

Bidding Prayer

The bidding prayer is one of the oldest collections of intercessions in the tradition of the Christian church. The subjects of the prayers follow an ancient sequence. The bidding prayer is best read by two readers, one reading the invitation, and one praying the portion.

On this most sacred day when our Lord, who has been lifted up to draw all people to himself, has gone before us to the Father, we his body stand with him before the Father and intercede for his church and his world.

Let us pray for the holy church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father will grant peace to his church, preserve it in unity, and protect it throughout the world.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, you have shown your glory to all nations in Christ your Son: Guide the work of your church; help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring your salvation to people everywhere.

Let us pray for the bishop of our church, Pastor John Henderson, and our District Bishop, Pastor David Altus, for all pastors and servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, you guide the church and keep it holy. Help all of us to work faithfully for you.

Let us pray for those who are searching for faith in God or being prepared for baptism, that God will wash them in the waters of new birth, and give them his Holy Spirit.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, you continually add new members to your church. Increase the faith and understanding of those being prepared for baptism. Give them new birth by water and the Spirit, and strengthen them by your grace to life eternal.

Let us pray for all Christians, that God will gather us by his Spirit and keep us united in faith and love.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, you have made us your holy people by our common baptism. Make us one in our confession of faith, increase our love for each other, and help us to work together in your mission to the people of the world.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, to whom God spoke through the prophets, that they will acknowledge Jesus as the Christ foretold by the prophets.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his descendants. Grant that your chosen people may share with us the fullness of your redemption.

Let us pray for all who do not yet believe in Jesus Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit will show them the way of salvation.

(silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, remember those who do not remember you. Have mercy on those who have rejected your grace. Guide those who seek to make sense of their lives, so that they may find their salvation in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for those who serve us in public office, that God may use them to curb what is evil and work for the wellbeing of our nation.

(silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, guide all the nations of the earth, so that they may promote international justice and peace. Bless our country and all who hold positions of responsibility, our prime minister, Scott Morrison, and premier, Steven Marshall. Direct the parliaments of our commonwealth and state, so that we may enjoy good government, and live together in freedom and harmony.

Let us pray for all the needy people of the earth, that God will provide for them according to their needs.

(silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, heal those who are physically sick and mentally disturbed. Support those who are aged and dying. Comfort those who are hungry and lonely. Relieve those who are oppressed, and free those who are unjustly imprisoned.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Reproaches

The reproaches are traditional verses based on the passage in Micah 6:3-4. They are poignant words that are placed in the mouth of Christ on the cross, reproaching the whole of humanity for ingratitude, betrayal and refusal of his love, and calling for repentance and conversion. The response is based on the Eastern hymn, the 'Trisagion' or 'thrice-holy'.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people? How have I burdened you? Answer me!

I led you out from the prison of death, but you led your Saviour to the cross. I freed you from slavery to sin, but you handed him over to be condemned. O my people!

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people? How have I burdened you? Answer me!

I led you safely through the desert and brought you to a rich land, but you led your Saviour to the cross. I fed you with bread from heaven and refreshed you with living water, but you have given him gall and vinegar to drink. O my people!

Thus says the Lord: What more could I have done for you, O my people, than I have done? Answer me!

I planted you as my fairest vine, but you yielded only bitter fruit. I sent my Son to gather your harvest, but you killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. O my people!

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people? How have I burdened you? Answer me!

O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful God, have mercy on us, and do not condemn us to eternal death.

O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful God, have mercy on us, and lead us through death to eternal life.

O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, have mercy on us, and never abandon us.

O Christ, the Saviour of the world, we praise and adore you for the redemption of the world through your holy cross.

Jesus, Son of the living God, draw us and all people to yourself. Amen.