

## A PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

**Leader:** God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us.

### The Act of Adoration

**Leader:** Let us adore our heavenly Father, Who created us, Who sustains us, Who loves us with an everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

**People:** *We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.*

**Leader:** Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; Who in every respect was tempted as we are, yet without sinning; Who went about doing good and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; Who became obedient unto death, even death on the cross; Who died and is alive forevermore; Who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; Who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; Who will come again, as Judge and King.

**People:** *You are the King of glory, O Christ.*

**Leader:** Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

**People:** *All praise to you, O Holy Spirit.*

### The Act of Confession

**Leader:** O God our Father, since you have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross.

**People:** *Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.*

**Leader:** Forgive us the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.

**People:** *Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.*

**Leader:** Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

**People:** *Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.*

**All:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

### A Scripture Reading

#### The Apostles' Creed

**All:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### The Act of Thanksgiving

**Leader:** Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, and for all Your loving kindness we bless Your holy name. For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy that have followed us all the days of our life.

**People:** *We praise You, O God.*

**Leader:** For the wonder and beauty of the world, and for all the things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious.

**People:** *We praise You, O God.*

**Leader:** For the gift of Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son; for the grace and truth which came by Him; and for His obedience unto death, even death on a cross.

**People:** *We praise You, O God.*

**Leader:** For His glorious resurrection and ascension to Your right hand, and for His kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion.

**People:** *We praise You, O God.*

**Leader:** For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for Your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for the fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth.

**People:** *We praise You, O God.*

**All:** Glory, thanksgiving and praise be to You, O Father Almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### **The Act of Supplication**

**Leader:** Almighty God, because you have committed to Your people the ministry of intercession, hear us as we pray for others, and grant that our hearts may be filled with peace and love. For Your holy Church throughout all the world, that you would bestow on the ministers of Your Word and Sacraments the abundance of Your grace and truth and confirm Your people in the faith of the Gospel, that Christ may be exalted as head over all.

**People:** *We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

**Leader:** For Your people here and everywhere, that you would inspire them with love for Your house, zeal in Your service and joy in the advancement of Your kingdom.

**People:** *We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.*

**Leader:** For the nations, that you would breathe on them the spirit of peace and understanding; and for those in authority, that you would inspire in them a true desire for peace and love of concord.

**People:** *We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.*

**Leader:** For all our schools and colleges, and for all who teach in them and all who learn, that in humility of heart they may ever look to you, the fountain of all wisdom.

**People:** *We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.*

**Leader:** For all in sickness and distress, that you would give strength to the weary, relief to the suffering, and comfort to the dying.

**People:** *We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.*

**Leader:** For all Your servants who have departed this life in your faith and fear, we give You hearty thanks, and we pray You to give us grace to follow them as they followed Christ. Bring us, with them, to those things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**People:** *Amen*

### **The Blessing**

**Leader:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.