

**Texts for Prayer, Prayer Class Part 3**  
**Resurrection Presbyterian Church**  
**April 25, 2010**

**Opening Prayers**

*Awake in the morning, and the first thing you do, thank God for it, even if you don't feel particularly happy about the day which is to come. Come to God again with two convictions. The one is that you are God's own, and the other is that this day is also God's own; it is absolutely new, absolutely fresh. This day is blessed by God, it is God's own, and now let us go into it. You walk in this day as God's own messenger; whomever you meet, you meet in God's own way. - Anthony Bloom, *Beginning to Pray* (Orthodox)*

O Lord, cleanse me a sinner, and have mercy upon me.

O Lord, who hast created me, have mercy upon me.

I have sinned without measure, have mercy upon me.

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

O Lord, pardon my sins and transgressions.

We bow before thy Cross, O Master, and we glorify thy Holy Resurrection.

O Lord, if I have sinned all my days in word or deed,

have mercy upon me, a sinner, for thy mercy's sake.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

- From, *A Manual of Eastern Orthodox Prayers*

O God the author of all good, I come to Thee for the grace another day will require for its duties and events. I step out into a wicked world; I carry about with me an evil heart. I know that without Thee I can do nothing, that everything with which I shall be concerned, however harmless in itself, may prove an occasion of sin or folly, unless I am kept by Thy power. Hold Thou me up and I shall be safe.

Preserve my understanding from subtilty of error, my affections from love of idols, my character from stain of vice, my profession from every form of evil. May I engage in nothing in which I cannot implore Thy blessing, and in which I cannot invite Thy inspection. Prosper me in all lawful undertakings, or prepare me for disappointments. Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with food convenient for me, lest I be full and deny Thee and say, Who is the Lord? or be poor, and steal, and take Thy name in vain. May every creature be made good to me by prayer and Thy will. Teach me how to use the world and not abuse it, to improve my talents, to redeem my time, to walk in wisdom toward those without, and in kindness to those within, to do good to all men, and especially to my fellow Christians. And to Thee be the glory.

- From, *The Valley of Vision* (Puritan/Reformed)

Lord Jesus, you are my everliving and everloving Savior, I thank you that you never sleep and that you have protected me by your mighty hand through the night. Open my eyes to see the blessings that You have prepared for me today. For the love of friends which will enrich this day, I thank you. For the ability to work and to serve others, I praise you. For the gifts to be granted me this day, I honor you.

Keep me firm in faith, watchful in temptation, humble in my successes, and joyful in the face of afflictions, for Your name's sake. Without you I can do nothing, but I can do all things through You, who strengthens me.

Help me today to bear clear witness to the hope begotten in me by Your resurrection from the dead. Grant me your Holy Spirit that I may be dead to sin and alive to holiness. Use me today to bring your Gospel to some persons who are like sheep without a shepherd, so that they may learn to know you, the Good Shepherd, and find in You rest and peace for their souls. Lead me in the paths of righteousness this day, Lord Jesus, for your name's sake. Amen. - from, *My Prayer Book* (Lutheran)

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. - Psalm 124:8

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. - Psalm 9:1-2

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,  
for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does  
not swear deceitfully. - Psalm 24:1-4

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*I come to Thee as a sinner with cares and sorrows, to leave every concern entirely to Thee, every sin calling for  
Christ's precious blood... - from, The Valley of Vision (Puritan/Reformed)*

Lord God, eternal and almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are  
poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own  
power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O  
Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn  
ourselves and our evil ways, with true sorrow asking that your grace will relieve our distress.  
Have compassion on us, most gracious God, Father of mercies, for the sake of your son Jesus  
Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt, also grant us daily increase of the grace of your  
Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness pleasing in your sight:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - *Adapted from John Calvin's Geneva Liturgy of 1543*

I am not worthy, O Lord and Master, that Thou shouldest enter under the roof of my soul; but  
since Thou in Thy love for men dost will to dwell in me, I take courage and approach. Thou  
commandest: I will open wide the doors which Thou alone didst create, that Thou mayest enter  
with love as is Thy nature, enter and enlighten my darkened thought. I believe that Thou wilt do  
this, for Thou didst not banish the Harlot who approached Thee with tears, nor didst Thou  
reject the Publican who repented, nor didst Thou drive away the Thief who acknowledged Thy  
Kingdom, nor didst Thou leave the repentant persecutor (Paul) to himself; but all who had been  
brought to Thee by repentance Thou didst set in the company of Thy friends, O Thou Who  
alone art blessed always, now and to endless ages. Amen.. - *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Prayer of St. John Chrysostom,  
from The Jordanville Prayer Book (Orthodox)*

Holy Lord, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure  
to find Thy mind in Thy Word, of neglect to seek Thee in my daily life. My transgressions and  
short-comings present me with a list of accusations, but I bless Thee that they will not stand  
against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Go on to subdue my corruptions, and grant me  
grace to live above them. Let not the passions of the flesh nor lustings of the mind bring my  
spirit into subjection, but do Thou rule over me in liberty and power.

I thank Thee that many of my prayers have been refused. I have asked amiss and do not have, I  
have prayed from lusts and been rejected, I have longed for Egypt and been given a wilderness.  
Go on with Thy patient work, answering 'no' to my wrongful prayers, and fitting me to accept it.  
Purge me from every false desire, every base aspiration, everything contrary to Thy rule. I thank  
Thee for Thy wisdom and Thy love, for all the acts of discipline to which I am subject, for  
sometimes putting me into the furnace to refine my gold and remove my dross.

No trial is so hard to bear as a sense of sin. If Thou shouldst give me choice to live in pleasure and keep my sins, or to have them burnt away with trial, give me sanctified affliction. Deliver me from every evil habit, every accretion of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of Thy grace in me, everything that prevents me taking delight in Thee. Then I shall bless Thee, God of Jeshurun, for helping me to be upright. – from *The Valley of Vision* (Puritan/Reformed)

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy name. Amen. - from, *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1662 (Anglican)

*The Scriptural prayers of confession below are drawn from The Worship Sourcebook (Reformed)*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.  
You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
- Psalm 51:1-4, 6, 9-11, NRSV

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!  
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.  
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.  
O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.  
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.  
- Psalm 130, NRSV

O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious,  
filled with mercy and steadfast love,  
we are embarrassed to come before you,  
for we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways,  
for we have rebelled against your wisdom and we have gotten into trouble,  
for we have rejected your fatherly guidance and have gotten lost altogether.  
To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, and to us confusion of face.  
O Lord, great God, all holy, filled with awe,  
Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love,  
incline your ear to our troubles.  
Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you.  
Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness,

but on the ground of your great mercy.

On the ground of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.

It is in his name that we pray, for he is our Savior  
and the mediator of the covenant of grace. Amen.

- based on Daniel 9:4-19

God, you placed us in the world to be its salt.

We are afraid of committing ourselves,  
afraid of being stained by the world.

We do not want to hear what "they" might have to say,  
and our salt dissolves as if in water.

Forgive us, Jesus.

God, you placed us in the world to be its light.

We are afraid of the shadows, afraid of poverty.

We do not want to know other people's struggles,  
and our light slowly fades away.

Forgive us, Jesus.

God, you placed us in the world to live in community.

Thus you taught us to love, to share in life,  
to struggle for bread and justice,  
your truth incarnate in our life.

So be it, Jesus. Amen.

- based on The Sermon on the Mount

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*The core element of the service of confession is the actual declared promise of God that he does hear and does forgive. Worshipers who make their confessions must hear this word of pardon before they will be able to express their thanks and make their dedication. The good news of the gospel is that we are forgiven-this must be clearly stated! It is, indeed, the most beautiful moment of worship! - The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (Reformed)*

*Scriptural texts dealing with assurance of pardon*

*Ezekiel 36:25-26*

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

*Hosea 11:8-9*

How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim;

for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

*Micah 7:18-20*

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression  
for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham,

as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Romans 5:8-9

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

I Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

### **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all... - I Timothy 2:1-6*

*All of the prayers below are drawn from The Worship Sourcebook*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. . . .

[prayers of adoration and thanksgiving]

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. . . .

[prayers of longing for God's shalom]

Give us this day our daily bread. . . .

[prayers for the needs of the community]

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. . . .

[prayers for interpersonal reconciliation]

And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. . . .

[prayers for the world and for personal struggles with temptation and evil]

For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen.

- based on Matthew 6:13, NRSV

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Help us to really know you, to bless, worship, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth. Help us to direct all our living— what we think, say, and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.

Your kingdom come. Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Keep your church strong, and add to it. Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force that revolts against you and every conspiracy against your Word. Do this until your kingdom is so complete and perfect that in it you are all in all.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Help us and all people to reject our own

wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good. Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and to put trust in you alone.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us, just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and our own flesh— never stop attacking us.

And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. We have made all these requests of you because, as our all-powerful King, you not only want to, but are able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever. It is even more sure that you listen to our prayer, than that we really desire what we pray for. Amen.

- based *The Lord's Prayer, and on the Heidelberg Catechism* (Reformed/Lutheran), Q&A's 119, 122-129

*The following text expands upon the basic structure of intercessory prayer, listing particular areas for intercession. Consider printing this outline for your congregation and filling in particular concerns appropriate to the theme of the worship service and concerns of the moment. Worshipers will be able to sense the scope and flow of the prayer, and they may choose a similar outline for their daily personal and family prayers.*

- I (a) Address to God
- (b) Praise and thanksgiving for who God is and what God has done
  - (1) in creating the world
  - (2) in redeeming the world in Christ
  - (3) for specific acts of faithfulness to the present community
  - (4) for the sure promise of the coming kingdom
- (c) Intercessions for worldwide and local concerns, including
  - (1) the creation and its care, especially . . .
  - (2) the nations of the world, especially . . .
  - (3) the nation and those in authority, especially . . .
  - (4) the community and those who govern, especially . . .
  - (5) the church universal, its mission, and those who minister, especially . . .
  - (6) the local congregation and its ministry, especially . . .
  - (7) those with particular needs, especially . . .
- (d) Doxology in praise to the triune God, in unity with those who praise God in heaven and on earth