

A collection of prayers to consider using in collective worship

These prayers may be helpful as a part of the opportunities and experiences which you provide for your pupils. Some of them are taken from Anglican liturgy for the Church's year. If you include these in various ways in your worship, you will be helping pupils to hear words which may then be echoed in worship in church at other times in their lives. There are prayers which:

- Are regularly used as part of Anglican liturgy
- Reflect the seasons of the Church
- Are attributed to some of the Saints of the Church
- Help to reflect the multicultural and worldwide Church
- Help pupils to 'join in'

Some of the words in the prayers suggested are challenging and pupils may not have heard them before. However, they are often poetic and beautiful and pupils will be able to grow with them and into them. These prayers may provide a way of exploring new words and ideas. Prayers written by other people now and through the ages can provide timeless and precious models for our own prayers and reflections and give us a better understanding of what it means to pray.



Collects: The Church of England divides the year into seasons and allocates appropriate Scripture readings for each Sunday and also a prayer, known as "the collect of the day". Most collects are structured to begin with a statement of a particular attribute of God, which is then developed into a petition appropriate to the day, linked to the lessons for the day. In addition to their use in public worship, they form a valuable resource for the prayers of the individual Christian.

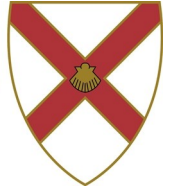
The Lord's Prayer (traditional)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever
Amen.



The Lord's Prayer (modern)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all evermore.

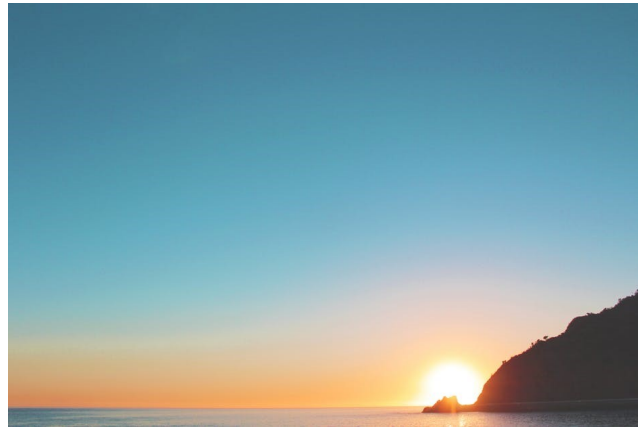
Amen



Collect for Morning Prayer

Almighty and everlasting Father
we thank you that
you have brought us safely to
the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin
or running into danger:
order us in all our doings;
and guide us to do always
what is right in your eyes;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

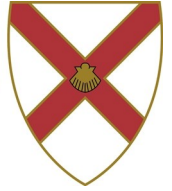


From Compline (Night Prayer)

Save us, Lord,
while we are awake,
guard us
while we are asleep,
that awake
we may watch with Christ,
and asleep
we may rest in his peace.

Amen





Prayers to help to set the times of the Church's Year

Stir up Sunday! Advent Collect

Stir up, we beseech you, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.



Christmas Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help us to live as the holy family,
united in love and obedience;
and bring us at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For Epiphany

Bright morning star, shine in our hearts:
bring light for our darkness.

Sun of righteousness, warm our world:
bring healing for our wounds.

Child of tomorrow, pitch your tent here today:
bring joy for our sorrow.

Lent (used on Mothering Sunday)

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the
child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in
Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole
human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your
presence



to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Week Collect

Almighty God
whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least
of our brothers and sisters
we do also for him:
give us the will to be the servant of
others as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever.

For Palm Sunday

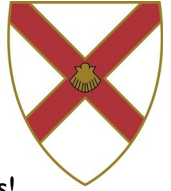
'Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'.

Lord, with the people of Jerusalem,
and with Christians the whole world
over, we acclaim you as our King.

If we had been there that morning;
we would have spread our cloaks at your feet,
waved our palm branches over your head,
worshipped you as the Messiah.

As we worship you this now;
we offer ourselves in your service,
we adore you with our whole heart,
we worship you as our Saviour.



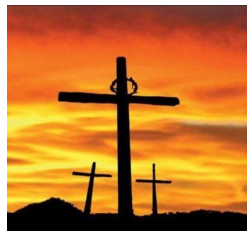


Easter Collect

God,
who by the glorious death and
resurrection of your Son,
destroyed death and brought life and
immortality to light:
grant that we, who have been raised
with him, may abide in his presence
and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory;
through him who is our living Redeemer,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

Easter Sunday

We have waited;
we waited quietly for this
day, this Rising Day over-
flowing with hope.
And Christ has risen.



We have waited;
We waited patiently for
this day, sustained by trust;
For all our folly and shallow wisdom we still have
faith in God.
And Christ has risen.

We have waited;
We waited earnestly for this day, sustained by
anger;
For we know just how much this world is in need
of a new start.
And Christ is risen.

Ascension

Jesus is seen in earthly form no more.
He is King of Kings: And Lord of Lords!

The risen Christ is ascended into heaven.
He is King of Kings: And Lord of Lords!

He sits at the right hand of God the Father.
He is King of Kings: And Lord of Lords!

Yet he has promised his spirit will be with us on
earth.

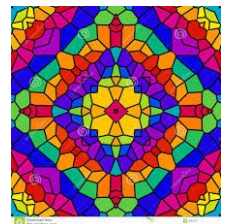
He is King of Kings: And Lord of Lords!

Let us rejoice and praise him, for
He is King of Kings: And Lord of Lords!

Now and forever.
He is King of Kings: And Lord of Lords!

Pentecost

Thank you, kaleidoscope God, for the strong col-
ours of Pentecost!



Thank you for blue and green:
Rippling and raging, scouring and
roaring in gales of the Spirit, winds of
change.

Thank you for red and yellow:
Sparkling and blazing, leaping and alighting in
tongues of fire, torches of courage.

Thank you for white and silver:
Quieting and consoling, inspiring and soaring in the
dove of peace, messenger of hope.

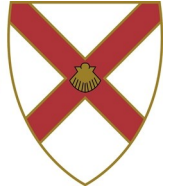
Thank you for all these colours of love and longing,
of wildness and wisdom, challenge and compassion.

So colour our lives by your mighty Spirit, that we
change, find courage, radiate hope, for this is
thanksgiving more precious than words.

Trinity

**Be with us, God, stay with us as we worship,
Loving Father, parent of all who gather here,
Jesus Christ, our brother,
Holy Spirit, spirit of wisdom and love,
Be with us,
Stay with us,
Go with us,
God, three in one, we worship you.**





Prayers of the Saints and the saints

St Francis

Lord, make me and instrument of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy,
For your mercy and for your truth's sake.

Amen

Sir Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you
for all the benefits you have won for us,
for all the pain and insults
you have borne for us.
Most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.

Amen

St Ignatius Loyola

Teach us, good Lord,
to serve thee as thou deservest;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do thy will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

(often used on Remembrance Sunday)

St Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me,
Christ within me,
Christ behind me,
Christ before me,
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort
and restore me.
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ in quiet,
Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of
all that love me,
Christ in mouth of
friend and stranger.

St Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

Grant, Lord,
that we may hold to you without
parting,
worship you without wearying,
serve you without failing;
faithfully seek you,
happily find you,
and forever possess you,
the only God,
blessed now and for ever.

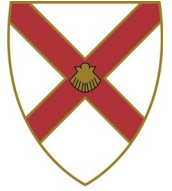
Amen

St Thomas More (c1478-1535)

Thank you, dear Jesus,
for all you have given me,
for all you have taken away from me,
for all you have left me.

Amen





After St Augustine (354-430)

Eternal God,
The light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the wills that serve you,
grant us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
and so to love you
that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

After St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Almighty God
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
till they find their rest in you.
Teach us to offer ourselves to
your service
that here we may have your peace,
and in the world to come
may see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Sir Jacob Astley (before the battle of Edgehill)

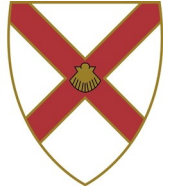


Lord, I shall be very busy this day
If I forget thee,
Do not thou forget me.

Amen

The Prayer of the Grail Community (Pinner, Middlesex)

Lord Jesus
I give you my hands
to do your work.
I give you my feet
to go your way.
I give you my eyes
to see as you do.
I give you my tongue
to speak your words.
I give you my mind
that you may think in me.
I give you my spirit
that you may pray in me.
Above all, I give you my heart
that you may love in me your Father
and all mankind.
I give you my whole self
that you may grow in me,
so that it is you, Lord Jesus
who live and work and pray in me.



Prayers from around the world

◊ O Lord, be gracious unto us! In all that we hear or see, in all that we say or do, be gracious unto us. I ask pardon of the Great God. I ask pardon at the sunset, when every sinner turns to him. Now and forever, I ask pardon of God. O Lord, cover us from our sins, guard our children and protect our weaker friends.

◊ **(Camel driver's prayer, country unknown)**

◊ O Creator and Mighty God, you have promised
strength for the weak,
rest for the labourers,
light for the way,
grace for the trials,
help from above,
unfailing sympathy,
undying love.

◊ O Creator and Mighty God, help us to continue in your promise.

◊ **(Unknown, Pakistan)**

Let us pray for those who foster violence, those who do not forgive others.
May the Lord change their hearts so that they seek peace and love their brothers and sisters.

◊ **(Unknown, Ivory Coast)**

God of mercy and hope, in the struggle for freedom grant us strength;
in decisions about freedom grant us wisdom;
in the practice of freedom grant us guidance;
in the dangers of freedom grant us protection;
in the life of freedom grant us joy and in the use of freedom grant us vision;
for your name's sake

◊ **(Latin American Council of Churches)**

Dear Lord, you wanted all people to live in unity and to love each other.

Help us to break down the walls of separation.
Break down the walls of race, colour, creed and language.

Make us one so that our unity and love for each other may win many to your fold.

◊ **(Prayer of a Christian woman, Myanmar [Burma])**

You have come from afar and waited long and are wearied:

let us sit side by side sharing the same bread drawn from the same source

to quiet the same hunger that makes us weak.

Then, standing together, let us share the same spirit, the same thoughts that once again draw us together in friendship and unity and peace.

◊ **(Prières d'Ozawamick, Canadian Indian liturgical text)**

Lord

May I ever speak

as though it were the last word that I can speak.

May I ever act

as though it were the last action I can perform.

May I ever suffer

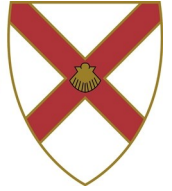
as though it were the last pain that I can offer.

May I ever pray

as though it were for me on earth

the last chance to speak to you.

◊ **(Chiara Lubich, founder of The Focolare Movement, Italy)**

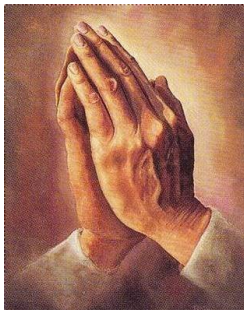


Prayers with responses

When we play: **Thank you, God.**
When we laugh: **Thank you, God.**
When we think: **Thank you, God.**
When we learn: **Thank you, God.**

We praise you, God, for golden leaves.
We praise you, God, for gentle mists.
We praise you, God, for apples and fruit.
We praise you, God, for chestnuts and conkers.
We praise you, God, for a glorious world.

We pray for ... (the Church)
Make our hearts respond to your love.
Lord, receive our praise
All and hear our prayer.
We pray for ... (the world)
Make our lives bear witness to your glory in the world.
Lord, receive our praise
All and hear our prayer.
We pray for ... (the sick and those in need)
Make our wills eager to obey, and our hands ready to heal.
Lord, receive our praise
All and hear our prayer.
We give you thanks for ...
Make our voices one with all your people in heaven and on earth.



We pray to the Lord.
In faith we pray.
All We pray to you, our God.
That the rest of this day may be holy, peaceful
and full of your presence:
in faith we pray.
All We pray to you, our God.
That the work we have done
and the people we have met today
may bring us closer to you:
in faith we pray.
All We pray to you, our God.
That we may hear and respond to your call to peace
and justice:
in faith we pray.
All We pray to you, our God.
That you will sustain the faith and hope of those who
are lonely, oppressed and anxious:
in faith we pray.
All We pray to you, our God.
That you will strengthen us in your service,
and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom:
in faith we pray.
All We pray to you, our God.

There are many ways to pray using responses. Pupils could use these examples as models for making up some of their own prayers with responses on the themes that are important to them.