

Corporate Prayers of Confession

All: O Lord, no day of our lives passes that does not prove us guilty in your sight. Our best services are filthy rags. All things in us call for our rejection. However, all things in Christ plead our acceptance. Grant us to hear your voice assuring us that by your stripes we are healed, that you were bruised for our iniquities, that you became sin for us that we might become righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Lord Jesus, our lives are cluttered with too many things and too much to do. We are driven by our desire to succeed and often lose our way. Forgive us for seeking ultimate satisfaction in anything but You. Let us find the one thing we truly need – to sit at Your feet. Amen.

All: O Lord, who can discern his own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep me from willful sins – may they not rule over me – so that I may be blameless. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

*All: Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is
higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
deeper than all our sin.
Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life,
our callousness toward suffering,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.
Help us to change our way of life
so that we may desire what is good,
love what you love,
and do what you command,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

All: Pardon our sins, merciful Lord. We have been hasty and short in prayer, and this sin leads to so many others. Keep us from robbing you of the true worship which your glory requires and which our hearts so urgently need. Wipe out our sins, known and unknown, felt and unfelt, remembered and forgotten. Enable us to remember the blood that cleanses from all sin, and the grace which overwhelms all evil, in Jesus' name. Amen.

All: Lord Jesus, give me a deeper repentance: to hate sin, to flee it, and to resolve that my heart will be yours alone.

Give me a deeper trust: that I might lose myself to find myself in you, the ground of my rest and the spring of my being.

Give me a deeper power in prayer: more sweetness in your Word, and a more steadfast grip on its truth.

Give me deeper holiness in speech, thought, and action, and let me not seek moral virtue apart from you.

Help me to desire no master but you – no law but your will, no delight but yourself, no wealth but what you give, no good but your blessings.

Search me deeply, dear Lord, and then fill me to overflowing with living water. Amen.

All: God of love, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for harmony in our families and serenity in the midst of struggle. We long for the day when our homes will be dwelling places for your love. Yet we confess that we are often anxious, and are unwilling to take the risks and make the sacrifices that love requires. Look on us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in all the world. Show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior.

All: O Lord, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. We have not denied ourselves, taken up the cross and followed you. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to the needs of the poor, the lonely and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice nor cared about those who are without Christ and without hope in this world. Lord, forgive us for our offenses and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we might live in light of your coming again.

All: Gracious God, in the coming of Jesus you gave us the greatest gift of all – yourself. Yet we hardly take notice. We are caught up with our own gifts, given and received, and our own concerns. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Help us to stand in awe before the wonder and mystery of the incarnation. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. Amen.

Leader: Lord Jesus, if you had not limited all your majestic greatness into the cramped quarters of the human nature, we could not now know the limitless power and privilege of being your children!

All: If you had not been blind in the womb, we could never have had the scales drop from our eyes. If you had not come to die, we could never have received endless life. If you had not been torn, we could never have been mended.

Leader: Now forgive us for not loving others as you loved us at Christmas. Forgive us for not quieting the fears of our hearts with the knowledge of how you loved us at Christmas.

All: Now let us adore you for the gift of your Son, for He is our hope and our health and our life.

All: Almighty God, you are generous in abundance. You have given us gifts we do not deserve. You have called us from death to life, granted us forgiveness

through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, given us the Holy Spirit, and made us your children. You have provided for us, spiritually and materially. Yet we have failed to be thankful and to rejoice in your goodness. We have ignored you and neglected to give you the praise due your name. Forgive us for our ingratitude. Give us eyes that see your hand at work in all areas of life. Enable us to realize that every good thing comes from you. And deepen our gratitude so that we might serve you with undivided and joyful hearts.

All: Almighty God, we believe that you are coming again in power to judge the earth. We confess that we have not lived as those who daily expect your kingdom. We have spoken harsh words, thought impure thoughts, and lived casual lives. We have ignored your promised judgment by not loving you with our whole hearts or our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us and forgive us. In your tender kindness, embrace us with your love, and fill our hearts with the joyful expectation of seeing you soon, face to face. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Almighty and merciful Father, you have called us to be your people and have made us one body. Yet we have not lived like we are one body. We have not loved one another as we ought. Selfish ambition has gripped us, and we have failed to look out for others' interests above our own. Conceit has gripped us, and we have failed to associate with and care for those who are different from ourselves. We have not treated one another as those in whom Christ dwells. Forgive us for our offenses against you, and go on to subdue everything in us that is contrary to your purposes. By the power of your Spirit make us a community that shows forth your acceptance, kindness and love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: O Lord, we want to enter your presence, worshipping you face to face, awed by your majesty, greatness, and glory, yet encouraged by your love. But there is coldness in our hearts, hardness toward you, and unwillingness to admit our sin and need for you. Forgive us for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us until Christ reigns supreme within us, in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross.

All: Heavenly Father, we come before you confessing our sins: thoughts that are not like your thoughts, selfish desires and evil passions, and their wicked fruit—cruel words and unjust acts. Keep us, Lord, from pride and arrogance, and from scornful judgment of others. Keep us from worshipping the blessings that you have given us. Keep us from trusting in anything except your grace. Lord, you know our temptations and struggles. Show mercy to us that we may seek the righteousness of faith, that we may be forgiven, and that we may be strengthened each day by your Holy Spirit, to serve you in the joy of liberty.

Leader: Holy Lord, we are guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find your mind in your Word, of neglect to seek you in our daily lives.

All: Our violations and shortcomings present our consciences with a long list of accusations, but they will not stand! For we lay them all now on Christ, our sacrifice and advocate.

Leader: Lord, subdue our weaknesses and selfishness, granting us grace to live above them. Let us not be mastered by them, but have you rule over us in liberty and power.

All: We praise and thank you for your wisdom and love. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, everything that prevents us from taking our deepest delight in you. Amen.

Leader: Our King and Father, your Son died only to be raised. Now give us to die to our sin in repentance, so we may rise to new life and power.

All: Though you should guide us, we inform ourselves. Though you should rule us, we control ourselves. Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves.

Leader: For we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable.

All: Now heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

Leader: Most merciful Father, we have sinned against and are guilty before you. Forgive us the sins of our tongues—

All: For deception and untruthfulness in our dealings with others; for resentment, coldness, impatience, and tempers out of control.

Leader: Forgive us for the sins of our eyes—

All: For impurity in our glances and imagination; for pining after more beauty, comfort, status, and wealth than you have given us.

Leader: Forgive us the sins of our hearts—

All: For hard-heartedness toward you and our neighbors; for pride, self-absorption, self-pity; and above all for rebelling against your Lordship and doubting your love.

Holy Father, kill our envy, remove our pride, melt our hearts. Give us grace to be holy, kind, gentle, pure, to live for you and not for ourselves, to be transformed into your likeness, to live wholly for your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, though being in very nature God, when you came to redeem us you humbled yourself and made yourself nothing. Though you were rich, for our sakes you became poor, so that through your poverty we might become rich.

We confess how unlike you we are in our attitudes and actions. We strive for recognition from others, and we sulk and become bitter if we do not get it. We attend to our own needs and concerns, yet fail to care for others except when it serves our purposes.

Forgive us our sin and renew our hearts. Grant us to realize that we only achieve greatness and gain our lives by giving them away. Work in us by the power of your Spirit so that we become more like you and so bring glory to our Father in heaven. Amen.

All: God of grace, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. By our actions and our attitudes we praise what you condemn. Help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

All: Almighty God, gracious Father, we confess that we are not worthy of your presence, but we look now to the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin. Through him we would now come near to you, listening to your voice, trusting in your love, delighting in your Word, and leaning on your arm. We joyfully beg to see your face! Now cleanse our minds of all error and our hearts of all idols that we may shine in the world with the radiant light of your Spirit and your character. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Gracious Lord, we confess that we have dishonored you in our words, thoughts and deeds. Depending on our strength, we have stumbled. Trusting in our goodness, we have become prideful. Confident in our plans for our lives, we have failed to seek your will. We pray now, Lord, for you to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards you. We pray these things in the name of your most precious son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

All: Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge before you our sinful nature and our many offenses. We are prone to do evil and slow to do good. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your way, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Lord, we are ashamed and sorry for all the ways that we have displeased you. Father, teach us to hate our rebellious acts, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of your Son. Help us to love you with all our heart and mind and strength. And give us the power of your Holy Spirit so that we may walk in your ways and serve you all of our days.

All: God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, so that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

*All: Forgive us our sins, O Lord.
Forgive us the sins of our youth and the sins of our age,
the sins of our soul and the sins of our body,
our secret and our whispering sins,
our presumptuous and our careless sins,
the sins we have done to please ourselves,
and the sins we have done to please others.
Forgive us the sins that we know, and the sins that we know not;
Forgive them, O Lord,
Forgive them all because of your great goodness.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

All: Almighty God, to know you is the fulfillment of our deepest longings and the satisfaction of our most ardent desires. Yet foolishly we have sought our pleasures elsewhere. We have put the seeking of idols, which are bound to leave us feeling empty, above seeking you. We have failed to love you with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us for our sins for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. And grant that from now on we might serve you in newness of life. Amen.

All: *Heavenly Father, loving King, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice saying: His blood is our peace, His death is our freedom, His Spirit is our power. And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. Amen.*

All: *Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us. And grant, O most merciful Father, for Jesus' sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and joyful life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.*

All: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. (NIV)

All: *Lord, you asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purposes. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.*

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you – only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross. Amen.

based on I Corinthians 13 – 6/9

(After each verse is read, quietly meditate on the question that follows.)

Love is patient.

(Am I willing to endure trying people?)

Love is kind.
(Am I thinking or acting unkindly toward anyone?)

Love is not possessive.
(Am I manipulative? Do I use people?)

Love is not boastful or proud.
(Do I love to be the center of attention?)

Love is courteous.
(Am I considerate, thoughtful, warm?)

Love is not selfish.
(Am I always insistent on my needs and rights?)

Love is not irritable or bitter.
(Am I forgiving? Do I keep a record of wrongs?)

Love delights in truth and righteousness.
(Do I put obedience to God first in my life?)

All: Our gracious Father, you sent your Son to die and rise to new life in order that death might be brought to an end and that we too might live a new life. Yet foolishly, we have chosen death over life. In our thoughts, words and deeds we have rebelled against you and your intentions for us. In so doing, we have broken our fellowship with you, whose love is better than life and whom to know is life itself. We have hurt others, sometimes unintentionally and sometimes deliberately, and have diminished their lives. We have damaged ourselves who had been created to reflect your beauty.

*Father, forgive us our sin for Jesus' sake. And grant that your resurrection power might course through our entire being so that we walk in the ways of love and justice to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.*