

# **MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING SERVICES**

**from the Methodist Worship Book**

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Many sources have contributed to the compilation of this book, and not all of them are now traceable. Individual members of the Committee prepared drafts, which were revised more or less drastically by the Committee, often resulting in final versions which looked little like the original drafts. Among the casualties of this sometimes protracted process was the identity of many of the sources; they could not be recalled, nor did there seem to be any way to track them down. The Panel wishes to record at once both its indebtedness to any who may recognise in this book rhythms and patterns, expressions and phrases, ideas and images which are their own, and its regret that it became impossible to ask permission or seek consent for their inclusion...

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# MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING SERVICES

## INTRODUCTION

Most acts of worship in the Methodist Church are preaching services, consisting mainly of hymns, prayers, scripture readings and a sermon. The early Methodist preaching services were meant to be supplementary to worship in the Parish Church and there was a great emphasis on the sermon. In recent years, more attention has been given to the shape of the Christian Year, the systematic reading of scripture, different types of prayer, a wider variety of musical resources, and greater congregational participation.

The two services which follow are complete orders of worship for use at any time. They may also be regarded as models on which other forms may be based. They share a common fourfold structure of Preparation, Ministry of the Word, Response and Dismissal, developed in two slightly different ways. Those leading prayer may pray in their own words or use other resources. It is always important, especially in all-age worship, to use language which is appropriate for the particular congregation. Some additional material is included here for the various sections of the service, including some appropriate for seasons of the Christian Year. Other material in the book – notably the prayers of intercession in the various services of *Holy Communion* – is also suitable for use in this type of service.

***Guidance for Ordering a Morning, Afternoon, or Evening Service*** follows the ***Second Service***.

# FIRST SERVICE

## THE PREPARATION

1 From Easter to Pentecost:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

At other times:

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

or a sentence from pages 52-55 or another sentence of scripture

2 Hymn

3 Prayer of approach

Let us pray.

Silence

EITHER

**A** Loving God, we have come to worship you.

**Help us to remember that you are here with us.  
May we pray to you in faith,  
sing your praise with gratitude,  
and listen to your word with eagerness;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OR

**B** Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal:  
have mercy on us.  
**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal:  
have mercy on us.**

Silence

Eternal God, source of all blessing,  
help us to worship you  
with all our heart and mind and strength;  
for you alone are God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

4 Prayer of adoration

Let us praise God.

Silence

EITHER

**A** Holy God,  
to you alone belong glory, honour and praise.  
We join with the hosts of heaven as we worship.  
You alone are worthy of adoration from every mouth,  
and every tongue shall sing your praise.  
You create the earth by your power;  
you save the human race in your mercy,  
and renew it through your grace.  
To you, loving God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be all glory, honour and praise  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

OR

**B** Praise be to you, O God,  
the maker of the universe,  
**by whose wisdom we are created and sustained.**  
Praise be to you, O God,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**by whose love we are redeemed and forgiven.**



Praise be to you, O God,  
the source of all holiness,  
**by whose Spirit we are made whole  
and brought to perfection.**

**Praise be to you, O God,  
Source of all being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

5 Prayer of confession and declaration of forgiveness

EITHER

**A** Let us confess our sins.

Silence

Loving God,  
**we have sinned against you  
in what we have thought, said and done.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry  
and turn away from what is wrong.  
Forgive us for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silence

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
This is his gracious word:  
'Your sins are forgiven.'  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OR

**B** Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence

For our foolishness  
and our thoughtless use of the gifts of your creation,  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our neglect of you,  
and our failure to care for others,  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For our selfishness in prayer  
and our carelessness in worship,  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Silence

Here is good news for all who put their trust in Christ.  
Jesus says: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OR

**C** If we say that we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves  
and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins,  
God, who is faithful and just,  
will forgive our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
Let us confess our sins.

Silence

God of truth and love,

**be merciful to us,  
as we claim your promised forgiveness  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

God, who is faithful and just,  
assures us of pardon and peace.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

- 6 The collect of the day or another suitable prayer
- 7 The Lord's Prayer may be said here or at no. 15 or no. 17.
- 8 Hymn or song or canticle of praise

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 9 Two or three readings from scripture After each reading, the reader may say:

Thanks be to God.

and the people may respond: **Amen.**

There may be psalms, canticles, hymns or periods of silence between the readings.

- 10 Sermon
- 11 Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess the faith of the Church.

**We believe in God the Father,  
who made the world.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son,  
who redeemed humankind.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God.**

12 Hymn

**THE RESPONSE**

13 Prayers of thanksgiving

EITHER

**A** Let us give thanks to God.

For the love of our Father,  
the Maker of all, the giver of all good things:  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the world's beauty and the changing seasons,  
and for the life that we have been given:  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who lived and worked among us:  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For his suffering and death on the cross  
and his resurrection to new life:  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For his rule over all things  
and his presence in the world:  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,  
who teaches and guides us:  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the grace of the Spirit  
in the work of the Church  
and the life of the world:  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

OR

**B** We praise you, eternal God,  
for the world which you have created  
and for our place in it.

**May you be praised for ever and ever.**

You have given us life that we may love and serve you  
and though we have resisted your purpose and misused  
your gift,  
you have not left us in our sin,  
but have sent your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

**May you be praised for ever and ever.**

We thank you that for us he became human,  
died on the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended into  
heaven,  
where he reigns in glory and prays for us.

**May you be praised for ever and ever.**

We thank you that you have sent your Holy Spirit,  
to bring us to freedom and to new life in Christ.

**May you be praised for ever and ever.**

Seasonal or other thanksgivings such as those on pages 55-57 may be included here.

MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING SERVICES

Therefore with all your Church  
on earth and in heaven,  
we give you our thanks and praise.

**We dedicate ourselves to you;  
strengthen us by your Spirit to do your will,  
and bring us with all your saints  
to the glory of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

14 Prayers of intercession

EITHER

**A** The leader may make special biddings for prayer.

Silence

Blessèd are you, eternal God,  
**to be praised and glorified for ever.**

Hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church:  
**make us all one, that the world may believe.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly  
serve you:

**that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.**

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name:  
**give them courage to proclaim your Gospel.**

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of  
the world:

**guide them and all people in the way of justice and peace.**

Make us alive to the needs of our community:  
**help us to share each other's joys and burdens.**

Look with kindness on our homes and families:  
**grant that your love may grow in our hearts.**

Inspire us to have compassion on those who suffer from  
sickness, grief or trouble:

**in your presence may they find their strength.**

We remember those who have died:

**Father, into your hands we commend them.**

We praise you for all your saints  
who have entered your eternal glory:

**bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Silence

Heavenly Father,  
you have promised to hear  
what we ask in the name of your Son:  
we pray you to accept and answer our prayers,  
not as we ask in our ignorance,  
nor as we deserve in our sinfulness,  
but as you know and love us in your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OR

**B**

God our Father,  
grant us the help of your Spirit  
in our prayers for the salvation of all people.

We pray for the Church throughout the world  
for this church and all its members  
for . . .

that in faith and unity  
we may be constantly renewed by your Holy Spirit  
for mission and service.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING SERVICES*

We pray for the peoples of the world  
for the leaders of the nations  
for . . .  
that they may seek justice, freedom and peace for all.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our country  
for those who have authority and influence  
for . . .  
that all may serve one another  
in wisdom, honesty and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those among whom we live and work  
for all our neighbours  
for . . .  
that we may so use your gifts  
that together we may find joy in your creation.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in sorrow, need, anxiety or sickness  
for . . .  
for . . .  
that in their weakness they may know your strength,  
and in despair find hope.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In you, Father,  
we are one family on earth and in heaven.  
We remember in your presence those who have died . . .  
giving thanks especially for those  
who have revealed to us your grace in Christ.



Help us to follow the example of your saints in light  
and bring us with them  
to the fullness of your eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OR an appropriate prayer of intercession from **Holy Communion**  
may be said.

- 15 The Lord's Prayer may be said here or at no. 17, if it has not  
already been said.

**EITHER**

We say together the prayer  
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily  
bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who  
sin against us.  
Save us from the time of  
trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**OR**

As our Saviour taught his  
disciples, we pray:

**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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING SERVICES

- 16 Offering and prayer of dedication  
The gifts of the people are presented.

EITHER

- A** God of all goodness and grace,  
receive the gifts we offer;  
and grant that our whole life  
may give you glory and praise;  
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OR

- B** Let us pray.  
**Gracious God, accept these gifts,  
and with them our lives,  
to be used in your service;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

- 17 The Lord's Prayer, if it has not already been said

**THE DISMISSAL**

- 18 Hymn

- 19 EITHER

**A** A seasonal introduction to the blessing from pages 57-59  
may be said.

The blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among *you/us* and remain with *you/us* always. **Amen.**

OR

- B** We say together:  
**The love of the Father enfold us,  
the wisdom of the Son enlighten us,  
the fire of the Spirit enflame us;  
and the blessing of God, the Three in One,  
be upon us and abide with us now and for ever. Amen.**

- 20 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# SECOND SERVICE

## THE PREPARATION

### 1 From Easter to Pentecost:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

At other times:

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

or a sentence from pages 52-55 or another sentence of scripture

### 2 Hymn

### 3 Prayer of approach

EITHER

**A** Lord our God,  
**eternal and wonderful,**  
**wholly to be trusted:**  
**you give life to all;**  
**you help those who come to you**  
**and give hope to those who call on you.**  
**Set our hearts and minds at peace,**  
**that we may bring our prayers to you**  
**with confidence and joy;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OR

**B** Gracious God,  
as we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
may the light of your presence  
set our hearts on fire with love for you,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

4 Prayer of adoration

EITHER

**A** Blessed are you, Lord our God:  
in your love you create all things out of nothing  
through your eternal Word.

**We glorify and adore you.**

Blessèd are you, Lord our God:  
in your love you redeemed the world  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We glorify and adore you.**

Blessèd are you, Lord our God:  
in your love you empower your people  
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**We glorify and adore you. Amen.**

OR

**B** Eternal God and Father,  
you are the source of all life,  
the fount of all wisdom,  
the well-spring of all grace.  
Your days are without end,  
your loving mercies without number.

We depend on you:  
and we remember your goodness to us  
and to those who have gone before us.

We tell your story in every generation:  
God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,  
God of Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel,  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
God of a pilgrim people, your Church.

You are our God,  
ahead of us, leading us,  
guiding us and calling us;  
you are the Lord God,  
the all-wise, the all-compassionate.

**To you we lift up our hearts  
and we worship you,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

- 5 The collect of the day or another suitable prayer
- 6 The Lord's Prayer may be said here or at no. 16.
- 7 Hymn or song or canticle of praise

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 8 Two or three readings from scripture

After each reading, the reader may say:

Thanks be to God.

and the people may respond: **Amen.**

There may be psalms, canticles, hymns or periods of silence between the readings.

- 9 Sermon

## THE RESPONSE

- 10 Prayer of confession and declaration of forgiveness

EITHER

- A** Let us make our confession to God.

Silence

Holy God,

**we confess that we have rebelled against you  
and broken your law of love;  
we have not loved our neighbours  
nor heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
and free us for joyful obedience;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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In Christ we are set free.  
Through Christ we are forgiven.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OR

**B** Let us call to mind our sinfulness.

Silence

Loving God, Father of all,  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, Lord of life,  
**have mercy on us.**

Silence, after which the leader says:

I confess to God and to you  
that I have sinned in thought, word and deed;  
may God have mercy on me.

**May God grant you pardon,  
forgiveness of all your sins,  
time to amend your life,  
and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Silence, after which the people say:

**We confess to God and to you  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed;  
may God have mercy on us.**

May God grant you pardon,  
forgiveness of all your sins,  
time to amend your life,  
and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

11 The Peace

All stand.

Christ is our peace.

In the one body we are reconciled to God and to one another.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

12 Offering and prayer of dedication

The gifts of the people are presented.

EITHER

**A** Everything in heaven and earth comes from you, O Lord,  
and of your own we give you.

**May you be praised for ever. Amen.**

OR

**B** Generous God,  
out of your providing  
we bring these gifts from our daily living.  
May the use of our gifts  
and the offering of our lives be for your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

13 Hymn

14 Prayers of thanksgiving

EITHER

**A** We thank you, O God, for you are gracious.  
You have loved us from the beginning of time  
and you remember us in times of trouble and of joy.

**Your mercy endures for ever.**

We thank you, O God,  
for you came to us in Jesus Christ,  
who has redeemed the world  
and saves us from our sins.

**Your mercy endures for ever.**

We thank you, O God,  
for you have sent your Holy Spirit,  
who comforts us and leads us into all truth.

**Your mercy endures for ever. Amen.**

OR

**B** Blessèd are you, Holy God,  
creator, redeemer and life-giver;  
you have spoken the world into being  
and filled it with wonder and beauty.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessèd are you, Holy God,  
for people of every language and culture  
and for the rich variety you give to life.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**



Blessèd are you, Holy God,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
truly divine and truly human, living and dying for us,  
and going before us into heaven.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessèd are you, Holy God,  
for your Spirit,  
the fire of love burning in our hearts,  
bringing us to faith,  
and calling us to holiness  
in the Church and in the world.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Seasonal or other thanksgivings such as those on pages 55-57 may be included here.

Therefore, Holy God,  
all glory be given to you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

15 These or some other prayers of intercession:

EITHER

**A** Let us pray for all people everywhere  
according to their need.

Let us pray  
for the Church of Christ throughout the world  
for its unity in Christ  
for the fulfilment of its mission  
for all ministers of the gospel  
for all Christians here in . . .

Silence

## MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING SERVICES

Strengthen your Church  
in the service of Christ;  
that we and all who confess your name  
may be united in your truth,  
live together in your love,  
and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray  
for all the nations and peoples of the world  
for all who serve the common good  
for our own country and government  
for all in authority  
for all those involved in . . .

### Silence

Give wisdom to all in authority;  
direct this and every nation  
in the ways of justice and of peace;  
that we may honour one another,  
and seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray  
for those we know and love  
for the local community  
for our families and friends  
for. . .

### Silence

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

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray  
for all who suffer  
for the sick  
for those who mourn  
for those without faith  
for those who serve the needy  
for . . .

Silence

Comfort and heal all those who suffer  
in body, mind or spirit;  
give them courage and hope in their troubles;  
and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us remember all who have died,  
giving thanks especially  
for those who have died in the faith of Christ.

Silence

We commend all people to your unfailing love,  
that in them your will may be fulfilled;  
and we rejoice at the faithful witness  
of your saints in every age,  
praying that we may share with them  
in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**Merciful Father,**  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**  
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

OR

**B** The leader may make special biddings for prayer.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace that is from above  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
and for the life and unity of the Church,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may worship God  
in spirit and in truth,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all ministers of the Church  
and the whole company of God's people,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the governments of the nations  
that they may seek justice and peace for all people,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our own country and local community,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick, for the afflicted and for prisoners,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves  
that we may truly serve him who called us  
out of darkness into his marvellous light,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all who have served God and are now at rest,  
we may enter into the fullness of unending joy,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
to whom our needs are known before we ask,  
help us to ask only what accords with your will;  
and those good things which we dare not  
or in our blindness cannot ask,  
grant us for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

16 The Lord's Prayer, if it has not already been said

**EITHER**

We say together the prayer  
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily  
bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who  
sin against us.**

**OR**

As our Saviour taught his  
disciples, we pray:

**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,**

Save us from the time of  
trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into  
temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

17 Hymn

18 EITHER

**A** A seasonal introduction to the blessing from pages 57-59  
may be said.

The blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among *you/us* and remain with *you/us* always. **Amen.**

OR

**B** The Lord give strength to his people.  
The Lord bless his people with peace. **Amen.**

19 **We go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory. Amen.**

# GUIDANCE FOR ORDERING A MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING SERVICE

## THE PREPARATION

The leader and people gather in God's name.

Notices may be given and news items may be shared.

Acts of approach and praise are offered in song and prayer.

A prayer of penitence is followed by an assurance of God's forgiveness.

There may be a brief introduction to the service or a short prayer reflecting the season or festival.

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The scriptures are read, including a passage from the New Testament. God's word is proclaimed and shared in songs, hymns, music, dance and other art forms, in a sermon, or in comment, discussion and in silence.

The Peace may be shared and introduced with an appropriate sentence of scripture.

## THE RESPONSE

Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for God's gift of creation and redemption in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Prayers are offered for the Church, for the world and for those in need, and a remembrance may be made of those who have died.

The Lord's Prayer is said, unless it has been said earlier.

The leader and people dedicate themselves to God in prayer. The offerings of the people may be placed on the Lord's table.

## THE DISMISSAL

A final act of praise is followed by words of blessing and dismissal, or 'The Grace' is said.

## RESOURCE MATERIAL

### OPENING SENTENCES

#### Advent

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all people shall see it.

Salvation is nearer to us now  
than when we became believers.

#### Christmas

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

The Word became flesh and lived among us  
and we have seen his glory.

#### Epiphany

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
my name is great among the nations,  
says the Lord.

#### Lent

The sacrifice acceptable to God  
is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness,  
though we have rebelled against him.



### Passiontide

Christ died for all  
so that those who live  
might live no longer for themselves  
but for him who died and was raised for them.

Christ himself bore our sins  
in his body on the cross,  
so that, free from sins,  
we might live for righteousness;  
by his wounds you have been healed.

Christ suffered for sin once for all,  
the righteous for the unrighteous,  
in order to bring you to God.

### Easter tide

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### Ascensiontide

Praise and honour, glory and might,  
to him who sits on the throne  
and to the Lamb, for ever.

### Pentecost

God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### Trinity

By day and by night around the throne they sing:  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty:  
who was, and is, and is to come.

## Harvest

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

Let the heavens be glad  
and let the earth rejoice.

## In ordinary seasons

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth stand in awe.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;  
proclaim his deeds to the people.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near.

Jesus said: 'Know that I am with you always,  
to the end of time.'

God is Spirit  
and those who worship him  
must worship in spirit and truth.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
the old order has gone;  
a new order has already begun.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.

Hallelujah!  
For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.  
Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory.

## SEASONAL MATERIAL FOR PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

### Advent

And now we give you thanks  
because in Christ's coming among us  
the day of deliverance has dawned,  
and through him you will make all things new.

### Christmas and Epiphany

And now we give you thanks  
because in Christ  
the light which shines for all  
has come into the world,  
and has become one with us  
that we may become one with you.

And now we give you thanks  
because in coming to dwell among us,  
Christ revealed the radiance of your glory  
and brought us out of darkness  
into your own marvellous light.

### Lent

And now we give you thanks because Christ,  
though tempted in every way as we are,  
did not sin;  
through him therefore we may triumph over evil  
and grow in grace.

### Passiontide

And now we give you thanks  
because out of love for us  
Christ accepted death  
and, lifted high on the cross,  
drew the whole world to himself.  
The tree of shame became the tree of glory;  
where life was lost there life has been restored.

### Easter tide

And now we give you thanks  
because you raised Christ to life,  
triumphant over death,  
and exalted him in glory.  
By his victory over death,  
the reign of sin is ended,  
a new age has dawned,  
a broken world is restored  
and we are made whole once more.

### Ascensiontide

And now we give you thanks  
because you have highly exalted Christ  
and given him the name which is above every name:  
at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow  
and every tongue confess that he is Lord.

### Pentecost

And now we give you thanks  
because by the Holy Spirit  
you lead us into all truth,  
and give us the power to serve you  
as a royal priesthood  
and to take the joy of the gospel  
into all the world.

### Trinity

And now we give you thanks  
because you have revealed your glory  
as the glory of your Son and of the Holy Spirit:  
three persons equal in majesty,  
undivided in splendour,  
yet one Lord, one God,  
ever to be worshipped.

### All Saints

And now we give you thanks  
for all your saints  
who heard your call to holiness  
and obeyed the heavenly vision.  
We rejoice in their company with us  
on our pilgrimage.

## SEASONAL INTRODUCTIONS TO THE BLESSING

### Advent

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine on *you/us*  
and scatter the darkness from before *you/us*;  
and the blessing . . .

### Christmas and Epiphany

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill *you/us* with his grace to trust his promises;  
and the blessing . . .

Christ the Son of God gladden *your/our* hearts  
with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing . . .

Lent

Christ give *you/us* grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny *yourselves/ourselves*,  
to take up *your/our* cross and follow him;  
and the blessing . . .

Passiontide

Christ crucified draw *you/us* to himself,  
that *you/we* may find in him  
a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
and the blessing . . .

Easter tide

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen *you/us*  
to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing . . .

God, who through the resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ  
has given us the victory,  
give *you/us* joy and peace in *your/our* faith;  
and the blessing . . .

Ascension tide

Christ our King  
make *you/us* faithful and strong to do his will  
that *you/we* may reign with him in glory;  
and the blessing . . .

### Pentecost

The Spirit of truth lead *you/us* into all truth,  
give *you/us* grace to confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and to proclaim the word and works of God;  
and the blessing . . .

### Trinity

God the Holy Trinity  
make *you/us* strong in faith and love,  
defend *you/us* on every side,  
and guide *you/us* in truth and peace;  
and the blessing . . .

### All Saints

God give *you/us* grace to follow his saints  
in faith and hope and love;  
and the blessing . . .

### Christian unity

Christ the Good Shepherd,  
who laid down his life for the sheep,  
draw *you/us* and all who hear his voice  
to be one people within one fold;  
and the blessing . . .