

# Keep on Praying

## Prayers and Litanies for Mission

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18)

*Resources for use in churches and by mission support  
groups*

# INTRODUCTION

Gospel ministry involves people, working together in a partnership based on prayer. This prayer resource may help you to encourage and include others in that partnership and may be used in church services and small groups to pray for mission around the world. Missionaries are members of the church, engaged in the work of mission, so we pray for them, but also for the church of Christ throughout the world.

## Don't Know What to Pray?

Try these general prayer points.

- ❖ For the spread of the gospel in places where missionaries are working.
- ❖ For the many thousands of unreached people groups with no access to the gospel.
- ❖ For Christians in troubled parts of the world.
- ❖ For missionaries dealing with isolation, danger or difficulty.
- ❖ For the spiritual growth of missionaries.
- ❖ For the children of missionaries either on location or living away from their parents.
- ❖ For those undergoing missionary training.
- ❖ For God to continue to raise up new missionaries.
- ❖ For the financial and practical needs of missionary societies.

## Prayer for CMS

God of love, whose will it is that everyone should be saved,  
bless the Church Missionary Society  
and those who have gone out in its fellowship  
to preach, to teach and to heal.  
Guard, guide and use them;  
raise up more people in your worldwide church  
to pray and to work,  
to care and to understand,  
to give to you and to go for you,  
that your church may grow,  
your will be done,  
your kingdom come,  
and your glory be revealed:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
**Amen.**

Read on for more specific prayers.

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# PRAYERS for MISSION

For open doors around the world

- ❖ Renewed vision
- ❖ Open doors
- ❖ People to look to Christ in faith

For the spread of the gospel

- ❖ The lost
- ❖ Those who have never heard the gospel
- ❖ Workers for the harvest
- ❖ A variety of workers
- ❖ The world to receive the gospel

For those of other beliefs

- ❖ Followers of Hinduism and Buddhism
- ❖ Muslim people
- ❖ People of other religions
- ❖ The love of God to reach all cultures

For specific countries and regions

- ❖ Churches in each country
- ❖ Australia
- ❖ Africa
- ❖ Latin America
- ❖ Europe
- ❖ Asia
- ❖ The Middle East
- ❖ Countries experiencing political unrest

For the translation of scripture

- ❖ Faithfulness in translation
- ❖ Study of language

For areas of ministry

- ❖ Student ministry
- ❖ Urban ministries
- ❖ Medical ministry
- ❖ Pastoral ministry
- ❖ Teaching ministries

Open doors around the world

**Renewed vision**

Heavenly Father, whose will it is that no one should perish. Give us your vision for world that is lost. We pray that your Holy Spirit will open the hearts of those lost in sin, that they may seek you diligently, be convicted of sin and receive the salvation you offer. May they know the joy of the forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Open doors**

Sovereign Lord, who made the earth and everything in it. We pray for those parts of the world that are closed to your gospel because of political and religious constraints. Protect and sustain believers in those countries through the comfort of your Holy Spirit. Raise up Christians of determination, faithfulness and ingenuity to work on their behalf around the world. Open doors for your word, Lord, and let it be carried by your people. For the eternal glory of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **People to look to Christ in faith**

Lord Jesus, may you be lifted up in every culture, among every people, so that people everywhere may hear of what you have done and place their trust in you. May they look to you in faith and worship, and be released from sin's deadly hold as they come into your new birth to eternal life. Hear our prayer, Lord Jesus, in accordance with your will. **Amen.**

## The spread of the gospel

### **The lost**

Our gracious heavenly Father we thank you for your unfailing love. We pray that by your Holy Spirit you may turn the hearts of those who are lost in their sins. Bind Satan so those who desire to turn to you in faith may seek you with all their hearts. Encourage those who seek assurance of your forgiveness and lead them to the life eternal, through him who died and rose again, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Those who have never heard the gospel**

O Saviour Christ, we pray for the many millions who have never heard your name or known your love. We pray for ourselves, that you will stir up your people to declare the good news of your gospel throughout the world. Inspire and empower us to proclaim your gospel in urgency and love, that people may not be left to live without you, nor to die without you. May they come to know, with us, the joy of sins forgiven, of your overflowing grace, of peace in life and death, and of all the good things prepared for those who love you. O Lord and Saviour, send forth labourers to reap your harvest in our world. **Amen.**

### **Workers to go into the harvest**

Lord of the harvest, raise up, nourish and send more workers to preach the good news to the poor, to build up your church in every land and minister to the needs of people everywhere, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

### **A variety of workers**

Lord of the harvest, send people to do your work joyfully, whether they be sowing the seed, reaping the crop, preparing the ground, tackling obstacles or ploughing the field. Help this church, gracious Lord, to find our place and our task among the work of the labourers. **Amen.**

### **The world to receive the gospel**

Sovereign Lord, without the prompting of your Holy Spirit no one can turn to you, and without hearing your word no one can respond to your call. Send your Holy Spirit to move your people in every nation to proclaim your word. May those who seek you with all diligence be brought into your kingdom, through faith in Christ. **Amen.**

## For those of other beliefs

### **Prayer for followers of Hinduism and Buddhism**

Lord, we pray for people of Hindu beliefs. We ask that people who see you only as one god among many may come to know you as you really are – the only true and living God. We pray for people who search diligently for the truth within Hindu and Buddhist writings and who see Jesus Christ only as a holy teacher, instead of acknowledging him as Lord and Saviour. Please make your true word available to these people, speak to them through the Bible and faithful gospel ministers, so that they may be led to a saving knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. **Amen.**

### **Prayer for Muslim people**

Almighty God, you alone can give eternal life; hear our prayer for the millions of people in the world who follow the ways of Islam. May they learn to love you as Father, and to know your abundant love in their lives. May they accept Jesus as your Son and their Saviour, and receive assurance of your forgiveness because of his saving work. May they know the freedom of the life he offers. We pray in the name of him who died for all people, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Prayer for people of other religions**

Lord God of love and compassion, you yearn for each person to know life in all its fullness. Show your mercy to the many who long for you and look for you but never find you because their searching leads them to other religions and other lords and leaves them empty. We ask you to reveal yourself to them by sending faithful messengers to share your compassion, truth and love with them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The love of God to reach all cultures**

Sovereign Lord, the book of Revelation depicts a scene in which people from every tribe, nation and language are gathered around your throne. We rejoice in your love and compassion for the whole world and pray that your Word would be known in every culture and among every people group. Unite your people by your Holy Spirit and bring us to the day of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Specific countries and regions

### **Churches in each country**

Eternal God and Father, bless your people, the church, that they may know your saving love in the Lord Jesus Christ. Give your grace and wisdom to church leaders as they minister your word. To every Christian give boldness to confess, in word and deed, the faith of Christ crucified and to shine as a light in their land. May they be united in a fellowship of love and service, for the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

### **The church in Australia**

We thank you, our Father God, for the church in our land and for those who brought your Word to us from far away. Help us to respect your truth and show your love to those around us. Give us your concern for the salvation of the people who live within our borders and forgive us for our sins of unfaithfulness. We praise you for the rich traditions that have been passed onto us, and for our freedom to worship you and proclaim your gospel in this land. Make us a nation of gospel workers with our eyes fixed on your truth and a desire to share it with others, for the glory of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **The Aboriginal church**

Heavenly Father, who made the earth and everything in it, we pray for Aboriginal Christians and churches in Australia and ask that the gospel will be proclaimed among all Aboriginal people. We ask that many more will put their faith in Christ and show his transformation in their lives and communities. We give you thanks that the scriptures have been translated into local languages and pray for perseverance and faithfulness for translation teams who continue in this work. We ask too that you will continue to raise up Aboriginal church leaders who will guide the Church with wisdom, building them up in unity of faith for the glory of your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **The church in Africa**

Father, we give you thanks for the many in Africa who have turned to you in recent years. Thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit who has changed many lives through the faithful preaching of your Word. We praise you for the gospel of Jesus, which continues to hold out new life to the people of Africa. Keep and preserve those who preach and teach your word without error and unswervingly focus on the cross of Jesus. Enlarge our vision for Africa, in line with your own so that, with our African brothers and sisters, we may behold your glory. We long for the day when we will stand with them before your throne to give you the praise and glory and honour we owe you, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The church in Latin America**

Dear Lord, who knows all our needs before we ask for them, bless the church in each part of Latin America. We praise you for the many believers there who call on your name and trust in your goodness to them. We ask you to hold them in your hand, deepening their commitment and raising up people of mature faith to lead them wisely. Enrich your church with your Holy Spirit and nourish those who hunger with faithful teaching from your Word. To the glory of your Son, Jesus. **Amen.**

### **The church in Europe**

Gracious Lord, you are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. We pray for regions in the world like Europe that have known your truth over hundreds of years and have let go of it, putting their trust in false beliefs like materialism, spiritualism and relativism. Raise up people to faithfully communicate the gospel of Jesus to people throughout these lands, that they might come to know Christ, growing into a generation of faithful disciples. Let your truth permeate every part of their lives as they seek to do your will. Protect your church from the lies of this world and strengthen your people to trust in your promise of eternal life, granted through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The church in Asia**

Our Gracious Lord, God of the nations, we thank you for the Church in Asia and praise you for news of places experiencing rapid growth. Please raise up and equip pastors who teach the truth so that new Christians will be firmly established in their faith. We ask that the gospel will continue to be preached faithfully in these places and pray that you will send workers to areas where people haven't heard the good news of salvation in Jesus. Please establish governments in Asia who lead with integrity, allow freedom to worship, build stability and work to alleviate poverty. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **The church in the Middle East**

Almighty God, who has promised to work in all things for the good of those who love you, we bring before you the church in the Middle East. Strengthen your people in lands where your Word is not openly tolerated and where power lies in the hands of those who oppose you. Comfort them through your Holy Spirit and uphold them in the face of persecution, fear and discouragement. Let your Word be free and unshackled in those places and raise up people to serve you in whatever way is best. To the glory of your name. **Amen.**

### **Countries experiencing political unrest**

O God, our heavenly Father, we praise you for the peace and stability we enjoy in Australia. We thank you for the blessing of freedom of worship we enjoy in our country. We are mindful of those whose lives are disrupted by war and oppression, and we pray for those who suffer persecution. We pray that the light of Christ might shine in the countries affected by turmoil. We pray that many will turn to him, finding forgiveness and the power to forgive others. May your kingdom come and your will be done in those counties as we, together with them, wait upon your second coming to gather your people, and to establish your authority forever. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## Translation of the scriptures

### **Faithfulness in translation**

We thank you, heavenly Father for your word and we pray for the ongoing work of translation into different languages so that everyone will hear the gospel of Christ in their own tongue. Give wisdom through your Holy Spirit to translators throughout the world that they will carry out this important task with faithfulness, gentleness and humility. May you encourage men and women to use their gifts to bring your word clearly and faithfully to many people. **Amen.**

### **Study of language**

Merciful Lord, we pray for students of new languages who seek to clearly and faithfully communicate your message of salvation. Help them to gain a strong knowledge of grammar, build a useful vocabulary, develop an acceptable accent and a love of the culture. Enable them to learn to listen well in their new language. Beyond these things, may their conversation be full of grace and seasoned with salt. Just as you declared your judgment on sin by confusing human language, we pray that you would show mercy by allowing your chosen people to understand and use foreign languages, so as to advance the gospel and bring others to know you. Help them to be patient, persistent and humble as they continue to learn. For the glory of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Areas of ministry

### **Prayer for student ministry**

Our Father in Heaven, you are the author of all truth and wisdom and knowledge. We praise you for the many lives that have been transformed through student ministries around the world and ask that you will continue to open doors for the gospel in schools and universities. Please raise up student workers who will proclaim the gospel clearly and boldly and who will teach the Bible faithfully. Please strengthen and encourage those who are serving amongst students, enabling them to point students to the truth, freeing them from captivity to deceptive philosophies. We ask these things in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **Prayer for urban ministries**

O God, you are the Lord and maker of heaven and earth. We ask today that you will strengthen those who serve you in the massive cities of the world. Please enable them to proclaim the gospel clearly and to show Christ's love as they hold out eternal hope to those who suffer in poverty. Please protect those who work in places where violent crime is rife and help them to cope with the stress of living with danger. We long for the day when, together with all your people, we dwell with you in a new city; when you wipe away every tear, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. For the glory of your Son, Jesus. **Amen.**

### **Prayer for medical ministry**

Compassionate Lord, we thank and praise you for the selfless work done, in your name, by medical workers around the world. Uphold your workers; help them to trust you for their own needs and the needs of those to whom they minister. Give them patience, humility and strength to endure, looking to Christ as their model. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

### **Prayer for pastoral ministries**

Heavenly Father, you have entrusted your word and the care of your people to each of us. We thank you for this honour. We remember those engaged in pastoral ministries within churches around the world, guiding, teaching, encouraging and edifying others as they seek to serve you. We pray especially for those ministering to expatriates where feelings of isolation and of being a foreigner may hinder them in their relationship with you. Give those engaged in

ministry in a newer language, a measure of grace to accurately express your truth, humbly and compassionately. Let them, together with your people, rejoice in your name. **Amen.**

**Prayer for school ministries**

Lord God, we praise you for the skills and training of teachers of every kind, employed in a range of situations around the world. We thank you for long- and short-term missionaries with opportunities to teach at infants, primary and secondary levels in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America. We bring before you the recurring need for teachers and ask you to fill positions as they arise. We thank you also for the courageous and faithful work of Bible teachers in many contexts, facing varying knowledge levels and, at times, open hostility to your word. Through the work of teachers, we pray that many will come to know and love your Son Jesus. **Amen.**

# PRAYERS for MISSIONARIES and MISSION SUPPORTERS

For missionaries in a variety of circumstances

- ❖ CMS missionaries
- ❖ All missionaries
- ❖ Sending out missionaries
- ❖ Commissioning a particular missionary
- ❖ Missionaries about to leave
- ❖ Missionaries returning home
- ❖ Missionaries living in 'difficult' areas

For those who send and support missionaries

- ❖ Workers to be sent out
- ❖ Link churches
- ❖ Church mission support
- ❖ United by mission
- ❖ Missionary societies
- ❖ Overseas churches associated with missionaries
- ❖ Mission around the world

Equipping God's people for future service

- ❖ Young people seeking God's will
- ❖ Bible schools and theological colleges
- ❖ For teachers and students of God's Word

## For missionaries in a variety of circumstances

### **CMS missionaries**

Almighty God, our loving Father, you have called people to serve you in countries and among cultures different from their own. Protect those who are serving you as missionaries with CMS, both at home and overseas. Grant them wisdom and courage, faith and vision, joy and perseverance. May their lives be a faithful gospel witness to the people around them. Uphold them with your strong arm and protect them from the evil one. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **All missionaries**

O Lord, pour out your grace upon all who are called to be fellow workers with you, so that through their witness, Christ may be lifted up in every land and all people drawn to him. In times of loneliness and despair, cheer them with your presence; in times of disappointment, give them patience; in difficulties and dangers, uphold and protect them; in success, keep them humble in heart and in failure, strengthen them to persevere. Enable them to be joyful in spirit, radiant in life and steadfast in hope, that they may know joy and peace in serving you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Sending out missionaries**

Lord of the harvest, by the gifts of your Holy Spirit you have equipped your people to serve you throughout the world. Send out an increasing number of missionaries to build up your church locally and to take your gospel to all nations. Give us ears to hear your call, and to respond appropriately to it. Make us faithful and joyful in your service. This we ask through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. **Amen.**

### **Commissioning a particular missionary**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have called us to proclaim your gospel to the whole world. We thank you for your promise to be with us. Empower with your Holy Spirit the life of *(Names)*, whom you have called to serve you in *(country or ministry)*. As we send *him/her/them* forth, give them safety in their travel. Watch over them in the many challenges that are ahead. May they be wise and discerning, quick to listen and willing to receive as well as to give. We ask that they will constantly draw their strength from you in their times of weakness and discouragement. This we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **Missionaries about to leave**

Our heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for your sovereignty over our lives. We commit these servants, *(Names)*, to your safekeeping. Fill them with the joy and peace of Christ, as they are about to go to their location. Bless their families and friends and may they continually trust you for their future. Give them grace to behold the new opportunities in the next phase of their lives. And may we, together with them, keep our eyes on the great Saviour who laid down his life for us and leads us in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake. **Amen.**

### **Missionaries returning home**

Our heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for your sovereignty over our lives. Bless these your servants, (*Names*), as they reunite with their loved ones at home. May they relate well with their family members and friends and the local church. Renew their faith and vision of your ministry, and give special grace to those they have left. May we, together with them, keep our eyes on the great Saviour who laid down his life for us, who calls us by name to follow him and leads us in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake. **Amen.**

#### **Missionaries living in 'difficult' areas**

Prince of Peace, we commit to your love and protection those who have gone from this land to where there is political unrest. Be their shield and defender, we pray, where they are surrounded by injustices in those countries. Give them your inner peace and the confidence of knowing your love for them. Especially we pray for those families with children. We ask that you will protect their children from physical, psychological, and spiritual injuries. Protect their emotions and give them inner peace in the midst of violence around them. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## For those who send and support missionaries

#### **For workers to be sent out**

Father, in obedience to the command of Jesus, we pray that you will send out labourers into the harvests of your world, to gather people to you. Then, as we send missionaries to work for you, give us generous minds and wills so that we will support them financially and in prayer. May your work be done in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **Link churches**

Lord God, we thank you for the diligent support of link churches throughout Australia. Help them to love and care for missionaries as they would their own people and sustain them in the years between seeing their link missionaries in person. Provide for their financial and spiritual needs so that their commitment to the work of mission would be a blessing not a burden. Build up their congregations and grant them your peace as they seek to do your will. **Amen.**

#### **Church mission support**

O Lord, our life and our strength, you have called us to make your glory known in all the world. Help us, in this congregation, to use your gifts to support the work of the gospel. Help us to be faithful in our prayers, keen in our interest and generous in our giving, so that nothing we do or fail to do may hinder the spreading of your Word. For the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **United by mission**

Lord of the church, we pray for our churches. Give us a genuine desire to be useful to you. Give us gifted communicators to teach your Word, faithful pastors and mature Christians as role models. Prepare your people for service in your world and unite them in this purpose. Help people to see all their gifts as being from you: their personal qualities and their learned skills as well as their spiritual gifts. May we put all these unreservedly at your disposal. We ask that in our churches, people will serve you with enthusiasm and will diligently share the gospel with others. We pray you will send out well-equipped people to serve you in the worldwide church, as missionaries of the gospel. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **Missionary agencies**

Heavenly Father, through your Holy Spirit, faithful men and women have devoted their lives to your gospel by developing fields of mission. We pray for the mission societies that have existed for many years to serve you around the world. Help them to remain faithful to your Word and focused on the task of sharing your good news of salvation. Uphold them in the face of opposition and protect them from the influences of the world. Grant wisdom and humility to their leaders and decision-makers. Raise up new missionaries and inspire supporters to be generous in their giving that your Son's name may be glorified. **Amen.**

### **Overseas churches associated with missionaries**

God our Father, whose kingdom knows no boundaries and whose glory is in every nation, grant your blessings to those churches where our Australian missionaries are working, especially the church in (*country*). May church leaders and local Christians be united in their witness to you so that the good news of Christ may go forth with power and authority. This we ask through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Mission around the world**

Almighty God, you hold the world in the palm of your hand. Raise up faithful servants from every nation to take your word abroad. Forgive us for behaving as though the gospel belongs only to this nation and enable us to work in partnership with believers from every country. We praise you for the growth in missionary work in places like Africa and South-East Asia and we ask that you would sustain all who go out in your name. Through your Spirit, may wealthy Christians help their impoverished brothers and sisters by equipping them for your work. We pray for the sake of Jesus, at whose name every knee will bow. **Amen.**

## **Equipping God's people for future service**

### **Young people seeking God's will**

Father, we pray for young people who are seeking your will in their lives. We pray that you will give them a broad vision of your work and that they will take up the opportunities you present to them. Please bring them to maturity as Christians and give them insights into their own strengths and weaknesses. Please help them to be prayerful and to listen to wise advice. Most of all, we pray that you will keep them faithful to you. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **For Bible schools and theological studies**

God our Father, we thank you for the treasure of the Bible, in which we find all we need for salvation and growth in godliness. We pray for all who teach your word in Bible schools, theological colleges and Theological Education by Extension. May they love and respect your word and faithfully follow you. We pray too that you will provide the necessary funds for these avenues of Bible teaching in our worldwide church, through the generosity of your people. Please call people of intellectual ability and godly character to teach your word. **Amen.**

**For teachers and students of God's Word**

Our heavenly Father, we thank you for the world's many colleges training Christians for ministry. We pray that you will lead more people to attend such colleges for this purpose. Give them perseverance and discipline in study and community living. We pray especially for students who leave families behind and for those who struggle to find the money for tuition. We pray also that the teachers in those places would teach the whole truth of the Bible, faithfully and clearly. May they demonstrate the relevance of that message to local cultures with humility, respect and patience. We pray that your church will be strengthened and better equipped to reach out to those do not know you, for your name's sake. **Amen.**

# LITANIES and PRAYERS for CHURCH SERVICES

## For Holy Communion

- ❖ Prayer for the church
- ❖ Prayer for the world
- ❖ Prayer for the community

## For use in other services

- ❖ Prayer for the church
- ❖ Prayer for the nations
- ❖ Prayer for the community

## Litanies

- ❖ Litany based on the Lord's Prayer
- ❖ Litany of penitence, praise and prayer
- ❖ Litany for the spread of the kingdom of God
- ❖ Litany based on Ephesians 4
- ❖ Litany for children in a family service
- ❖ Litany for missionaries working among Muslim people

## At Holy Communion

Strengthen your church throughout the world, so that those who profess your name may bear witness to your love, and shine as lights in this dark world. Give grace to those you have called into the work of mission so that both their lives and the words of their lips may glorify your name. Comfort them in their moments of loneliness; strengthen them in their weakness; protect and bless them in their service to you.

We pray today particularly for *(Name)* and the work in *(location)*. Grant that there may be many in our church who hear and obey your call to go to every nation and preach the good news. Make us faithful in our commitment to exalt your name by proclaiming your love and living as your light to our neighbours. **Amen.**

*(For use with prayers on p. 140 of An Australian Prayer Book [green], p. 172 of A Prayer Book for Australia or Section 4 of Sunday Services)*

Let us pray for all people and the church of Christ throughout the world. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith: receive the prayers we offer.

### **For the church**

We give you thanks for fellowship of believers in other countries and, especially, for the faith and courage of those living with persecution and threat. We give you thanks for the growth and the witness of your church around the world and for all people who stand as partners in the gospel with Australian churches through the work of the Church Missionary Society. *Strengthen your people for their witness and work in the world ...*

### **For the world**

We give you thanks for the people of the world, and especially for those who bear the responsibility of government. We pray particularly for those who make and administer law and order and for the people in those countries where Australian missionaries are serving. We ask that they may know your peace through faith in Jesus Christ. *Give wisdom to those in authority in every land ...*

### **For the community**

We give you thanks for your people in our community and for the gifts of your Holy Spirit among us. We thank you for the encouragement we receive from our fellowship together and for the inspiration we receive from your Word. We pray that we will be faithful in supporting those whom you have called and sent out from this part of your church. Help us to be faithful and committed in our Christian witness where you have placed us. *We commend to your keeping, Father ...*

## For use in other services

### **Prayer for the church**

God of power and might, we commend to you your Church throughout the world. We pray that you will restore to your universal Church the vision of the great commission by faithful preaching and teaching and by living out your gospel. We pray that, all over the earth, there may be witnesses to your saving grace with many gathered into your kingdom. Give wisdom and courage to those who have left their homes in order to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Especially we commend to you our missionaries, (*names*). For Jesus' sake, **Amen**

**Prayer for the nations**

We pray for people of every nation and tribe scattered throughout the world; in big cities and villages; for the rich and poor; and all people for whom Christ died and rose again. By your Holy Spirit, stir up the hearts of those who have not yet responded to your saving grace that they might respond to your love. We pray for those who hold to other faiths, that in your love they may know your truth. For Jesus' sake and in his name we pray. **Amen.**

**Prayer for the community**

We pray for those in our communities who do not know you. Especially we pray for migrants to our land, coming from many other cultures and religions, often seeking refuge from oppression. May we be ever concerned to love them, to care and to share Christ with them. Empower us by your Spirit for this task, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Forgive us, O Lord, for our self-centred use of material and spiritual gifts. May we be prepared to share all your gifts with the needy people in our midst. We pray for those who are perpetually hungry, those without medical care and those who do not know what tomorrow might bring for them. Reach out to them in your compassion, through us. We pray for the spiritually poor and the sick at heart. Raise messengers of your gospel, so that they may come to know Christ who brings fulfillment and life. We pray for those whose lives have been shattered by political upheaval and warfare: may they turn to Christ, the Prince of Peace, and find peace in him. May they have the courage to forgive one another and live in peace forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Litanies

### **Litany based on the Lord's Prayer**

Congregation: Our Father in heaven

Leader: You sent your Son Jesus to gather a family of people who would call you Abba Father. Bring many to new birth in your family, from all nations and peoples.

Congregation: Hallowed be your name

Leader: May your name be revered among us. May your people show your light and lead others to your kingdom. Help us to live in the holiness to which you have called us. So may we see your kingdom expand as many people give their lives to you and grow in their knowledge of your word and in the likeness of the Lord Jesus.

Congregation: Your kingdom come

Leader: May people everywhere place their trust in you, submitting themselves to the care and authority of your kingdom and honouring you in their lives.

Congregation: Your will be done on earth as in heaven

Leader: Lord Jesus, your word tells us that you came to seek and save the lost. Help your church to be an instrument that reaches out to the lost with your gospel, that many may respond and accept you as their Lord and Saviour.

Congregation: Give us today our daily bread

Leader: Help us, O Lord, to honour you as the giver of life, who knows our needs and provides. May we share with others the blessings we have received from you. Fill us with the spiritual bread of life and with the desire to share the good news of Jesus with those around us and also share our material resources with the needy throughout the world.

Congregation: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Leader: Thank you for the assurance that our sins are forgiven because of Jesus. Give us the humility and the courage to acknowledge our sins and the grace to forgive others.

Congregation: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

Leader: Just as Jesus withstood temptation enable us to stand firm in the face of temptation, in whatever guise it emerges. We recognise our weakness and ask you for your strength. Protect your people from the attacks of the evil one who seeks to destroy your church.

**All:** *For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

**Litany of penitence, praise and prayer**

Leader: Father, we thank you that you have enabled us to hear and believe your gospel. We thank you for the wonderful message of salvation in Jesus you have given us to proclaim. Forgive us for our indifference to the spiritual welfare of others.

Congregation: Father, forgive us.

Leader: Forgive us because we have not obeyed your command to preach the gospel to every nation.

Congregation: Father, forgive us.

Leader: Forgive us for our lack of courage to witness and preach boldly in hostile environments.

Congregation: Father, forgive us.

Leader: We praise you, heavenly Father, for those who brought us the good news of your salvation in Christ Jesus and for those who disciple us to Christian maturity.

Congregation: We, your people, praise you.

Leader: We praise you, heavenly Father, for those who have gone out from our fellowship to share your good news with others.

Congregation: We, your people, praise you.

Leader: We ask you, heavenly Father, to complete the work of salvation you have begun in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Heavenly Father, empower us by your Holy Spirit.

Leader: We ask you, heavenly Father, to continue the work of your salvation in every land and among all people, so that every tongue may praise your name.

Congregation: Heavenly Father, empower us by your Holy Spirit.

Leader: We ask you, heavenly Father, to send your Holy Spirit, preparing the hearts of your people to hear and receive your good news. Convict them of their sins and turn their hearts to faith in Christ, that among all nations your name may be glorified.

Congregation: Heavenly Father, empower us by your Holy Spirit.

### **Litany for the spread of the kingdom of God**

Leader: We commit to you, O Lord, those who are indifferent to your word. Renew their faith so that their lives may reflect your glory.

Congregation: Your kingdom come, O God.

Leader: We commit to you O Lord, those who once loved and worshipped you, but whose love has grown cold. Stir them by your love so that their lives may reflect your glory.

Congregation: Your kingdom come, O God.

Leader: We commit to you, O Lord, those who have never known you, but are earnestly seeking after you. Stir them by your love so that they may turn to you.

Congregation: Your kingdom come, O God.

Leader: We commit to you, O Lord, those who have never known you, and are blinded by the deceit of the evil one. Stir them by your love so that their lives may reflect your glory.

Congregation: Your kingdom come, O God.

Leader: We commit to you, O Lord, those who serve you in the fellowship of the Church Missionary Society and those who work in partnership with them. Stir them by your love so that their lives may reflect your glory.

Congregation: Your kingdom come, O God.

#### **Litany based on Ephesians 4**

Leader: Lord God, we lift before you these missionaries, N, whom we have commissioned in your name. May they live lives worthy of the calling they have received from you.

Congregation: Give them power by your Spirit.

Leader: May we live our lives as befits our calling from you.

Congregation: Give us power by your Spirit.

Leader: In the midst of prejudice, intolerance and envy, grant us love and understanding for our missionaries in all their relationships with others.

Congregation: Give them your character of humility and gentleness.

Leader: We thank you for the different gifts your grace has given to every Christian. May they be used to build up the body of Christ.

Congregation: Give us generosity, so we may have the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

### **Litany for children in a family service**

- Leader (a child): Father in heaven, we thank you that you created everyone in the world. Thank you that we are special to you. Thank you that you love all the children of the world.
- Congregation: Father, we praise you for your goodness.
- Leader: Thank you for sending your son Jesus to save everyone from sin. Thank you that Jesus died and rose again so that we may be forgiven for not living in the way you would like.
- Congregation: Father, we praise you for your sacrifice.
- Leader: Thank you that we have Christian brothers and sisters all over the world.
- Congregation: Father we praise you for your Church throughout the world.
- Leader: We pray for people around the world who don't know that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend. Please send missionaries to tell them the good news.
- Congregation: Father, we ask for your mercy on them.
- Leader: We pray for the Christians who are hated by their neighbours because they follow Jesus. Please give them courage so that they don't give up even though they may be afraid.
- Congregation: Father, we ask for your protection for them.
- Leader: We pray for children all over the world, especially those who do not have enough food to eat and those whose fathers and mothers have died. Please Jesus, send people to share your love with them.
- Congregation: Father, we ask for mercy on little children.
- Leader: Please help us to be more like Jesus in what we think, say and do.
- Congregation: Father, we need your Holy Spirit to change us.
- Leader: Please help us to tell other people about Jesus.
- Congregation: Father, we need your Holy Spirit to make us brave.
- Leader: Please help us to pray every day for the people in the world and for those who don't know the love of Jesus.
- Congregation: Father, give us your Holy Spirit so that we may love people from other countries.
- All: In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Litany for missionaries working among Muslim people**

Almighty God, you alone can give eternal life; hear our prayer for Muslim people throughout the world. May they learn to love you as heavenly Father, and accept Jesus as your Son and their Saviour. May they know the freedom that is only found in Christ. We pray this in the name of him who died for us all. **Amen.**

- Leader: We pray that you will give wisdom and grace to all your servants working in Muslim lands and cultures. May their lives and actions reflect the love of Christ.
- Congregation: Hear us, good Lord.
- Leader: We pray that missionaries and other Christians living among Muslim people will boldly proclaim the message of the cross so that many may be drawn into the love of God the Father.
- Congregation: Hear us, good Lord.
- Leader: We pray for Muslim converts, that they may have the strength of the Holy Spirit to live for Christ and courage to bear witness to their relatives and family members.
- Congregation: Hear us, good Lord.
- Leader: We pray for those who suffer persecution and scorn. May they hold steadfastly to your truth, strengthened by your Holy Spirit.
- Congregation: Hear us, good Lord.
- Leader: We pray for wisdom and the grace of God to be given to bishops and church leaders working in Muslim countries.
- Congregation: Hear us, good Lord.
- Leader: We pray for Muslims who are seeking your truth as they read your holy word, that by your Spirit you will enlighten their hearts and bring them to faith in Jesus.
- Congregation: Hear us, good Lord.
- Leader: We pray that you will inspire those who write and produce Christian literature, film, TV, radio and other media for reaching Muslim communities. May they know the joy of your truth and cultivate genuine love for Muslim people.
- Congregation: Hear us, good Lord.
- Leader: We ask that in your mercy you will make your truth known to many Muslims. Bring them to faith in Christ our Saviour, and build them into a people that would bear witness to you in their communities.
- Congregation: Give us, O Lord, a love like yours, which embraces all people.