

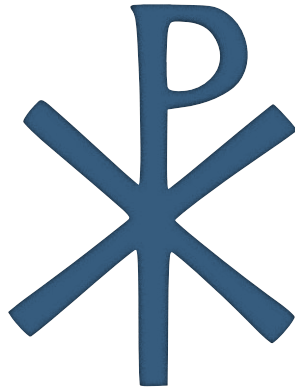
THE LORD'S MERCY  
ENDURES FOREVER:

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40 PRAYERS  
FOR LIFE

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THE LORD'S MERCY  
ENDURES FOREVER:

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40 PRAYERS  
FOR LIFE

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

© 2023 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122  
888-THE LCMS • [lcms.org/life](https://lcms.org/life)

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Manufactured in the United States of America  
First Printing, 2023

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**O**UR LORD HAS GIVEN US THE PRIVILEGE OF APPROACHING HIM IN PRAYER. Peaceful times of prayer, abiding by ordinances and laws and using public rights-of-way, occurs near abortion clinics in local communities throughout the U.S. This booklet has been prepared for use by individuals or groups — laypeople, pastors and church workers — during pro-life prayer vigils.

We pray that these resources will be a blessing to you. May the Lord who breathed life into Adam cause human life to be held in high esteem among all people, until at last He frees our bodies from sin's sad corruption and raises us to eternal life at the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

# PSALMS 139 AND 51

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## PSALM 139

### Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high; I cannot attain it.
- <sup>7</sup> Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- <sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"
- <sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.
- <sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
I awake, and I am still with you.
- <sup>19</sup> Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!  
O men of blood, depart from me!
- <sup>20</sup> They speak against you with malicious intent;

your enemies take your name in vain.

- <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
- <sup>22</sup> I hate them with complete hatred;  
I count them my enemies.
- <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!
- <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!

## PSALM 51

### Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.*

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.
- <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- <sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

## PSALMS 139 AND 51

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- <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not  
despise.
- <sup>18</sup> Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- <sup>19</sup> then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

# THE LITANY

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*A musical setting of the Litany is available in the Altar Book.*

*Kneel/Stand*

**L** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,  
**C** hear us.

**L** God the Father in heaven,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** God the Holy Spirit,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** Be gracious to us.  
**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**L** Be gracious to us.  
**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;  
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden  
and evil death;  
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed;  
from sedition and from rebellion;  
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire  
and water; and from everlasting death:

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**L** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy  
nativity;  
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony  
and bloody sweat; by  
Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and  
burial;  
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the  
coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosper-  
ity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** We poor sinners implore You  
**C** to hear us, O Lord.

**L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to pre-  
serve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the  
true knowledge and understanding of Your whole-  
some Word and to sustain them in holy living;  
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to  
bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are  
deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful  
laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your  
Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**L** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who  
stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and  
the distressed:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**L** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our  
land from discord and strife; to give our country Your  
protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president/queen/king and all  
in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and  
all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity,  
and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with  
infant children, increasing happiness in their bless-  
ings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide  
for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young  
children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy  
on us all:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and  
to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use  
the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear  
our prayers:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** we implore You to hear us.

# THE LITANY

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**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of  
the world,

**C** have mercy.

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of  
the world,

**C** have mercy.

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of  
the world,

**C** grant us Your peace.

**L** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**L** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Lord,

**C** have mercy. Amen.

*The Litany may conclude with the Lord's Prayer and a collect.*



# THE LORD'S PRAYER AND THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# PRAYERS

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## A COMPREHENSIVE PRAYER FOR LIFE

O God, Creator of life, You knit us together in the wombs of our mothers and You desire us to have life. So also Your only-begotten Son took on our flesh in the womb of His mother and entered this world as all children of men do — except without sin — so that He might be one with us and make us Your children. Look in mercy and love upon all the precious lives of children yet unborn. Guard them and give them growth, that they might come to the saving water of Holy Baptism and a saving knowledge of Your Son. Protect and guide all pregnant mothers, that they would treasure the new life they are given to bear and not be dismayed by fear of pain or cost. Strengthen all fathers, that they would protect and provide for both mother and child so that all would be cared for in this world. Encourage young people to get married and encourage husbands and wives to desire the gift of children, that they might be fruitful and multiply according to Your gracious will. Finally, visit with Your grace those who have committed awful sin by destroying life in the womb. Bring them to repentance, but do not let them sink into despair. Forgive and heal their souls, that they would trust in the Child of Mary who was killed for their sin and rose again to give everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## THAT ALL WOULD COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

O Lord, You look from heaven and see the children of mankind. You see the corruption of minds darkened by sin, the ignorance of evildoers who eat up life like bread and imagine that You do not see. Yet, You desire that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Correct the hearts of those who foolishly deny God. Send forth the salvation that comes from Your Son's cross and resurrection. Turn the hearts of those who have become enemies of life, and give them knowledge and understanding; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Psalms 14 and 53)

## TO TURN HEARTS

O Author of life, You did not reject our first parents who chose themselves over Your promised care, but You gave them the hope of a marvelous salvation from sin's futility in Eve's very Offspring. Turn the hearts of all who will not know You, who believe they hold the power of life and death, and who trust in the choices of the sinful heart over the promises of God. Bring them into the knowledge of what is good, that they may know the profound value of all human life, which You have created and redeemed, and

the everlasting truth of salvation in the Offspring who has crushed Satan's head forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## TO VALUE ALL HUMAN LIFE

Heavenly Father, by Your Spirit You breathed life into Adam and made him a living being. By Your Son, Jesus Christ, You redeemed Adam and all his descendants from sin and every corrupting effect, which at last You will remove forever when creation is restored in the resurrection. Convince us by Your Word and Spirit of the value of all human life. Where life is fostered and preserved, let us give thanks; where life is vulnerable or abused, give us courage; where life is fragile and debilitated, give us compassion; and where life is injured and dying, point us in hope to the resurrection, where He who does all things well will make all things new; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## TO END ABORTION

O Lord, the wicked say in their heart that You have forgotten. They murder the innocent and imagine that because others do not see it, neither will You. Arise, O Lord God, and lift up Your hand to put an end to the evil of abortion! Have mercy on our nation, hear the desire of the afflicted, incline Your ear and work by Your might, that men of this earth may strike terror on the unborn no more; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 10)

Lord of life, we thank You for creating us, giving us life and providing us opportunity to serve our neighbors. You command us to defend those who cannot defend themselves. Look with mercy on our unborn brothers and sisters and spare them from abortion. Direct us to speak and act in their defense within our vocations. Turn the hearts of people from selfishness and fear to love and joyful service. Bring those responsible for the deaths of others to repentance and eternal freedom in full forgiveness through the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

## FOR GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIAL OFFICIALS

Almighty and everlasting God, who rules all things in heaven and earth, give Your wisdom to the leaders of our government and of nations throughout the world, that they may seek to govern with justice and compassion. As they

# PRAYERS

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create policies and legislation, cause them to defend the lives of all people. We pray for judges and court officials, that they may seek to do what is right in Your eyes and that all their decisions would be founded in justice and truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS VULNERABLE TO ABORTION

O God, our merciful Protector, arise with counsel and comfort for all expectant mothers vulnerable to or pressured to seek abortion. Give them clarity of mind to see death for the enemy that it is, open their eyes to possibilities when they can see no other option, and give compassion to Your church, that she may be eager and ready to apply the balm of Christ's forgiveness and love to them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## TO REMEMBER THOSE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN ENDED IN ABORTION

Dear Lord, in great sorrow we remember before You the lives of many children that have ended in abortion. We mourn their deaths and cry out to You for mercy. In our despair, fix our eyes on the hope of Christ Jesus, who died for all; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FOR THOSE GRIEVING ABORTION DECISIONS

*The Lord sees and knows us in the womb. He alone knows the hearts of all, and He knows how far abortion hurts or destroys people more than we do.*

Merciful Father, You have promised that for Your own sake You blot out our transgressions and will not remember our sins. By Your blessed Gospel, forgive the sins of those who grieve past abortion decisions, and give them certainty that Your Son's absolving blood was shed to cover this very guilt and shame. Give readiness by Your Holy Spirit to pastors and Christian friends, that they may be surrounded by constant acclamations of their deliverance; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Isaiah 43:25; Psalm 32:7)

God of all consolation, You have known us from the womb and still know the thoughts of our hearts. You alone know how wide the swath of devastation is spread through the bodies, souls and memories of mothers, fathers, friends and family as a result of abortion. To the hardened, grant honesty and repentance; to the guilt-ridden, give a clean conscience through the forgiveness of Christ; and to the

divided and broken, bring wholeness in the Body of Christ and the hope of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FOR PARENTING

Lord and Giver of life, look with favor upon those to whom You have granted the blessed vocations of father and mother. Let them always rejoice in the gift of their children. Strengthen them to train up those children in Your ways, not provoking them to anger, but raising them in the ways of the Lord. Enable them to provide for their children and to be godly examples of faith, hope and love, that the children's lives would be physically sustained in this life, and spiritually sustained now and for the life to come in eternity with Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FOR MERCY AND SUPPORTING LIFE

Lord of life, You create and bless all life with Your abundant care and mercy. Make us ever mindful of the many blessings You have given to us in this life. Move us to share Your mercy, protecting and supporting that blessing of life for all people, especially the unborn, the elderly and those who suffer in the body. Keep us steadfast in Your Word of life forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FOR CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

Merciful Father, we confess that the wages of sin is death and that all die because all sin. Yet, we give You thanks that though in Adam all die, in Christ all shall be made alive. Your Son has shed His blood for all people and by His cross has reconciled the world to You, that trespasses should no longer be counted against anyone. Give us confidence in this salvation, fully accomplished in Your Son, and enable us by it to look with love toward every human life as one for whom Christ shed His saving blood; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FOR THE HUMAN BODY

O Lord, You have fearfully and wondrously made us, body and soul, and by the gift of Holy Baptism, Your Holy Spirit dwells in us, making our bodies Your own temple. Grant that in every word and deed, in life and in death, we would treat the human body with respect and confess with our bodies the great gift of life You sustain despite every sin and corruption of this earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# PRAYERS

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## FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Almighty and everlasting God, You are the Creator and Sustainer of life, and You have magnificently made us creatures with mind, body and soul, created to work in perfect harmony. We thank and praise You that, though these have been corrupted by the fall into sin, through the resurrection of Your beloved Son and through Holy Baptism You have revealed that You have fully and wonderfully redeemed us in mind, body and soul, and that these will once again be in the perfect harmony You intended on the day of resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FOR HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION

O Almighty God, You did not allow Your Holy One, our Lord Jesus Christ, to see corruption, but raised His body from death for our justification. Just as He ascended bodily into heaven, so He will return at the Last Day to raise us in our bodies to be immortal and glorious as He is. Keep us always mindful of this certain hope in the resurrection, that we would confess Your gift of life while in this body, and that we would confess the expectation of the resurrection to eternal life when we lay our bodies to rest in death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FOR GROWTH AND JOY IN LIFE

Heavenly Father, of Your goodness You created us and sent Your Son that we may again have life and have it abundantly. Through Christ's cross and by virtue of His resurrection, our lives do not rush inevitably into death, but we pass from death to life. Mindful of this joyful path that lies before us into eternal life, lead us to delight in Your creation and in every wholesome enrichment for bodily life free from fear of what tomorrow may bring. Grant that we daily grow, learn and enjoy the creation You have made and redeemed, which soon You will restore when Christ comes in His glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# HYMNS

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## JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- 3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessèd Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

## MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain  
  
ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.
- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain
- 3 His oath, His covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain
- 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain

## GOD'S OWN CHILD, I GLADLY SAY IT

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free  
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger:  
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my Baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood,  
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness  
To inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes  
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine  
To make life immortal mine.



## LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

## A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe.  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might.  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is He,  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage.  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God Himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

## CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

## PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and  
salvation!  
Let all who hear  
Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously  
reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
All that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously,  
made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling,  
has stayed you.  
What need or grief  
Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

## HYMNS

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- 4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and  
defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises  
before Him!  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!

### NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

- 1 Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today.
- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace  
And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next!
- 3 All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

## ADDITIONAL PSALMS

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*There are times when we cry out to God with great emotion, including when we face sadness and horror over callous attitudes towards human life and death. The psalms of lament plead with God and express sorrow for our own sin as well as that of all mankind. We may pray these psalms, asking God to bring an end to a culture of death.*

### PSALM 6

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,  
nor discipline me in your wrath.
- <sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;  
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.
- <sup>3</sup> My soul also is greatly troubled.  
But you, O LORD—how long?
- <sup>4</sup> Turn, O LORD, deliver my life;  
save me for the sake of your steadfast love.
- <sup>5</sup> For in death there is no remembrance of you;  
in Sheol who will give you praise?
- <sup>6</sup> I am weary with my moaning;  
every night I flood my bed with tears;  
I drench my couch with my weeping.
- <sup>7</sup> My eye wastes away because of grief;  
it grows weak because of all my foes.
- <sup>8</sup> Depart from me, all you workers of evil,  
for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD has heard my plea;  
the LORD accepts my prayer.
- <sup>10</sup> All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;  
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

### PSALM 32

#### **Blessed Are the Forgiveness**

*A Maskil of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.
- <sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no  
iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- <sup>3</sup> For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

- <sup>6</sup> Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.
- <sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you in the way you  
should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- <sup>9</sup> Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.
- <sup>10</sup> Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in  
the LORD.
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

### PSALM 102

#### **Do Not Hide Your Face from Me**

*A Prayer of one afflicted, when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the LORD.*

- <sup>1</sup> Hear my prayer, O LORD;  
let my cry come to you!
- <sup>2</sup> Do not hide your face from me  
in the day of my distress!  
Incline your ear to me;  
answer me speedily in the day when I call!
- <sup>3</sup> For my days pass away like smoke,  
and my bones burn like a furnace.
- <sup>4</sup> My heart is struck down like grass and has withered;  
I forget to eat my bread.
- <sup>5</sup> Because of my loud groaning  
my bones cling to my flesh.
- <sup>6</sup> I am like a desert owl of the wilderness,  
like an owl of the waste places;
- <sup>7</sup> I lie awake;  
I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop.
- <sup>8</sup> All the day my enemies taunt me;  
those who deride me use my name for a curse.
- <sup>9</sup> For I eat ashes like bread  
and mingle tears with my drink,
- <sup>10</sup> because of your indignation and anger;

## ADDITIONAL PSALMS

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- for you have taken me up and thrown me down.
- <sup>11</sup> My days are like an evening shadow;  
I wither away like grass.
- <sup>12</sup> But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;  
you are remembered throughout all generations.
- <sup>13</sup> You will arise and have pity on Zion;  
it is the time to favor her;  
the appointed time has come.
- <sup>14</sup> For your servants hold her stones dear  
and have pity on her dust.
- <sup>15</sup> Nations will fear the name of the LORD,  
and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.
- <sup>16</sup> For the LORD builds up Zion;  
he appears in his glory;
- <sup>17</sup> he regards the prayer of the destitute  
and does not despise their prayer.
- <sup>18</sup> Let this be recorded for a generation to come,  
so that a people yet to be created may praise the  
LORD:
- <sup>19</sup> that he looked down from his holy height;  
from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,  
<sup>20</sup> to hear the groans of the prisoners,  
to set free those who were doomed to die,  
<sup>21</sup> that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD,  
and in Jerusalem his praise,  
<sup>22</sup> when peoples gather together,  
and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.
- <sup>23</sup> He has broken my strength in midcourse;  
he has shortened my days.
- <sup>24</sup> “O my God,” I say, “take me not away  
in the midst of my days—  
you whose years endure  
throughout all generations!”
- <sup>25</sup> Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
- <sup>26</sup> They will perish, but you will remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment.  
You will change them like a robe, and they will pass  
away,
- <sup>27</sup> but you are the same, and your years have no end.
- <sup>28</sup> The children of your servants shall dwell secure;  
their offspring shall be established before you.

### PSALM 130

#### **My Soul Waits for the Lord**

*A Song of Ascents.*

- <sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
- <sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- <sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?
- <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.
- <sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;
- <sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- <sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.
- <sup>8</sup> And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.

### PSALM 143

#### **My Soul Thirsts for You**

*A psalm of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> Hear my prayer, O LORD;  
give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
- <sup>2</sup> Enter not into judgment with your servant,  
for no one living is righteous before you.
- <sup>3</sup> For the enemy has pursued my soul;  
he has crushed my life to the ground;  
he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- <sup>4</sup> Therefore my spirit faints within me;  
my heart within me is appalled.
- <sup>5</sup> I remember the days of old;  
I meditate on all that you have done;  
I ponder the work of your hands.
- <sup>6</sup> I stretch out my hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
- <sup>7</sup> Answer me quickly, O LORD!  
My spirit fails!

## ADDITIONAL PSALMS

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Hide not your face from me,  
lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,  
for in you I trust.

Make me know the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul.

<sup>9</sup> Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!  
I have fled to you for refuge.

<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me  
on level ground!

<sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!  
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

<sup>12</sup> And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,  
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,  
for I am your servant.



## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

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### LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### FOR GOVERNMENT

Lord God Almighty, You reign over the heavens and the earth in perfect love and rightful power. Direct those who govern our country, state and communities that they may maintain proper order among us. Protect the weakest in our land, especially the unborn children and the infirm. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You set apart kings and governments to safeguard Your people. Bless, we pray, our president; the Congress; our governor; our legislature; and all those who make, administer and judge our laws. Make them wise, and give them discerning hearts in the pursuit of justice for the offender, peace between the nations, and protection for the unborn and those least able to defend themselves. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### FOR COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

For those institutions that serve this community, the schools and colleges, hospitals, nursing homes and pregnancy centers, adoption agencies, homeless shelters, and sanctuaries for the unwanted, that they may never snuff out life and hope, but always serve as pools of refreshment and healing for those burdened by the trials of this life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

### FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE AND THOSE WHO ARE BARREN

For those mothers who grieve the loss of children through miscarriage and stillbirth, and for those parents who have been unable to bear children, that they may be comforted in their sorrow and longing, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For husbands and wives who are burdened by the inability to have children, that God would comfort them in their sorrow and give them new and unexpected opportunities to share their love with others, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

### FOR THE UNBORN

Your light has dawned upon us, and we are drawn to Your light as a people of faith who trust Your mercy to answer the prayers of Your people with grace sufficient for all our needs. As the Holy Innocents suffered in the wake of Herod's rage, we pray You to comfort the families of the martyrs and strengthen all who suffer for the sake of the Gospel. We especially cry to You on behalf of the unborn, that their lives may be preserved with the full protection of the law and their care supported by the full resources of the medical arts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Wise and gracious Father, You are the Lord of life. We give you thanks for the gift of children. By Your grace, enable all people to embrace all human beings, especially the most vulnerable, as part of the human community, worthy of our protection and care. Empower parents to love their children and to teach them of the Lord Jesus. Sustain all agencies dedicated to caring for the most vulnerable among us. By the power the cross of Christ, enable all who carry a burden of guilt to repent, confess, and experience the forgiveness of sins and renewal of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the unborn, that the Lord Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary might form them for His service and praise, grant them health and safe delivery, protect them from all danger and especially from those who would seek to end their lives, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

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### FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

That pregnant women may rejoice over the children of God being formed in their wombs, and cherish the gift of life entrusted to them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Creator and Preserver of all things, we give thanks that You form us in the womb and give us life. We pray that You would foster among us a high regard for Your gifts of motherhood and childbearing as Your appointed means for bringing new life into the world. Bless all women who are with child, granting health and safety through pregnancy, labor and delivery.

### FOR THOSE VULNERABLE TO ABORTION

For parents who are tempted to consider abortion, that the Lord who creates and preserves life would grant to them repentance, faith in His forgiveness and provision, deliverance from fear and courage to defend life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For women who have undergone and those who advocate for elective abortion, that the Lord of life would deliver them from hardened hearts, lead them gently to contrition and repentance, and comfort the penitent with the truth that His death has atoned for all of their sins, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all mothers with child, including those in difficult circumstances, that God protect the unborn, care for mothers, show to all the value of each child and give the body of Christ a heart that provides refuge for women who are scared and children who seem unwanted, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

### FOR ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

For wisdom to cherish the gift of life, for our care for children and the unborn, for children to be adopted and placed in foster homes, for the protection and care of mothers with child, and for our pursuit of just laws that will extend protection to children in the womb and the aged in their frailty, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all orphans, that they would be given a safe place in which to grow and thrive, and for kind and generous couples who will open their hearts to give them permanent homes through adoption, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

### ADDITIONAL PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

- ✦ Pray for your pastor and church leaders, and for your congregation's efforts to witness to the value of every human life.
- ✦ Pray for strength to stand up for the truth about God's gift of life.
- ✦ Pray for the media, that their eyes will be opened and that they will inform the public truthfully about abortion.
- ✦ Pray for Christians in government, that they will speak in defense of the defenseless.
- ✦ Pray for the president and vice president; for your congressmen, senators and all of Congress.
- ✦ Pray for the governor, the lieutenant governor and the state legislature.
- ✦ Pray for the Supreme Court, that they will seek the Lord's wisdom and submit to His authority.
- ✦ Pray for national and state judicial decisions and legislation to uphold all human life from conception to natural death.
- ✦ Pray for our nation to be brought to repentance, as a people who have tolerated and accepted abortion.
- ✦ Pray for couples who are barren and those who long to adopt a child, that they would be comforted.
- ✦ Pray for abortionists, that they that they may be brought to repentance.
- ✦ Pray for the closing of the abortion centers in your community and nationwide.
- ✦ Pray for those in groups that promote abortion.
- ✦ Pray for preborn babies in your community who are in danger of being aborted.
- ✦ Pray for pro-life pregnancy resource centers and medical clinics that help women in need choose life.
- ✦ Pray for pro-life organizations that face trials combatting the abortion industry each day.
- ✦ Pray for pregnant women in your community, that their needs will be met and that they will care for their babies.

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

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- ✦ Pray for Christian doctors, nurses, pharmacists and medical providers.
- ✦ Pray for women who have had abortions, that they would receive God's forgiveness.
- ✦ Pray for grandparents grieving over abortion of their grandchildren.
- ✦ Pray for fathers mourning the death of their aborted children.
- ✦ Pray for women who suffer physical health problems because they had abortions.
- ✦ Pray for struggling single mothers.
- ✦ Pray for your family, that they will live a life pleasing to God and uphold the sanctity of human life.
- ✦ Praise God for answering your prayers to save parents and children from abortion.



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