

Prayers for the whole community

adapted from the Rogation Procession in The Book of Occasional Services, 2018

Walk, cycle, or drive around your town this week, finding places to offer some or all of these prayers. Plan a prayer outing that takes you to these places (in any order) to notice the work of God and pray a blessing. Or notice what you pass on the way to the grocery or on other essential trips, and pause to pray in those places.

If you can, take pictures or videos and share them with [Mother Emily](#) or [Lauren Evans](#) for our Facebook page!

At a garden or park

God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:11–12

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruitfulness of the earth that nourishes our life and the life of all creatures. Bless those who work in fields and gardens. Send them seasonable and temperate weather, and grant that the fruits of the earth may be shared justly with all having need of them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the gift and care of water

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive; I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together, so that all may see and know, all may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Isaiah 41:17–20

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water—the waters on the earth, and under the earth, the water above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet’s water, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us; through Jesus Christ, source of living water. Amen.

At agricultural land or a farmer's market

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:9–10

Holy God, we thank you for the land and its soil, and all those who bring forth food and necessities of life from it. Send an abundant harvest to the farmers and ranchers of the world, and make all your people just, loving, and generous in their life together and mindful of the needs of all who are poor, after the example of Jesus Christ. Amen.

At a place where food is served

When it grew late, his disciples came to Jesus and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Mark 6:35–44

Generous God, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every creature: We give you thanks for all who prepare and serve the food we eat. Bless them in their labor and bless all who benefit from their service; through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Amen.

At a place of work

So it is with every artisan and master artisan who labors by night as well as by day; those who cut the signets of seals, each is diligent in making a great variety; they set their heart on painting a lifelike image, and they are careful to finish their work. So it is with the smith, sitting by the anvil, intent on his ironwork; the breath of the fire melts his flesh, and he struggles with the heat of the furnace; the sound of the

hammer deafens his ears, and his eyes are on the pattern of the object. He sets his heart on finishing his handiwork, and he is careful to complete its decoration. So it is with the potter sitting at his work and turning the wheel with his feet; he is always deeply concerned over his products, and he produces them in quantity. He molds the clay with his arm and makes it pliable with his feet; he sets his heart on finishing the glazing, and he takes care in firing the kiln. All these rely on their hands, and all are skillful in their own work. Without them no city can be inhabited, and wherever they live, they will not go hungry.

Ecclesiasticus 38:27–32a

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work. Make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will, and bring all workers satisfaction in what they do and a just return for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

For scientists and explorers

Discretion and tongue and eyes, ears and a mind for thinking he gave them. He filled them with knowledge and understanding, and showed them good and evil. He put the fear of him into their hearts to show them the majesty of his works. And they will praise his holy name, to proclaim the grandeur of his works. He bestowed knowledge upon them, and allotted to them the law of life.

Ecclesiasticus 17:6–11

God of Mystery, you made the universe with its marvelous order and chaos, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures. We give you thanks for all who study the mysteries of creation and ask that their work may increase our curiosity, wonder, and joy, that we may come to know you more truly and serve you more humbly; in the name of Jesus Christ, your Wisdom and your Word. Amen.

At a memorial garden or cemetery

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Matthew 27:57–61

God of the living and of the dead, renew the face of the ground by your life-giving Spirit; grant that all who rest here may be renewed in the joy of your eternal presence, through Jesus Christ, who is resurrection and life. Amen.

For the air and all who work to keep it clean

Then God said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Ezekiel 37:9–10

Holy Spirit, breath of life: We give you thanks for the air and for all who work to keep it clean. Teach us to cherish the air we breathe; in your power we pray. Amen.

At a place of government

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1–4

Almighty God, we pray for all who serve and govern the people of this and every land. Send upon them the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice, that they may foster the well-being of all creation; for the sake of Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

For a place of healing

When Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick.

Matthew 8:14–16

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus healed many who were sick: We commend to your care all who suffer, and those who care for them. By your grace lend compassion and skill to health and veterinary workers here and everywhere, and bring healing and comfort to those in need, that all may know your power and goodness and rise up to serve you, in the strength of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

For military workers

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2:2–4

God our strength and shield: Protect and defend all who offer their lives in military service for the sake of others. Beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, that all may dwell in harmony with one another and with all creation; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

For public safety workers

Thus the Lord said to me: "Go, post a lookout, let him announce what he sees. When he sees riders, horsemen in pairs, riders on donkeys, riders on camels, let him listen diligently, very diligently." Then the watcher called out: "Upon a watchtower I stand, O Lord, continually by day, and at my post I am stationed throughout the night.

Isaiah 21:6–8

God our rock and our refuge: Guard and bless all who work for the wellbeing and safety of our community. Grant courage, vigilance, and skill to those who rise up by night or by day at our urgent call, that they may always find your arm mighty to save; through Jesus Christ, who died that all may live. Amen.

At a place where trash, compost, or recycling is handled

Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Luke 13:6–9

Renewing God: Bless all whose labor here supports the well-being of our community. Strengthen and encourage them in their service, and make us mindful of their contribution to the stewardship of the earth, that all may be ministers of your new creation; in the name of Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

At a church building

All who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Isaiah 56:6b–7

Holy God, you give your people a desire to know and to worship you: bless all who gather here in your name, that they may find a welcome and lift their hearts and voices in praise of you, who makes us a new creation in Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.

On returning home

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

Psalm 84:1-3

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us; and preserve us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.