

1: faithful families: Prayer and Celebration Collection

Home Prayers 10 Good Opening Prayers for Funerals. Check out this one memorial service with a selection of opening prayers that are recited and exchanged. Twitter.

Amen Through our hymns and songs, our prayer and meditation, the joining of our lives in fellowship we worship you, Father Son and Holy Spirit. Enfold us in your love, and empower our worship that your name might be glorified in this place and in our lives. We are gathered here today, Lord God as your people to offer you our sacrifice of prayer and worship. We come from different walks of life; some are well educated, others not; some have walked with you for many years, others are just starting their journey; some are strong, others weak; some are full of joy, others burdened by care. You love each of us in equal measure. You pour your blessings on us in equal measure. We worship the One True God; creator of all; Lord of all; our strength and hope; our light and our salvation. We join together as family, joined by the hands of fellowship, brothers and sisters of our heavenly Father. Amen This is the day that the Lord has made. This is the day when he can be found. God of all, breath of life, Living water, Saviour, friend. Come as the hungry, feed on his Word Come as the thirsty, drink of his Love Come as the faithful, worship the Lord. We worship a God of Promise, whose saving Grace brought a people from captivity into a land of promise, whose enduring love still leads us from places of captivity into a promise of peace, forgiveness and eternal life. The promises of God endure forever. The promises of God will be fulfilled. We meet together in the presence of a God whose love is freedom, whose touch is healing, whose voice is calm. The blessing receive is shared, in the hope that others might be drawn to the God we serve. Amen Into your presence we come, God of Grace and Peace, who was, and is and ever shall be the eternal One. Amen Let us be still for a moment as we draw near to worship God Take just a few seconds to remind yourself why we are gathered together today Listen, God speaks even through the background noise of the world around us Lord God, in this short time together, open our ears and our eyes to see your vision for this place and our part within it. Teach us, hear our prayers and enable us for service wherever you might take us, to your praise and glory. May the Peace which passes all understanding, which has its source within the very nature of Father, Son and Spirit be with us as we meet, to still our souls and join our hearts as one. May the gentle whisper of the God of peace speak to us through our worship, the reading and understanding of scripture, and be the message of our lives as we leave this place. Amen We meet as family in the presence of our heavenly Father. We meet as brothers and sisters in Christ, accepting the responsibility this places upon us - to love one another as you have loved us. We meet as your lights in this dark world, and pray that through our words and our lives others might be drawn into your family, and accept you as their Saviour and Lord. Amen Sovereign Lord, we meet together to celebrate the gift of your Holy Spirit to the church. Bless us as we seek to serve you in this place. Fill us with your Spirit as you did early one morning in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago, that we might better be your voices, hands and presence in the world, and draw others into your kingdom. Amen Lord God, in a universe that seems so immense it is easy to feel insignificant as we stand here today. Yet we know that we are precious in your sight - unique individuals loved and blessed in so many ways. We stand in awe of the one who has created all things and dedicate this time and all our days to your service. Accept this offering we pray, our sacrifice of praise and worship. Amen Bless us as we meet together, dear Lord we pray. Bless the singing of your praise, the reading of your Word, the sharing of our fellowship, the prayers that will be heard. Bless us as we meet together, dear Lord we pray.

2: Short Opening Prayer for a Program, Meeting or Event

As well as the video prayer, there is also a short prayer suitable for printing in a program, a prayer for a meeting and an example of a simple prayer for opening a birthday party. as we gather here a prayer suitable for beginning a small meeting (e.g. bible study) or church service: .

Making it through the grieving process starts with the memorial and burial as you carry onward to the next stages of coping. To ease the pain, here is a look at some good opening prayers for funerals to get you started.

Prayers 1 Good afternoon everybody. May I ask that we all bow our heads in prayer. Our Lord we acknowledge your presence here, and come before your throne this afternoon as friends and family of Adrian Elm. We are here because we love him and miss him and we want to cherish our memories of him, we want to honor his life and honor him and support one another as we grieve his passing – a passing from life here with us to everlasting life there with you O Lord. God, thank you for Adrian! You formed him, you knew him, you walked with him through 80 years, and even now we have confidence that he is in your presence. Thank you that you are a God of mercy, who promises to comfort us, particularly when we lose our loved ones, and so in these moments now, and in the weeks and months ahead, please bring comfort and mercy to us as we remember, and share fondly all that Adrian was to us. In the mighty and holy name of Jesus we pray. For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die: A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; A time to break down, and a time to build up: A time to weep, and a time to laugh: A time to mourn and a time to dance: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Prayers 3 Our father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.

Prayers 4 The Lord is my shepherd: I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over. Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayers 5 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Prayers 6 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Prayers 7 Now my soul is deeply troubled. Father, bring glory and honor to your name.

Prayers 8 Father, We are grieving over the unexpected loss of our brother. Lord, just last Sunday he was telling me how excited he was to be part of this church. He was on fire for You, Father. We all saw how joy radiated from him. His love for You was unquenchable and we are mourning the loss of this wonderful man. Father, be with his wife and young children. Raise this congregation up to be the hands and feet of Jesus to this family. Wrap Your arms around them, for there will be a day when they see him again in Heaven. Father, speak tenderly to his wife and comfort her in this unbearable time of life. Father, this is a very tragic event and yet we know that nothing surprises You. So, in faith we continue to ask and seek Your will in this most desperate time of need. Father, shower this family with love and affection as they grieve through this painful time. We love You, and thank You for Jesus! Amen

Prayers 9 God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at my end, and at my departing.

3: Prayers for Celebration of Life Ceremony | Memorial Service Ideas | Page 2

A Prayer for Celebration By Gwen Smith. There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. - Luke Jesus told parables to expose the depth of love that God.

A larger service would include friends, persons from the business community and extended family. Where To Hold The Service At one time, churches were the most common place to have a memorial service. Now a service can be held at a funeral home, a personal home, an outdoor garden, or a rented hall. Relatives who could not make it to the memorial service in winter weather, came to honor her at this time. This service took place many months later. I was comfortable that only the immediate family were present for the first service. The spiritual advisor or clergy to the deceased, or family member of the deceased may officiate instead. A good idea is to have someone lead who is comfortable in that position, if not a clergy member. Speakers Two or three speakers, who have prepared a five to eight minute speech, are a good number to have. They can be spaced throughout the service, or speak one after the other. At some celebration of life services, there is a time for persons participating to stand up and say a few words. At our family memorial service, my sister offered to read a prayer. It was a prayer that our mother taught us as children. She handed copies of this prayer to my brothers and sister, in case we forgot it. Then we all read it aloud. It was a very touching moment. Time Limit For The Service An hour, a bit more or less, is an appropriate length of time for a service to take place. There will be more informal visiting and fellowship after the service has ended. The right length of time will be when everyone has honored the one who has passed, in their own way. Music - What Kind And When At this time, there is greater access to prerecorded music than ever before. Music or songs can be selected for just the right feel of the service. A soloist, may preform with or without musical accompaniment. The soloist may sing in the middle of the service with music played at the beginning and end of service. Music can be used throughout the service as a thoughtful pause. After speakers have spoken, a moment may be needed for the guests to reflect on their own thoughts. Music that the celebrated person treasured, may also be played. I have been to many celebration of life services, one where the nieces sang a song that was a tribute to their uncle. He loved music and had written a song or two in his time. This was very moving to many of the guests. What Types Of Remembrance Things To Display Photos, picture albums and picture boards are visual tributes to someone you love and are appropriate for a celebration of life service. They can be displayed on a main table upon entering the celebration. Or smaller tables can be set up to hold the varies momentos. Each table where people will be sitting, can hold photos or cherished objects. Refreshments After The Service Depending upon where the service is held, would determine in part the types of refreshments to offer. A hall could provide a catered meal to a large gathering. The meal usually takes place following a short interval after the service. The time allows everyone to arrive at the hall without rushing. Many churches have groups that provide food and a dining area after the service. Some charge a nominal fee while others accept a donation. A few churches offer the facilities for free if you provide the food and clean up after. At times, home cooked meals are preferred. Relatives and friends usually contribute their favorite dishes or desserts. These meals can take place at a home or a hall can be rented depending on how many people will be attending. A large meal may not be what you need. If you prefer, a simple offering of coffee, punch and cookies after the service allows the participants to have fellowship with each other. Friends and family were invited. We shared stories and connected with each other over the meal. This was a special time for me, as some of my siblings live in distant parts of the country. Guest Book A guest book to sign, for all attending the celebration service is something the family can look back on and feel comforted with. On occasion, depending where the service is held, a guest book may be provided. More often, you will have to provide your own. The idea of family and friends coming together to honor a loved one and provide a form or closure is important. To look back on all the love the names represent, can be very uplifting. Memorial At this time you may be considering a Celebration of Life Memorial. A beautiful memorial tree is there to honor for many lifetimes. There are many creative stepping stones with or without inscriptions, that offer quiet reflection along a path. Garden Stones are another type of memorial, when space is limited. And do not forget a Memorial Bench. It will provide a resting place where

PRAYER AT THE OPENING SERVICE OF THE CELEBRATION. pdf

thoughts of loved ones can prevail The celebration of life service brings people together, to honor a loved one, to share stories, and provide comfort to those attending. The people share a common goal; to gather as a loving group and to support each other in their loss. Hope you have found "Celebration of Life Services" useful.

4: Prayers for Celebrations

The celebration of life service brings people together, to honor a loved one, to share stories, and provide comfort to those attending. The people share a common goal; to gather as a loving group and to support each other in their loss.

Arlene Ketchum for preparing the prayer service, and Sr. Carol Finnegan for her assistance with the music selection. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to God! I have Brothers in Indonesia, their eyes are stinging from the burning of rain forest trees to clear them for grazing. We have Elders in ancient forests who mourn the passing of species of flowers and birds crowded out by our taking. There are children in war-torn countries. They are all of our Children. This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal. When we ask ourselves what kind of world we want to leave behind, we think in the first place of its general direction, its meaning and its values. Unless we struggle with these deeper issues, I do not believe that our concern for ecology will produce significant results. But if these issues are courageously faced, we are led inexorably to ask other pointed questions: What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us? It is no longer enough, then, simply to state that we should be concerned for future generations. We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn. Rupp, *The Circle of Life* Side 1: To be grateful for what is- Side 2: To find good amid the unwanted aspects of lifeâ€™ Side 2: To focus on beauty in the little things of lifeâ€™ Side 2: To find something to laugh about in every dayâ€™ Side 2: To search for and to see the good in othersâ€™ Side 2: To be thankful for each loving deed done by anotherâ€™ Side 2: To taste life to the fullestâ€™ Side 2: To seek to forgive others for their wrongdoingsâ€™ Side 2: To find ways to reach out and help the disenfranchisedâ€™ Side 2: To be as loving and caring as possibleâ€™ Side 2: To be at peaceâ€™ Side 2: Name aloud or in the silence of your heart, a word or a phrase expressing one thing for which you are gratefulâ€™ Closing: Bountiful God, we give thanks for one another, for all of creation, and for those who bring the fragility of our earth to our consciousness. Let us go and celebrate.

5: Opening prayer for church anniversary celebration

Posted in Final /Closing Prayer, Funeral Reading, Nature Prayers, Poems of Departure, Prayers for Celebration of Life Ceremony, Reading for Celebration of Life Ceremony, Reading Memorial Ceremony, Readings for the death of a young person / Leave a comment.

The love of Christ settles in the hearts and minds of all those present. Suddenly we come under the authority of God and the disputes, stress and apathy that we may have experienced during the week loses its grip on our lives. As we walk upon the grace that the kingdom of God brings other motives arise within us. Somehow understanding, forgiveness, vision and hope arrive to direct our paths. Opening prayer for a seminar a sample prayer for before a seminar workshop Lord God, We thank you that you promise to be with us always. Thank you that your presence is with us right now. Today we give you our hearts, our minds and our lives. Come speak your words of life into our beings. We pray that you would deepen our comprehension, broaden our thinking, and transform our understanding of what we are about to study. For you are our wise counsellor, our perfect teacher and our faithful friend. Opening prayer for a worship service God of grace, We open our hearts, minds and souls to worship to you. Thank you that today we dwell in your kingdom and live in your presence. Thank you that as we gather together we join with all Christians across the world to glorify your holy name. Come be with us, inspire us and lead us in our time together. We ask all this in the beautiful name of Jesus. As We Gather Here A prayer suitable for beginning a small meeting such as a bible seminar or church service. Subscribe to Prayerscapes Films on Youtube: We ask that you will strengthen us, restore us and inspire us with your love. Lord, would fill us with your peace So that as we journey onwards We would pour out your love and grace to others. We ask that our souls would catch the wind of your spirit so that we would take your promises to all the earth. Opening prayer for a school assembly Lord God, We choose to look to you as we begin this school day. We ask that you would reveal your love to us anew. Lord, we give you our friendships, our learning, our hopes and our troubles. Come help us to work together in love and forgiveness.

6: Celebration of Life Services

Inspirational prayers, Inspirational prayers in the bible. there are some wonderful. inspirational prayers. in the bible. in the book of ephesians, paul tells us what his prayer is for us.. Miracle prayer, Awesome miracle prayer testimonies and then a powerful prayer for miracles.

Lori True All sing: Quietly peacefully may they rest in you Quietly peacefully lead them back to you Quietly peacefully may they rest in you Quietly peacefully bring them home to you God has come to carry you to your dwelling place Do not fear, Christ bids you come; meet God face to face. Quietly peacefully may they rest in you Quietly peacefully lead them back to you Quietly peacefully may they rest in you Quietly peacefully bring them home to you Lay your burdens, calm your fears; you are not alone. God of tenderness and peace, Be with us this morning as we gather to reflect on our calling to be ministers of comfort and support in our communities. Fill us with hope in your power to heal and to save. Look kindly on those who mourn at this time and all those we lift up to you in remembrance. Give us peace today and always. We ask this in the Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. Then, still weeping, she stooped to look inside, and saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet. Who are you looking for? Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom. Reflection A loved one is a treasure of the heart and losing a loved one is like losing a piece of yourself, but the love that this person brought you did not leave, for the essence of the soul lingers. It cannot escape your heart, for it has been there forever. Cling to the memories and let them find their way to heal you. The love and laughter, the joy in the togetherness you shared, will make you strong. You come to realise that your time together, no matter how long, was meant to be and you were blessed to have such a precious gift of love in your life. Keep your heart beating with the loving memories and trust in your faith to guide you through. Know that though life moves on the beauty of love stays behind to embrace you. Your loved one has left you that to hold in your heart forever. Flickers of guilt kindle regret For all that was left unsaid or undone. There are days when you wake up happy; Again inside the fullness of life, Until the moment breaks And you are thrown back Onto the black tide of loss. Days when you have your heart back, You are able to function well Until in the middle of work or encounter, Suddenly with no warning, You are ambushed by grief. It becomes hard to trust yourself. All you can depend on now is that Sorrow will remain faithful to itself. More than you, it knows its way And will find the right time To pull and pull the rope of grief Until that coiled hill of tears Has reduced to its last drop. God of love and mercy, By the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong; By the sacrament of the resurrection you have sealed us as your own. Look kindly on all those we remember today And count them among your saints in heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. With you all pain is left behind, no sorrow or death on that day. First she surrendered her Green, then the Orange, Yellow and Red. Finally she let go of her Brown shedding her last leaf she stood empty and silent, stripped bare. Leaning against the winter sky she began her vigil of trust. And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they neither have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Shedding her last leaf she watched its journey to the ground. She stood in silence wearing the colour of emptiness, her branches wondering: How do you give shade with so much gone? Do not be anxious or overly concerned. And then, the sacrament of waiting began. The sunrise and sunset watched with tenderness, clothing her with silhouettes they kept her hope alive. They helped her understand that her vulnerability, her dependence and need, her emptiness, her readiness to receive were giving her a new kind of beauty. Every morning and every evening they stood in silence and celebrated together the sacrament of waiting. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe. Let us remember the light filled ones who enkindled our spirits with their influence and the spark of their beliefs. Let us remember the risk takers, who faced their fears and took action, who sought justice even though they had to pay a price for it. Let us remember the vulnerable ones who allowed us to care for them, allowed us to be with them in their time of need. Let us remember the faith-filled ones who led us by word and example into a deeper relationship with God. Let us remember the

brave ones, who walked through their struggles with hope, who taught us how to trust. Let us remember the great lovers of life, whose humour and enthusiasm lifted our spirits and brought us joy. Let us remember the nurturers, who gave us birth physically or spiritually, who gave us support by their caring presence. Bid me farewell, my friends. I bow to you all and take my departure. Here I give back the keys of the door. And I give up all claim to my clothes and books. I only ask for the last kind words from you. We were family and friends for long. And I have received more than I could give. Now that day has dawned, and the lamp that lit my dark corner has gone out. A summons has come, and I am ready for the journey. Farewell to you, until we meet again. That those who exercise a pastoral service may grow to a greater love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. R That the Holy Spirit may strengthen their hearts and enlighten their minds let us pray to the Lord. R That through their endeavours this parish may grow in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord. May his tenderness shine through you to warm all those who are hurt and lonely. May the God of Strength be with you, holding you in strong-fingered hands and may you be a sacrament of His strength to those whose hands you hold. May the blessing of Strength be upon you. May the God of Peace be with you, taking away your fears and doubts and may the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious. May the blessing of Peace be upon you. The guarding of the God of life be on you, the guarding of the Loving Christ be on you, the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you to aid And uphold you each day and night of your lives. May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back. May the sunshine warm up on your face, May the rain fall softly on your fields And until we meet again May you keep safe in the gentle loving arms of God.

7: Prayer Service: A Celebration in Gratitude | Sisters of Charity of New York

Through our hymns and songs, our prayer and meditation, the joining of our lives in fellowship we worship you, Father Son and Holy Spirit. Enfold us in your love, and empower our worship that your name might be glorified in this place and in our lives.

Opening prayer for church anniversary celebration Opening prayer for church anniversary celebration Thank you to the MANY people who worked on our 50th Anniversary and Feast of St. All the time, energy and dedication does not go unnoticed and we are grateful. What a wonderful weekend celebrating this community. Edward on our Facebook page by clicking here. Anniversary Prayer O Lord, unify our parish in Your truth and love during our fiftieth anniversary. Help us to show Your love to one another both within and outside our parish community. That with Your favor, each individual and every family may all be blessed and come into Your presence for everlasting happiness. May we continue to grow in Your wisdom with the help of St. Edward and our Blessed Mother. A Note from Fr. The people believe that his profound love for God and humanity is the cornerstone on which he built the parish. The building was only a convenience to serve as a meeting place for the people to worship their God and openly express their love and concern for one another. It is a parish where families gather as a group to sing and pray and where they are happy together in the presence of the Lord. Dominic in Northfield, I can personally attest to his love for the Church and for humanity. His spirit inspired countless people to embrace the faith, hope and love of Jesus Christ. Yes, we were blessed to have such a wonderful founding pastor. God of our past, â€œ Your anniversary prayers saved my sanity! This Read more Aus: There is also a simple prayer for â€œ Aus: Book of common prayer â€œ” wikipedia, Full name. Forms of prayer in the religions of the world â€œ” britannica. Inspirational prayers, Inspirational prayers in the bible. Miracle prayer, Awesome miracle prayer testimonies and then a powerful prayer for miracles.. May we be faithful in heading the Holy Spirit in proclaiming the Good News of. Sample Prayer of the Faithful 1. Filled with the joy of this celebration, we bring before God our prayers for N. Looking for church anniversary opening prayer?. Go to the sample church anniversary invocation prayers. We want to thank you for being faithful to us,. They are led by a priest or minister or by a lay member of the. Church anniversaries ought to include not only a look back with thanksgiving, but of Praise and Exhortation and Prayer of Dedication for Trinity Lutheran Church eternal kingdom, where, with the faithful of this church who have gone before. Church â€œ we pray to the Lord. That the Church and our parish communion always. We celebrate our th anniversary year with grateful hearts, and we. We humbly pray that you continue to grace us, especially during this th anniversary year. Free Petitions, Intercessions, Prayers of the Faithful for use in Catholic Mass and other liturgies and church services. Four things to know about your candle on Catholic Online: Your candle will serve as a symbol of your sincere and prayerful intentions. Our prayer community will join. Here are the Prayers of the faithful for this weekend and underneath for previous weekends: Prayer of the Church: The Prayer of the Church is provided in the form of bid and petition in order to include a large number of requests. Prayers for the Dead. Help support New Advent and get the full contents of this website as an instant download. Includes the Catholic Encyclopedia, Church Fathers. In Islam, Muslims of their community gather to their collective prayers for the forgiveness of the dead, a prayer is recited and this prayer is known as the Salat al. Prayer for the dead is one of the greatest acts of charity we can perform. Our prayers help the faithful departed during their time in Purgatory, so that they can. Prayer is the glue that holds a marriage and a family together. Prayer comes in many forms, including: All Souls Day Definition and Meaning. What is All Souls Day? It is when the Church commemorates and prays for the souls in Purgatory, who are undergoing purification. Our services are in Church Slavonic and English.

8: Sample Opening Prayer for Seminar, Worship Service or School Assembly

When we gather with Your Holy Spirit as our guide, many prayers become one prayer. A jumble of many words becomes less a tower of Babel, and more a simple, united song of praise. Thank You for this one-ness we have found in Jesus Christ, O God of every nation, Master of the universe.

In Your gentleness, guide us. In Your power, strengthen us. In Your lowliness, strip from us our selfish pride which only destroys us. In Your greatness, lift us up that we might aspire to greater things. As a shepherd, call us to be Your servants. As a King, call us to be Your royal priesthood. O God, who is our shepherd and our King; O Christ, who was crucified and is now risen from the dead; O Spirit, who comforts and empowers; O great One in Three, Holy Trinity, this hour, set us free to worship. King of Love, we come to You as we are, not as we pretend to be. The truth is, God, that when we lift our heads above our path, we all too often discover ourselves lost in a maze of choices. We confess from the very beginning of this worship that we are lost. Were it not for You, O great seeker of our souls, patient parent to our childhood, joyful host to our homecoming; Were it not for You, O Lord, we would be lost forever. But, because of You, there is room for us at the great Love Feast. King of Love, seek and find us as we are, not as we pretend. Be patient with us, and teach us how to wait. May the echoes of Your celebration reverberate in our midst this hour, transforming our worship from a mournful plea to a joyful song. King of Love, lead us. Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of Your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is really real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as You created it to be, as You created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May Your light within us shine through into worship this day, as all days. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people. O Holy God, like Isaiah the prophet, we stand in awe of Your glory, feeling tremendously small and polluted by our sin, and the sin of our society. Even so, You touch us with Your burning presence, and we are made clean and whole. O God, our Creator, continue to build this household of faith into what You want us to be. O Christ, our Savior, lead us to do as You will. O Spirit, our Power, strengthen us for the work of the Kingdom, a worship and a service which is ours today as well as tomorrow. O Blessed Trinity, fill this place and these people with Your presence. For yours is the Power, and the Salvation, and the Creation, now and always. O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination. You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You. And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast Love. We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective. Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word. Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our depression, Your love overwhelming our apathy. May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell this congregation now, and forevermore. In Jesus we pray. Eternal God, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, we have gathered in this time and at this place to worship You. In Your time, You created all things, and wove into their fabric a yearning for fulfillment in You. It is this yearning within us which has pulled us here this morning. May our labor bring forth a new creation in You. This is Your hour, Christ Jesus, help us to make the most of each precious moment. For in Your name we have gathered, and we pray. Like Elijah, O God, we turn and face You in the midst of the storm. Help us to hear You speak to us, in our heart of hearts, as that still, small voice amidst the maelstrom, which gives us direction, and peace, and hope. May our words, as well as our actions, and even the secret thoughts of our hearts, be a part of Your worship this hour, O Lord of great power, displayed in sacrificial love. For we pray focused upon the One who died for all, Your only begotten son. You are such a gracious host, Lord God of all creation. Who are we to receive such goodness? You prepare a table for us, amidst our daily struggles, our successes and failures, even in the presence of our enemies. You anoint us, wash us, feed us. You do all this. We confess that we tend to see our daily bread solely in terms of our own handiwork. But we are not self-sufficient. We need these brothers and sisters in Christ around us. Shower us with Your "holy manna" that we might be strengthened for

the journey to which You have called us. By faith we stand and worship. By faith we walk and work. By faith we profess that Your Christ is alive, and that Your spirit moves us to be and to do more than we ever thought possible. We pray all this in the name of the One who said, "I am the bread of life. You are here, Lord, in this place. Not only do we stand in awe of how great You are, larger than our imagination; But we also can scarcely comprehend that You are with us this moment. Yes, from a distance You are watching us. But You stand beside us as well. In extra-ordinary, as well as common, every-day ways, You make Your presence known to us. This is Your time of worship, God. The praying and singing we all do comes not only from us but, most importantly, from You. When we lose sight of this, today as well as every day, O Lord, forgive us, and live in and through us. Do great things with us right now, and in the week which lies ahead. Holy God, make Your presence known to us today. We come to You as we are, called to be saints, holy ones, but so often less than our calling. Help us this hour to let go of those sins to which we cling. Help us to know that our self-worth does not depend so much on our ability to hold on to our lives, as on Your power to release ourselves into Your hands. We come to You with our vision so often clouded by our sin. Clear away the mist, through Jesus, that we can catch a glimpse, now, of Your presence here. Help us to behold You as You are, not as we would like You to be. In Him, through whom we become holy, on the wings of the Spirit, we pray to You, our Father. O God of the still, small voice quiet our inner spirit. Help us to focus upon You, and You alone, to hear Your voice within. There are so many other voices demanding our attention. But we cannot attend to them without You May Your voice speak through us. In weakness, be our strength. In poverty, be our wealth. In depression, be our joy. In apathy, be our love. Take this heart, and with this mouth make Your praise and thanksgiving a reality here and now. Because of, and in the name of our Messiah, Jesus. Creator and Ruler of the Earth, we lift up our voices, our eyes, our hearts, our lives to You in praise. Make us Your alleluia people. Uphold the weary, for whom praise may be very difficult. Humble the strong, for whom "alleluia" may be too easy. Creator and Ruler of the Earth, continue to form us into Your new creation, that we might welcome You to more fully become the ruler of our hearts and minds. Through Him who came as a servant, and who now reigns over all creation, Jesus, our Christ. O God, whose holiness is not limited to grand cathedrals or saintly persons, spectacular mountains or mountain-moving leaders; O God, whose holiness is often discovered in simple everyday places and simple everyday folks, plant Your holiness in this place, in us now. Grow us this hour, that we might flower, right where we are, with the beauty of Your holiness. Through Jesus we pray.

9: World Prayers - Prayers of Celebration

opening prayers Opening a meeting such as a seminar or church service in prayer is like laying a blanket of grace upon the ground. The love of Christ settles in the hearts and minds of all those present.

From the thumb to little finger we pray to God the Father. Praise and adoration Awesome Lord and Father, the earth is yours and all that is in it. You are our God and we are your people; Index finger: Thanksgiving Thank you for life and love, for a home to live and a family to love. Help us to love like you love us. Asking for others We pray for my family and friends and those that I love. Asking for me And lastly for me, I place myself into your loving care. Balloon Prayer A really great way to pray with your family this week might be to use some balloons. Get enough balloons for a week or a couple of days. Write or draw your prayers on pieces of paper and place them in balloons, blow the balloons up and tie them somewhere in your house. Each day might have different themes: I thank God for things he has done for me. I thank God for things he has made. I ask God for help for others. I ask God for help for myself. I say sorry to God. Singing Prayer Thank you God for giving us food One way of praying is through song. You may be familiar with the song that goes: Thank you God for giving us food. Thank you God for giving us food Right where we are. If you type the first line in to youtube you can hear people singing it Sing around your table and let members of your family substitute the word food for anything they would like to say thank you for. Psalm Prayers The Psalms are one of the best examples of praise and adoration. Choose a psalm that expresses this and pray it together with your family. Passing of the Cross At the dinner table a holding cross is passed from member to member. Whoever holds the cross is the person who prays. This prayer begins with one person who either says a prayer out loud or silently says or imagines a prayer. The cross is passed when the person who holds it is finished. Each person takes their turn. Prompts may be given by parents as the cross is passed. See a friend in need, a hurt that needs healing etc. There are many ways that we might encourage our families to weave prayer, thankfulness and worship into our daily patterns. One of the easiest ways to do this is to connect it to the activities that we have to do every day, such as brushing our teeth or hair, going to the fridge for food, feeding our pets or leaving the house for work or school. Think of one of your daily routines that you would like to connect prayer to such as brushing your teeth. Attach a sticky not or label to your toothbrush with a word that will remind you to prayer for a specific thing. The same thing can be done without routines. Make sure it is something that will catch your attention. Here is another idea along the same line but from a slightly different angle. As children grow there are many habits we want them to learn, that we hope might become automatic in their life, such as washing hands before meal or brushing teeth. Years and years of doing these activities hopefully ingrain the habit for life. In the teaching of these habits is an opportunity to remember God and to prayer. When washing a toddler or young child's hand before a meal take the time to say a prayer out loud. This could be a memorised prayer or it could be a line of scripture like " Psalm Lowering Prayers A useful image used for intercessory prayer is a stretcher. This is a good image of the work of intercessory prayer. Place on the stretcher, someone you know who needs help. Silence Lower on the stretcher someone who you can love better this week. Silence Put onto the stretcher a place that needs peace. Silence Put onto the stretcher one who needs healing. Silence Put on the stretcher a hope of yours for your life. Silence Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer. Confession, saying sorry and asking God for forgiveness is something that parents should model to children. There are various ways we might engage our children in prayers of confession. Burning Prayers Your family might like to individually write down things they would like to say sorry for. The following words might be used to help children have a language for this type of prayer: I got really angry today. I feel so out of control. Jesus, I am sorry for any hurt I have caused today. Help me to be gentle. Help me to love more and more. Help me to love. Help me to put aside the things that hurt others, you, and me. I am sorry for. Grant your grace to me, that I might grow more into who I am, and who you call me to be. Words from scripture might be used to help children see that God takes away our sins from us and forgives us. Farther than the distance from east to west! These could simply have three or four different prayers printed on them for your family to pray together at the dinner table. Your children could then colour them in or decorate

them. To finish them off laminate them so they will last longer. If your children are as handy at desktop publishing as many are get them to design the placemats. Praying ACTS Often children get into the habit of always praying thank you prayers or always praying asking prayers. One way to help them broaden their idea of prayer is to teach them this simple way of remembering some different types of prayer. Prayers telling God how wonderful He is. Prayers saying sorry for the wrong we have done. Prayers thanking God for all He has done. Prayers asking God for the things we and others need. On different days of the week you might like to get your family to talk about and pray each of the different types of prayers. Alternatively you could write the four letters on pieces of paper and pick them out of a hat to determine which one you will use. When it come to confession prayers help your children think not just about their own personal sin but the things we as a people have failed to do – like care for the environment or the needy. Everyone must take a handful but no one can eat any yet. For each different colour they get they need to pray for a different person or thing. Each member of the family must draw out a name but not tell anyone. During the week encourage the member of your family to pray for that person each day. Get them to choose a time when they will do this. Help them to think about things they might pray for such as: Parents might need to remind children of the time they have chosen each day. This activity helps children to start thinking about praying for others when they are on their own. Teaspoon Prayers One simple pattern for shaping prayer is to remember the three words – thank you, sorry and please. The first three letters of these are TSP which reminds us of a teaspoon. Teach this to your children so that they can remember a way of praying that includes these three things. Have a teaspoon on your dinner table to remind the family to pray for these three things before eating each night. Prayer Chains Cut up strips of paper approximately 4cm wide by 8cm long. Give one to everyone to write a prayer on for the day. Take one of the prayer papers and staple the two ends together so it forms a chain link. Do the same with the other prayers so they form a chain of prayers. Each day you can add more links to your chain until it stretches across your whole house and reminds you that each little bit of pray each day adds up. Give each family member a piece of paper and some pens or pencils for drawing. Either in silence or with some quiet music on, invite your family to draw on the paper, the people and things they want to pray for. This could include drawing the outcome that you might desire for particular situations. As your family draws encourage them to do so in silence so they may listen to what God has to say to them.

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