



**Book of
Prayers in
Common**

Bosco Peters

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*As you pray the prayers in this book,
know that you are praying them with the majority of Christians
throughout history,
and the bulk of Christians today.*

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Introduction

What is this book?

This book is my gift to you. It is a gift I make to the church. You can find different formats of this book at www.liturgy.co.nz/book-prayers-common

This book is a growing compendium of collects, a compilation of some prayers that many Christians, especially Western Christians, share in common.

A collect is a particular type of prayer. It is used in a variety of ways and contexts. At a Eucharist, a collect is the prayer that concludes the gathering of the community, the introductory rites that prepare us to hear God's Word in the scriptures and to celebrate Communion.

This book brings together some collects that the majority of Christians share in common today, and we have shared these with each other for the bulk of Christian history. Where there is no such majority collect, a well-known, popular collect is chosen to fill the gap. It is appropriate to call this common prayer (even when the prayers are rendered differently or in another language).

I appreciate your feedback and suggestions. Email liturgy.co.nz@gmail.com

What you see here is the result of a slow, lengthy process. Each prayer here has been shared on my website (www.liturgy.co.nz). Each has been read there, usually by a couple of thousand people. Many of these people have then used the prayer in a variety of contexts, and have given feedback with comments and recommendations, both publicly and privately. Thank you to those of you who have been part of this already. Now you too, the reader here, are also part of this process.

This edition fulfils the goal of producing a complete set of prayers for the year.

Keep up to date with any revisions and new editions on www.liturgy.co.nz. On that same site, you can find commentaries on the background as well as a reflection based on each collect. [Use the search box on the site if you cannot easily find what you are looking for.]

It was a significant discovery of mine that Roman Catholics and Anglicans (particularly Episcopalians) so often pray the same collect, in slightly different renditions, on the very same day. Whatever else can be said about the 2010 English translation for Roman Catholics, it increased the realisation of this shared collect tradition mostly prayed on the same day.

What is the role of the collect?

The collect, I believe, is a key to liturgy, to worship, to common prayer, but not in the way we so regularly experience the collect. The unreformed entrance rite has rightly been called “our cluttered vestibule”. Unfortunately, in many places, that clutter is still evident. The collect is often experienced as a few seconds of just another little prayer early on in a service, even read together from a printed pew-sheet or overhead screen. It is often merely another nice little prayer cluttering this vestibule of the start of our liturgy.

The word “collect”, in Latin, is *collecta* – *gathering together*. A collect can gather a litany (list of petitions) together into a final, single prayer. Or a collect gathers silent prayer together into a single prayer. This gathering together, of the silent prayers of the people who are gathering for worship, is essential to the role of the collect at this early point in the Eucharist. It gathers these particular individuals into a praying community.

Ideally, at the Eucharist, individuals arrive and are greeted by the presider – whose greeting is returned. Then we have the unifying experience of singing together. As part of this Gathering we are called to a moment of shared, deep silence in the presence of the great mystery we call ‘God’. This deep silence is concluded, “collected”, by the presider praying aloud the collect which we then all affirm with our “Amen.” This describes the central dynamic of gathering to hear what the Spirit is saying to us, the church, through the scriptures proclaimed.

The collect, like that other great prayer, the Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer), expresses the heart of what prayer is for us, and so traditionally the collect is addressed to God (the first Person of the Trinity), through Christ (into whom we are being drawn, and in whose name we, the Body of Christ, pray), in the power of the Holy Spirit.

What is the structure of a collect?

Just as a sonnet or a haiku has a particular, recognisable structure, so does a collect. A collect has a five-fold structure. Three parts are always present (marked *):

***You**– the Address:

God,

Who – the Amplification (and possibly the motive); the foundation upon which our request is made; an attribute or act of God:

*you have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see,
and which surpass our understanding;*

***Do** – the Petition:

pour into our hearts such longing for you,

To – the Purpose (and possibly the motive, the aspiration, the reason for which we ask):

*that we,
loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;*

***Through** ... the Conclusion:

*through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

What is the history of the collect?

If you went back in a time machine seventeen centuries or so, on many occasions you could find the very same prayer being prayed on the very same day in the Christian community at worship! These prayers are old. They are the results of people mulling over the message prayerfully century upon century. They have been worn smooth by constant repetition, in Latin, and then, in the sixteenth century, by Cranmer into memorable English. They have been memorised by generations. These short, prayerful statements encapsulating deep spiritual truth and insight.

In this collection, I have attempted to rework them into our context where language has changed.

How can I use a collect in worship?

Their primary use is as part of the gathering of a community. For this, the collect can be understood as being at the heart of a four-fold movement:

1) **A bidding.** Each collect in this book is provided with a bidding. As the leader, you can simply use, “Let us pray”. Or you can have a more extended bidding: “Let us pray in silence that...”, or “Let us pray that ...”. Brackets indicate possible options. The suggestion, in the bidding, is something broad to pray for, that all can pray for with integrity.

If the community is standing at this point, there is no need to plummet to one’s knees. This may need a reminder, “As we remain standing, let us pray...”

2) **Silent prayer.** This is the heart of what we are doing. This deep silent praying of the gathering community is what the collect is collecting. If there is no silent praying,

what is the collect collecting? Individuals have arrived from a variety of contexts. They are now being gathered into a community. Those gathering need to have confidence that the time of quiet prayer is sufficient for each to be able to form a silent prayer. It is worth repeating: without this silence the “collect” is in grave danger of being reduced to merely another little prayer cluttering the vestibule at the start of our service.

3) The leader proclaims the collect in the name of the gathering community.

After sufficient silent prayer, the presider proclaims the collect, gathering the prayers of the community, and articulating the prayer of the church – the body of Christ. As Christ’s body we address God the Source of all Being in Christ’s name, on Christ’s behalf, and we do so in the power and unity of the Holy Spirit.

4) The community affirms the collect, we make the collect our own, by together declaring a strong “Amen”, our “so be it”.

The collect when well understood and aptly used can powerfully gather the community, deepen our prayerfulness, and profoundly express much at the heart of Christian spirituality.

What are some ways I can vary or adapt a collect?

I have already mentioned some of the different ways that the collect can be introduced (the bidding).

In earlier drafts of this book, I regularly added a suggestion for an alternative Address in square brackets. Often the original Latin Address is simply “God” (*Deus*). Some find that too bald. I normally soften this to “O God”. You can, of course, expand the Address by adding an appropriate descriptor (e.g. Gentle God, Loving God, Compassionate God,...God of peace, God our rock,...). On the other hand, you can simplify some collects here by removing the adjective describing God (e.g. reduce “God of hope” to simply “O God”).

The Conclusion can also be varied. Most importantly, I suggest there be a consistency of the last word(s) that will cue in the gathering community’s enthusiastic “Amen”. Otherwise, you can end up with a rolling echo of an “Amen” (said by the leader), followed by “Amen” (said by those alert), followed by “Amen” from the stragglers!

I suggest a full Trinitarian Conclusion when the collect is used in the *Gathering of the Community*, at a Eucharist. I will mention shorter endings below, for the Conclusion, if the collect is used in other contexts.

In the text I consistently offer the same Conclusion. There are other conclusions that are equally appropriate, and there is no reason why one would not rotate through different Conclusions (with my proviso that the cue for the “Amen” remain constant, my suggested one being, “... for ever.”).

As with amplifying the address, as suggested above, the Trinitarian conclusion can be expanded by adding a descriptor for Christ:

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer/Saviour/Mediator,
who is alive with you,...

Cistercians in *Prieres au Fil des Heures (Proclaiming All Your Wonders)* present a thought-provoking Conclusion:

“...through Jesus, the Christ, our Lord...”

which one can then continue in the way that is customary in your community, e.g.:

through Jesus, the Christ, our Lord,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

This may appear at first sight to be a somewhat unusual and even difficult Conclusion. It is inspired by the progression in New Testament Christology, from ordinary man, through recognition as Christ/Messiah (e.g. Peter’s confession, Mark 8:9), to accepting him as “Lord” after the Resurrection (Acts 2:36; Philippians 2:9).

Then, of course, there are a variety of traditional Trinitarian Conclusions, such as:

through Jesus Christ our Saviour/Mediator/Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

If the prayer is not being used to gather the community (e.g. as part of the Daily Office, or to conclude prayers), a shorter Conclusion may be appropriate:

This we ask through Christ our Mediator/Saviour/Redeemer.

If a pattern is established, including in the inflection of the one proclaiming the prayer, it should be possible to avoid the rolling, echoing “Amen” that I described above.

Misguided search for themes in Ordinary Time

The three readings and the psalm set down in the Revised Common Lectionary, and the Roman Catholic three-year cycle on which it is based, do not start from themes! The readings on Sundays in the seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter) may tie together and, hence, a collect, when there is a clear focus, can link to that focus.

But the search for a collect to link to a “theme” for every Sunday in Ordinary Time across the three years is a disastrous error.

At the very least the second reading is following its own course alongside, and independent of, the course of the Gospel reading. Often, all three readings are independent. To emphasise this insight, the Church of England, in *Common Worship*,

has removed the link between the collect and readings completely for about half the year. What is required in a collect is not a detailed prayer which forms and introduces a straight-jacket theme into which the understanding of readings must then be squeezed.

The inherited collect tradition provides a collection of general prayers that each person, whatever their situation, can make their own, and to which we can all say “Amen” together. There is, hence, also no need, or even point, in having three different years of collects. A year’s worth provides sufficient variety, but not so many that they do not become memorable.

The Collects

The Season of Advent

First Sunday in Advent

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may long for the advent of Christ]

Pause

God of hope,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness,
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
so that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent

Let us pray (in silence) [that our way may be prepared for God's swift coming]

Pause

Stir up your power, O God,
and with your great might
come to our aid,
so that where our sins impede us,
the help of your grace may swiftly deliver us;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Third Sunday in Advent

Let us pray (in silence) [that God's coming may cast light into our hearts]

Pause

Incline your ear, O God,
to our pleading,
and by the grace of your coming to us
enlighten the darkness of our hearts;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Let us pray (in silence) [that the message of God coming to save us may transform our lives]

Pause

Pour forth, we beseech you, O God,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an angel,
may, by his passion and cross,
be brought to the glory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Season of Christmas

Christmas Day *December 25*

Let us pray (in silence) [with joy and hope as we await the dawning of God's brightness]

Pause

O God,
you have made this most holy night/day
radiant with the splendour of the true light;
may we who even now obscurely share the mystery of your light
come to enjoy your light in fullness;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

or this

Let us pray (in silence) [that through celebrating the Incarnation we may deepen our relationship with Christ]

Pause

O God,
year by year you make us glad
with the hope of our redemption;
grant that we who joyfully receive your only begotten Son as our Redeemer
may with sure confidence behold him when he comes as our judge;
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

or the collect for the First Sunday of Christmas may be used.

First Sunday of Christmas

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may grow into the life promised at Christmas]

Pause

O God,
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored
the dignity of human nature;
grant that we may share the divine life
of the one who came to share our humanity,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Epiphany *January 6*

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may manifest God's love for all]

Pause

O God,
by the leading of a star,
on this day you revealed your only begotten one
to the gentiles;
lead us,
who have already come to know you by faith,
all the way to the contemplation of the beauty of your glory;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

*Collects for the weeks following Epiphany are found in the Ordinary Time section
from page 22 [Titles for those Sundays may vary]*

The Season of Lent

The Sunday before Lent

Use this only if the Transfiguration is commemorated on this Sunday (otherwise use the collect for the appropriate Ordinary Sunday):

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may grow into the likeness of Christ]

Pause

Transfiguring God,
before the passion of your beloved Son
you revealed his glory on the holy mountain;
grant that we who by faith behold the light of his face
may be strengthened to bear the cross,
and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory;
through the same Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The First Sunday in Lent

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may follow Christ more closely]

Pause

God of the desert,
Jesus was led by the Spirit
to fast forty days in the wilderness
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin;
give us grace to observe the disciplines of Lent;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Second Sunday in Lent

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may grow into the likeness of Christ]

Pause

Transfiguring God,
before the passion of your beloved Son
you revealed his glory on the holy mountain;
grant that we who by faith behold the light of his face
may be strengthened to bear the cross,
and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory;
through the same Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Alternatively, if the Transfiguration is commemorated the Sunday before Lent:

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may respond together to God's Word to us]

Pause

Everliving God,
you desire to gather into one all who are dispersed,
and to keep together all whom you have gathered;
look with compassion on all who are baptised,
and unite us all in faith and love;
through the same Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Third Sunday in Lent

Let us pray (in silence) [that the more we see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, the more we may be drawn closer to God]

Pause

O God,
the source of all our strength;
watch over us within and without,
that in body we may be protected from all adversity,
and in mind cleansed from all destructive thoughts;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Let us pray (in silence) [that as Christ was restrained for our sake, we may be set free for Christ]

Pause

Forgive, O God, the offences of your people,
that through your goodness we may be freed from the bonds of the sins
which in our frailty
we have committed;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may be drawn closer to God's goodness]

Pause

Look graciously on your whānau/household,
we implore you, O God,
that by your great goodness we may be governed in body
and, through your protection, kept safe in mind and heart;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Passion/Palm Sunday

Let us pray (in silence) [that through this week we may share in Christ's dying and rising]

Pause

God of transcendence,
as an example of humility for the human race,
you sent our saviour to become incarnate
and to submit to the cross;
grant us the grace to learn from this patient suffering
and so to share in the resurrection;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Maundy Thursday

Also for the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus et Sanguis Christi).

O God,
in a wonderful Sacrament
you have given us a memorial of Christ's passion;
may we so to reverence the sacred mysteries
of Christ's Body and Blood,
that we may always experience within ourselves
and show forth in our lives
the fruit of your redemption;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Season of Easter

Easter Day

Let us pray (in silence) [that the Risen Christ may draw us into the life of God]

Pause

O God,
you make this most holy night/day
to shine with the glory of the risen Christ;
stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption,
so that, renewed in mind and body,
we may dedicate our lives wholeheartedly to your service;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Second Sunday of Easter

Let us pray (in silence) [that through the fifty days of Easter, the Risen Christ may touch and transform our lives]

Pause

Grant, we pray, O God,
that we, who share in the paschal celebrations,
may, through your goodness,
hold fast to them
in the way we live our lives;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Third Sunday of Easter

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may rejoice in participating in Christ's resurrection]

Let us your people always exult, O God,
that we who celebrate our adoption with renewed joy,
may look forward with hope to our full share in the resurrection;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may hear and follow Christ the Good Shepherd]

Pause

God of comfort and compassion,
lead us to the fellowship of heavenly joys,
so that your humble flock
may follow where the brave Shepherd has led the way
and is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may experience true freedom]

Pause

Tender God,
cultivate the paschal mystery in us,
that those who flourish by the waters of sacred baptism
may be sheltered by your protection,
bear much fruit,
and reap the joy of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may live the faith we profess]

Pause

Everliving God,
may we fervently celebrate with great joy
these days in honour of the Risen One
and show forth in our lives all that we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Ascension

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may consciously live in the presence of the Risen Christ]

Pause

Grant, we pray, O God,
that we, who believe your only-begotten One,
our redeemer,
ascended this day to heaven,
may also in heart and mind there continually dwell;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Graciously hear our prayer, O God,
that we who believe that Christ our Saviour
is now with you in majesty,
may also experience the promise
of remaining with us always, to the end of the age;
through the same Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Day of Pentecost

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may rejoice in the Spirit guiding our lives]

Pause

O God,
on this day you taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of your Holy Spirit;
may we, by the same Spirit, be truly wise
and ever rejoice in your consolation;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Trinity Sunday

Let us pray (in silence) [to God the source of all being, through the eternal Word, in the power of the Holy Spirit]

Pause

Everliving God,
you have given to us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity,
and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity;
may we, through the steadfastness of this faith,
evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus et sanguine Christi): some celebrate this on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday, others, on the following Sunday. The collect is found on Maundy Thursday, page 16.

Ordinary Time

After Epiphany and After Pentecost [Titles for the Sundays may vary]

The Baptism of Christ

Sunday between 7 and 13 January

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may be faithful to our baptism]

Pause

Everliving God,
you have given us your only-begotten Word
to take on our nature,
and revealed him to us
at his baptism in the River Jordan;
grant that we, who have been born again of water and the Holy Spirit,
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday between 14 and 20 January

Let us pray (in silence) [that God may direct our lives in the way of peace]

Pause

God of revelation,
you govern all things in heaven and earth;
mercifully hear the prayers of your people,
and guide the course of our days in your peace;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday between 21 and 27 January

Let us pray (in silence) [that God may produce good fruit through us]

Pause

Everliving God,
guide all we do by your loving will,
so that in the name of your beloved Son
our lives may be rich in good works;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

If celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God:

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may persevere in our growth into God's life]

Pause

God of inspiration,
you caused all holy scriptures to be written for our instruction,
grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of your holy Word,
we may embrace and ever hold fast to the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday between 28 January and 3 February

Let us pray (in silence) [that God may energise us to fulfil our purpose]

Pause

Grant, O God,
that we may love you with our whole being,
and love all people as you would have us love them;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday between 4 February and 10 February

Let us pray (in silence) [that our hope in God may influence us daily]

Pause

Keep the whānau/household of your church, O God,
safe in your tender compassion,
so that we who entrust ourselves totally to your heavenly grace
may always be defended by your protection;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 1)

Sunday between 11 February and 17 February

Let us pray (in silence) [that God may enable us to live in God's love]

Pause

O God,
you promise to abide with those who are just and pure in heart;
give us your grace to live in such a way
that we are a dwelling pleasing to you;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 2)

Sunday between 18 February and 24 February

Let us pray (in silence) [that God may make us more Christ-like]

Pause

Grant, O God,
that with our hearts contemplating all that is good and true
we may please you by word and deed in the way we live;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 3)

*Sunday between 25 February and 3 March
or between 24 and 28 May*

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may cooperate with God's will]

Pause

Grant, O God,
that the course of this world may be directed by your peaceful governance,
and that your church may be joyful as,
in confidence and serenity,
we serve your purpose;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 4)

*Sunday between 4 and 7 March
or between 29 May and 4 June*

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may hold fast to the conviction that God's purpose
cannot be defeated]

Pause

O God,
your providence is unfailing;
remove from our path, we humbly pray, whatever is harmful,
and grant us those things that work for our good;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 5)

*Sunday between 4 and 7 March
or between 5 and 11 June*

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may grow into Christ's new life]

Pause

O God,
from whom all good things come;
grant that,
by your inspiration,
we may discern what is right,
and by your merciful guiding may do it;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 6)

Sunday between 12 and 18 June

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may grow in unity with God, the source of all good]

Pause

O God,
the strength of all who hope in you;
mercifully accept our prayers,
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do nothing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you in desire and in deed;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 7)

Sunday between 19 and 25 June

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may praise, reverence, and serve God]

Pause

May we always revere and love your Holy Name, O God,
for you never fail to guide those you establish firmly in your love;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 8)

Sunday between 26 June and 2 July

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may live as the people God calls us to be]

Pause

Keep the whānau/household of your church, O God,
safe in your tender compassion,
so that you protect us in all adversities,
and free us to serve you devotedly in good works
to the honour of your name;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 9)

Sunday between 3 and 9 July

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may grow in our rejoicing]

Pause

O God,
in Christ's humility,
you stooped down
and raised up the fallen world;
grant to your faithful people a holy joy,
so that those whom you have freed
may delight in you eternally;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 10)

Sunday between 10 and 16 July

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may recognise and live the truth]

Pause

O God,
you shine the light of your truth
so that any who stray into error
may be able to return to the right path;
grant that all who profess the Christian faith
may reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ
and eagerly follow the way that leads to you;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 11)

Sunday between 17 and 23 July

Let us pray (in silence) [that we and the whole church may be kept by God's love]

Pause

Watch over your church, O God,
with your constant support,
and since without you we will surely fall,
keep us safe from all harm,
and lead us towards all that is good;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Seventeenth Ordinary Sunday (Proper 12)

Sunday between 24 and 30 July

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may put God at the heart of our lives]

Pause

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy;
enfold us in your gracious care and mercy,
that with you to govern and to guide us
we may so use your gifts in this fleeting world
that we do not lose the good that is eternal;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Eighteenth Ordinary Sunday (Proper 13)

Sunday between 31 July and 6 August

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may allow God to steer our lives]

Pause

O God,
may your ceaseless mercy
cleanse and defend your church,
and, since it cannot stand firm without you,
guide and govern it always by your goodness;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Nineteenth Ordinary Sunday (Proper 14)

Sunday between 7 and 13 August

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may desire to know what is right and be ready to do it]

Pause

Grant to us, O God, we pray,
the spirit to always think and do what is right,
that we, who cannot exist without you,
may be able to live according to your will;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 15)

Sunday between 14 and 20 August

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may love God in all things and above all things]

Pause

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see,
and which surpass our understanding;
pour into our hearts such longing for you,
that we,
loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twentieth-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 16)

Sunday between 21 and 27 August

Let us pray (in silence) [that God may make us one in mind and heart]

Pause

O God,
you inspire the hearts of the faithful with a single longing;
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
so that in all the changes and chances
of this uncertain world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 17)

Sunday between 28 August and 3 September

Let us pray (in silence) [that what is good within us may flourish]

Pause

God of power and might,
source of all good;
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
and bind us more closely to you
so that you nourish the goodness you sow in us
and, by your watchful care,
you tend and guard the good you have nourished;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 18)

Sunday between 4 and 10 September

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may love God in our hearts and in our actions]

Pause

O God,
the joy of union with you is your gift;
may your compassion direct our hearts;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 19)

Sunday between 11 and 17 September

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may be guided by God's compassion]

Pause

O God,
direct our hearts
by the action of your mercy,
for without your help
we cannot please you;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 20)

Sunday between 18 and 24 September

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may live as forgiven people]

Pause

O God,
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 21)

Sunday between 25 September and 1 October

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may hasten to receive God's gift of God's divine life]

Pause

O God,
you declare your almighty power
above all by showing mercy and compassion;
grant us the fullness of your grace,
that we, who are running to obtain your promises,
may be partakers of your heavenly treasure;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 22)

Sunday between 2 and 8 October

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may be open to God's goodness]

Pause

Everliving God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray,
and to give more than we desire or deserve;
pour upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things
of which our conscience is afraid,
and giving us those things
for which our prayer dares not ask;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 23)

Sunday between 9 and 15 October

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may know God's love and grace before, in, and after anything we do]

Pause

O God,
we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us,
that we may continually be given to good works;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 24)

Sunday between 16 and 22 October

Let us pray (in silence) [that the God who entices us may also enable us to be transformed]

Pause

Everliving God,
conform our wills freely to yours,
and direct our hearts
to share your glory by our undivided service;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 25)

Sunday between 23 and 29 October

Let us pray (in silence) [that God's love may strengthen us to do God's will]

Pause

Everliving God,
increase within us your gifts of faith, hope, and love,
and make us cherish what you command,
so that we may obtain what you promise;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 26)

Sunday between 30 October and 5 November

Let us pray (in silence) [that God may guide our life's journey]

Pause

Merciful God,
it is your gift alone
by which your faithful people
offer you true and laudable service;
grant, we beseech you,
that we may run, without stumbling, towards your promises;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 27)

Sunday between 6 and 12 November

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may live in the freedom God gives us]

Pause

Compassionate God,
through your inexhaustible goodness,
keep us from all that may hurt us,
so that, ready in both mind and body,
we may, with free hearts, pursue your purpose;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 28)

Sunday between 13 and 19 November

Let us pray (in silence) [that we may persevere in our growth into God's life]

Pause

God of inspiration,
you caused all holy scriptures to be written for our instruction,
grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of your holy Word,
we may embrace and ever hold fast to the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Reign of Christ. Last Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 29)

Sunday between 20 and 26 November

Let us pray (in silence) [that the reign of Christ may live in our hearts and come to our world]

Pause

Sovereign God,
it is your will to gather up all things
in your beloved one,
reigning in the universe
in the power that is love;
mercifully grant
that the whole of creation,
freed from slavery,
may serve and praise you;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray (in silence) [that the reign of Christ may live in our hearts and come to our world]

Pause

Stir up, O God,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, richly bearing the fruit of good works,
may by you be richly rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Regarding the Reign of Christ as a Sunday festival, the Prayer after communion can be adapted to be the collect for weekdays following:

Let us pray (in silence) [that God may lead us to deep service]

Pause

Stir up, O God,
the wills of your faithful people;
that, richly bearing the fruit of good works,
we may by you be richly rewarded;
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

About the Author



Bosco Peters is passionate about worship that works and spirituality that connects.

He runs a website, www.liturgy.co.nz that has about a thousand visitors a day. He is followed by about 65, 000 people on Twitter/X as @liturgy, and 26,000 on facebook.com/Liturgy.

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