

CHAPTER 24

Examples of Prayers of the People

These examples are additional to those provided in the Prayer Book. These are also provided in the hope that prayer leaders will be encouraged to produce their own.

Examples of bidding forms of the Prayers of the People

Particular concerns might be inserted after each bidding. During the silence after each bidding, the people pray either silently or aloud.

Bidding Form 1

We pray for the church, for all Christians everywhere, for *N* our bishop, for *N* our Vicar, and for all in our parish.

(all pause for silent prayer)

Gracious God, may your Spirit give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love, and help us to show your love to others. (Especially we pray for...)

God of love

grant our prayer.

We pray for all people, for places where there is war or famine.

(all pause for silent prayer)

God our creator, help everyone to share all the good gifts that you have given to us. May those who lead the nations of the world be given wisdom. (Especially we pray for...)

God of love

grant our prayer.

We pray for our community and for all who live and work in this area.

(all pause for silent prayer)

God our friend, we pray for our families and friends. May we be able to help each other just as you love and help us. (Especially we pray for...)

God of love

grant our prayer.

We pray for those in need, for sick people, for those in hospital, and for those with any other problems.

(all pause for silent prayer)

Compassionate God, give your strength and healing to all those who are sad, lonely, or sick. And bless all those who try and help them. (Especially we pray for...)

God of love

grant our prayer.

We remember all those who have died, *(especially N)*.

(all pause for silent prayer)

God of hope, we thank you that not even death can separate us from your love.

We pray for all who mourn, that they may feel your care for them. (Especially we pray for...)

God of love

grant our prayer.

We pray for ourselves - all that we will do this week, and all those we will meet.

(all pause for silent prayer)

Loving God we give this week into your hands. Be with us in all that we will do, may we enjoy this week and learn and grow in it. (Especially we pray ...)

God of love

grant our prayer.

Those things, O God,
that your servants have prayed for,
give us grace to work for,
and in the purpose of your love
answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes
for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Bidding Form 2

Let us pray
for God's people throughout the world,
for this gathering, for *N* our bishop,
and for all who minister in Christ's name.

(Silence)

Holy God,
by your Spirit
the whole body of your faithful people
is governed and sanctified.
Receive our prayers,
which we offer before you
for all members of your holy Church,
that in our vocation and ministry
we may truly and reverently serve you.

God of love
grant our prayer.

Let us pray for the nations of the earth,
for the well-being of all people,
and for those in authority.

(Silence)

God of compassion,
kindle, we pray, in every heart
the true love of peace,

and guide with your wisdom
those who govern the nations of the earth,
that justice and peace may increase,
until the earth is filled
with the knowledge of your love.

God of love
grant our prayer.

Let us pray for the poor, the sick,
the hungry, the oppressed, prisoners,
the unemployed, and those in any need.

(Silence)

Gracious God,
the comfort of all who sorrow,
the strength of all who suffer,
hear the cry of those in misery and need.
In their afflictions show them your mercy,
and give us, we pray,
the strength to serve them,
for the sake of Jesus Christ
who suffered for us.

God of love
grant our prayer.

Let us pray for the mission of the Church
and for the coming of God's reign
among all nations and peoples.

(Silence)

Loving God,
you have made all races and nations
to be one family,
and you sent Jesus Christ
to proclaim the good news of salvation
to all people.
Pour out your Spirit on the whole creation
and hasten the coming of your reign of justice and love
among the nations of the world.

God of love
grant our prayer.

Let us remember with thanksgiving before God
those who have died in Christ,
and those whose faith is known to God alone.
Let us pray that God may be glorified
in all the saints.

(Silence)

Life-giving God,
we give you thanks and praise
for the wonderful grace and love

declared in all your saints.

Grant to us,
and to all who have died in the hope of the resurrection,
a share in the fulness of your joy.

God of love
grant our prayer.

Let us give thanks for all God's goodness.

(Silence)

You are worthy, O God,
to receive honour and blessing and praise.
For you reign in the glory of the power
that is love, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bidding Form 3

We pray for the earth and for all people:

(Silence)

O God, the creator and preserver of all, we pray for all people and especially those in any kind of need through famine, war, or natural disaster. Make your ways known upon earth, O God, your saving power among all peoples. Help us to lighten their burden and to seek justice and peace for all.

God of love
grant our prayer.

We pray for the Church throughout the world:

(Silence)

Guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that all who call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in holiness of life. Strengthen *N* our bishop and all your church in the service of Christ that we may be witnesses to your compassion.

God of love
grant our prayer.

We pray for those who are suffering:

(Silence)

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bless those who care for them. We remember those who have died in Christ, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

God of love
grant our prayer.

We pray for ourselves and our ministries:

(Silence)

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

God of love
grant our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of (N and of) all your saints, we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love. Accept these prayers we pray in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

An example of a litany form for the Prayers of the People

This prayer is based upon litanies from the Eastern liturgies of Saint Basil and Saint John Chrysostom, adapted to incorporate current concerns. Petitions are easily inserted or omitted (e.g. the petition for forgiveness is not used when a confession of sin is used at **The Gathering of the Community**). The people's response may be said or sung. One of the versicles on page 412 can be used, or the people might respond with "*Kyrie eleison*" or "Lord, have mercy". If desired, the litany may be chanted.

[(In peace) let us pray to God saying/singing "God, hear our prayer."]

For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For *N* our bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For *this city (name of the community)*, for every city and community, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and refugees, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For deliverance from all affliction, strife, and poverty, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offences, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to God.

God, hear our prayer.

In union with (*N* and) all the saints we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

God, hear our prayer.

God of mercy,

you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice;

and have promised to hear the prayers

of two or three who agree in your name;

fulfil now, we pray,

the prayers and longings of your people

as may be best for us and for your kingdom.

Grant us in this world to know your truth,

and in the world to come to see your glory.

Amen.

(page 417)

A Collect to conclude the Prayers
and introduce the Peace

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to your apostles,
"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."
Look not our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and give to us the peace and unity
which is according to your will,
now and for ever. **Amen.**