

Prayers for Those Who are Sick

Any of the following prayers may be adapted as needed.

For Health of Body and Soul

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For a Child

Heavenly Father, watch with us over your child N., and hear our yearning that *she/he* may be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

or this

Gentle Jesus, stay beside your child N. through this day/night. Take away *her/his* pain. Keep *her/him* safe. Help *her/him* in *her/his* fear. Make *her/his* body strong again and *her/his* heart glad. Thank you for your love which surrounds *her/him* always. *Amen.*

or this

Jesus, our Redeemer, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs and carry them in your arms: We entrust our child N. to your loving care. Relieve *her/his* pain, restore in *her/him* your gifts of joy and strength, and raise *her/him* up to a life in your service. Hear us, we pray, for your dear Name's sake. *Amen.*

For a Visit with Someone Who is Sick

Gentle Jesus, though we are not worthy to have you come under our roof, you are God's word of healing to us. Be with us now, that we may know your presence in one another and rise up in joy to greet you. Grant this for your love's sake. *Amen.*

For Release

Blessed Jesus, Living Water, Solid Rock: Uphold your child N.; loose the fetters of sickness, break *her/his* yoke of pain, and from this land of affliction, lead *her/him* home. *Amen.*

For People with Diseases for Which There is No Cure

Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all persons living with illness for which we have no cure, as well as their families and loved ones. Help them to know that you claim them as your own, deliver them from fear and pain, and send your archangel Raphael to minister to their needs; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. *Amen.*

For Those Who are Unconscious

Merciful God, in your love and wisdom you know the needs and fears of your people before we can name them. Grant that N. and we who watch with *her/him* may be enabled to surrender all *her/his* cares to you, as you care for *her/him*. Give *her/him* peace of mind and unshakable trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

For the Dying

Blessed Jesus, in your last agony you commended your spirit to your Father. We seek your mercy for N., and all who are dying. May death become for them, as it was for you, a birth to everlasting life. Receive those whom we commend to you with the blessed assurance that whether we wake or sleep, we remain with you, one God, for ever. *Amen.*

For Those Who Mourn

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus: look with compassion on all who are bound by sorrow and pain

through the death of *N.* (or a loved one). Comfort them, grant them the conviction that all things work together for good to those who love you, and help them to find sure trust and confidence in your resurrection power; through Jesus Christ our deliverer. *Amen.*

For a Poor Prognosis

In your tender mercies O God, remember, *N.* who [*expects/has just received*] a grave diagnosis. Help *her/him* to trust in your goodness and believe that after a time of trial *she/he* shall be established on the firm foundation of your deliverance. *Amen.*

In the Evening

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

For a Person Who is Sick

God of all comfort, our very present help in trouble: be near to *N.* for whom our prayers are offered. Look on *her/him* with the eyes of your mercy; comfort *her/him* with a sense of your presence; preserve *her/him* from the enemy; and give *her/him* patience in *her/his* affliction. Restore *her/him* to health, and lead *her/him* to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Protection

Christ, light of light, brightness indescribable, the Wisdom, power and glory of God, the Word made flesh: you overcame the forces of Satan, redeemed the world, then ascended again to the Father. Grant *N.*, we pray, in this tarnished world, the shining of your splendor. Send your Archangel Michael to defend *her/him*, to

guard *her/his* going out and coming in, and to bring *her/him* safely to your presence, where you reign in the one holy and undivided Trinity, to ages of ages. *Amen.*

For One Suffering from Mental Distress

Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, we lay before you the memories that haunt *N.*, the anxieties that perplex *her/him*, the despair that frightens *her/him*, and *her/his* frustration at *her/his* inability to think clearly. Help *her/him* to discover your forgiveness in *her/his* memories and know your peace in *her/his* distress. Touch *her/him*, O Lord, and fill *her/him* with your light and your hope. *Amen.*

For Recovery from Sickness

God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of those who suffer: Hear *our* prayers and grant *N.* the power of your grace, that *her/his* sickness may be turned into health, and *our* sorrow into joy; for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

or this

Spirit of all healing, visit your child *N.*; in your power, renew health within *her/him* and raise *her/him* up in joy, according to your loving-kindness, for which we give thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

For Strength and Confidence

Gracious God, only source of life and health: Help, comfort, and relieve [*N.*], and give your power of healing to those who minister to *her/his* needs; that *her/his* weakness may be turned to strength and confidence in your loving care; for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For the Sleepless

Holy and Blessed One, shine on *N.*, who lies sleepless. Illumine *her/his spirit* and give *her/him* rest in you, so that *she/he* may recognize you as the true God who brings us out of darkness into our eternal light. *Amen.*

For Rest

O God our refuge and strength: in this place of unrelenting light and noise, enfold *N.* in your holy darkness and silence, that *she/he* may rest secure under the shadow of your wings. *Amen.*

For the Sanctification of Illness

Sanctify, O Lord, the sickness of your servant *N.*, that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith and seriousness to *his* repentance; and grant that *he* may live with you in everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Before an Operation

Loving God, we pray that you will comfort *N.* in *her/his* suffering, lend skill to the hands of *her/his* healers, and bless the means used for *her/his* cure. Give *her/him* such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when *she/he* is afraid, *she/he* may put *her/his* whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For an Extended Course of Treatment

Strengthen your servant *N.*, O God, to go where *she/he* has to go and bear what *she/he* has to bear; that, accepting your healing gifts at the hands of surgeons, nurses, and technicians, *she/he* may be restored to wholeness with a thankful heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

For Survivors of Abuse and Violence

Holy One, you do not distance yourself from the pain of your people, but in Jesus bear that pain with us and bless all who suffer at others' hands. Hallow our flesh and all creation; with your cleansing love bring healing and strength to *N.*; and by your justice, lift *her/him* up, that in the body you have given *her/him*, *she/he* may again rejoice. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

In Times of Personal Distress

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving for Recovery

God, your loving-kindness never fails, and your mercies are new every morning. We thank you for giving *N.* relief from pain and hope of health renewed. Continue the good work begun in *her/him*; that increasing daily in wholeness and strength, *she/he* may rejoice in your goodness and so order *her/his* life always to think and do that which pleases you; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

For Those Who Fear Losing Hope

Loving God, inspire by your Holy Spirit those who are afraid of losing hope, especially *N.* for whom we now pray. Give *her/him* a fresh vision of your love, that *she/he* may find again what *she/he* fears *she/he* has lost. Grant *her/him* your powerful deliverance; through the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

For Those Who are Developmentally Disabled

Giver of all grace, we pray your peace, which passes all understanding, for those who are developmentally disabled. Grant that they may always be sustained in love, their gifts honored, and their difficulties understood, that none may add to their troubles. We ask this in the name of the one who comforted those who were troubled in mind, Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

Prayers for Use by a Sick Person

Any of the following prayers may be adapted as needed.

For Trust in God

O God, the source of all health: So fill my heart with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Pain

Lord Jesus Christ, by your patience in suffering you hallowed earthly pain and gave us the example of obedience to your Father's will: Be near me in my time of weakness and pain; sustain me by your grace, that my strength and courage may not fail; heal me according to you will; and help me always to believe that what happens to me here is of little account if you hold me in eternal life, my Lord and my God. Amen.

For Sleep

O heavenly Father, you give your children sleep for the refreshing of soul and body: Grant me this gift, I pray; keep me in that perfect peace which you have promised to those whose minds are fixed on you; and give me such a sense of your presence, that in the hours of silence I may enjoy the blessed assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

In the Morning

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I

am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

In the Evening

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

A Child's Prayer

Jesus, our Redeemer, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you carry the lambs in your arms. I place myself in your loving care. Stop my pain, give me help and strength, and raise me up to a life of joy. Hear me, I pray, for your dear Name's sake. Amen.

or this

Gentle Jesus, stay beside me through this day [night]. Take away my pain. Keep me safe. Help me in my fear. Make my body strong again and my heart glad. Thank you for your love which surrounds me always. Amen.

For a Sick Person

God of all comfort, our very present help in trouble, be near to me. Look on me with the eyes of your mercy; comfort me with a sense of your presence; preserve me from the enemy; and give me patience in my affliction. Restore me to health, and lead me to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Protection

Christ, light of light, brightness indescribable, the Wisdom, power and glory of God, the Word made flesh: you overcame the forces

of Satan, redeemed the world, then ascended again to the Father. Grant me, I pray, in this tarnished world, the shining of your splendor. Send your Archangel Michael to defend me, to guard my going out and coming in, and to bring me safely to your presence, where you reign in the one holy and undivided Trinity, to ages of ages. Amen.

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Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, I lay before you the memories that haunt me, the anxieties that perplex me, the despair that frightens me, and my frustration at my inability to think clearly. Help me to discover your forgiveness in my memories and know your peace in my distress. Touch me, O Lord, and fill me with your light and your hope. Amen.

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or this

Spirit of all healing, visit me, your child; in your power, renew health within me and raise me up in joy, according to your loving-kindness, for which I give thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

For Strength and Confidence

Gracious God, only source of life and health: Help, comfort, and relieve me, and give your power of healing to those who minister to my needs; that my weakness may be turned to strength and confidence in your loving care; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

For the Sleepless

Holy and Blessed One: shine on me as I lie sleepless. Illumine my spirit and give me rest in you, so that I may recognize you as the true God who brings us out of darkness into our eternal light. Amen.

For Rest

O God my refuge and strength: in this place of unrelenting light and noise, enfold me in your holy darkness and silence, that I may rest secure under the shadow of your wings. Amen.

For Sanctification of Illness

Sanctify, O Holy One, my sickness, that awareness of weakness may add strength to my faith and determination to my repentance; and grant that I may be made whole, according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Before an Operation

Loving God, I pray that you will comfort me in my suffering, lend skill to the hands of my healers, and bless the means used for my cure. Give me such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when I am afraid, I may put my whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

or this

Keep me, Holy One, as the apple of your eye. Though I fear anesthesia, help me rest myself in your watchful care, and awake in the firm hope of your healing. Amen.

For an Extended Course of Treatment

Strengthen me, O God, to go where I have to go and bear what I have to bear; that, accepting your healing gifts at the hands of surgeons, nurses, and technicians, I may be restored to wholeness with a thankful heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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Holy One, you do not distance yourself from the pain of your people, but in Jesus bear that pain with us and bless all who suffer at others' hands. Hallow my flesh and all creation; with your cleansing love bring me healing and strength; and by your justice, lift me up, that in the body you have given me, I may again rejoice. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

In Times of Personal Distress

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As I go through the trials of life, help me to realize that you are with me at all times and in all things; that I have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds me for eternity. In the security of your embrace I pray. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Recovery

God, your loving-kindness never fails and your mercies are new every morning. I thank you for giving me relief from pain and hope of health renewed. Continue the good work begun in me; that increasing daily in wholeness and strength, I may rejoice in your goodness and so order my life always to think and do that which pleases you; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

For One Who Fears Losing Hope

Loving God, by your Holy Spirit inspire me, as I fear losing hope. Give me a fresh vision of your love, that I may find again what I

fear I have lost. Grant me your powerful deliverance; through the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

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In Thanksgiving

Thank you, Holy and Mighty One, for the many gifts of your love, even for the painful gift of fear which reminds me that only you are God. Into the mystery of your love I entrust myself. Dress me in the armor of your light and keep me safe; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

or this

In the midst of illness, God, I pause to give you thanks: for the glory of creation, which reveals in many forms your matchless beauty; for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus our Savior; for your gift of my life and the presence of the Holy Spirit; for loved ones who care for me; and for the companionship of the Church. I thank you, blessed Trinity, holy God, for the gifts which sustain me in my time of need. Amen.

In Pain

As Jesus cried out on the cross, I cry out to you in pain, O God my Creator. Do not forsake me. Grant me relief from this suffering and preserve me in peace; through Jesus Christ my Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In Loss of Memory

Holy God, you have known me from my mother's womb, and have been with me throughout my life. Protect me and keep me safe through all the changes that may come. Since I am sealed as Christ's own, help me to trust that who I am will never be lost to you. Amen.

In Confinement

My Creator, you rolled out the heavens and spread the sky like a tent: bless to me the small confinement of this room, the long days, disturbances of night, immobility of body, and unease of soul, that this place of exile may become my holy ground, and Jesus my deliverer. Amen.

For Serenity

Merciful Jesus, you are my guide, the joy of my heart, the author of my hope, and the object of my love. I come seeking refreshment and peace. Show me your mercy, relieve my fears and anxieties, and grant me a quiet mind and an expectant heart, that by the assurance of your presence I may learn to abide in you, who is my Lord and my God. Amen.

or this

Jesus, let your mighty calmness lift me above my fears and frustrations. By your deep patience, give me tranquility and stillness of soul in you. Make me in this, and in all, more and more like you. Amen.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Caregivers

Merciful God, I thank you that since I have no strength to care for myself, you serve me through the hands and hearts of others. Bless these people that they may continue to serve you and please you all their days. Amen.

A Prayer of Comfort in God

God, you are my help and comfort; you shelter and surround me in love so tender that I may know your presence with me, now and always. Amen.

In Desolation

O God, why have you abandoned me? Though you have hidden your face from me, still from this dread and empty place, I cry to you, who have promised me that underneath are your everlasting arms. Amen.

After the Loss of a Pregnancy

O God, who gathered Rachel's tears over her lost children, hear now *my/our* sorrow and distress at the death of *my/our* expected child; in the darkness of loss, stretch out to *me/us* the strength of your arm and renewed assurance of your love; through your own suffering and risen Child Jesus. Amen.

or when appropriate

Holy God, I lament I have not had strength to hold, bear, and nurture the new life you have sent. Lift me up from my distress. Fill my grieving heart. Renew my hope. Receive the child I return to you into the arms of your mercy, for which I also yearn. Amen.

For Diagnosis of Terminal Illness

O God, only you number my days. Help me to look bravely at the end of my life in this world, while trusting in my life in the next. Journey with me toward my unexplored horizon where Jesus my Savior has gone before. Amen.

For Difficult Treatment Choices

Jesus, at Gethsemane you toiled with terrifying choices. Be with me now as I struggle with a fearful choice of treatments which promise much discomfort and offer no guarantee of long-term good. Help me know that you will bless my choice to me, and, good Savior, be my companion on the way. Amen.

In addition to the psalms listed above, the following may be helpful in times of distress:

Psalm 22

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 “He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”

- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my
mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.
- 12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- 13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- 16 Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.
- 17 They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.
- 18 Be not far away, O LORD; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- 19 Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.

- 20 Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
- 21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who
worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to
the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down
in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Psalm 25:15-21

15 Turn to me and have pity on me, *
for I am left alone and in misery.

16 The sorrows of my heart have increased; *
bring me out of my troubles.

17 Look upon my adversity and misery *
and forgive me all my sin.

18 Look upon my enemies, for they are many, *
and they bear a violent hatred against me.

19 Protect my life and deliver me; *
let me not be put to shame, for I have trusted in you.

20 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, *
for my hope has been in you.

21 Deliver Israel, O God, *
out of all his troubles.

Psalm 38

1 O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger; *
do not punish me in your wrath.

2 For your arrows have already pierced me, *
and your hand presses hard upon me.

3 There is no health in my flesh,
because of your indignation; *
there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin.

- 4 For my iniquities overwhelm me; *
like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear.
- 5 My wounds stink and fester *
by reason of my foolishness.
- 6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; *
I go about in mourning all the day long.
- 7 My loins are filled with searing pain; *
there is no health in my body.
- 8 I am utterly numb and crushed; *
I wail, because of the groaning of my heart.
- 9 O Lord, you know all my desires, *
and my sighing is not hidden from you.
- 10 My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me, *
and the brightness of my eyes is gone from me.
- 11 My friends and companions draw back from my affliction; *
my neighbors stand afar off.
- 12 Those who seek after my life lay snares for me; *
those who strive to hurt me speak of my ruin
and plot treachery all the day long.
- 13 But I am like the deaf who do not hear, *
like those who are mute and do not open their mouth.
- 14 I have become like one who does not hear *
and from whose mouth comes no defense.
- 15 For in you, O LORD, have I fixed my hope; *
you will answer me, O Lord my God.

- 16 For I said, “Do not let them rejoice at my expense, *
those who gloat over me when my foot slips.”
- 17 Truly, I am on the verge of falling, *
and my pain is always with me.
- 18 I will confess my iniquity *
and be sorry for my sin.
- 19 Those who are my enemies without cause are mighty, *
and many in number are those who wrongfully hate me.
- 20 Those who repay evil for good slander me, *
because I follow the course that is right.
- 21 O LORD, do not forsake me; *
be not far from me, O my God.
- 22 Make haste to help me, *
O LORD of my salvation.

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 69:31-38

- 31 As for me, I am afflicted and in pain; *
your help, O God, will lift me up on high.
- 32 I will praise the Name of God in song; *
I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.
- 33 This will please the Lord more than an offering of oxen, *
more than bullocks with horns and hoofs.

- 34 The afflicted shall see and be glad; *
you who seek God, your heart shall live.
- 35 For the Lord listens to the needy, *
and his prisoners he does not despise.
- 36 Let the heavens and the earth praise him, *
the seas and all that moves in them;
- 37 For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; *
they shall live there and have it in possession.
- 38 The children of his servants will inherit it, *
and those who love his Name will dwell therein.

Psalm 88

- 1 O LORD, my God, my Savior, *
by day and night I cry to you.
- 2 Let my prayer enter into your presence; *
incline your ear to my lamentation.
- 3 For I am full of trouble; *
my life is at the brink of the grave.
- 4 I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; *
I have become like one who has no strength;
- 5 Lost among the dead, *
like the slain who lie in the grave,
- 6 Whom you remember no more, *
for they are cut off from your hand.
- 7 You have laid me in the depths of the Pit, *
in dark places, and in the abyss.

- 8 Your anger weighs upon me heavily, *
and all your great waves overwhelm me.
- 9 You have put my friends far from me;
you have made me to be abhorred by them; *
I am in prison and cannot get free.
- 10 My sight has failed me because of trouble; *
LORD, I have called upon you daily;
I have stretched out my hands to you.
- 11 Do you work wonders for the dead? *
will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?
- 12 Will your loving-kindness be declared in the grave? *
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?
- 13 Will your wonders be known in the dark? *
or your righteousness in the country where all
is forgotten?
- 14 But as for me, O LORD, I cry to you for help; *
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- 15 LORD, why have you rejected me? *
why have you hidden your face from me?
- 16 Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the
point of death; *
I have borne your terrors with a troubled mind.
- 17 Your blazing anger has swept over me; *
your terrors have destroyed me;
- 18 They surround me all day long like a flood; *
they encompass me on every side.

19 My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me, *
and darkness is my only companion.

Psalm 116

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of
my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever
I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”
- 4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The LORD watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the LORD has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD *
in the land of the living.
- 9 I believed, even when I said,
“I have been brought very low.” *
In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Canticle I

A Song of Jonah

Jonah 2:2-7, 9

I called to you, O God, out of my distress, and you answered me; *
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.
You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, *
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and billows passed over me.
Then I said, "I am driven away from your sight; *
how shall I ever look again upon your holy temple?"
The waters closed in over me, the deep was round about me; *
weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots
of the mountains.
I went down to the land beneath the earth, *
yet you brought up my life from the depths, O God.
As my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, O God, *
and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.
With the voice of thanksgiving, I will sacrifice to you; *
what I have vowed I will pay, for deliverance belongs to the Lord!

Canticle Q

A Song of Christ's Goodness

Anselm of Canterbury

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; *
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride, *
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, *
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; *
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; *
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, *
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; *
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, *
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

Canticle R

A Song of the True Motherhood

Julian of Norwich

God chose to be our mother in all things *
and so made the foundation of his work,
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.
God, the perfect wisdom of all, *
arrayed himself in this humble place.
Christ came in our poor flesh *
to share a mother's care.
Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; *
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.
Christ carried us within him in love and travail, *
until the full time of his passion.
And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, *
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.
All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, *
for the love of Christ works in us;
Christ is the one whom we love.

Additional Prayers

Any of the following prayers may be adapted as needed.

For Caregivers and Others in Support of the Sick

Lover of souls, we bless your Holy Name for all who are called to mediate your grace to those who are sick or infirm. Sustain them by your Holy Spirit, that they may bring your loving-kindness to those in pain, fear, and confusion; that in bearing one another's burdens they may follow the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

or this

Compassionate God, support and strengthen all those who reach out in love, concern, and prayer for the sick and distressed. In their acts of compassion, may they know that they are your instruments. In their concerns and fears may they know your peace. In their prayer may they know your steadfast love. May they not grow weary or faint-hearted, for your mercy's sake. *Amen.*

For Companions to Those Who Are Chronically Ill

O God, surround *N.* [*and N.*] with your compassion as *she/he/they* live[s] with *N.* in sickness. Help *N.* [*and N.*] to accept the limits of what *she/he/they* can do, that feelings of helplessness and frustration [*and anger*] may be transformed into serene acceptance and joyful hope in you. Let *her/him/them* remember the grief and love of Jesus over the afflictions of his friends, knowing that God too weeps. Bring *her/him/them* gladness and strengthened love in *her/his/their* service; through Christ our companion. *Amen.*

At the Limits of Our Power to Help

O Lord, we are at the limits of our power to help. For what we have left undone, forgive us. For what you have helped us to do, we thank you. For what must be done by others, lend your strength. Now shelter us in your peace which passes our understanding. *Amen.*

For Those Who Are Sick and Those Who Minister to Them

Gracious God, source of life and health: Jesus came to our disordered world to make your people whole. Send your Spirit on those who are sick and all who minister to them; that when the sick enter your peace, they may offer thanks to your Great Name; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

For Health Care Providers

Give your blessing, gracious God, to those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and the prevention of disease and pain. Give them the wisdom of your Holy Spirit, that through their work the health of our community may be advanced and your creation glorified; through your Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For Emergency Workers

God our strong deliverer: when those charged with the urgent mediation of your healing power feel overwhelmed by the numbers of the suffering, uphold them in their fatigue and banish their despair. Let them see with your eyes, so they may know all their patients as precious. Give comfort, and renew their energy and compassion, for the sake of Jesus in whom is our life and our hope. *Amen.*

or this

Divine Physician, hear our prayers for those in emergency medicine. By your healing power, grant them quick minds and skillful hands. Strengthen them in times of trauma. In quiet times, give them rest and assurance of the value of their work. Keep them ever prepared for the work you have called them to do, for your mercy's sake. *Amen.*

For Relatives of an Organ Donor

Blessed Jesus, who said “unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it shall not live,” help us to release N. to everlasting life, and N.'s body to give new life to others you also love, as you have given your body that we might have life abundant, for which we give great thanks. *Amen.*