

Victory over Sin and Death God's Covenants with His People

An Advent Prayer Vigil



December 3 – 4, 2022
9:00 am to 9:00 am (EST)

All Saints Church
Chevy Chase, MD

Jesus Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance

– Hebrews 9:15

From St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ within me;
Christ above me;
Christ below me;
Christ before me;
Christ behind me;
Christ on my right;
Christ on my left;
Christ all about me

To guide, and direct me,
That each meeting will be,
Each work undertaken,
By, with, and in him
performed to his glory.

Amen.

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Introduction

31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:31-33

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior and Beloved Friend,

It may not always appear that way, but God has a plan for everything and is currently at work fulfilling His plan. I know it is easy to doubt this: when we read the news, face our own struggles, and see sickness, pain, and death all around, it can feel like God may have abandoned us or moved far way.

I am sure that Noah's family floating in the ark, the Israelites wandering in the desert, King David facing rebellion from his own son, and Mary, our Lord's own mother, felt the same. However, when we look back with our 20/20 vision, we can see that God never abandoned His people but was at work delivering them from the Flood, leading them to the Promised Land, establishing His Kingdom, and defeating the powers of sin and death forever!

We may not always understand, and we may have many questions or even doubts. But our God does not slumber or sleep (**Psalm 121:4**), and His ways are far wiser and better than ours (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). Our God has been making promises to establish His people, to provide for them, and to rescue them from the enemy from the time humanity first sinned against Him (**Genesis 3:15**), and He has been faithful and just to keep every single promise He has ever made (**Joshua 21:45; 1 Kings 8:56; Romans 4:21; Hebrews 10:23; and 2 Corinthians 1:20**).

This Prayer Vigil is dedicated to reflection on God's Covenants – His solemn, unbreakable promises – to His people that have ultimately been fulfilled in Christ Jesus our Lord. During this Season of Advent, we look back at the coming of Jesus at Christmas and we look forward to His coming again in power and great glory. We are in the time of the New Covenant established by Jesus, and we eagerly anticipate the fulfillment of this New Covenant when Christ comes back to take us home.

Thank you for joining together in prayer during this 24-hour period. What you are doing has eternal consequences both for you and those you pray for. If you get stumped and don't know how to pray, rest assured that the Holy Spirit is with you, empowering you, and even praying on your behalf (**Romans 8:26-27**). May you feel His presence, be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love, and be transformed by His grace and power, so that His light would shine in you and through you!

With the love of Christ,

BJ Buracker
Interim Rector

About This Booklet

Using the Prayer Guide

This Booklet is designed to aid and inspire you as you come to God in prayer. We hope that God will use it to focus your heart and mind on God and His faithfulness to His people. In sending His Son into the world to suffer, die, and rise again, our God has fulfilled His promises to us, delivered us from the power of sin and death, and established a New Covenant whereby we are heaven-bound and filled with the Holy Spirit. May He now guide us as individuals and a church family into deeper intimacy with Himself and with His glorious Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

At a steady pace, you should be able to pray through this Prayer Guide in about an hour, but do not feel the need to rush. You may focus more on the themes and covenants that stir your heart most and simply end when the hour is over. It is best, however, if you begin with the Opening Reflections and finish with the Closing Reflections as they will help you move from preparation to joyful thanksgiving. Please also spend several minutes at the end of each section reflecting on what you have read, heard, and seen; and offer up to God the spontaneous prayers of your heart.

For this Vigil, we have incorporated art and music into our prayers. Take some time to mediate upon the paintings – their colors, symbols, figures, stories, etc. – as they may inspire your thoughts and prayers. For the Sacred Music, simply click on the link provided (where it says, “Click Here...”), and your device should play the music automatically. If the music does not play, refer to your email where we have copied the links for each song. Feel free to pause and listen or sing as the music should also aid your prayers.

The Prayer Guide is divided into five main sections, each basing its themes, readings, and prayers on one of God’s covenants with His people. We firmly believe that God keeps His promises to His people, has a glorious plan for the entire universe, and, through Christ, is working to bring all His people into His Heavenly Kingdom. May the Lord use the Vigil to remind you of His faithfulness, love, and hope. To Him be all the glory and praise!

Acknowledgments

This Prayer Vigil depends on the invaluable prayers, labor, and inspiration of many of our parishioners. I would like to thank especially Cynthia Bryant, Dan Buckingham, Earl Foote, Nancy Gray, Judy Kelly, and Mary Lee Kingsley for their assistance in compiling all the readings and prayers; Rev. Mac Stewart for providing artwork and the opening prayers; and Peter Crisafulli for providing musical selections. Thank you also for dedicating your valuable time to join us in prayer today. May God bless you for your faithfulness and prayers. Amen.

All Scripture citations are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted. Prayers are taken from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) or *The St. Augustine Prayer Book* (SAPB) unless otherwise noted.

Opening Reflections

Psalm 136

Psalm 136 is a recitation of God's inexhaustible mercy towards his covenant people, especially in Creation and the Exodus.

Antiphon: I will keep my love for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him (Psalm 89:28)

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Give thanks to the God of gods, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

4 Who only does great wonders, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

5 Who by wisdom made the heavens, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

6 Who spread out the earth upon the waters, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

7 Who created great lights, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

8 The sun to rule the day, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

10 Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

11 And brought out Israel from among them, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

12 With a mighty hand and a stretched out
arm, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

13 Who divided the Red Sea in two, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

14 And made Israel to pass through the midst
of it, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

15 But swept Pharaoh and his army into the
Red Sea, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

16 Who led his people through the wilderness, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

17 Who struck down great kings, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

18 And slew mighty kings, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

20 And Og, the king of Bashan, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

21 And gave away their lands for an
inheritance, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

22 An inheritance for Israel his servant, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

23 Who remembered us in our low estate, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

24 And delivered us from our enemies, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

25 Who gives food to all creatures, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon: I will keep my love for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him (Psalm 89:28)

Opening Prayers

The Collect for Advent (BCP)

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Prayer for Christian Graces (A Gallican Sacramentary)

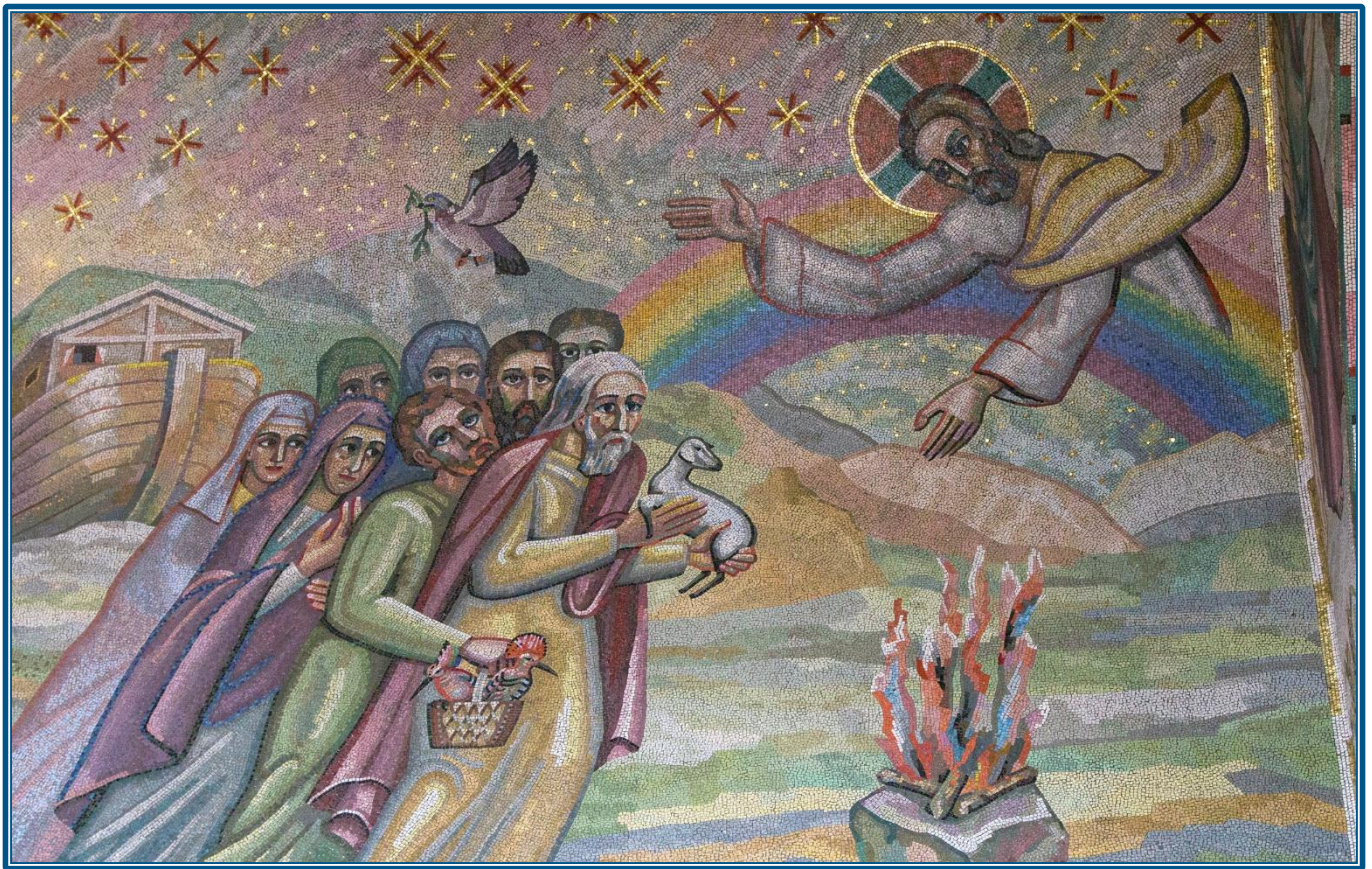
Give me, O Lord, purity of lips, a clean and innocent heart, and rectitude of action. Give me humility, patience, abstinence, chastity, prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance. Give me the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and godliness, and of Thy fear. Make me ever to seek Thy face with all my heart, all my soul, all my mind; grant me to have a contrite and humbled heart in Thy presence – to prefer nothing to Thy love. Most high, eternal, and ineffable Wisdom, drive away from me the darkness of blindness and ignorance; most high and eternal Strength, deliver me; most high and eternal Fortitude, assist me; most high and incomprehensible Light, illuminate me; most high and infinite Mercy, have mercy on me. Amen.

A Collect from the Easter Vigil (BCP)

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hope and Grace

God's Covenants with Adam and Noah



Opening Verses for Meditation

Genesis 2:7–8

7 Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 2:16–17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat[d] of it you shall surely die.”

Hosea 6:6–7

6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. 7 But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.

Artwork: Boris Anrep, *The Covenant with Noah* (20th Century): Mosaic from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Westminster Cathedral.

Lessons and Psalms

Genesis 3:14–15 and 22–24

14 The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Psalm 8

1 O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world; *
thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!

2 Out of the mouth of very babes and infants hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies, *
that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers; *
the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? *
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

5 Thou madest him lower than the angels, *
to crown him with glory and worship

6 Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands; *
and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet:

7 All sheep and oxen; *
yea, and the beasts of the field;

8 The fowls of the air, and the fish of the sea; *
and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.

9 O Lord our Governor, *
how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

Genesis 9:8–17

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh.

And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

1 Peter 3:18–22

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive,[d] he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.[e] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Collects and Prayers

The Prayer for the Candidates of Holy Baptism (BCP)

Almighty and everlasting Father, who of thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; We beseech thee, for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look upon these thy servants. Wash them and sanctify them with the Holy Ghost, that they, being delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ’s Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally they may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with thee world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for the Parish (BCP)

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Enhancing Your Prayers

Based upon God’s Covenants with Adam and Noah, we encourage you also to pray for:

- God’s wisdom and foresight that our leaders and communities would be able to identify and implement the means towards ending all acts of violence, destruction, and oppression;
- God’s discernment in pursuing and commitment to what is good and true rather than what is evil and false; and
- God’s blessings of hope, faith, encouragement, and comfort as we journey on our respective paths towards eternal life in Kingdom of God.

A Song: In a World Where People Walk in Darkness

[\(Click here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

In a world where people walk in darkness
Let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the Daystar scattering our night.

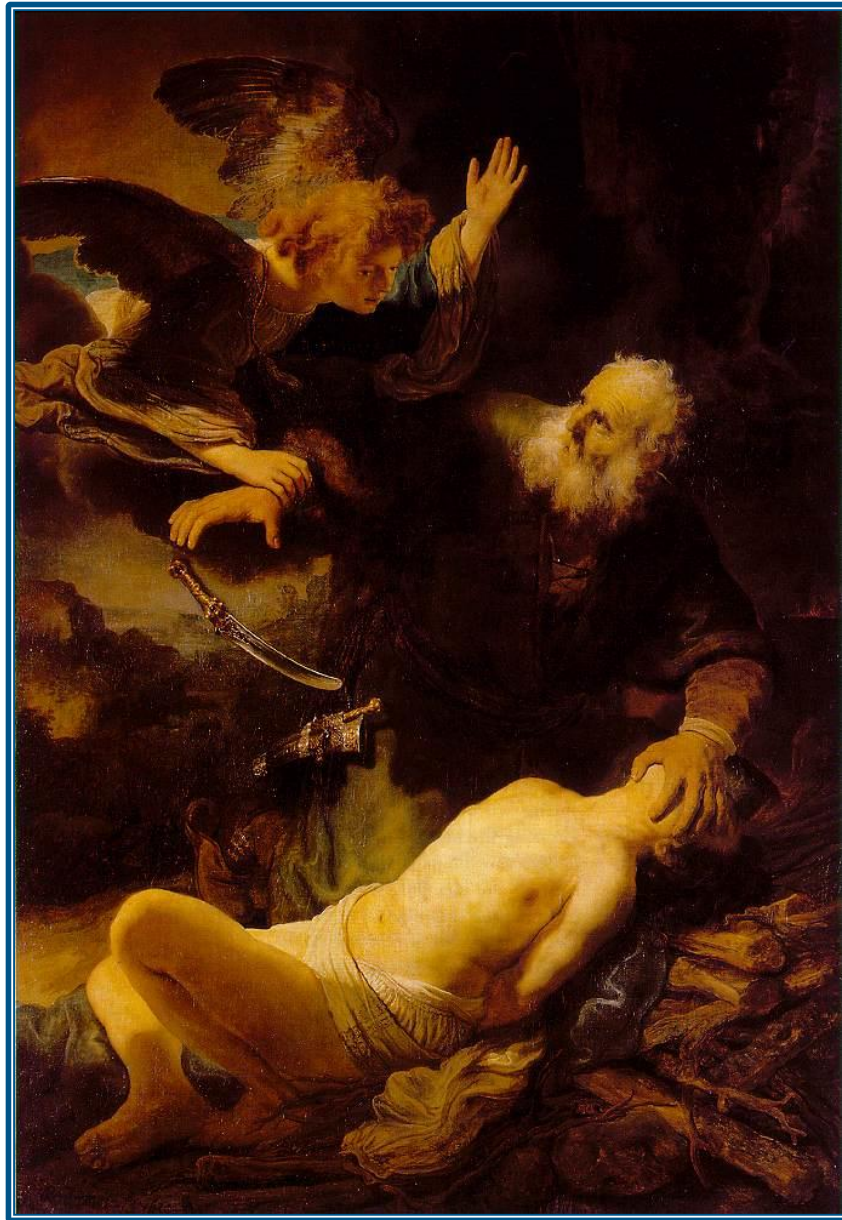
Chorus: For the light is stronger than the
darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

In a world where suffering of the helpless
Casts a shadow all along the way,
Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness
And proclaim the dawning of the day.

Let us light a candle in the darkness,
In the face of death, a sign of life.
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,
As a sign of peace in place of strife.

Please now take 2–3 minutes to offer up to God the Prayers of Your Heart, reflecting on God’s Covenants with Adam and Noah.

Promise and Blessing God's Covenant with Abraham



Opening Verses for Meditation

Genesis 12:1–3

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Artwork: Rembrandt, *The Sacrifice of Isaac* (1635): Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg.

Matthew 5:3

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

John 3:16

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..

Lessons and Psalms

Genesis 17:1–8

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, 4 "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

Psalms 105:1–11

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *

make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, * and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; * let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Search for the LORD and his strength; * continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, * his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, * O children of Jacob his chosen.

7 He is the LORD our God; * his judgments prevail in all the world.

8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, * the promise he made for a thousand generations:

9 The covenant he made with Abraham, * the oath that he swore to Isaac,

10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, * an everlasting covenant for Israel,

11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan * to be your allotted inheritance."!

Genesis 22:9–18

9 When Abraham and Isaac came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Collects and Prayers

The Magnificat (BCP)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our ancestors, *
to Abraham and Sarah and their children forever.

A Prayer for Advent, as Inheritors, through Jesus Christ, of God's Covenant with Abraham (Earl Foote)

O, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all their righteous descendants, we give thanks for the covenant that you established with Abraham, setting apart his descendants as your Chosen People. In this Advent season, we remember your promise to Abraham, and your promise to Mary that she would bear your Son, who extended your blessing to all who believe in him. We give thanks in anticipation of commemorating the birth of your Son. We pray for your guidance as we await the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ. When he returns, may we be ready for his triumphal presence, and worthy of belonging to him. In preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and in preparation for his second coming, we humbly confess our sins to you and ask for your forgiveness, knowing that your mercy is without limits. We ask this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Enhancing Your Prayers

Based upon God's Covenant with Abraham, we encourage you also to pray for:

- God's direction in how you can share God's blessing and promises to those around you;
- God's Holy Spirit to be poured into us so that our church might be a beacon of light and hope in a dark and broken work; and
- God's strength to manifest itself within us so we might be obedient to all He calls us to do.

Please now take 2–3 minutes to offer up to God the Prayers of Your Heart, reflecting on God's Covenant with Abraham.

Deliverance and Obedience

God's Covenant with Moses



Opening Verses for Meditation

Exodus 3:7

7 Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Exodus 24:7

7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."

Job 42:1-2

1 Then Job answered the LORD and said: 2 "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."

Psalms 119:105

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Lessons and Psalms

Exodus 14:10–14 and 21–23

10 When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. 11 They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." 13 And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Psalms 19:7–14

7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;

*the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,

*sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, * and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? * cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; *

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Exodus 24:2–7, 12

2 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him."

3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."

12 The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

Prayers and Collects

The Song of Moses (BCP)

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

A Prayer for Gratitude in God's Works (Nancy Gray)

Dear Lord, let us come before you with grateful hearts, remembering: God's redemption of the Israelites in their journey to freedom from slavery from the Egyptians; God's calling of the Lord to Moses for establishing a covenant with his people; and Moses' personal feelings of inadequacy. May I remember Moses when faced with my own feelings of inadequacy, that the Lord will fight for me or our church family as we march out boldly, trusting that the victory will be won by God and I/we only need to be still, and wait for the Lord!

The Bible also promises that God will redeem, or work for our good, all evil that touches the lives of His people, as we have seen by God's awesome act on behalf of Israel through the evils of Pharaoh. Thank you that your faithfulness and protection is available for me, my family, and our community.

Also as we remember God's rescue at the Red Sea, Israel could be sure God's plans would not be thwarted and they would be loved and redeemed in the promised land of Canaan. Therefore, I will trust in the Lord with all my heart (**Proverbs 3:5a**). It is a source of strength to me in many circumstances of my life. May it be so for all of us!

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Enhancing Your Prayers

Based upon God's Covenant with Moses, we encourage also to pray for:

- The tasks and works of righteousness to which God is calling you but to which you feel resistant and inadequate;
- The ways and gifts God has already supplied you so that you can perform His will but which you have not yet noticed; and
- The "Red Sea" obstacles in your life that might be obstructing your progress into the "Promised Land."

A Song: The Lord is My Salvation

[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

The grace of God has reached for me
And pulled me from the raging sea
And I am safe on the solid ground
The Lord is my salvation

I will not fear when darkness falls
His strength will help me scale these walls
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun
The Lord is my salvation

(chorus) Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid, and the victory won
The Lord is my salvation

My hope is hidden in the Lord
He fulfills each promise of His word
When winter fades, I know spring will come
The Lord is my salvation

Glory be to God, the Father
Glory be to God, the Son
Glory be to God, the Spirit
The Lord is our Salvation (x2)

Who is like the Lord our God
(Strong to save) strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid, and the victory won
The Lord is my salvation
The Lord is my salvation
The Lord is my salvation

Please now take 2–3 minutes to offer up to God the Prayers of Your Heart, reflecting on God's Covenant with Moses.

King and Messiah

God's Covenant with David



Opening Verses for Meditation

Ezekiel 34:23–24

23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

Psalms 89:3–4

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

1 Kings 9:4–5

4 And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, 5 then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

Mark 11:10

10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!

Lessons and Psalms

2 Samuel 7:4–17

4 The word of the LORD came to Nathan, 5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. 7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Psalm 2

1 Why are the nations in an uproar? *
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?

3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; *
"let us cast off their bonds from us."

4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.

5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.

6 "I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."

7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

9 You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

10 And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

11 Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;

12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

13 Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him!

Luke 1:26–38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Prayers and Collects

Collect for Christ the King Sunday (BCP)

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving to God our Shepherd (Cynthia Bryant)

Father God, I praise and glorify you thanking you on bended knee and bowed head for your grace and mercy. I embrace your love and give thanks for your forgiveness of my sins and inequity. I meditate on your promise of salvation as I pray this Psalm of David:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint 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 forever.

Enhancing Your Prayers

Based upon God's Covenant with David, we encourage also to pray:

- In thanksgiving that God is by my side to lift me up in both the good and difficult times of life;
- In thanksgiving that God in His patience and forgiveness will not abandon me and will continue to show His love even in the midst of tumultuous global unrest;
- That God would send His Spirit to guide world powers to turn to Him to find peace, hope, salvation, and light; and
- That God would open Him heart and mind to His promises of salvation and love so that I would reach out to draw near to Him.

Please now take 2–3 minutes to offer up to God the Prayers of Your Heart, reflecting on God's Covenant with David.

Salvation and Redemption

God's Covenants Fulfilled in Jesus Christ



Opening Verses for Meditation

Jeremiah 31:33–34

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Luke 22:17–20

17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Artwork: Juan de Juanes, *Jesus with the Eucharist at the Last Supper* (ca. 1560): Museo del Prado, Madrid.

Titus 3:5–6

5 He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Lessons and Psalms

Jude 1:17–23

17 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” 19 It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Psalms 107:1–9

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed
proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand
of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west, from
the north and from the south.

4 Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they
might dwell.

5 They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.

6 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their
distress.

7 He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.

8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his
mercy *
and the wonders he does for his
children.

9 For he satisfies the thirsty *
and fills the hungry with good things.

Mark 4:35–41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 He said to them,

“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

1 Corinthians 15:25–28

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Prayers and Collects

A Prayer for the Human Family (BCP)

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unit us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect, Proper 29 (BCP)

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Enhancing Your Prayers

Based upon God’s fulfillment in Jesus Christ, we encourage also to pray for:

- The Lord to open my heart and mind to Jesus Christ so that I would Him without fear or doubt but with faith, hope, and faith;
- God to enable me to accept and be filled with His Spirit so that He would always be with me;
- God to open my eyes and heart to see the needs of others through His love and compassion;
- God to comfort me whenever I encounter tragedy, fear, loss, grief, or any kind of trauma, and that I would trust Him to provide for me and use even the difficulties of life for my benefit and His glory; and
- The Lord to pour out His wisdom and discernment upon our Vestry and Search Committee as they seek His will in selecting the next Rector of All Saints Church.

A Song: Hallelujah Chorus

[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

Hallelujah! (x10)

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
(x2)

Hallelujah! (x15)

The kingdom of this world
Is become the kingdom of our Lord
And of His Christ, and of His Christ
And He shall reign for ever and ever (x3)
For ever and ever, forever and ever

King of kings
Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
And Lord of lords
Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (x3)

And He shall reign
And He shall reign
And He shall reign forever and ever

King of kings (Forever and ever)
And He shall reign (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And He shall reign forever and ever

King of kings! and Lord of lords!
King of kings! and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign forever and ever

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (x2)

Hallelujah!.

Please now take 2–3 minutes to offer up to God the Prayers of Your Heart, reflecting on God’s New Covenant in Jesus Christ.

Concluding Reflections

Opening Verses for Meditation

Revelation 21:22–25

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

1 John 1:5–9

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A Litany of Thanksgiving (BCP)

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord; To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Closing Prayers

Thanksgiving for the Mission of the Church (BCP)

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Beauty of the Earth (BCP)

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever. Amen

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis (BCP)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us 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. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

A Collect for Answered Prayer (BCP)

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.