

# John Wesley's Prayers



for Children, Youth,  
and  
the Childlike

Prepared for Today's Use  
by Nick Campbell



## Foreword

*To the parents or guardians of the child or youth who will use this book:*

The life of discipleship is a life of grace. There is the grace that calls us to a relationship with God. There is the grace that shapes us as disciples. And there is the grace that empowers us to live as disciples. And while each grace is distinctive, they are woven together on our journey of faith.

John Wesley wrote these prayers to be used by children, with an eye towards the second grace of being formed as disciples of Jesus Christ. The other graces are present, of course, but the emphasis is on developing the discipline to be humble and open before God so that we might receive whatever gifts and graces God has for us.

The language of prayer books for children today tend to “simplify and sweeten” the Christian faith and experience, which may inadvertently be a factor in their leaving the faith behind when they grow up. By comparison, the language of Wesley’s prayers will seem difficult for today’s children, as I suspect it was for the children of Wesley’s day. The intent seems to be not to make the faith easy to understand and consume, but to challenge even the new disciple to struggle with sin and to grow in faith. It is expected that the children who utilize these prayers will struggle; it should also be expected that you will accompany them on this journey of faith to share their struggle and to assure them as they go through “growing pains” of faith. The benefits of these prayers come, not from using them once or twice, but from their continual use in deepening their faith.

I have made a few concessions for today’s children and youth, in order to make these prayers more accessible. I have used the more familiar pronouns, such as “you” instead of the older “thou.” I have avoided the older verb forms, choosing “have” instead of “havest,” for example. I have changed a few words that are no longer useful, such as “thither.” And, I have arranged the prayers in a more poetic form, to help isolate the thoughts into smaller phrases, with the hope they will then be easier to weave back together. Otherwise, the words and imagery are those of Mr. Wesley. It may be helpful to have a dictionary handy for those unfamiliar words that are no longer part of our conversations today – learning these words will help reinforce that these are special words of prayer for their special time with God!

In the preface, Wesley explains that he has written these prayers because he loves children. He counsels that these prayers are to help the children come humbly before God at least every morning and evening. He admonishes the children to have a proper attitude, or heart, both for engaging in the prayers and for engaging in life as a disciple. This is the way, he promises, to a more fruitful life. His language is more formal and more authoritarian, befitting the culture of 18<sup>th</sup> century England, and thus may sound overly stern, but the loving concern still shines through.

May the hopes of John Wesley still be fulfilled by these prayers for children today!

## Preface

My dear child,

A lover of your soul has here drawn up a few prayers, in order to assist you in that great duty. Be sure that you do not omit, at least morning and evening, to present yourself on your knees before God. You have mercies to pray for, and blessings to praise God for. But take care that you do not mock God, drawing near with your lips, while your heart is far from him. God sees you, and knows your thoughts; therefore, see that you not only speak with your lips, but pray with your heart. And that you may not ask in vain, see that you forsake sin, and make it your endeavor to do what God has shown you ought; because God says, "The prayers of the wicked are an abomination unto the Lord." Ask then of God the blessings you want, in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ, and God will hear you and answer you, and do more for you than you can either ask or think.

John Wesley



## **Additional Prayers for the Use of Children**

*A Prayer for Relations, Friends, and company  
(to be used after Morning and Evening Prayer)*

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to bless my father and mother,  
and all my relations,  
with the fear of your name.  
Bless them in their souls and bodies,  
perfect them in every good word and work,  
and be their guide unto death.  
Bless my friends,  
forgive my enemies,  
and grant to all people the knowledge and love of you.  
Have mercy upon all who are afflicted  
in mind, body, or estate.  
Give them patience under their sufferings,  
and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.  
and receive them and me at last into your blessed kingdom,  
for Jesus Christ's sake.  
Amen.

### *Grace before Meals*

O Lord, I beseech you, give your blessing  
with what your mercy has here provided me with,  
that whether I eat or drink,  
or whatsoever I do,  
I may do all to your glory and praise;  
through Jesus Christ my Lord.  
Amen.

### *Grace after Meals*

O Lord my God,  
I bless your holy name for this mercy,  
which I have now received from your bounty and goodness.  
Feed now my soul with your grace,  
that I may make it my meat and drink  
to do your gracious will;  
through Jesus Christ my Savior.  
Amen.

## Sunday Morning

O Almighty God, Maker of all people,  
in whom we live, and move, and have our being,  
who makes the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice,  
let me now come humbly before your divine majesty,  
with all reverence and godly fear.  
It is my desire to adore you.

In your goodness, you have brought me in safety  
to behold the beginning of a new day  
and another Sabbath.  
I bless you, who have in love for me,  
and for the glory of your name,  
set apart this day for holy uses,  
to engage me in your service,  
which is my honor and happiness.

This is your day!  
O Lord, enable me to rejoice and be glad in it!

May I ever remember to keep this day holy,  
not doing my own works,  
nor finding my own pleasures,  
nor speaking my own words,  
but so delight in you, my heavenly Father,  
and in all the means of grace,  
that I may not use them in vain or to my own harm,  
but for the instruction of my mind,  
reforming my life, and  
the saving of my soul.

Save me from all hardness of heart and contempt of your word –  
increase my love for your word,  
and enable me to hear it meekly  
and to receive it with pure affection,  
and to bring forth the fruit of good living.

Open my understanding to receive your truth in your love.

Set it so powerfully upon my heart,  
and root it so deep in my soul,  
that its fruit may be seen in my life,  
to your glory and praise.

May I always hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest your word,  
that it may be a savor of life to my soul.

Do not let me offer vain service to you,  
drawing near only with my lips,  
but not my heart.

Enable me to worship you in holiness,  
with joy and delight,  
with profit and pleasure.

Fill me with a comfortable sense of your presence,  
that I may serve you with reverence and godly fear,  
to the comfort of my soul  
and the glory of your name.

O Lord God, clothe your priests with righteousness,  
and let your saints rejoice and sing.

Break the bread of life to all our souls,  
that we may eat and live forever.

O Lord, hear my prayers,  
and let my cry come to you!

Do more and better for me than I can either desire or deserve,  
for the sake of my blessed Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ,  
To whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all praise and glory,  
now and forever.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Sunday Evening

Merciful God, permit me to give you my evening sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving,  
for all the blessings and favors to my body and soul,  
so freely bestowed, and  
so long continued unto me.

You have dealt graciously with me, O Lord God,  
and have been exceedingly good and kind to me,  
beyond all that I had reason to expect,  
or am able to express.

I bless you, O Lord, for every help  
which I enjoy to the promoting my present and eternal good.

I desire to ascribe all praise and glory to you,  
to whom alone it is due.

O Lord, I bless you that  
your house is open to me,  
the bread of life is offered to me,  
the word of salvation is preached, and  
your Spirit is striving with me.

O do not let me receive your grace in vain,  
nor let your word be lost on me.

Apply it to my heart  
and fix it in my memory,  
that it may prove a blessing to my soul.

In mercy, O Lord, pass by all the things which,  
in your pure and holy eyes,  
have been wrong this day.

Pardon my neglects, and the guilt of my misdoings.

And as I have heard how to walk and to please you, O my God,  
help me to walk more worthily of you,  
so that I may please you,  
that I may be built up in your true fear and love,  
and in the right knowledge and faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your pleasure, affirm every word of instruction that I have received  
with the power of your grace and Holy Spirit;

And above all, O blessed God, give me a heart  
filled with your love,  
lifted up in praise,  
devoted to your honor and glory  
all the days of my life.

Take me, O Lord God, my Savior,  
    into your gracious care and protection.  
Preserve me from all the dangers in the night.  
Let me lay down and sleep in your arms,  
    and when the trumpet shall sound  
        and at last call me from the sleep of death,  
    let me be caught up into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,  
        and so be with the Lord forever.  
All these mercies, O my God, I humbly ask,  
    for the sake of Jesus Christ my Redeemer.  
Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Monday Morning

O Lord God Almighty,  
    Father of angels and all people,  
I praise and bless your holy name  
    for all your goodness and lovingkindness  
    to me and all people.  
I bless you for my creation, preservation,  
    and all the blessings of this life;  
    but above all, for your great love in the redemption of the world  
    by our Lord Jesus Christ.  
I bless you for preserving me through the night, and  
    for bringing me safe to the beginning of a new day.

Defend me today with your mighty power, and  
    grant that this day that I do not fall into sin,  
    nor do I run into any danger,  
    but let all my doings be so ordered by you  
    that I may be able to withstand the temptations  
    of the world, the flesh, and the devil,  
    and with a pure heart and mind  
    to follow the steps of my gracious Redeemer.

Keep me, I pray, O Lord,  
    from all things hurtful to my soul or body,  
    and grant me pardon and peace,  
    that being cleansed of my sins,  
    I may serve you with a quiet mind,  
    bring forth plenteously the fruit of good works, and  
    continue in this way all my life;  
Through Jesus Christ, my Savior and Redeemer.  
Amen.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Monday Evening

Almighty God,

You are the gracious Preserver of all humanity!  
I desire now to offer to you my praise and thanksgivings,  
for all the blessings you have this day bestowed on me.

I confess, O my God, that I am unworthy of the least of all your mercies,  
for I have gone astray like a lost sheep.

I have followed too much the devices and desires of my own heart.

I have offended against your holy laws.

I have left undone those things which I ought to have done,  
and have done those things which I ought not to have done:  
and there is no health in me.

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon me, a miserable offender.

Spare me, O Lord, who now confess my faults to you.

Enable me to bewail my many sins and offences,  
which I have from time to time most grievously committed,  
by thought, word, and deed,  
against your divine Majesty.

Have mercy on me,

have mercy on me, most merciful Father  
for my Savior Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive me all that is past,  
and grant me your grace,  
that I may ever hereafter serve and please you,  
in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your name,  
through Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior.

Take me under your gracious care and keeping this night;

save and defend me from all dangers.

Grant to my body rest in my bed,

and to my soul rest in you;

be my God and my guide,

my hope and my help,

my joy and my comfort,

now and forever more,

through Jesus Christ my Redeemer. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

## Tuesday Morning

O Thou Father of all mercies, and God of all goodness,  
I praise and bless your name  
for all your mercies and favors to me in the past night  
and bringing me safe to behold the light of a new day.  
Send down your heavenly grace into my soul,  
that I may be enabled to worship you  
and serve you as I ought to do.

Enable me to believe in you,  
to be humble before you,  
and to love you with all my heart,  
and mind, and soul, and strength  
that I may honor your name and word,  
and serve you truly this day,  
and all the days of my life.

Give me your grace,  
that I may love all people as myself,  
and do unto all as I would want them to do to me.  
Enable me to love and honor my parents,  
obey my superiors,  
and submit to all my teachers.

Do not let me hurt any one by word or deed.  
Make me just and honest in all my dealings.  
Let me not bear any malice or hatred in my heart.

Keep my hands from picking and stealing,  
my tongue from evil speaking, lying, and slandering,  
my body in temperance, soberness, and chastity,  
that I may not covet any person's goods,  
but learn and labor to get my own living,  
and to do my duty in the state of life  
wherever it pleases you to place me.

Direct me to pass through things temporal,  
that I may not finally lose the things that are eternal  
but at last be received into your presence,  
where there is fullness of joy,  
and be seated at your right hand,  
where there are pleasures for evermore,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Tuesday Evening

O Lord God, the gracious Giver of all good things,  
I praise and adore you for your goodness,  
which has been so plentiful toward me,  
an unworthy child of man.

You have, in your mercy, not only preserved me this day from all dangers,  
but bestowed upon all things needful,  
for which I desire entirely to praise your fatherly goodness,  
and with angels and archangels,  
and all the company of heaven,  
to laud and magnify your holy name.

Bless, then, the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
praise his holy name,  
for the Lord is gracious  
and his mercy is everlasting  
toward them that fear him.

And now, Lord, I most humbly implore your fatherly goodness  
to forgive me whatever has this day,  
in my heart or life,  
offended the eyes of your glory.

O Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takes away the sins of the world,  
receive my prayer.

Prevent me, O Lord, in all my doings for the things to come,  
and farther me with your continual help,  
that, in all my thoughts, words, and works,  
I may continually glorify your holy name.

Grant me your grace,  
that I may follow your blessed saints  
in all righteousness and holy living,  
that I may at last come to be a partaker with them  
of glory everlasting.

Do enable me, gracious Lord, to adore your Gospel  
in all holy conversation,  
and to do whatever I do to the glory of your name.

Cleanse the thoughts of my heart,  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that I may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name.

Let your fatherly hand be ever over me  
and your Holy Spirit be ever with me,  
and do so lead me in the knowledge and obedience of your word,  
that, in the end, I may obtain the everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ my Lord.

And now, O Lord, as the night is come upon me,  
and as I am ready to betake myself to rest,  
I desire to commit myself to your protection,  
who neither slumbers nor sleeps,  
but has still a watchful eye over me:  
O watch over me for good,  
that none of the evils I deserve  
may fall upon me.

Preserve me from all terrors and dangers in the night.

Remove my sin out of your sight,  
and show me the light of your countenance,  
and refresh me with the sense of your favor,  
through Jesus Christ my Redeemer,  
to whom with you and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and praise for ever and ever.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Wednesday Morning

O Lord God Almighty,  
Fountain of all goodness, and Father of all Mercies,  
I desire again to bow my knee before your holy Majesty,  
humbly beseeching you to accept my praise and thanksgivings  
for your mercies to me in the night season.  
I laid me down and slept, and rose up again in safety,  
for it was you only, O Lord, who sustained me.  
Now, O my soul, return to your rest.

Look upon me, O Lord, in your rich mercy,  
and for your dear Son's sake,  
be gracious to my soul.

Lighten my darkness, I beseech you, O Lord,  
and let the dayspring from on high to visit me.  
Enable me to cast away all works of darkness,  
and to put on me the armor of light.  
that I may be able to renounce  
the world, the flesh, and the devil.  
to keep your holy will and commandments,  
and to walk in the same all the days of my life.

Give me, O Lord, wisdom to know the things that belong to my peace,  
before I go hence, and am seen no more seen.

Graft in my heart the love of your name,  
increase in me true religion,  
and nourish me with all goodness.

Give me the spirit to think and do always such things as are rightful.

Teach me to ask and seek only such things  
as shall please you and profit my soul.  
Give me such a measure of your grace,  
that I may run the way of your commandments,  
obtain your gracious promises,  
and be a partaker of your heavenly treasures.

Pour down on me the abundance of your mercy.  
Give me more than I can either desire or deserve.

O give me the increase of faith, hope, and love,  
and keep me ever by your help from all things hurtful,  
and lead me to all things useful.

Let your grace always prevent and follow me,  
that I may be continually given to all good works,  
and may always glorify my Father who is in heaven.

These, and every other blessing,  
for me, and for your whole church,  
I humbly beg  
in the name, and for the sake of the merits,  
of Jesus Christ my Redeemer,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and praise forever.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Wednesday Evening

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all people,  
I most humbly beseech you now to accept my sincere praise and thanksgiving  
for all the blessings and mercies that I have enjoyed this day.  
It is you, O Lord, alone, who has preserved me from dangers,  
and from your gracious bounty I have received all things needful  
to promote my present and eternal happiness.

Not to me, O Lord, not to me, but to you be the praise!

O Lord, I am unworthy, through my manifold sins  
to offer you any sacrifice;  
yet, as your property is to have mercy and to forgive,  
I beseech you to accept this my bounden duty  
not dealing with me according to my deserving,  
but after your mercy, and the merits of your dear Son Jesus Christ.

I confess to you, O my God,  
that I am tied and bound with the chain of my sins;  
Yet, let the pitifulness of your great mercy loose me.

I have no power of myself to help myself.

O do, O Lord, keep me by your grace,  
both outwardly in my body,  
and inwardly in my soul,  
that I may be enabled to present both body and soul  
a holy and pleasing sacrifice to you,  
through my Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Grant me, O my God, grace,  
that I may love what you have commanded,  
and earnestly desire what you have promised.

Enable me, amidst the many changes of this world,  
to fix my heart constantly upon things above.  
May I, both in heart and mind, constantly ascend  
to where my Savior Jesus has ascended before  
to prepare a place for me.

Bring me up, O Lord, in your fear and love.

Keep me under the protection of your good providence.  
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Keep me from the evils of this world,  
and land me safe at last on that blissful shore  
where all is quietness and assurance for ever.

Into your hands, O my God, I this night commend my soul and body.

Give your angels charge over me,  
and grant me such rest and sleep  
as my fit me for the duties of the following day.

And, O my God, do prepare me also for my last sleep in death,  
my departure out of this mortal state;  
that, before I go, I may finish the work you have given me to do,  
and at last finish my course with joy  
through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Thursday Morning

O Thou Eternal Fountain of all wisdom,  
whom I cannot see or know  
but by the means of your own light,  
vouchsafe to manifest yourself to my soul  
and teach me to know aright you,  
the only true God  
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

O Blessed Sun of Righteousness,  
arise upon me with healing in your wings,  
to scatter all the clouds of folly and ignorance  
that cover my soul.

Open my eyes to see the wondrous things your love have wrought!

Suffer me not to remain in darkness  
concerning anything that is needful for me to know  
necessary to my present and my eternal glory.

O Lord, incline my ears to wisdom,  
and my heart to understanding,  
that I may follow on to know the Lord,  
and increase in the knowledge and love of God.

Give me, O Lord, that highest learning – to know you!  
and that best wisdom – to know myself.

Command a blessing on my studies and endeavors  
and bless me, and help me, Lord,  
in my learning all such things as shall stand me in stead,  
and do me good.

Let my soul and body,  
and all their powers,  
be under your conduct, and employed to your glory.

Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and lead me into truth,  
and whatever I am ignorant of,  
to me let it be given to know the mysteries of your kingdom,  
and let me count all things but dung and dross  
for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep me this day from all sin.  
Bless my going out and coming in,  
now and for evermore.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Thursday Evening

O my heavenly Father,  
    who took me out of my mother's womb,  
    who was my hope when I was fed by my mother as a baby,  
I have been preserved by you ever since I was born.

O go not from me now that I am a youth,  
    but send out your light and your truth  
    that they may lead me,  
        and bring me to your holy hill  
        and to your dwelling place.

Teach me your way, O Lord,  
    and enable me to walk in your truth.

O knit my heart to you,  
    that I may fear your name,  
and give me understanding in the way of godliness.

Lord, I am young,  
    and cannot discern between good and evil.  
O let me not go out of the way of your commandments.

Learn me true understanding and knowledge.  
Teach me to do the thing that pleases you,  
    for you are my God.

Let your loving Spirit lead me forth  
    in all the paths of righteousness.

Let my study day and night be in your word,  
    that I may become wise unto salvation.  
Make your word a light to my feet,  
    and a lamp to my path.  
Guide me here with your counsel,  
    and after that receive me into glory.

Do not withdraw your mercy from me, O my God,  
    but let your loving kindness  
        and your truth  
    always preserve me.

Give your blessing to me,  
and with your favorable kindness defend me,  
as with a shield.

Show me the path of life,  
and enable me to walk in it,  
till I come into your presence,  
where there is fullness of joy,  
and to your right hand,  
where there are pleasures for evermore.

As you have been pleased to preserve me this day,  
and you have bestowed on me all things needful,  
I desire to bless your name for the same.

Take care of me this night, O Lord,  
and visit me with your mercies.  
Preserve me, O Lord, from every thing hurtful,  
and let your merciful arms forever surround me,  
through Jesus Christ my Savior.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Friday Morning

O Lord my God,

I am taught by your word that I am by nature  
born in sin and a child of wrath,  
and that except I am born again  
I cannot see the kingdom of God.

O Lord, do teach me the meaning of the new birth,  
that I, a child of wrath, may become a child of grace.

Lord, take away the veil from my heart,  
that I may know my sinful nature.  
Make the remembrance of my sins grievous to me,  
and the burden of them intolerable.

Lead me then to the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness,  
that I may there wash and be cleansed.

Suffer me not to rest until I find redemption in your blood,  
even the forgiveness of all my sins.

It has pleased you, O Lord,  
to hide these things from the wise and prudent,  
and to reveal them to babes.

Reveal then, O Lord, your love in my soul.  
Let me taste and see how good and gracious you are.

Suffer a child to come to you, and forbid me not.

I am unworthy,  
but receive me as you did the little children of old  
into your gracious arms,  
and adopt me for ever.

Shed abroad in my heart your love,  
and fill me with all peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Let every thought, word, and deed be henceforth to the glory  
of your great name through Jesus Christ,  
and at last, grant me an abundant entrance in your everlasting kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Be with me, O Lord, this day,  
to bless and keep, guide and govern me,  
and let me be yours, and only yours, for ever.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Friday Evening

O Thou ever-blessed God,  
the Author and Giver of life,  
I desire with all humility to draw near to your gracious majesty,  
to offer up to you my evening sacrifice of prayer and praise.  
You alone, O God, are worthy to be praised,  
and to be had in everlasting remembrance.

Glory be to you, O most adorable Lord God.  
Glory be to your name for all your mercies and goodness  
bestowed on me, your most unworthy servant,  
in the day that is now past.

Give me a due sense of all your mercies,  
that my heart may be unfeignedly thankful,  
and grant me your grace,  
that I may show forth your praise  
not only with my lips but in my life.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after your great goodness.  
According to the multitude of your mercies,  
do away with all my offenses.  
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from all my sins.  
Turn your face from my sins,  
and put out all my misdeed.

Create in me a clean heart, O my God,  
and renew a right spirit within me!  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
neither withdraw your lovingkindness from me.

“Spare me, O Lord,  
whom you have redeemed with your most precious blood,  
and be not angry with me for ever.”

For the glory of your name,  
turn from me those evils I have most righteously deserved,  
and enable me to walk before you henceforth  
in holiness and righteousness  
to the your praise and glory.

Let your mercy and goodness follow me all the days of my life,  
and be my guide unto death,  
and my portion for ever.

Give me your grace,  
that I may duly consider my latter end  
and the fewness of my days,  
that I may seriously apply my heart to wisdom,  
and work out my salvation with fear and trembling.  
before the night of death comes upon me,  
wherein no one can work.

Enable me so to live,  
that I may not only be looking,  
but also longing for my Savior's appearing  
that when he shall come, I may also appear with him in glory.

And now, O Lord, my God, I beseech you,  
take me under your protection this night,  
and preserve me from all evil.  
I will lay me down in peace and take my rest,  
for it is you, Lord, only that makes me dwell in safety.  
In you have I trusted,  
never let me be confounded.

Those and all other mercies I humbly beg,  
in the name of my Mediator Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Saturday Morning

Almighty and everlasting God,  
I bless you, that of your infinite goodness  
    You have preserved me this night past,  
    and brought me safely to this morning.  
Withdraw not, I humbly beseech you, your protection from me,  
    but take me under the care of your providence this day.

Watch over me with the eyes of your mercy,  
direct my soul and body according to the rule of your will,  
    that I may pass this and all my days to your glory.

O Lord, I am but a child,  
    and know not how to go out or to come in,  
    and I am in the midst of a sinful world.  
Give therefore to your servant an understanding heart,  
    that I may know and choose the good,  
    and abhor and shun that which is evil.

According to your mercy, think on me, O Lord, for your goodness.  
Make me to remember you in the days of my youth.

O learn me true wisdom,  
    and let the law of your mouth be dearer to me  
        than thousands of gold and silver,  
    and let my whole delight be therein.

O let me be devoted to you from my childhood.

Keep out of my heart all love of the world,  
    of riches, or any other created thing,  
and fill it with the love of God.

You know how many and powerful are the enemies of my soul,  
    that seek to destroy it – the flesh and the devil.  
O Lord, help! O Lord, save! O Lord, deliver me from them.

Give me grace to renounce them all,  
    and to keep your holy will and commandments  
        all the days of my life.

Show me and make me what I must be  
    before I can inherit your kingdom.

Teach me the truth as it is in Jesus.

Save me from my own will,  
and let your will be done in me and by me.

O make me your child by adoption and grace.

Renew me daily with your Holy Spirit,  
and guide me in all my ways,  
till you have perfected me for your heavenly kingdom.

Make me dutiful to my parents,  
affectionate to my relations,  
obedient to my superiors,  
and loving to all people.

And grant that as I grow in stature,  
I may grow in wisdom and in your favor,  
till you shall take me to your everlasting kingdom,  
there to dwell with you for ever and ever,  
through Jesus Christ my Savior and Redeemer.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

## Saturday Evening

I desire to offer to you, O Lord, my evening sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
for all your mercies bestowed upon me.

I bless you for my creation, preservation, and above all,  
for my redemption by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I bless you for bringing me safely to the conclusion of this day,  
and humbly implore the pardon of all the sins I have been guilty of,  
whether in thought, word, or deed.

Have mercy upon me, O God,  
and do free me from all the sins I have committed,  
and deliver me from the punishment I have deserved.

O thou blessed Guide of my youth,  
give me your grace to seek after you in my early years,  
that you may not be unmindful of me in the time of age.

Keep me from the evil of the world,  
and carry me safe through it to your kingdom.

Take care of me,  
and provide for me,  
and dispose of me in the world,  
as shall be most for your glory and my good.

Leave me not to myself,  
In the hands of my own counsel,  
But let me be taught of God.

Take me, O Lord, into your gracious charge and guidance, govern over me,  
and fix in my heart your fear and love,  
and direct all my ways to please not myself but you.

O redeem me from the power of my sins by your grace,  
and from the punishment of them by your blood,  
and by both bring me to your glory.

I desire, O my God, to give myself wholly to you.  
I would be yours, and only yours, for ever.

O my God, my Savior, turn not your face from a poor child that seeks you!

Give me to know that I am nothing,  
and can do nothing, of myself.  
and that if ever I am yours,  
I must be wholly indebted to you for it.

Let me be entirely devoted to you,  
and make me obedient and faithful to the end.

Make me to remember you in my bed,  
and to think upon you when I am waking.  
You have preserved me from the dangers of the day past,  
You have been my support ever since I was born.

Under the shadow of your wings let me pass this night in comfort and peace.

Keep me both in body and soul,  
and give me such rest as my body has need of.

And grant, O Lord, that when I lay down my body in the grace,  
my soul may rise to life immortal,  
through the merits of your dear Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.