

A COLLECTION OF SHORT PRAYERS
from the ministry of
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INVOCATIONS

Our Father, we thank you for your Word and for the eternal truths that guide us day by day. We thank you most of all for the living Word, Jesus Christ, and the sureness of his presence. Teach us how to turn unto you so that your thoughts may be our thoughts, and your ways our ways. Amen.

O God our Father, who has led us apart from the busy world into the quiet of your house, grant us grace to worship you in spirit and in truth, to the comfort of our souls and the up-building of every good purpose and holy desire, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, we thank you for this invigorating day, and for all the hopes that enliven the human heart. Help us, we pray, to see all that goes on in this world from your point of view, and empower us with your Spirit, that we may respond not only in our hearts and minds, but also in our words and in our actions. Amen.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, at the beginning of another week we come to you for help and light. Grant, we beseech you, that we may hallow this day of rest to your service, and find in you all peace and strength. Enliven our devotion that we may serve you in spirit and in truth, and build a good foundation for our work in the week ahead. Be with us in all the public services of our times, that we may join in them with heart and soul, and receive the blessing that you have promised to all who sincerely pray to you and faithfully hear your Word. This we pray in the spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, receive us in this hour as we offer ourselves anew to you in body, soul and spirit. Let not your holy day pass, except it leave its benediction with us. Give to us the still and quiet heart. Speak to us your truth, that we may glorify you. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

O God, to whom belong adoration and praise, prepare us, through the active presence of your Spirit, to come before you rightly. Enlighten our understanding, purify our every desire, quicken our wills, and strengthen every right purpose. Direct this hour of worship to the magnifying of your name, and to the enduring good of us your children and servants, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal and ever blessed God, grant this day light to the minds that hunger for truth, and peace to the hearts that yearn for rest. Grant strength to those who have hard tasks to do, and power to those who have temptations to face. Grant unto all within this place the ability to find the secret of your presence, and to go forth from here in the strength of the Lord. Amen.

Foster Care Meeting

Our Father, we have gathered here today in the spirit of your caring love. Make us instruments of that love. Help us, who can somewhat control our environment, to help those who cannot, especially the young. We know that a child or young person, who does not have a wholehearted love from and for others, will be stunted and scarred the rest of his or her life. Each of your children is a heritage from you. So guide our lives and the lives of others, we pray, to a life of service that can help needy children in our society. Build up in each of us a life through which your presence may find a fit expression and your purpose may march on toward triumph. For the sake of your kingdom we pray. Amen.

Memorial Day

O God our heavenly Father, Creator and Preserver of all humankind, we give you thanks and praise for all your goodness and mercy. We thank you for all those who in all times

have been brave and true, for those who served their country in her hour of need, especially those who gave even their lives. Accept our gratitude and make us, we beseech you, more worthy of their supreme sacrifice. May we devise our Memorial Ways with the firm foundation of an abiding faith in you, that your kingdom may come and your will be done. Amen.

High School Graduation

Only wise God, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, we beseech you to illumine all those who have been a part of this school's learning opportunity with the light that comes from above, that those who teach may be taught by you, and those who learn may be led by your Spirit, and that those who shall depart these walls may continue to walk in your grace all their days; that by the increase of knowledge your truth may be confirmed, and your glory made manifest. In your name we ask this and for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

New Year

Ever-living God, by whose mercy we have come to the gateway of another year, grant that we may enter it with humble and grateful hearts, and confirm our resolution, we beseech you, to walk more closely with you, and labor more faithfully in your service, according to the teaching and example of your Son our Lord. Let not the errors and offenses of the past cling to us, but pardon us and set us free, that with a purer purpose and a better hope we may renew our vows in your presence, and set forth under the guidance of your Spirit to travel in the path that shines more and more unto the perfect day of your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Easter Sunday

O God, who makes the stars and turns the shadow of death into the morning, on this day of days we meet to render to you, our Lord and King, the tribute of our praise: for the resurrection of the springtime, for the everlasting hopes that rise within the human heart, and for the gospel, which has brought life and immortality to light. Receive our thanksgiving, reveal your presence, and send into our hearts the spirit of the risen Christ. Amen.

CALLS AND INVITATIONS TO PRAYER

As we prepare our hearts and minds for prayer, let us remember that the best form of prayer is not asking for things, even the best things, but in going to their source. Let us pray.

With confidence in God' s renewing grace and strength, let us lift up to him our needs and the needs of others. Let us pray.

Let us join our hearts in prayer. Let us pray.

The following is a very old preface to a call to worship:

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, the Scriptures move us, in sundry places, to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and weaknesses; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought, at all times, humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we chiefly so to do when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

PRAYERS AND CALLS TO PRAYER BEFORE SILENT PRAYER

For your mercy' s sake, O God, deal with each of us in this hour. We bring before you the needs of this world, the needs of our neighbors, and our personal needs. Let the miracle of your grace happen, here and now, with each of us, as we come before you, humbly, in silent prayer. Let us pray.

Reflecting on the messages of today' s Scripture readings, concentrating on the glory of God, and remembering our needs and the needs of others, let us now be open to the Spirit of God in silent prayer. Let us pray.

“The lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him. Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord.” Concentrating on the glory of God, and remembering our needs and the needs of others, let us now be open to the Spirit of God in silent prayer. Let us pray.

Grant us grace, almighty Father, so to pray as to deserve to be heard. Hear now our silent prayers, O God.

Almighty God, from whom every good prayer comes, and who pours out on all who desire it the Spirit of grace and supplication, deliver us, when we draw near to you, from soft mindedness and hardheartedness, and from all wanderings of mind, that with stable and reliable thoughts and enlightened (or “ignited”) affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth. Hear now, O God, our silent prayers.

Our heavenly Father, help us to remember that all your children are near and dear to you. Wherever they may be, may we pray for those who need and desire our prayers. And we pray also for ourselves, but first putting ourselves, body, mind, and spirit in your healing presence. Hear now our silent prayers, O Lord.

Our heavenly Father, we beseech you mercifully to receive our prayers as we call upon you, and grant that we may both perceive and know the things we ought to do, and also may have grace and power to fulfill the same. Hear now, O God, our silent prayers.

Our heavenly Father, help us to remember that all your children are near and dear to you. Wherever they may be, may we pray for those who need and our desire our prayers. And we pray also for ourselves, but first putting ourselves, body, mind, and spirit, in the healing presence of your Son, Jesus. Hear now our silent prayers, O God....

Gracious God, we offer to you our praise. We thank you for the great measure of your love and for the redemptive power of your grace. Be pleased in your mercy to come to every one of us just now, as we come before you, and find in you what nothing in this world can give: redemption from our sin, peace that cannot be taken away, and hope that is unashamed and unafraid. Hear not our silent prayers, O God.

For your mercy’s sake, O God, deal with us all in this hour. Remind us that we ought not to go out of this place as weak as we have come in. We bring before you the needs of this world, the needs of our neighbors, and our personal needs. Let the miracle of your grace happen, here and now, with each of us, as we come before you humbly in silent prayer.

Lent

O almighty God, we thank you for all your blessings and all your mercies, which you in your love have showered upon us. Do continue your care for us. Help us to live as your obedient and dutiful people. Let us never forget who you are, and whose we are. Help us to show forth you to others. Make us humble, brave, friendly, joyful and loving, that we may be ready for adventure. Grant each person here strength and courage for the battle of

life. And keep us ever loyal to the example of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Hear now, O God, our silent prayers.

Confessional

Most merciful Father, we have done little to forward your kingdom in this world, to foster goodwill among our brothers and sisters, and to establish love as the law of life. Our own self-interest blinds us; our pains embitter us. We often forget that whatsoever is done to one of the least of your children is done unto you. Pardon our shortcomings; forgive our neglect; give us a pure heart intent on pleasing you. Help us in all our seeking to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Help us to present ourselves as persons not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Let the miracle of your grace happen, here and now, as we come before you, humbly, in silent prayer.

Confessional

O Lord our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keeps covenant and promise for all those who love you with mature hearts, you are the life of all, the help of those who flee to you, the hope of those who cry unto you. Therefore, cleanse us from all that would separate us from you, from every thought that would be displeasing to your goodness. Cleanse our souls and bodies, our hearts and consciences, that with pure hearts and positive (clear) minds, with perfect love and calm hope we may confidently and fearlessly pray to you. Hear now, O God, our silent prayers.

PRAYERS BEFORE THE LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, our deliverer, we lift our hearts to you, invoking your blessing and benediction upon our worship. You have made us one in our need of you, one in our desire for your fellowship, one in our common hope. We thank you, our Father, for this time of prayer and for this place of worship, set amid our hurrying lives, and dedicated to the life of the soul and the service of faith. So manifest yourself to us as members and friends of this branch of Christ's Church, that all the best in us may be called forth to praise you, for you are the health of our countenance and our God. We pray in the spirit of your Son, who taught his disciples to pray together, saying....

Our Father, we thank you for your Word and for the eternal truths which guide us day by day. Teach us how to turn unto you so that your thoughts may be our thoughts and your ways our ways. We pray in the spirit of Jesus, who taught his disciples to pray together, saying....

Almighty God, source of all strength, understanding, and love, forgive our sins that keep us from you, illumine our minds by the light of your truth, inspire our hearts by the presence of your Spirit, and teach our unruly wills to act under the guidance of your love; that we may worthily worship you now and sincerely serve you all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us pray together, saying....

Our Father, as we go to our homes and our work of the coming week, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit into our lives. Open our ears to hear what you are saying to us in the things that happen to us and in the people we meet. Open our eyes to see the needs of the people around us. Open our hands to do our work well, to help when help is needed. Open our lips to tell others the good news of Jesus and bring comfort, happiness, and laughter to other people in this world. Open our minds to discover new truth about you and the world. Open our hearts to love you and our fellow brothers and sisters, even as you have loved us in Christ our Lord, in whose name we now pray together, saying....

Gracious God, we praise you for this gathered church. We thank you for this hour of worship and all that it brings to us of renewal and strength. The bowed heads about us bear witness to our common need and our common faith. Nowhere in all our living are we so close to one another as when together we offer up our prayers and songs to you. We thank you for the goodly fellowship of which we are a part and for the holy privilege of helping to bear one another's burdens. We pray in the name of our Savior, who has taught us to pray together, saying....

O God, we thank you for all your gifts to us. We praise you for the countless opportunities to serve in your name. Make us responsible to your call and eager to do your will, whatever the cost. Discipline us, that we may become strong and courageous, tenderhearted, and forgiving, compassionate and sacrificial. Help us to abandon ourselves to you. Guide us in all life's plans and purposes, and increase our faith. We would not be fainthearted, but ever pressing on to advance your cause throughout the world. Use us to bear fruit for you. May we realize the value of time and the need of doing today what you have for us to do. May every talent that you have given us be wisely invested so as to hasten the coming of your kingdom. We pray in the name of our Savior, who taught us to pray together, saying....

Almighty God, our Father, we give you praise and thanks for all your goodness and mercy. We bless you for the love that created us and sustains us from day to day. We praise you for the gift of your Son, our Savior, through whom you have made known your will and your grace. We thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for your Church. We thank you for the lives of all faithful and godly people. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness by lives that are given wholly to your service. For the sake of your kingdom we ask this, and in the name of your Son, who has taught us to pray together, saying....

Memorial Day

O Almighty God, and most merciful Father, whose nature and whose name is love, as we give you thanks for the courage and the strength of those who gave their lives in battle, we would also remember before you those who have mourned them as their kindred. Look in mercy upon them, and as this day we remember those who have been lost, may it also bring a quickening in each of us of the sense of communion with the world unseen, and confirm our assurance of that great day when you shall restore to them their own in the very presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we would pray, saying...

PRAYERS BEFORE THE SERMON

(I have always prefaced this prayer with, "Please join me in my prayer." Changing the words to make the prayer more inclusive makes no sense.) Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer. Amen. (Ps. 19:14)

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Receive and bless these gifts and our lives, O God, which we offer in response to your steadfast love. As your son, Jesus, transformed people' s lives, so may the lives of others be transformed through these gifts, through our love, and through our witness. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for all that you have done for us and continue to do for us through the gift of your Spirit. You welcome us as part of your family, and as members of your household. Help us always to show our gratitude, not only through these gifts, but also through our acceptance of others as a welcoming and loving community of faith. In Jesus' n ame we pray. Amen.

Awaken us to the claims of your will, O God, and stir us with a passion for your kingdom, that we may respond at this time not only with our gifts, but also with our lives. Amen.

Help us, dear Father, to be cheerful givers of our time, means, talents, and self to you, and use us in the up-building of your kingdom. Amen.

We give thanks, O Father, that through our tithes and offerings you give us an opportunity to illuminate the dimness of the future and to glorify our present life with the Word of him who is the light of the world. Amen.

Eternal God, may these gifts represent an inner commitment to love you above all else and to love our brothers and sisters in need, because they are loved by you. Amen.

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept, we beseech you, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given, and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among people, and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

For the preservation of your Church, O God, for the ordering of your worship, for the due administration of your Word and ordinances, for the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipleship, for the edification of believers, and for the conversion of the world, we offer unto you these gifts. Accept them, we beseech you, in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Accept these offerings now placed upon your altar, O Giver of every good and perfect gift. May they be symbols of our love and of ourselves, now offered more fully unto you. Use these gifts and us, we beseech you, to the end that your kingdom may come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, bless, we pray, all those who work for the extension of your kingdom, and make us so thankful for all your precious gifts to us, especially the gift of your beloved Son, that we may pray fervently, labor diligently, and continue all our days to give liberally to make Christ known to all peoples as their Savior and their King. For the sake of your kingdom we ask this. Amen.

We give thanks, O God, not as we ought, but as we are able, and we ask you not only to accept our gifts, but also our praise and our thanksgiving, for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

We would give nothing, O great Giver of every good and perfect gift, if you had not first given it to us. Grant us grace so to do with what for the moment is ours, that we may please you with what is eternally yours. Amen.

New Year

Our Father, we bow in humble gratitude, that as a new year dawns we may call on you to guide, strengthen, bless, and forgive, and that through these gifts we may share your love with all who call upon you and us. Amen.

BENEDICTIONS

Go forth into the world in the strength of God' s mercy to live and serve in newness of life, and may the Lord our God order all our days and deeds in peace. Amen.

May the grace of courage, and of joy, and of a peaceful mind, be ours, together with all such blessedness as belongs to the children of our Father who is in heaven. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

MINISTER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and may the blessing of God Almighty be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always. Amen.

Go forth in peace and joy, and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and with everyone whom God has called through him. Amen.

Christmas

May the spirit of Christmas that is Peace, the beauty of Christmas that is Hope, and the blessing of Christmas that is Joy, be ours in abundance this Christmas, and every Christmas to come. Amen.

Lecture

Our Father, we thank you for this time of fellowship and enlightenment at the end of the day. Bless us, we pray, as we return to our homes, that each day we may broaden our horizons a bit further than the day before, so that we may always praise you with spirit but also with understanding. Amen.

High School Graduation or Baccalaureate

Only wise God, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, we beseech you to illuminate all those who have been a part of this school's learning opportunities with the light that comes from above. May these graduates who shall depart from these walls continue all their days to walk in your grace, that by the increase of knowledge your truth may be confirmed and your glory made manifest. Bless them and keep them. Make your face to shine upon them and be gracious unto them. Lift up the light of your countenance upon them and grant them your peace this day and forever more. Amen.

WORDS BEFORE A BENEDICTION

Christmas, Candle Light Service

Hear these words of our Lord, "You are the light of the world.... Let your light so shine before people, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

GRACES

O God our heavenly Father, high above all thoughts, yet closer than any friend, we pray that you will be our guide and strength this day and every day. So fill us with your Spirit, that we may do your will in ways that cannot be misunderstood. As we gather in fellowship, we thank you for this day and for this food. Bless, we pray, these gifts to our use, and each of us to your service. Amen.

Waldensian Blessing After A Meal

May God reward with his blessing all those who do good and bless, provide us his spiritual food, and abide with us. Amen.

Blessing After A Meal

Our Father, who has so abundantly provided for our every need, we thank you for this day, and pray that as we have been filled with a portion of your bounty, we in return may fill this day with purpose, with understanding, and with a generous response to the needs of others. Amen.

Wedding Reception

Eternal God, without your grace, no promise is sure. We ask you to bless and strengthen (groom) and (bride) with the gift of your Spirit, so they may fulfill the vows they have made. Bless and guide them by your Word, that they may serve you all their days. Finally, dear Lord, we ask you to bless this happy gathering, this food to our use, and each of us to your service. Amen.

Annual Meeting

Our heavenly Father, who so abundantly provides for our every need, we thank you for all the blessings of this life. Especially this evening we thank you for your Church and for all it means to us individually and collectively. We have been richly blessed through the ministry and work of this branch of Christ's Church. May we in turn fill this new church year with purpose, with understanding, and with a generous response to the needs of others as we seek to follow in the way of your Son, Jesus. Bless to our use the food we are about to receive and each of us to your service. Amen.

Church Supper

Our Father, we thank you for this time of fellowship, and for this special day in the life of our church. We praise you for all those persons past and present who have served you faithfully through the work of this church. Bless now, we pray, this food to our use and each of us to your service. Amen.

New Members

Our Father, bless, we pray, this time of fellowship in honor of our newest church members, that it may be enjoyed in the spirit of praise to you and as a symbol of our unity in spirit. Bless the food we are about to receive to our use, and each of us to your service. Amen.

New Members

Our Father, we thank you for this day, and for the opportunity to gather here this evening to honor the newest members of this branch of your Church Universal. Bless, we pray, the food we are about to receive, that it may strengthen our bodies for the work of your kingdom, and bless the thoughts of our hearts, that we may ever remain your true and faithful servants. Amen.

Covenant Class Dinner

Our Father, bless, we pray, this time of fellowship in honor of our newest church members, that it may be enjoyed in a spirit of praise and as a symbol of our unity in spirit. Bless this food to our use, and each of us to your service. Amen.

Christmas

Quot estis in convicio;
Servire cantico;
Reddens laudes Domino. Amen.

So many as are in the feast
Let us serve with a song
Giving praises to God. Amen.

(from the Boar's Head Carol)

A KIWANIS CLUB CHAPLAIN'S PRAYERS

Our heavenly Father, we thank you for this day and for this food. May it strengthen us for service. May we be strengthened also by your Spirit, that we may have a long view of the worth of our work in your world this day. We would also pray for height – we need altitude – to get far enough away from ourselves to take a good and honest look. Give us depth, of meaning and of understanding, and of love in our lives, that your will may be done through us this day and every day, for the good of those we know and love, and for the peace of this world. Amen.

Our Father, we thank you for the mercy of your welcome to us as we come to you in prayer. Here we would seek the energy we need for problem handling and load carrying in the week before us. We would ask for new and renewed visions, that we may see

beyond our horizons, and have a real sense of your will for us. Help us to realize the worth of all we do at work, at home and in fellowship together, and guide us into even greater service in your kingdom. Amen.

Almighty God, who has blessed this earth that it should bring forth whatever is needed for life, we thank you for the food we have shared together. As we have shared this food may we also share together our dedication to serve you, for your way is a way of peace and truth. We pray especially for our leaders in government, more especially for our president and his colleagues. May the events of these days call us to invoke your Spirit, that we all may share in the truth that violence is not a way to settle differences, whether in the affairs of state or in our homes. May this day be a day for seeking your peace. Amen.

Our Father, we thank you for all the opportunities we have from day to day for learning, for fun, and for fellowship. Bless, we pray, that each day may broaden our horizons a bit further than the day before, that we may always praise you with spirit and with understanding. Amen.

Our Father, we thank you for this invigorating day. May the warm rays of the sun put our minds at rest in you, and remind us of your great plan in which you have given us a part. We thank you for this food, for this time of fellowship, and for all that shall make up this day. Amen.

Our Father, you are the giver of every good gift. We thank you for our life this day and for our daily bread. We thank you for our freedom and for the promise of freedom to all the oppressed of this world. We especially lift up to you this land, blessed in so many ways, and we pray that we might be sensitive to all you are accomplishing in our time, that we might be thankful in our witness and in our work. Amen.

Eternal God, we come to you on the well-traveled road of prayer, asking for the power of your Spirit to guide us to where you would have us go. We pray that you will come into our lives with joy, that we may journey forth as healing and helping partners in a world filled with need. We thank you for all the opportunities we have to do your will this day. May we live it to its fullest. Amen.

Our Father, we thank you for the opportunities you have wrapped up with this day. Give us grace to worthily receive your gift. We pray that the food we have enjoyed together may strengthen us for the work of this day. Strengthen us also with strength of purpose and strength of character, that we may fully serve you through all our relationships with others, in our homes, at our places of work and business, and in our communities. Amen.

Advent

Gracious and eternal God, we thank you for the food we have shared, and for the tidings of comfort and joy of this season. As we prepare our houses with symbols of joy, we would pray for the guidance of your Spirit, that we may not forget to prepare our hearts. In this age when the verb “to have” is enthroned as being the only verb that matters, the climate is difficult for those of us who would maintain the verbs “to give,” “to care,” “to serve.” In this season of giving, as we gather in this fellowship dedicated to service to others, we thank you for the opportunity of giving as it is a part of our agenda today, and we pray that you will continue to bless us with an openness to the things that really matter, that the fullness of joy experienced by the shepherds long ago may be ours. Amen.

Advent

Almighty God, in this wonderful Advent season, we pray that you will bless us with a spirit of openness, that our hearts may be ready for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of your blessing as it is expressed so fully in the Christmas message. Bless now, we pray, the food we are about to share, that it may strengthen us for service to you. Amen.

Winter

Our Father, we thank you for this introspective day. May each settling snowflake put our minds at rest in you, and remind us of your great plan in which you have given us a part. We thank you for this food, for this time of fellowship, and for all that shall make up this day. Amen.

Christmas Banquet

Our Father, we thank you for all the opportunities you have gift wrapped and delivered to us this day. Grant us, we pray, the grace to worthily receive your gift. We thank you for this time of fellowship, for time to exchange greetings, and for time to share the holiday spirit. We pray that you will bless us with a spirit of openness, that our hearts may be ready for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of your blessing as it is expressed so fully in the Christmas message. Amen.

Lent

Our Father, in this week, holy to so many, may we truly prepare ourselves to accept the truth and enlightenment of all your promises to us, and accept all the challenges of life that stand between us and your truth, that we may see through them as you do, and join with you in working toward their solution. Strengthen us in soul and spirit, even as this food has strengthened us in body, that we may praise you with all the fullness of life. Amen.

Spring

Our heavenly Father, we thank you for this Spring day, and for this time of fellowship. Help us to notice all the good things about us today, and to be thankful, for we do not want to go through this day without feeling that we are a part of it. We thank you for the food we have shared together. Bless it to our use, we pray, and each of us to your service. Amen.

Annual Golf Outing

Lord God, we thank you for all the opportunities we have from day to day: opportunities for learning, for sportsmanship, for fun and for fellowship. We thank you for this time together, and for the kindness and thoughtfulness of all those who worked to make this gathering possible. Bless now this food to our use and each of us to your service. Amen.

MISCELANEOUS

Building Dedication

Almighty and ever living God, we bid your presence with us who have gathered here to set aside a portion of ground upon which shall be built a fine building to serve our community and to better our human fellowship. May your love fill all who have dreamed and planned for this day, and may [name], who has given from the heart and in loving memory, be filled with the sufficiency of your grace. May each of us go forth from this happy occasion with glad and thankful hearts. Amen.

Eagle Scout Award Ceremony

Our heavenly Father, we have set aside this time today for the purpose of presenting a special award to a special person. You, O Lord, have a special relationship with each of your children. Therefore, we pray that the Eagle Scout award, awarded to [name] this day, may not only serve as a reward for service already rendered and knowledge already acquired, but that it may also be a symbol of this young man's commitment to all the good for which scouting stands, and may serve as an outward sign of an inward

dedication to future growth and responsibility; that [name] and others of like mind and spirit may continue to mature to a day when they may lead us to a bright new chapter in the history of humankind. Amen.

Lenten Prayer For A Senior Women's Fellowship Meeting

Our heavenly Father, we thank you for fun, for fellowship and friends. We thank you for the mercy of your welcome to us each day. Grant us the energy we need for problem handling and load carrying in the week before us. In this Lenten season of reflection and seeking, we would ask for new and renewed visions, that we may see beyond our horizons, and have a real sense of your will for us. Help us to realize the worth of all we do at home, and in fellowship together, and guide us to even greater service in the days ahead. Amen.

New Members

O merciful God, grant we pray that all things belonging to your Spirit may live and grow in the hearts and minds of all who serve you, especially these your servants whom we receive today into the nurture of this branch of your Church. May they receive the fullness of your grace and always remain among your faithful and beloved people. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer For Eastertide

Most gracious heavenly Father, may we in this joyful Eastertide become more aware of all the truth and enlightenment you have revealed to us, and be more aware of all the challenges in life that would separate us from that truth. As our bodies have been strengthened with the food we have shared together, so strengthen us in soul and spirit, that we may serve you with all the fullness of life. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer For Eastertide

Our Father, in this joyful Eastertide, may we accept the truth and enlightenment of all your promises made to us, and accept all the challenges of life that stand between us and your truth, that we may see through them as you do, and join with you in working toward their solution. Strengthen us in soul and spirit, even as this food has strengthened us in body, that we may praise you with all the fullness of life. Amen.

Church Anniversary

Eternal God, under whose guidance our fathers and mothers walked, we offer unto you a prayer of thanks for all those who have served you through the work and service of our

gathered church. We ask your blessing on those whom we honor this day as having served you through this branch of Christ's Church for 50 years or more. We thank you for every memory that this day revives, and for the great number of witnesses who have made the _____ anniversary of our church an occasion for celebration. We pray that you will deepen within each of us a sense of gratitude for the many sacrifices made for us by those who have gone before us, and thereby find your house a place of refreshment and strength. May we continue to see, by faith, the needs of those around us and the needs of those who shall come after us, and do all that is possible to bequeath to them our witness in life and deed to the riches of life with you. In your name we pray. Amen.

Baptism

Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks, that you have chosen to call us to the knowledge of your grace and to faith in you. Increase this knowledge and confirm this faith in us. Give to each of us the gift of your Spirit, that we may be born anew and made heirs of everlasting salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.