

Passages from the Psalms and the Gospels

Psalm 8:3-5

When I look at the heavens, the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars which thou has established;
What is man that thou art mindful of him,
and the son of man that thou dost care for him?

Yet thou hast made him little less than God,
and dost crown him with glory and honor.

Psalm 16:1-2,5-9

Preserve me, O God, for in thee I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "Thou are my Lord; I have no good apart from thee."

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
thou holdest my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
yea, I have a goodly heritage.
I bless the LORD always before me;
Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also dwells secure.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside the still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
For thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for ever.

Psalm 27:1,5,7-9a

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent,
he will set me high upon a rock.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
Thou hast said, "Seek ye my face."
my heart says to thee,
"Thy face, LORD, do I seek."
Hide not thy face from me.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD is God!
it is he that made us, and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him, bless his name!

For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever;
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to thee, O LORD!
Lord, hear my voice!
Let thy ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

If thou, O LORD, shouldst mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee,
that thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
And in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the LORD
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Matthew 6:34

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.”

Matthew 8:5-13

The story of the Centurion, whose servant was healed because of the soldier’s faith.

Matthew 13:31-32

The parable of the mustard seed, in which Jesus teaches that from even the smallest beginnings, great things are possible with God.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 5:1-14

The story in which Jesus heals the lame man.

John 11:1-44

The story of Lazarus, who is brought back to life by Jesus. Consider especially v. 21, in which Martha reproaches Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Frustration with God in the face of illness is acceptable, it is normal.

Prayers for Various Occasions

For the Departed: Eternal Lord God, you hold all souls in life: Give to your whole Church in paradise and on earth your light and your peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served you here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into your unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (*The Book of Common Prayer (1979)*, p. 253)

For the Sick: Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those (or name or names) for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP 260)

For Vocation in Daily Work: Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 261)

When There is Tragedy: God of compassion: you watch the ways of men, and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace. Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted; through Jesus Christ, who was dead, but lives, and rules this world with you. Amen (*The Presbyterian Worshipbook (1972)*, p. 181)

For Those in Mental Distress: Mighty God: in Jesus Christ you dealt with spirits that darken minds or set men against themselves. Give peace to people who are torn by conflict, are cast down, or dream deceiving dreams. By your power, drive from our minds demons that shake confidence and wreck love. Tame unruly forces in us, and bring us to your truth, so that we may accept ourselves as good, glad children of your love, known in Jesus Christ. Amen. (PW 181)

For the Lonely: God of comfort, companion of the lonely: be with those who by neglect or willful separation are left alone. Fill empty places with present love, and long times of solitude with lively thoughts of you. Encourage us to visit lonely men and women, so they may be cheered by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who walked among us as a friend, and is our Lord forever. Amen. (PW 182)

For Healing: By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to hopeless men. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed (especially for _____). Close wounds, cure sickness, make broken people whole again, so they may live to rejoice in your love. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen. (PW 183)

For the Dying: Almighty God: by your power Jesus Christ was raised from death. Watch over dying men and women. Fill eyes with light, to see beyond human sight a home within your love, where pain is gone and frail flesh turns to glory. Banish fear. Brush tears away. Let death be gentle as nightfall, promising a day when songs of joy shall make us glad to be together with Jesus Christ, who lives in triumph, the Lord of life eternal. Amen. (PW 185)

Prayer for Caregivers:

O God, the consolation of all those who are sorrowful, and the salvation of those who put their trust in you, grant us, in this mortal life, that peace for which we pray, and hereafter to enjoy your presence eternally; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (From the Catholic Breviary, page 129 of *Two Thousand Years of Prayer*, Michael Counsell, ed.)

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people; continue, we beseech thee, this his gracious work among us in the hospitals and infirmaries of our land; console and heal the sufferers, grant to the physicians and surgeons wisdom and skill, and to the nurses diligence and patience. Prosper their work, O Lord, and vouchsafe thy blessing to all who give of their substance for its maintenance; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (From the *Scottish Episcopalian Book of Common Prayer (1912)*, page 489 of *2000 Years of Prayer*)

Father of all mercies, for your gifts of healing and forgiveness, for grace to love and care for one another, for your hidden blessings, and for all you have in store for us, we give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (From *A Prayer Book for Australia (1995)*, page 508 of *2000 Years of Prayer*)