

Prayers

The following are selected prayers that relate to generosity. See also many of the traditional and contemporary canticles found in recent prayer books, including Celebrating Common Prayer, A New Zealand Prayer Book, and recently published resources published in Canada, Great Britain, and The United States.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, they may honour you with their substance, and be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Adapted from The Book of Common Prayer,
The Episcopal Church, page 329

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers for Pastor & People, Carl G. Carozzi

Almighty God, your loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may love you with all that we have, and be found faithful and acceptable stewards of your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers, Thanksgivings, and Litanies—The Episcopal Church

Almighty God,
by your grace alone we are accepted and called to your service.
Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Book of Alternative Services, page 395

O Lord, your Son has taught us that from those to whom much is given,
much will be required:

Guide us to obtain our money honestly,
neither injuring our neighbours nor ravaging your creation.

And help us to use wisely what we have,
for the well-being of our families and all people,
and for the strengthening of your kingdom
in justice, beauty, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers, Thanksgivings, and Litanies—The Episcopal Church, page 52

Creator of the fruitful earth,
you made us stewards of all things.
Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness,
and steadfast wills to use your bounty well,
that the whole human family,
today and in generations to come,
may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Book of Alternative Services, page 396

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people
is governed and sanctified:
receive our supplications and prayers,
which we offer before you
for all members of your holy Church,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may truly and devoutly serve you;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Book of Common Prayer, The Episcopal Church, page 256

Prayers from A New Zealand Prayer Book often need a conclusion, e.g.
for those prayers addressed to God, This we ask through Christ our
Mediator/Saviour/
Redeemer/Lord. Amen.

Or when the prayer is addressed to God and ends with words
referring to Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever. Amen.

Christ of the new covenant,
give us the happiness to share,

with full measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over,
all that you give us.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Jesus,
receive our love and worship.
Show us how to give you what we have,
for nothing is too big or small
for us to offer, or for you to use.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

God, you have made our world and seen that it is good;
grant to us, created to complete your work,
the bright, beautiful vision that makes us care for what we do.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

You made us Lord, and we are yours;
grant that we may so use your gifts
that all your creatures may enjoy the harmony you planned.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal God,
protector of all who put their trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy;
fill us with your mercy and your grace
that with you to rule and guide
we may so use the good things of this present life
that we do not neglect things of eternal worth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Almighty God,
fount of all wisdom, crown of all knowledge;
give us eyes to see
and minds to understand your marvelous works,
that we may know you through your handiwork
and use your creations to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Save us, Jesus, from hurrying away,
because we do not wish to help,
because we know not how to help,
because we dare not.

Inspire us to use our lives
serving one another.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Almighty God,
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received;
make us rich to do those generous things
which supply your people's needs;
so all the world may give you thanks and glory.

A New Zealand Prayer Book, page 141

Heavenly Father,
you see how your children hunger for food,
and fellowship, and faith.
Help us to meet one another's needs of body, mind and spirit,
in the love of Christ our Saviour.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal God,
light of the minds that know you,
joy of the hearts that love you,
strength of the wills that serve you;
grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may gladly serve you,
now and always.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding;
pour into our hearts such love towards you
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

God of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things,
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish in us all goodness,
and of your great mercy
keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

A New Zealand Prayer Book, page 420

Father, enliven the Church for its mission
that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

God our Creator,
when you speak there is light and life,
when you act there is justice and love;
grant that your love may be present in our meeting,
so that what we say and what we do
may be filled with your Holy Spirit.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Almighty God,
you have called us to serve you,
yet without your grace
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Praise to you, God, for all your work among us.
Yours is the vigour in creation,
yours is the impulse in our new discoveries.
Make us adventurous, yet reverent and hopeful
in all we do.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Almighty God,
give us such a vision of your purpose
and such an assurance of your love and power,
that we may ever hold fast the hope
which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

God of all the earth,
you have given us the heritage
of this good and fertile land;
grant that we may so respect and use it
that others may thank us
for what we leave to them.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Everlasting God,
your messengers have carried the good news of Christ
to the ends of the earth;
grant that we who commemorate
the builders of your Church in our country
may know the truth of the gospel in our hearts
and build well on the foundations they have laid;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book

God of every generation
that has been and is yet to be,
we praise and thank you
for those who have served and shaped
your Church in Canada;
in our day
raise up prophets and visionaries
to bring us new insights, new challenges
and renewed confidence in you
and the gospel of your Son.

Adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Common Worship – Services and Prayers for the Church of England

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Common Worship – Services and Prayers for the Church of England

Rubrics

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.

The Book of Common Prayer, The Episcopal Church, page 445,
at the conclusion of the “Thanksgiving for a Child” service.

or if you prefer

And if he have not afore disposed his goods, let him then make his will. (But men must be often admonished that they set an order for their temporal goods and lands, when they be in health.)

And also to declare his debts, what he oweth, and what is owing to him; for discharging of his conscience, and quietness of his executors.

The Book of Common Prayer, 1549 Visitation of the Sick