

Pray for Children



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Preface

Jesus said:

“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.” Matthew 18:10-11.

So we should pray for our children, our grandchildren, and the children of our congregations; and the Father loves to hear our prayers for them.

Therefore LutheranCatechism.com has gathered these prayers. They help you put words to your concerns for children, and speak your concerns to our Heavenly Father.

Many of these prayers are old. They use old-fashioned language. No attempt has been made in this edition of *Pray for Children* to update language. You can use them as they are, or you can modernize the language when using them. That won't be hard to do.

Should a qualified person or group of people want to modernize these prayers, LutheranCatechism.com would be happy to help that happen, and would be happy to publish a revised edition.

This is a first effort, and LutheranCatechism.com would appreciate you sending us more prayers for children that you might have or come across.

IT IS GRIEVOUS that we have no prayers in three areas: (1) for conception, (2) for adoption, and (3) for cases of miscarriage. Children are gifts from God, by which He blesses us and by which He grows his kingdom. Miscarriage, difficulties with conception, and difficulties with adoption are troubling experiences and ones where we should have help in resorting to God in prayer. *Please*, if you find prayers in these areas, we especially would appreciate those.



Sources

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1. Conception

[Placeholder for prayers for the conception of children, when found.]

2. Adoption

[Placeholder for prayers for the adoption of children, when found.]

3. Pregnancy

Of a Woman with Child

GREAT God, heavenly Father, Thou art the Creator and Preserver of life. Marvelous are Thy works. I magnify Thy holy name. Thou hast blessed me. In humility I appear before Thy throne with prayers for my unborn child and myself. Thou, heavenly Counselor and Helper, knowest our needs. Keep from us what might be harmful, and daily bestow on us health and strength. Guide me through Thy Holy Spirit, and let me constantly be mindful of my privilege and my responsibility as a mother. At all times let me place my trust in Thee and Thy fatherly care, knowing that from generation to generation Thy mercy is upon those that lean upon Thee. Grant that, relying on Jesus, my dear Redeemer, and His glorious sacrifice, I may face the future calmly, cheerfully, and in quiet happiness. I ask all this in His name. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, p. 136.

Expectant Mother

O Lord, Creator of all life, I am filled with wonder at the mystery of human conception and birth. I thank You for this gift of pregnancy. Grant me health for the days ahead. Give to this child within me a strong body and a sound mind. Keep me mindful of my role as a wife and mother. Increase my love for You and for my husband. Keep us both strong in our faith in You as our Savior and Redeemer, and help us share our love and affection for each other in mutual helpfulness and service.

May we reveal to others the joy of a Christ-centered life. Help us praise Your name for the creative power of Your presence in our home, evidenced by the gift of a child. Give a normal birth to our expected infant. We look forward to its birth also into the kingdom of Your grace through Holy Baptism. I thank You, Lord, in Jesus' name for blessing me in this miraculous way. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 150.

4. Miscarriage

[Placeholder for prayers for cases of miscarriage, when found.]

5. Stillbirth

For a Stillborn Child

God, Thou art wonderful, and the ways Thou leadest us are often dark and past finding out. Thou sayest : "What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." Thou hast turned the joyful hopes of these parents into sadness. In reverent humility we bow before the dispensations of Thy providence. Thou art the Lord; do what seemeth Thee good. Only we pray Thee, hasten the recovery of the mother, and comfort both her and her husband, in the hours of sorrow, by Thy gracious presence, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Liturgy and Agenda, abridged edition, 1918, pp. 47-48.

6. Birth

For a Woman Approaching the Time of Travail

Mercifully regard thine handmaid, Lord, who is looking forward to an important hour. Be not thou far from me when trouble is near. May my mind be kept in perfect peace, being stayed upon the God of my salvation. Bring to the birth, and give me strength to bring forth. Soften the pains of labor, as well as command deliverance and in due time may remember no more my anguish, for joy that child is born into the world. And may the root and the branch abide under the shade of the Almighty. Into thy hands commend myself, Lord my God. Forsake me not in the hour of trial, but vouchsafe speedy and safe deliverance; and will praise and magnify thy name, now and forever. Amen.

Lutheran Prayer Book, Benjamin Kurtz, 1860, p. 394.

At the Birth of a Child

Heavenly Father, you sent your own Son into this world as the child of Mary and Joseph. We thank you for the life of this child, name, entrusted to our care. Help us remember that we are all your children and so love and nurture him/her that he/she may attain to that full stature intended for him/her in your eternal kingdom; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Lutheran Worship, p. 127.

Birth of a Child

We thank You, dear Lord, for blessing our life with the gift of a newborn child. Our love for You and each other deepens, and we find ourselves unable to express in words the feeling of closeness that this new child brings into our life. In this day when men expect so many marvelous things through study and discovery, we recognize that the conception and birth of a child are evidence of Your creative power and goodness.

Bless our child with a healthy body and a good mind. As we bring our child to You in the washing of Holy Baptism, we believe that You will give him (her) the

new birth into Your family in which we all are members by Your grace through Christ, our Redeemer. May our child grow up in Your favor and in service to all men. Give us the necessary health, wisdom, and strength to rear our child according to Your Word. Bless us as a family through Christ, our Lord, the Savior of all men, and the Friend of children. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 145.

At the Birth of a Child

WITH joy and thanksgiving we come to Thee, O Lord of Goodness and Love, to praise Thee out of the fullness of our grateful hearts that Thou hast gladdened our home and life with this newborn babe. Our joy is exceedingly great as Thou hast Preserved the mother, who has gone down into the shadows of death to bring forth this new life. We know that this child is a gift of Thy bountiful hand. Grant us grace and wisdom to bring up this precious soul in the knowledge and understanding of Thy Word, which makes all of us wise unto salvation. As we dedicate this child to Thee in Holy Baptism, we ask Thee as its heavenly Father to watch over it with Thy tenderest care and continued grace. Bless our child with a healthy body, a clear mind, and a clean heart, and preserve it to us according to Thy good and gracious will. Grant that our child may grow in favor with Thee and bring sunshine and joy into our hearts and our home. Keep us all in Thy grace, forgiving us daily our sins and filling our souls with Peace. Thou art our Hiding Place. And now to Thee be praise, glory, thanksgiving, for this precious gift this day and forever; through Jesus Christ, who is the Friend of children and the Savior of all. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, pp. 137-38.

For a Woman after Childbirth

Blessed art Thou, God, that Thou hast graciously sustained this mother in her peril and pain, and gladdened her heart with the gift of a healthy child. And we pray Thee, keep both mother and child in Thy protection, give them strength and health, and avert whatever might prove hurtful to them in body or soul. And as Thou wilt be [hast been] pleased to receive the child into the kingdom of Thy grace by the washing of Holy Baptism, vouchsafe unto it Thy continual blessing, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Liturgy and Agenda, abridged edition, 1918, p. 47.

For a Woman after Safe Delivery

I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplication. Consider, my soul, how greatly thou art indebted to the divine goodness. Look back and reflect on thy former fears and anxieties look up and bless God that they are gone, and that their cause is removed. I found trouble and sorrow; then called upon the name of the Lord, and said, Lord, beseech thee, deliver my soul. Gracious is the Lord and righteous yea, our God is merciful. I was brought low, and he helped me. Return unto thy rest, my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.

O my God, sincerely thank thee for thy great goodness to me and mine. By supporting me in the hour of pain, by granting me proper assistance, by blessing the means which thy providence afforded me, by making me the living mother of living child, by strengthening me thus far, and by giving me the prospect of speedy recovery and confirmed health, thou hast dissipated our fears, calmed our minds, gladdened our hearts, and made family happy. Thou hast exchanged our face of care for bosom full of joy, and turned our earnest cries into hymns of ardent praise. Bless the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities who healeth all thy diseases who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

What shall render unto the- Lord for all his benefits towards me will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will cheerfully devote myself, and all have, unto the God of my life. Oh never may forget the mercies have received. Never may be unthankful for them. May lively sense of them dwell on my mind, and be ever visible in my actions may it be my daily care to pay unto God those vows which made when my soul was in trouble.

To thee owe myself, and every blessing possess. To thee dedicate this infant. Lord, take it for thine own. On the soul of this dear child draw thine holy image, and keep it forever from the pollutions of this wicked world. Give me and its lather grace to set it constant good example, and may we bring it up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. While we pray that its life may be spared, we also pray for entire resignation to thy blessed will but shouldst thou, as we hope, be pleased to allot to it the years of man, we earnestly beseech thee to make it pillar in thy church, blessing to the world, and lasting comfort to its parents. To thee, Father, and the Holy Spirit, desire to ascribe everlasting praises. Amen.

Lutheran Prayer Book, Benjamin Kurtz, 1860, pp. 394-95.

For Birth of Twins

We thank Thee, Heavenly Father, that Thou hast blessed these parents and graciously delivered the mother out of pain and peril. [And we pray Thee, vouchsafe to both the mother and her children the continuance of Thy mercy, give them health and strength, and receive the children into Thy gracious covenant in Holy Baptism; and keep (hem therein unto their end, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.] Especially do we thank Thee that Thou hast received the children, by the washing of Holy Baptism, into the kingdom of Thy grace; and we pray Thee, vouchsafe to both the mother and her children the continuance of Thy mercy, give them health and strength, and keep them in Thy gracious covenant unto their end, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Liturgy and Agenda, abridged edition, 1918, p. 47.

For the Churching of Women

God, we praise Thee for Thy great mercy shown to this mother and her child, and humbly beseech Thee to keep them always in Thy gracious care. Hear, Lord, the supplications of the mother, take her into Thy fatherly protection, and compass her with Thy favor as with a shield. Dispose and enable the parents to give their child a Christian training, that so it may grow up to Thine honor and the joy of all true believers. Amen.

Liturgy and Agenda, abridged edition, 1918, p. 48.

7. Baptism

Prayer for a child to be baptized

Dear God, you will not only rescue this child from the power of the devil, but you will also strengthen it, that the child may boldly resist the devil in life and in death. Amen.

Herbert F. Brokering, ed., *Luther's Prayers* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1994), p. 75.

At the Baptism of a Child

LORD Jesus, Friend of children, we have brought our child, precious to Thee, to Holy Baptism that it may be Thine now and throughout eternity. Through this blessed Sacrament receive it into Thine everlasting arms of love. Bless and keep it from every danger of body and soul.

By Thy grace develop in this child a healthy body, a clean mind, and nobility of character, faithful to Thee, who hast redeemed it with Thine own precious blood. And at last bring it with us all to the eternal home in heaven to live in Thy Presence forevermore. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, p. 138.

At the Baptism of a Child

LORD God eternal, we have dedicated this child to Thee in Holy Baptism, and through this blessed Sacrament Thou hast received it into Thy Kingdom of Grace and made it Thine own, an heir of eternal life. We ask Thee to protect and shield this precious life from all danger of body and soul. Thou knowest how much we love our child. But we also know that Thou lovest it with an even greater love, for Thou hast sent Thy Son into the world to redeem it, that it may be Thine own throughout all eternity.

Lord, Thou knowest all things and canst look down the pathway of this child's life. Guide it into paths of righteousness. Keep it from evil. Preserve it in the saving faith which by Thy Holy Spirit has been placed into its heart through this means of grace. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, p. 139.

Baptism of a Child

Dear Lord, at Your gracious invitation we are bringing our child to You in Holy

Baptism. We thank You that in this sacrament You give it new birth and life, making it a member of Your holy family. As our child grows up, the world will often appear strange, challenging, and confusing. We realize that temptation and trial will come to it in many forms and ways. For such times especially keep our child in its baptismal grace.

On this day we also recall with gratitude our own baptism. Remind us again that we begin, live out, and conclude each day of our life as members of Your heavenly household. Help us to live in this world as Your redeemed children, serving You and our fellowmen in love and devotion. In doing so we praise Your holy name, O blessed Trinity. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 146.

Anniversary of a Baptism

Gracious Lord, we give thanks that in Holy Baptism we receive forgiveness of sins, deliverance from death and the devil, and eternal salvation. On this baptismal anniversary, bless name continually by Your Word and Spirit that he/she may faithfully keep the covenant into which he/she has been called, boldly confess his/her Savior, and finally share with all Your saints the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Treasury of Daily Prayer, p. 1313.

8. Sponsors

Of a Sponsor

LORD, gracious Father, these Christian parents have asked me to share with them the spiritual care of their newborn child. Grant to me grace that I may always be mindful of my responsibility and be to this child an example of a God-fearing and Christian life. May all I do and say draw it closer to Thee. May it in the years to come love Thy Word, walk in Thy Commandments, obey Thy will, and find joy in Thy Gospel. Preserve this precious soul in the only-saving faith, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Guard it from sin and temptations. Keep it healthy in body and mind. Grant, merciful Lord, that I do nothing to offend it. Wherever I have sinned against Thee, forgive, and keep me likewise faithful to Thy Word to the end. I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, p. 140.

Sponsor

Lord God, since I have been asked by Christian parents to serve as a sponsor for their child, make me fully aware of the importance of this trust. Let me understand the seriousness of the obligation I am assuming to assist the parents in the Christian training of their child. Help me to discharge this responsibility humbly and faithfully in the strength of Your Spirit received in my own baptism.

By Your nurture and care in my daily life, make me an example of Christian

devotion to this child, and help me to assist in teaching it the meaning of Holy Baptism in Your name. As it grows older, enable this child, along with all of us who have received the new birth through the water of Baptism, to begin each day in the assurance of sins forgiven. Give it power to walk in the way of Christ.

In company with the whole Christian church on earth we continually praise You for the gift of this sacrament of Holy Baptism and hold its gracious use sacred to the glory of Your name, O Holy Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 153.

9. Catechumens

For Catechumens

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost always multiply thy Church, and with thy light and grace dost strengthen the hearts of those whom thou hast regenerated, confirming unto them they covenant and faithfulness: Grant unto our Catechumens increase both of faith and knowledge, that they may rejoice in their Baptism and really and heartily renew their covenant with thee; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Service Book and Hymnal, p. 220.

For catechumens

Lord God, heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism You began Your good work in our catechumens, and You have blessed their instruction and training in Your Word. We implore You to pour out Your Holy Spirit on their hearts and minds so that they will truly love and revere You, confess the faith with joy and boldness, endeavor to live according to Your commandments, and praise and glorify You as their faithful God and Lord, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lutheran Service Book, p. 310. Treasury of Daily Prayer, p. 1313.

For the Catechumens

Almighty and eternal God, as another class of catechumens is entering upon a course of instruction preparing them for Holy Communion, we beseech Thee Thou wouldst by Thy Holy Spirit enlighten, strengthen, and sanctify their understandings, memories, hearts, and wills, that Thy name may be hallowed through them, Thy kingdom come to them, and Thy will be done by them. Do Thou also anoint their parents and sponsors with Thy grace, and dispose them to render faithful assistance by their example, admonition, and prayer, that these children may be made partakers of Thy perfect blessing, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and eternal God, our Heavenly Father, who in Holy Baptism didst begin Thy good work in these catechumens, and hast so far given success to

their training, and improved our efforts and prayers in their behalf, that, being instructed in the Word of Truth, they now look forward to being admitted to the Lord's Supper: we beseech Thee, cause the last days and hours of their catechetical instruction to abound in blessings to their hearts and minds, that in the power of Thy Holy Spirit they may confess their faith with joy and boldness, and glorify and praise Thee as their faithful God and Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Savior. Amen.

Liturgy and Agenda, abridged edition, 1918, p. 48.

For Catechumens

Lord God,
Renew the strength of the young
so that they shall rise up
with wings like eagles.
We pray,
remember not the sins of their youth,
forgive any squandering of their early years,
pardon juvenile neglect of duty.
Grant them
the faith of young Isaac,
the vision of young Joseph,
the obedience of young Samuel,
the vitality of young David,
the tenderness of young Jonathan,
the wisdom of young Solomon,
the courage of young Daniel,
the zeal of young Timothy.
Deliver them
from the temptations of youth,
from unbelief,
from forgetting their baptism,
from losing the gift of Your Spirit.
Hear us for the sake of Your own Son,
who redeemed us by His grace. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 86.

10. Confirmation

On the Day of Confirmation of a Child

FAITHFUL and gracious Lord, Thou hast granted to us the joy of beholding our son (our daughter) confess his (her) faith in Thee, the only true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We beseech Thee to keep him (her) faithful to Thee all the days of his (her) life. O Lord, we, too, dedicate our lives again to Thee and ask Thee to give us strength and grace to live closer to Thee, who hast so graciously been with us throughout these many years. We confess that we have not

always served Thee as we ought; forgive us and grant that we may walk daily in Thy presence as an example of Christian devotion and consecrated living to our son (daughter). Preserve and keep us in Thy grace, and make our home Thy dwelling Place, where Thy Word governs our every thought, word, and deed. O Lord, let this day be a day of rejoicing to all who confess Thee. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, p. 112.

Confirmation of a Child

This day brings joy into our hearts and home, dear Lord. We thank You for the covenant You made with us and our children in Holy Baptism. You have brought our son (daughter) through the study of Your Word to know the meaning of his (her) baptism, to stand before the world and confess Your name as the only true God, in whom we have life eternal. You have blessed us with a Christian home. For all of this we thank You. We are grateful also for our church, our congregation, the pastor, and the teachers who have helped us in teaching our child Your Word. We are thankful likewise for the sponsors who have assisted us in our responsibility.

Equip us all our days for the demands of a bold and constant Christian witness. Renew us each day, along with our child, in our baptismal grace, so that we honor Your holy name and praise it forever, O Holy Trinity. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 147.

11. Home and Family

Father

By the mystery of Your wisdom and grace, O Lord, I am a father. You have given my wife and me the blessings of a Christian marriage and home. For this and for the gift of our children we thank You. Give me the strength to set an example of the joy and privilege of fatherhood. Help me so to arrange my busy schedule, with all its demanding pressures, that I may devote myself to my loved ones and we as a family find sufficient time to work, pray, and play together. I confess that I have often failed You in the past in my role as a father. For the sake of Jesus, forgive my sins.

Give me courage to follow Your will when I am tried and torn by the tensions and temptations common to my occupation and position. Grant me the wisdom to lead my family in the regular use of Your holy Word and sacraments—the means You have supplied for our growth in faith, life, and service. Bless my daily work, and provide us with all we need for our physical and temporal wants. Give us all health of body, mind, and soul. By Your power help us walk the road to heaven together; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 152.

Mother

Dear Lord, I am grateful for the gift of motherhood. I do confess, however, that my many duties and cares for my family often leave me weary and worn out at the end of the day. At times I become irritable and fretful. I do not seem to have sufficient time for rest and for the relaxed association a mother needs with her husband and family.

Give me the strength and health required to perform all of my obligations as a Christian mother. Fill me with deep affection for my husband and children. Grant our family Your Holy Spirit, so that we grow together from day to day in Your love and that we order and shape our lives with wisdom according to Your will. Make me a worthy example of a Christian mother, and let many see in our home the joy of a family in which father, mother, and children dwell together in Christ.

Continue to assure me of Your grace through Christ, my Lord and Savior, who honored His mother in the very hour in which He gave His life on the cross for me and all men. Thank You, Lord, for the gift of children and motherhood. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 151.

For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children. As we bring them up, give us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Lutheran Worship, p. 127.

For Homes and Children

We pray thee especially, heavenly Father, to sanctify our homes with thy light and joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their baptism, and enable their parents to rear them in a life of faith and godliness. By the spirit of affection and service unite the members of all Christian families, that they may show forth thy praise in our land and in all the world.

Service Book and Hymnal, p. 8.

Care of children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have blessed us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom that, as they grow in years, we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lutheran Service Book, p. 315.

For a Christian Home

Lord God, heavenly Father, continue to bless us as a family, and make our home truly Christlike. Give us the power to overcome temptations, and the

wisdom to avoid the frictions that can destroy a family. Preside in our home by setting up Your throne in our hearts and lives. Give us Your Spirit to inspire us to live out our Christian faith in all our family relationships. Strengthen our family ties as we gather regularly about Your Word for devotions and prayer. By Your grace and mercy give us willingness to forgive one another even as we are forgiven for Jesus' sake.

We ask that our home become not merely a place where we gather to eat and to sleep, but truly a Christian home in which we dwell in mutual love and affection. By Your Spirit's influence in our lives make and keep us one happy family, living together in peace and harmony as becomes members of the body of Christ. Grant us the security, love, and joy that we are promised in our Lord Christ. In His name we ask this. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 171.

For the Family at Home

Lord, when I think of my family members from whom I am separated, my heart is heavy and I am lonely. I learn to appreciate more fully the family circle and the tie that binds us together in Christian love. I know You are with me, regardless of where I am or what my mission in life may be. Help me to recognize this fact more and more during these days of separation. Ease any pains of homesickness and distress that may trouble me.

Wherever the path of duty may lead, guide and protect me. Keep me cheerful and contented in doing Your will. Give me a sense of fulfillment as I faithfully serve others in selfless love. Bring me ultimately home to my family in health and happiness. And finally lead us to our heavenly home, where we shall be eternally blessed in Your presence. Then our cup of joy will be full. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 168.

Of Parents

GRACIOUS Lord, Thou hast entrusted to us this Precious soul which has been redeemed through Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may bring it up in Thy Church here on earth that it may be Thine in the glories of eternal life forevermore. Grant that we may earnestly strive to follow the instructions of Thy Word and train our child to know the Scriptures and to love Thee and Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Give grace that this child may grow up with a healthy body, a believing heart, and an obedient mind, loving Thy Gospel and walking in the ways of righteousness.

We know, O Lord, that ours is not an easy task. Give us grace and strength to perform our duties as Christian parents and be an example in word and act in our home and in our daily life.

Make us a praying people who are mindful of Thy presence. May our hearts be

temples of Thy Holy Spirit and our home a forecourt of heaven. Protect us all from bodily harm, and preserve our souls from the onslaughts of Satan and sin. May we continually grow in grace and knowledge of Thee and Thy Word and finally one and all live in the glories of heaven to praise Thee, world without end. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Friend of children and the Savior of us all. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, pp. 140-41.

For the Home

LORD Jesus, abide with us. Make this home a dwelling place of Thy continual presence, and keep us faithful to Thee and Thy Word. Let the joy of the Gospel dwell in our hearts. Let our daily conversations be hallowed and pleasing and acceptable to Thee. Preserve us from sin. Be with us in the hour of temptation. Keep us unworried and untroubled. Remove from our lives all unbelief and indifference. Strengthen our faith, deepen our love to Thee, and make us a consecrated people who day after day commune with Thee in prayer.

Pour out upon us Thy saving grace as we come daily with our sins, our needs, our sorrows, and our troubles to Thee. Be with us as we face the hardships of life, and give us those things which we need, for both body and soul, for our home and our family.

Grant that daily Thy Word may purify our souls, strengthen our faith, make us obedient to Thy Will. As Thou art patient and forgiving with us, make us forgiving, thoughtful, kind, and considerate one toward another.

As we go in and out of this home, bless us, and grant us at last a home with Thee in glory. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, pp. 145-46.

Believing parents bring their children to God in prayer

Lord God Almighty, Thou Father of mercies! Thou hast, along with Thine other gifts of grace, also bestowed children upon me; and I give Thee thanks and praise for them. But these children I regard as a sacred trust which Thou hast committed unto me, and which Thou wilt again require at my hands. I regard them as souls which Jesus has purchased with His precious blood, which the Holy Spirit has sanctified in Holy Baptism, and which Thou hast accepted as Thy children. I am concerned, therefore, that none of them should be lost through my fault. Thou sayest to me and to all parents: Keep this child; if by any means it be missing, then shall thy life be for its life.

Therefore, O Father of grace, I come to Thee, and bring my children before Thee in prayer. I will do what I am able to do ; I will train them up for Thy glory, admonish them, correct them, instruct them, and pray for them. But O Lord, Lord, do Thou look after them. I laid them into the arms of Thy mercy in Holy Baptism soon after their birth. Behold I do the same now in my prayer. O bless my children ; go in and out with them, and keep them in Thy fear, that they may never burden their conscience with sin, nor offend Thee, nor, worst of all,

fall from Thy grace. Give them a believing, humble, obedient, and godly heart, that they, like the youthful Jesus, may increase in wisdom and Mature and in favor with God and men. Impress upon their heart the image of Jesus that they may keep Thy grace and a good conscience to their happy end.

O let my children be devout in their prayers, well-grounded in the Christian religion, steadfast in the faith, diligent in Thy service, chaste in their life, and godly in their conduct, that they may give no offense to any one by their words or deeds, and may not bring upon themselves condemnation. Preserve them from temptations and evil company. Let Thy Holy Spirit constantly remind them of Thy all-holy presence. Let them remember that Thou art with them at home and away from home, in the chamber, by day and by night, in society and in solitude.

Let Thy angel keep them as they go out and in; let him guard them when they are traveling, or engaged in their business, or among strangers. Give them Tin-holy angels as companions, as Thou didst to Tobias ; let Thy angels lead them out of danger, as they did Lot; and let the angels keep watch and guard over them, as over Jacob. But should it please Thee to let me suffer affliction in my children, either through their sickness or their death, or through some other misfortune which I must behold them suffer: grant me, in such affliction, grace to remember, that nothing can happen without Thee; that the children were Thine before they were mine ; and that Thou hast a perfect right to take them again to Thyself. Shouldest Thou will, that by means of the sufferings, misfortunes, or death of my children I should be drawn nearer to Thee; that in this way I should be taught the fleeting character of all earthly gifts, and be admonished to love Thee alone as the true and perfect good,— then keep me, on this thorny way, in steadfast faith and firm dependence on Thy almighty power, which can end, and turn into good, all things, even my children's cross.

Bless them also in earthly things: care and provide for them; give them food and raiment; and deal with them as their mighty heavenly Father. Be their helper in danger and misfortune, their physician in sickness, their counselor in perplexity. Give to each of them a pious soul, a healthy body, and a sound mind. Let them live as in Thy sight, and ever honor and praise Thee. Implant in their hearts true religion, and keep them in Thy grace, that I may behold them with joy and consolation.

O God, hear my prayer, and remember that they are Thy children as well as mine. Hear the supplications which I bring for them before the throne of Thy grace. Preserve me from being brought to shame through my children, either in my life-time or after my death. On the day of Judgment let me and all my children stand at Thy right hand ; and let me be able to say, to glory : "Here am I and the children which Thou hast given me. I have lost none of them." Yea, my God, grant me this joy : that none of my children may be lost, but that they all with me, and I with them, may enter into Thy glory. Amen.

John Frederick Stark, *Daily Hand-Book in Good and Evil Days*, pp. 291-95.

In a Troubled Home

Heavenly Father, we are in trouble—in deep trouble in our home. By Your grace and mercy in Christ, help us.

We have become so involved with this world, its affairs and attractions, that we have forgotten You. We failed to pray, “Lead us not into temptation,” as we ought. Forgive the sins of forgetfulness and ingratitude we committed when we failed to acknowledge Your presence and blessing in our daily lives. Make us realize that we cannot live without You and never can succeed as a family without Your love in our hearts.

Restore peace and harmony among us. Assist us to understand and respect one another. Change us by the power of Your Holy Spirit, and endow us with the mind of Christ. Grant us the grace to forgive and to be patient with all the members of our family. Restore our oneness in Christ. Turn our energies from quarreling among ourselves to serving You and our fellowman. Give us a foretaste of the fellowship and joy we shall have in our home in heaven. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 172.

12. Absence

For Those Away from Home

LORD, gracious and merciful, who watchest even over the sparrows on the housetops and dost uphold all things with Thine everlasting arms, Protect and keep our loved ones while they are away from home. Watch Thou over them tenderly that no evil come nigh to them and us as we are separated one from another.

Keep them faithful to Thy Word and Thy Church. Guard and protect them as they are tempted by the allurements of sin and the unbelief of the world.

Keep them pure in heart and clean in mind and healthy in body. Dwell in them day by day. Abide with us and with them, and bring them safely home to us and at last to the eternal home in heaven. Then Thine shall be the glory, Thine the praise, world without end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. '

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, p. 147.

When Away from Home

Heavenly, watchful Father, as Jesus traveled the roads of Galilee, far from His home, You were with Him. So as I travel and live in places away from my home, keep me in Your presence and hold me close to You.

Keep me from harm and danger, and from temptations which make me forget You and those who love me. Live in me with strength and joy, so that strangers and friends may see in me the blessing of Your presence.

I ask especially for Your strength to support me in the moments of longing and

loneliness. Direct these moments away from self-pity and toward a trust in Your care for all of us.

Live also in my home. Watch over my loved ones. Keep us all with the loving benediction of Your fatherly care. So all will be well, and all will be kept together while we are apart. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 189.

13. Sickness

In Behalf of a Sick Child

Almighty and most merciful God, thou art the fountain of all good, the refuge of the distressed, the friend and comforter of those who look up to thy throne for help. We would offer up our prayers unto thee in behalf of the child on whom thou hast seen fit to lay thine afflicting hand. We beseech thee, if it be consistent with thy wise and holy will, to bless the means employed for his recovery, and to raise him up to health and strength. Suffer not the wishes of his parents to be disappointed but in thy great mercy spare him to be comfort and support of their advancing years, and to glorify thy name by obeying thee and becoming useful in the world. But, whatever thou hast determined concerning him, thy will, God, be done Preserve us from fainting under thy chastisement; and, if thou takest him away from the world, vouchsafe to receive his soul into that blessed land where sorrow and death are unknown. Into thy hands we commit him, our selves, and all whom we love and we humbly pray that, by all the dispensations of thy providence, we may be trained up for that state where thou wilt wipe away all tears from the eyes of mourners, and where pious friends and relations shall rejoice with each other forever and ever, through thine unspeakable love, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Lutheran Prayer Book, Benjamin Kurtz, 1860, pp. 372-73.

In Behalf of a Sick Child

Almighty God and merciful Father, to whom alone belong the issues of life and death, look down from heaven, we humbly beseech thee, with the eyes of mercy, upon this child, now lying under thy hand in sickness. Visit him, Lord, with thy salvation deliver him in thy good appointed time from his bodily disease, and save his soul, for thy mercies' sake that, if it shall be thy pleasure to prolong his days here on earth, he may live to thee, and be an instrument of thy glory, by serving thee faithfully and doing good in his generation or else receive him into those heavenly habitations where the souls of those who sleep in the Lord Jesus enjoy perpetual rest and felicity. Grant this, Lord, for thy mercies' sake. Amen

Lutheran Prayer Book, Benjamin Kurtz, 1860, p. 373.

At the Sickbed of Children

Almighty and gracious God, whose mercies are over all Thy creatures, look in

tender compassion, we beseech Thee, upon Thy servant N. N* who is sick. Sustain him/her in the trial through which he/she is now passing, and sanctify it to his/her good. Deliver him/her from suffering, and, if in accordance with Thy holy will, restore him/her to health and strength, that he/she may joyfully swerve Thee in Thy Church, to the honor of Thy name; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, who camest into this world as a little child, in want and suffering, look mercifully, we beseech Thee, upon the sick child for whom our prayers are desired; in Thy great love grant him/her relief from all his/her suffering, or else take him/her unto Thyself, where pain shall be no more. Hear us for Thy mercy's sake. Amen.

Liturgy and Agenda, abridged edition, 1918, p. 96.

For a Child's Recovery from Sickness

Almighty God and heavenly Father, we give Thee humble thanks because Thou hast been graciously pleased to deliver from his bodily sickness the child in whose behalf we bless and praise Thy name. Grant, we beseech thee, gracious Father, that he, through Thy help, may both faithfully live in this world according to Thy will, and also may be partaker of everlasting glory in the life to come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Liturgy and Agenda, abridged edition, 1918, p. 96.

14. Leaving Home

In Behalf of a Youth Going from Home (If with view to Business.)

O God, thou appointest the bounds of our habitation, and arranges all our individual concerns; and it is thy pleasure not only that we should part at death, but often separate in life. When absent from each other in body, may we be present in spirit; and may our natural affection be strengthened and sanctified by inquiry, and correspondence, and divine remembrance at the throne of grace. Regard the member of our family who is now leaving the parental roof. In all his ways may he acknowledge thee; and be thou the guide and the guard of his youth. Secure him from the paths of the destroyer and the evils of the world. May uprightness preserve him. In the situation he will be called to fill, may he be dutiful, and obliging, and diligent, and faithful may he always remember that the eye of God is upon him and be not only amiable, but pious; and in favor with God as well as man. Hear our prayer, Lord, we beseech thee. Amen.

Lutheran Prayer Book, Benjamin Kurtz, 1860, p. 379.

In Behalf of a Youth Going from Home (If with view to School.)

O thou God of providence and grace, we commend to thy care the dear child about to leave our abode for season, in order to receive needful instruction. Let his (or her) life be precious in thy sight. May he redeem his time, and acquire the improvement that will fit him for usefulness in his day and generation.

And oh let him be made wise unto salvation; and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon him, that he may be useful and ornamental member in thy church below, and hereafter pillar in thy temple above, never more to go out. Grant our prayer, merciful Father, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Lutheran Prayer Book, Benjamin Kurtz, 1860, p. 379.

15. Children of the Congregation

For the Children of the Church

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast sent thine only Son to seek and to save the lost, and through him hast said, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God: Most heartily we beseech thee so to bless and govern the children of thy Church, by thy Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of thy word; protect and defend them against all danger and harm, and give the holy angels charge over them; through the same Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Service Book and Hymnal, p. 221.

For Children

Heavenly Father, who long ago didst watch thy Son on earth grow as in stature so in wisdom and in perfect Love of thee: Teach, by the wondrous tale of Jesus and his Church, the children whom thou watchest now; that they may grow into his likeness, loving thee, obedient to thy will, and happy in thy House; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Service Book and Hymnal, p. 224.

For Our Children

Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and earth is named: Bless, we beseech thee, all children, and give to their fathers and mothers the spirit of wisdom and love; so that the homes in which they grow up may be to them an image of thy kingdom, and the care of their parents a likeness of thy love; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Service Book and Hymnal, p. 224.

For young persons

Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to Your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lutheran Service Book, p. 315.

Teaching the faith

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, even as You have committed the care and nurture of children to Your people, graciously enlighten those who teach and those who are committed to their instruction that they may know your eternal truth and trust in You all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Treasury of Daily Prayer, p. 1313.

For the Sunday School

Remember, O Lord,
Your lambs and Your sheep
And those who feed them.
Help both teachers and pupils to grow
in their knowledge of the heavenly Father,
in their likeness to Christ,
in repentance for sin,
in trust in Your mercy,
in the fruits of the Spirit.
Forgive the times
they fail to learn,
they are lazy.
Grant to them
a larger vision of their vocations,
a deeper understanding of Your creation,
progress in practical skills.
Make each Sunday school session an opportunity
to grow in self-understanding,
to grow in self-control,
to grow in self-giving.
By Your grace make them lead
a life worthy of Your name, fully
pleasing to You through Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 83.

For My Sunday School

JESUS, Thou art the Friend of children and dost not desire that one of these little ones should perish. Therefore Thou hast charged Thy Church to suffer the little children to come unto Thee. We therefore commit to Thee our Sunday school, the attending children, the teachers, and all others working therein. Thou alone canst create faith and hope and love in the hearts of these children. Thou alone canst preserve them in faith against all the evil influences from without. I pray Thee, give Thy divine blessing to the instruction offered in our Sunday school. May Thy Word become in all pupils a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Enable them to walk as Christians in this sinful world.

Grant that the teachers at all times realize the importance of their task, teaching the way of life to the children whom Thou hast bought with Thy holy, precious blood. Give them the ability to teach the way of salvation that every child may clearly perceive and understand. May the lives of the teachers at all times be shining examples of Christian virtues. I ask Thee, hear my prayer for Thine own sake. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, p. 101.

For Young Persons

God our Father, your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of your Church by your Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of your Word. Grant that they may serve you well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but for the glory of God and the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving your holy angels charge over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lutheran Worship, p. 127.

16. Erring, Wayward, Crisis

For children in crisis

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, be a source of strength and hope for the children in our families. When they stray, protect them from all danger and grant Your abiding presence. Guide them by Your Word into paths of wisdom and righteousness, and send Your holy angels to watch over them, that the evil one may have no power over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lutheran Service Book, p. 315.

For an Erring Child

LORD Jesus, who hast come into the world to seek and to save those that are lost, with heavy and bleeding hearts we come to Thee, the Friend of sinners, imploring Thee to save our erring child. O Lord, our hearts are breaking as we realize that this our son (daughter) is going the way of transgressors, which leads to destruction. Save him (her), O Lord, save him (her). Thou canst in Thy mercy perform wonders and find a way to bring back the erring who have wandered away from Thy fold.

O Lord, if by any fault or neglect of mine he (she) has strayed from Thee, forgive me. Show me a way to undo my mistakes.

Draw us all closer to Thee. Let him (her) who is lost be found that our hearts be filled again with peace and joy. Unite our family in Thee and abide in our hearts now and forevermore as the loving, compassionate, and forgiving Savior. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1951, p. 143.

For a Wayward Child

“Why, oh, why?” is the question that plagues us, dear Lord. Why did this happen to our child? Where did we fail? What did we do wrong? Where was our weakness? Wasn't our home life what it should have been? Were we too lax? Or too strict in our discipline? Didn't we reveal the power of Christ's love and forgiveness in our lives, the devotion and concern that Christians owe one another in our family relationships? Lord, have mercy and forgive us our failures and sins. Come to us and abide in our lives with Your love, granting us patience, understanding, and peace in our home.

Give our wayward one the spirit of humility and reconciliation, and lead him to resume his role of a loving and dutiful child in our family. O Lord, by the remembrance of his baptism lead him to return to You, and prompt him to live henceforth in agreement with Your Word and will. Finally, by Your strange but loving guidance, cause this present experience to prove a blessing to all concerned. Hear us, good Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, 1970, p. 173.

17. Praying Scriptures

Philippians 1:9-11

I pray that _____ will grow in their love for God. I pray that they will learn more about God, and that they will grow in godly wisdom. I pray that they will understand how much Christ loves them, so that their lives will be filled with good deeds that glorify God. Amen.

Arnold Burron as published by Lutherans for Life.

Ephesians 1:17-19

I ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, to give _____ His Spirit to make _____ wise and reveal the truth to _____. I ask You, Lord, to enlighten the eyes of _____ mind so that _____ will really appreciate the wonderful hope of heaven that God gives them. I pray that they will really appreciate the fantastic riches of heaven that are waiting for them. I pray that they will understand that God's awesome power is working in them and for them. Amen.

Arnold Burron as published by Lutherans for Life.

Ephesians 3:14-21

Holy Spirit, I pray that you will inwardly strengthen _____ with power. I pray that Christ will live in _____ heart by faith, and that _____ will be firmly rooted and built up in love. I pray for these things so that _____ will be able to grasp how broad, and long, and high, and deep God's love is so that _____ will know how much Christ loves us—more than we can possibly imagine—so that

_____ will be filled with all that is in God.

Arnold Burron as published by Lutherans for Life.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Lord, help _____ grow in love and overflow with it for others, just as I love _____, and give _____ inward strength to be holy and without a fault before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones! Amen.

Arnold Burron as published by Lutherans for Life.

Colossians 1:9-13

Lord God, I ask you to fill _____ with a clear knowledge of every kind of spiritual wisdom and understanding. Let them use that spiritual wisdom and understanding so that they will always aim to please God in every way by producing good works. I ask You to help _____ to grow in the knowledge of God. I ask You, in your wonderful might, to strengthen _____ with all the power necessary to endure patiently whatever comes to them. I ask you, God, to enable them to joyfully thank the Father for everything, by helping _____ to really know that what we will someday inherit is so wonderful that we cannot begin to understand it.

Arnold Burron as published by Lutherans for Life.

2 Thessalonians 2:17 and 3:1-2, 5

I pray that You will inwardly comfort and strengthen _____ to do and say everything that is good. I pray that You will protect _____ from wrong minded and wicked people. Lead _____ to realize how much God loves them, and how patiently Christ suffered for them. Amen.

Arnold Burron as published by Lutherans for Life.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Lord, I pray that You will make _____ worthy of your calling and by Your power accomplish every good thing _____ decides to do, so that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified. I pray that You will do this because of the undeserved love You have for us as a result of what Jesus did for us.

Arnold Burron as published by Lutherans for Life.

Hebrews 13:20-21

God of peace, Who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus ... please give _____ every good thing they need, to do what You want them to do, and work in all of us through Jesus Christ to do what pleases you.

Arnold Burron as published by Lutherans for Life.