



Be My Disciples • Called to Prayer

Grades 1–3

Morning and Evening Prayer

Seasonal Prayers and Blessings for Special Times

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Called to Prayer is intended as a guide for prayer with children in grades 1, 2, and 3. The format is designed for children to participate actively in prayer without the need for individual worship aids. This resource makes it possible to connect prayer with the liturgical feasts and seasons.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

The Liturgy of the Hours is the public prayer of the whole Church. When it becomes the personal prayer of all Christians, it makes clear the relationship that exists between liturgy and the whole of Christian life. "In it [the Liturgy of the Hours] Christ himself is present, in the assembled community, in the proclamation of God's word" (General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours, 13). Through the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours the Church "consecrates to God the whole cycle of day and night [and] the whole range of human activity" (General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours, 10, 11).

As children learn more about the liturgical year of the Church, it is appropriate for them to become more familiar with the official worship of the whole Church. The Liturgy of the Hours is an important part of the public prayer of the Church and is made up of Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Night Prayer.

The morning and evening prayers found in *Called to Prayer* have been adapted for use with children in primary grades. They include both Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer for each of the liturgical seasons of the year. The morning prayers are for day school and daytime religion programs. The evening prayers provide an appropriate prayer option for evening religion programs.

- * The opening Call to Prayer can be either sung or spoken. The spoken form is included at the beginning of each prayer. The sung version is a simple melody, easily learned by children. It is intentionally a brief song that children quickly memorize.
- * The Canticle used for Morning Prayer is different than the one used for Evening Prayer, although these remain consistent throughout the year. This allows the children to become familiar with these prayers.

An alternative way of praying the Canticle might be to assign each line to a different child. Each child can then memorize that particular line and simply remember which child he or she follows in the progression. All the children would pray the response together.

- * The Psalms have been adapted from the psalmody of the various liturgical seasons and are used in a dialogic psalm response style. This type of repetitive response is particularly effective with children in primary grades since it is simple and easy to remember.
- * Each prayer is planned to take approximately five minutes. It is possible to abbreviate the prayers as time or attention spans require. Remember, children appreciate the familiarity of repeated prayer forms.

SEASONAL PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

This section provides a variety of seasonal prayers that are appropriate to the cycles of the liturgical year. These can be used as individual prayers or incorporated into other prayer forms and liturgies.

Children love ritual, and the blessings included here offer opportunities to incorporate ritual blessings into the prayer life of children. The Advent Wreath Blessing, Christmas Gift Blessing, the Lenten prayers, the Blessing of Easter Eggs, and the Prayer to All the Saints help to sanctify the events of daily life in the context of the liturgical seasons. Abundant use of gestures and symbols such as water, oil, and signing enrich the child's experience and expression of prayer.

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS FOR SPECIAL TIMES

Included in this section are prayers for various occasions, blessings, and intercessory prayers that can be integrated into the community's life of prayer with great flexibility.



CALL TO PRAYER

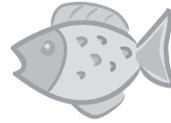
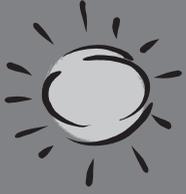
As Day Begins

AS DAY BE - GINS WE TURN TO YOU.

The first system of music is in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a half note F5. The lyrics are: AS DAY BE - GINS WE TURN TO YOU. The bass clef staff contains four chords, each represented by a circle containing the number 8, corresponding to the lyrics: AS, GINS, WE TURN TO, and YOU.

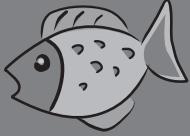
WE TURN TO YOU O LORD AS DAY BE - GINS.

The second system of music continues the melody: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a half note G5. The lyrics are: WE TURN TO YOU O LORD AS DAY BE - GINS. The bass clef staff contains four chords, each represented by a circle containing the number 8, corresponding to the lyrics: WE TURN TO, YOU O LORD, AS DAY BE - GINS, and GINS.



MORNING PRAYER

Ordinary Time



CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Lord, open my lips.
Response: **I will sing your praises!**
 (Make the Sign of the Cross while praying the response).

Presider: As day begins, we turn to you, O God, and say...

Response: **Glory be to the Father
 and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning
 is now, and ever shall be
 world without end. Amen.**

(Optional song: "As Day Begins")



PSALM

Presider: The response today is: Praise God, Hallelujah!

Response: **Praise God, Hallelujah!**

Presider: Praise God! All that is alive, praise God!

Response: **Praise God, Hallelujah!**

Presider: Praise God! With trumpets and dancing, praise God!

Response: **Praise God, Hallelujah!**

Presider: Praise God! All that is alive, praise God!

Response: **Praise God, Hallelujah!**

BASED ON PSALM 150

All: **Glory be to the Father
 and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning
 is now, and ever shall be
 world without end. Amen.**



READING

Be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and live in love, as Christ loved us.

BASED ON EPHESIANS 5:1-2

CANTICLE

Presider: Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord. Sun and moon,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: Wind and rain, ice and snow,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: Fire and heat,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All birds and fish,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All growing plants and all animals,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All you children,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

BASED ON DANIEL 3:57-88

PRAYER

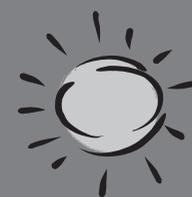
Presider: God, you made us, you love us,
and you know our name.
Hold us close today.
Help us to live as your children.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

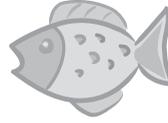
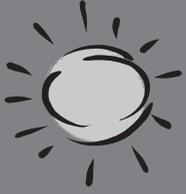
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





EVENING PRAYER

Ordinary Time

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Jesus is our light and peace!
Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: We trust God.
Response: We trust God.

Presider: Under God's wings, you are safe.
Response: We trust God.

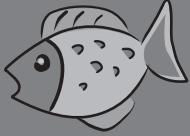
Presider: God tells the angels to watch over you.
Response: We trust God.

Presider: Cling to God, who is your shelter.
Response: We trust God.

Presider: Under God's wings, you are safe.
Response: We trust God.

BASED ON PSALM 91

All: Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.



READING

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me;
the kingdom of God belongs to them."
Then Jesus embraced the children,
blessed them, and placed his hands on them.

BASED ON MARK 10:14,16

CANTICLE

Presider: I sing of the greatness of God.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God attends to the little ones.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God feeds the hungry.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God remembers us and keeps his promises.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

BASED ON LUKE 1:46-55

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER

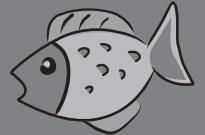
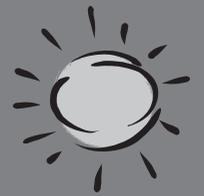
Presider: God, this day is done.
Thank you for all you gave us today.
Keep us as the apple of your eye.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

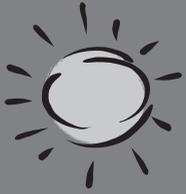
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





MORNING PRAYER

Advent

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Lord, open my lips.
Response: **I will sing your praises!**
 (Make the Sign of the Cross while praying the response).

Presider: As day begins, we turn to you, O God, and say...
Response: **Glory be to the Father
 and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning
 is now, and ever shall be
 world without end. Amen.**
 (Optional song: "As Day Begins")

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: God is coming soon!
Response: **God is coming soon!**

Presider: Rise up, God, come to save us.
Response: **God is coming soon!**

Presider: Let your face shine on us.
Response: **God is coming soon!**

Presider: Listen, God, and show yourself.
Response: **God is coming soon!**

Presider: Rise up, God, come to save us.
Response: **God is coming soon!**

BASED ON PSALM 80

All: **Glory be to the Father
 and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning
 is now, and ever shall be
 world without end. Amen.**

READING

Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again:
rejoice! The Lord is near.

BASED ON PHILIPPIANS 4: 4–6

CANTICLE

Presider: Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord. Sun and moon,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: Wind and rain, ice and snow,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: Fire and heat,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All birds and fish,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All growing plants and all animals,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All you children,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

BASED ON DANIEL 3:57–88

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER

Presider: God, you made us, you love us,
and you know our name.
Hold us close today.
Help us to live as your children.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

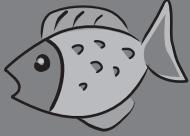
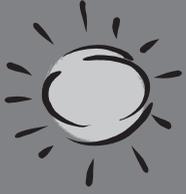
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





EVENING PRAYER

Advent

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Jesus is our light and peace!
Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: We wait for God.
Response: We wait for God.

Presider: Be still and wait for God.
Response: We wait for God.

Presider: God holds your hand; you will not fall.
Response: We wait for God.

Presider: Wait for God and keep to the way.
Response: We wait for God.

Presider: Be still and wait for God.
Response: We wait for God.

BASED ON PSALM 37

All: Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

READING

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight the paths for our God.

BASED ON LUKE 3:4

CANTICLE

Presider: I sing of the greatness of God.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God attends to the little ones.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God feeds the hungry.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God remembers us and keeps his promises.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

BASED ON LUKE 1:46-55

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
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PRAYER

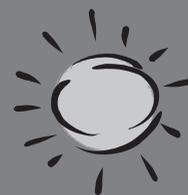
Presider: God, this day is done.
Thank you for all you gave us today.
Keep us as the apple of your eye.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

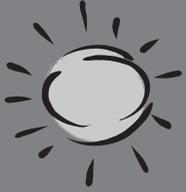
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





MORNING PRAYER

Christmas

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Lord, open my lips.
Response: **I will sing your praises!**
(Make the Sign of the Cross while praying the response).

Presider: As day begins, we turn to you, O God, and say...
Response: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**
(Optional song: "As Day Begins")

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: Praise God!
Response: **Praise God!**

Presider: Praise God, all people.
Response: **Praise God!**

Presider: God's love for us is strong.
Response: **Praise God!**

Presider: God is always faithful.
Response: **Praise God!**

Presider: Praise God, all people.
Response: **Praise God!**

BASED ON PSALM 117

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

READING

The angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news of great joy.
Today the Savior has been born."

BASED ON LUKE 2: 10-12

CANTICLE

Presider: Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord. Sun and moon,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: Wind and rain, ice and snow,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: Fire and heat,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All birds and fish,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All growing plants and all animals,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All you children,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

BASED ON DANIEL 3:57-88

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
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PRAYER

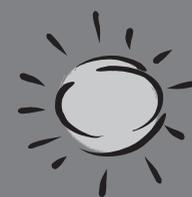
Presider: God, you made us, you love us,
and you know our name.
Hold us close today.
Help us to live as your children.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

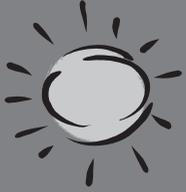
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





EVENING PRAYER

Christmas

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Jesus is our light and peace!
Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: God is our light.
Response: God is our light.

Presider: God, you are a lamp for my feet.
Response: God is our light.

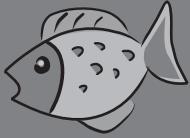
Presider: God, you are the light on my path.
Response: God is our light.

Presider: God, I will walk in your way.
Response: God is our light.

Presider: God, you are a lamp for my feet.
Response: God is our light.

BASED ON PSALM 119

All: Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.



READING

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
If you follow me, you will not walk in darkness."

BASED ON JOHN 8:12

CANTICLE

Presider: I sing of the greatness of God.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God attends to the little ones.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God feeds the hungry.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God remembers us and keeps his promises.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

BASED ON LUKE 1:46-55

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
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is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER

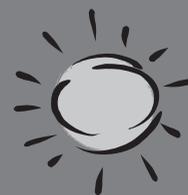
Presider: God, this day is done.
Thank you for all you gave us today.
Keep us as the apple of your eye.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

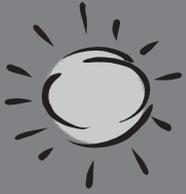
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





MORNING PRAYER

Lent

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Lord, open my lips.
Response: **I will sing your praises!**
(Make the Sign of the Cross while praying the response).

Presider: As day begins, we turn to you, O God, and say...
Response: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**
(Optional song: "As Day Begins")

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: God help us.
Response: **God help us.**

Presider: Wake up, God! Why do you sleep?
Response: **God help us.**

Presider: Rise up, God! Don't forget us.
Response: **God help us.**

Presider: Don't hide your face, God.
Response: **God help us.**

Presider: Help us, God, for you love us.
Response: **God help us.**

BASED ON PSALM 44

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

READING

We are the clay and you the potter, God.
We are the work of your hands.

BASED ON ISAIAH 64:7

CANTICLE

Presider: Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord. Sun and moon,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: Wind and rain, ice and snow,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: Fire and heat,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All birds and fish,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All growing plants and all animals,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

Presider: All you children,
Response: **bless the Lord.**

All: **Glory be to the Father
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BASED ON DANIEL 3:57–88

PRAYER

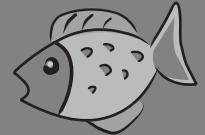
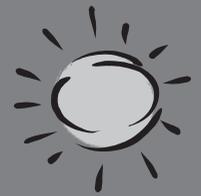
Presider: God, you made us, you love us,
and you know our name.
Hold us close today.
Help us to live as your children.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

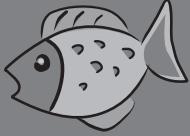
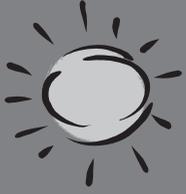
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





EVENING PRAYER

Lent

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Jesus is our light and peace!
Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: Listen, God!
Response: Listen, God!

Presider: Listen, God, to my prayer.
Response: Listen, God!

Presider: Hear me and answer me.
Response: Listen, God!

Presider: Morning, noon and night, I call to you.
Response: Listen, God!

Presider: I put my trust in you, God.
Response: Listen, God!

BASED ON PSALM 55

All: Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

READING

God says: "When you pray to me, I will listen to you.
When you look for me with all your heart,
you will find me with you."

BASED ON JEREMIAH 29:12-14

CANTICLE

Presider: I sing of the greatness of God.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God attends to the little ones.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God feeds the hungry.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God remembers us and keeps his promises.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

BASED ON LUKE 1:46-55

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
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PRAYER

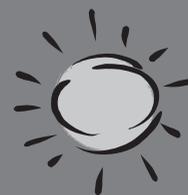
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Keep us as the apple of your eye.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

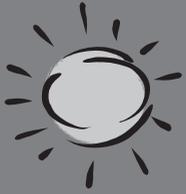
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





MORNING PRAYER

Easter

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Lord, open my lips.
Response: **I will sing your praises!**
(Make the Sign of the Cross while praying the response).

Presider: As day begins, we turn to you, O God, and say...
Response: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**
(Optional song: "As Day Begins")

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: God's love is forever.
Response: **God's love is forever.**

Presider: Praise God, who is so good.
Response: **God's love is forever.**

Presider: God made the sun for day.
Response: **God's love is forever.**

Presider: God made the moon and stars for night.
Response: **God's love is forever.**

Presider: Praise God, who is so good.
Response: **God's love is forever.**

BASED ON PSALM 136

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

READING

Jesus came and stood in the middle of them and said,
"Peace be with you."

BASED ON JOHN 20:21-22

CANTICLE

Presider: Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord. Sun and moon,
Response: **bles**s the Lord.

Presider: Wind and rain, ice and snow,
Response: **bles**s the Lord.

Presider: Fire and heat,
Response: **bles**s the Lord.

Presider: All birds and fish,
Response: **bles**s the Lord.

Presider: All growing plants and all animals,
Response: **bles**s the Lord.

Presider: All you children,
Response: **bles**s the Lord.

BASED ON DANIEL 3:57-88

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER

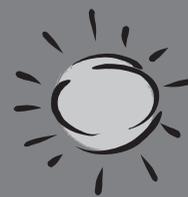
Presider: God, you made us, you love us,
and you know our name.
Hold us close today.
Help us to live as your children.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

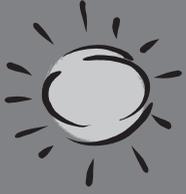
Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





EVENING PRAYER

Easter

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: Jesus is our light and peace!
Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Presider: The response today is: Sing praise to God!
Response: Sing praise to God!

Presider: Sing to God, who is good.
Response: Sing praise to God!

Presider: Sing to our God, who is loving.
Response: Sing praise to God!

Presider: Sing to God and give thanks.
Response: Sing praise to God!

Presider: Sing to God, who is great and wise.
Response: Sing praise to God!

BASED ON PSALM 136

All: Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

READING

In Jesus, you are all children of God.
When you were baptized, you put on Christ.

BASED ON GALATIANS 3:26–27

CANTICLE

Presider: I sing of the greatness of God.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God attends to the little ones.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God feeds the hungry.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

Presider: God remembers us and keeps his promises.

Response: **God's name is holy.**

BASED ON LUKE 1:46–55

All: **Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER

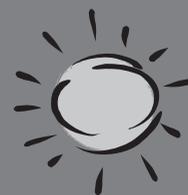
Presider: God, this day is done.
Thank you for all you gave us today.
Keep us as the apple of your eye.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord bless us,
protect us,
and be with us always.

Response: **Amen.**





SEASONAL PRAYERS

Advent

ADVENT BLESSING

May God bless us and keep us.

Amen.

May God's face shine on us.

Amen.

May God look on us with kindness
and give us peace.

Amen.



BASED ON NUMBERS 6:24–26

O ANTIPHONS

O Wisdom, come and
teach us to walk in peace.

O Ruler of the people, come and
show us how to follow your way.

O life giving Root, come.
Hurry, do not delay.

O Key that unlocks all, come
and open our hearts to you.

O Morning Star, come and
let your love shine in us.

O King of all people, come and
save us whom you love.

O Emmanuel, come.
We are waiting for you. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Bless this circle of green branches, God.
May the candle we light
be a sign of Jesus with us. Amen.

SHORT ADVENT PRAYER

Get ready!
Stay awake!
The Lord is coming soon.

Hurry Jesus!
Come quickly.
Amen.

ACTIVITY FOR ST. NICHOLAS DAY

In memory of Bishop Nicholas,
invite the children to leave out
their shoe. Nicholas can come
and leave something good in it.



SEASONAL PRAYERS

Christmas and Epiphany

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May God, who is peace,
give us peace
all the time,
and in every way. Amen.



CHRISTMAS THANKS

Thank you, God, for all green things.
Thank you, God, for stars and moon.
Thank you, God, for all your gifts.
Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.



CHRISTMAS GIFT BLESSING

God, Jesus is your best gift to us.
As we give presents to others,
help us remember you,
the great gift-giver. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Glory to God!
Peace to God's people!

Glory to God!
Jesus is with us!

Glory to God!
Peace to God's people! Amen.

EPIPHANY BLESSING

God, your star guided the three kings,
lighting their way to Bethlehem.
Be our light today, God.
Guide us in your way. Amen.



SEASONAL PRAYERS

Lent

SHORT LENTEN PRAYERS

Jesus, kind and gentle of heart,
have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Show us your ways, God.
Teach us to walk in your path.

Forgive us, God,
as we forgive others who hurt us.

Here I am, God,
ready to do what you ask.

All glory, praise, and honor
to you, Jesus, our King.

Let our prayers rise up to you, God,
like burning incense.

May God bless us,
protect us,
and keep us from all evil. Amen.

PRAYER BASED ON PSALM 91

God is our shelter.
In him we trust.
God's angels watch over us,
and guide us in all our ways.
God is our shelter. Amen.



SEASONAL PRAYERS

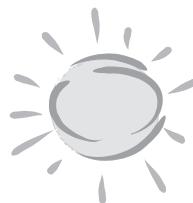
Easter

MIRIAM'S FREEDOM SONG

Miriam was Moses' sister. When the Hebrews crossed the Red Sea, she led the women and all people in a dance and victory song.

Sing to God.
God is glorious.
God has won the victory.
God is our strength.
Sing to God. Amen.

BASED ON EXODUS 15:1-2

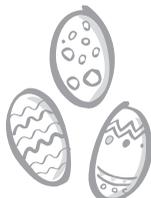


EASTER MORNING PRAYER

This is the day God made.
Let us be glad! Alleluia!

BLESSING OF EASTER EGGS

Bless these eggs, God.
They are signs of life.
Signs of Jesus, who broke the shell
and burst forth to new Easter life. Amen.



PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit,
come into our hearts.
Holy Spirit,
fill us with your love. Amen.

PRAYER TO ALL THE SAINTS

Make a litany of saints, using the names of saints with whom children are most familiar. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Saint Anne, Saint Catherine, Saint Elizabeth, Saint Francis, Saint John, Saint Joseph, Saint Michael, and Saint Nicholas are just a few Saints that could be used in the litany. Respond after each name: Pray with for us.

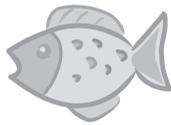


PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

Special Times

PRAYER WHEN COMING OR GOING

God, bless us as we come in.
Bless us as we go out.
Watch over us always.

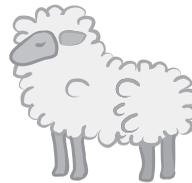


BIRTHDAY PRAYER

God, it is _____ birthday!
We clap our hands
and say, "Thank you, God, for life and birthdays."
Amen.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

May God who made all things
bless these animals.
May we take care of these animals.
May we take care
of all that God has made. Amen.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, God!
For all the gifts you give us:
Our mom and dad
Our friends
Our food
Our warm homes.
Here children might add other gifts.
For all the gifts you give us:
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, God! Amen.

BLESSING

May God bless us and keep us.
May God look on us with kindness.
May God give us peace. Amen.

BASED ON NUMBERS 6:24–26



NIGHT BLESSING

Watch over us, God, when we are awake.
Watch over us, God, when we sleep. Amen.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED

Presider: Let us pray to God, who cares for everyone.
Invite the children to name people they knew who have died. After each person is named, all respond: Jesus, remember them!

Child: (name)

Response: **Jesus, remember them!**

Presider: For all people who died who have no one to say their name, we pray:

Response: **Jesus, remember them! Amen.**

SHORT PRAYERS

Jesus, I love you!

Thank you, God, for everything!

God, please help me.

God, you are so great and good!

Hold me close, God.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Presider: Let us pray to God. The response is: Hear us, God!
Response: **Hear us, God!**

Presider: For mothers and fathers, let us pray to God.
Response: **Hear us, God!**

Presider: For teachers, let us pray to God.
Response: **Hear us, God!**

Presider: For all the children in our parish and school, let us pray to God.
Response: **Hear us, God!**

Presider: For people who are hungry and cold, let us pray to God.
Response: **Hear us, God!**

Presider: For children who are lonely or sick, let us pray to God.
Response: **Hear us, God!**

Presider: *Invite children to add their own intentions. Then pray:*

God, we know you hear these prayers.
We ask them in Jesus' name. Amen.

Here are some alternative responses
for children to use in prayers of intercession.

Lord, have mercy.

Hear us, we pray.

O God, hear us, hear our prayer.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

