you as our leader,
hear you as the very Word of God,
and follow you along the way you have led.
Do not let us grow weary and lose heart,
but set our spirits afire with your life-giving Spirit.*

Amen

*Lord, teach us what we need to know to run the
race, to gain entry through the narrow gate,
to reach your kingdom.
May we realize that you have called us to work
with you to bring about the kingdom in our world.
Give us the dedication to persevere in this goal.*

Amen

*Good and gracious God,
in your goodness you have made a home
for the poor and the rich,
and you love us with our gifts and limitations.
Thank you for your love.
Help me to see myself and others as you see us.
Ground me in humility, truth, and love.*

Amen

*In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.
In every age you speak to us, including this age.
Help us to listen actively for your voice
in every way that you make it known.
Once we hear your voice,
give us the courage to live what we hear
and make you known today
as clearly as your Son Jesus did
in his time and place.*

Amen

*God of mercy, raise me up when I fall
and bring me down when I feel entitled
to the love and mercy that are your gifts.*

You look for me when I am lost.

Help me look for you.

Help me let you find me

so that I can experience

the joy you feel over one sinner

who repents and returns home.

Amen

*May you always bear witness to the love of God
in this world so that the afflicted and the needy
will find in you generous friends,
and welcome you into the joys of heaven.*

Amen

*Lord Jesus,
the age to come should start now.
Now is the time to hear your Word calling us
to make this world a place of hospitality
and gracious care for all.
If we are complacent in any way,
break through our indifference and
move us to act.*

Amen

FALL A CLOSING PRAYERS

*Jesus,
during your life on earth,
your life was one big 'yes' to your Father.
Help us to turn our 'no's' to you into yes,
one yes at a time.*

This we pray.

Amen.

*Loving and gracious God,
help us to put aside all anxiety
and put our trust in you
so that we can experience
the peace that passes all understanding.
This we pray through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

*Lord Jesus,
you invite us to the banquet of your love.
Help us to respond to your invitation
with our hearts adorned with love
of God and neighbor.*

*Love is our origin.
Love is our constant calling.
Love is our final fulfillment in heaven.
Father, you have given us Jesus
to show us how to walk the way of love.
In and through your Holy Spirit,
your love has been poured into our hearts.
Help us to remember that life here on earth
is all about growing in love of you,
others and self.
Amen.*

*Jesus, help me to spread
your fragrance everywhere I go:
flood my soul with your spirit and life;
penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly
that all my life may only be a radiance of yours;
shine through me and be so in me
that every soul I come in contact with
may feel your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me,
but only Jesus!
Amen.*

- St. John Henry Newman

*Jesus, Wisdom of God,
place in our hearts a deep desire
to grow in your heavenly wisdom.
Help us to never forget
that you are always ready and willing
to share with us your Wisdom.
Amen.*

*Heavenly Father,
thank you for blessing your Church family
with a multitude of gifts.
Thank you for the gifts you have given me.
Help us all to be good stewards of your blessings.
Amen.*

*Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we thank you as we come to the end
of another Liturgical Year
and for the blessings and graces
received this past year.
As we continue our earthly journey
towards your heavenly home,
help us to keep our eyes on you,
our Good Shepherd,
and help us to be always ready and willing
to help those in need.
Amen.*

FALL B CLOSING PRAYERS

Prayer of a Good Steward

God our Father, I thank you for your Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all people. Help me to take every talent and gift which I possess and to lay them on the altar of your service, that I too may be used to bring others to you. Help me to be ready to give, and even to sacrifice, my time, my energy, and money, to spread Christ's message wherever I live and to share with others the life of Christ which is in us.

Help me so to live that by my word and my life,
many more may be moved to give their minds
and hearts to you.

God our Father, hear this prayer through our
Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin

GOD AS MY FIRST LOVE

Lord God,

I know that if I do not love you
with all my heart, with all my mind,
with all my soul and with all my strength,

I shall love something else
with all my heart and mind
and soul and strength.

Grant that, putting you first in all
my loving,

I may be liberated from all lesser loves and
loyalties, and have you as my first love,
my chief good and my final joy. Amen.

(Adapted from George Appleton)

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin.

PRAYER OF LOVE

I love you, O my God,
and my only desire is to love you
until the last breath of my life.

I love you, O my infinitely lovable God,
and I would rather die loving you,
than live without loving you.

I love you, Lord,
and the only grace I ask
is to love you eternally.

My God, if my tongue cannot say
in every moment that I love you,
I want my heart to repeat it to you
as often as I draw breath. Amen.

(St. John Vianney)

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin.

Morning Prayer

I thank you, Lord,
for the wonder of my being,
for giving me another day to love
and serve you,

And enjoy the awesome beauty
of your creation.

May I often think of you during this day
Inspire everything that I say and do.

May it all begin from you
And with your unfailing help,
be carried through for your glory;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by Father Eamon Tobin.

FALL C CLOSING PRAYERS

Faithful God,

*with faith the size of a mustard seed,
we can move mountains.*

*Stir into flame the faith made visible
by the imposition of hands*

when we were baptized and confirmed.

Help us to hear your voice,

not with hardened hearts,

but with hearts open and pliable

to the touch of your Spirit.

Amen.

*Father, all powerful and ever-living God, we do
well always and everywhere to give you thanks.*

*You have no need of our praise, yet our desire to
thank you is itself your gift.*

*Our prayer of thanksgiving adds nothing to your
greatness, but makes us grow in your grace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

(Mass Preface, Weekday IV)

*I am neither a man of letters nor of science,
but I humbly claim to be a man of prayer.*

It is prayer that has saved my life.

*Prayer is the key to each morning,
and the lock to each evening.*

It is a sacred alliance between God and us.

*Let everyone try this experience,
and they will find that daily prayer
will add something new to their lives,
something which cannot be found elsewhere.*

- Mahatma Gandhi

Just and faithful God,

*open my eyes to see you present
in the cries of all my sisters and brothers,
but especially those of the widow,
the orphan, the oppressed, and the poor.*

*Make me more aware of how you respond to my
needs so that I might respond in kind to
the needs of all.*

Amen.

Give us pure spirit so we can see you,

A humble spirit so we can hear you,

A loving spirit so we can serve you,

A believing spirit so we can live with you.

Amen.

God of the Living,

*we thank you for the promise you have given us
in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus.*

*We thank you for the faith that tells us
that those who die in him will rise in him.*

*May this promise, rooted in our Baptism,
continue to give us hope in our difficulties.*

Amen.

*God who comes,
we ask that you give us the grace to persevere
through whatever trials and upheavals
come into our lives.*

*Help us to live in the awareness
that your Son is with us
and continues to draw us more deeply
into communion with you
through the working of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

Lord Jesus, remember us.

*Give us a share in the spirit of forgiveness
that you so generously expressed from the Cross,
the spirit of generosity that enabled you
to turn from your own sufferings to
comfort another,
and the spirit of trust in your Father,
expressed in your last words.*

Amen.