



Prayers of Confession 2008-2015

Advent

Our Father in Heaven whose Son was given for us: We confess that we are unworthy of this unspeakable gift. We know that everything good comes through the merit of Christ, who humbled Himself, and became like us, that we may be conformed to His image; who became poor that we by His poverty might become rich. Yet, we find humility difficult: We enjoy praise from others. We think ourselves so deserving that we are discontented with what we have, and keep for ourselves what we should give to others. We are easily irritated, quickly defensive, slow to forgive, slow to grant forgiveness. We think ourselves so competent that we depend much upon ourselves and pray little. Yet Father here, in the presence of Christ, we see ourselves rightly, so on the basis of His humble sacrifice, we ask that You forgive us our sins and by Your Word and Spirit make us like Him.

Our Father in Heaven whose Son was given for us: We confess that we are unworthy of this unspeakable gift. Through Him You have loved us, yet we have not loved You as we ought, nor loved one another. He has been merciful to us, yet we have failed to sympathize with the brokenness of others. He intercedes for us, yet we have neglected the needs of others. He is for us, yet we have spoken ill of one another. He defends us, yet we have gossiped and slandered. He has forgiven us, yet we have judged one another. He humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant, yet we have been proud and reluctant to serve. He is kind, yet we have thought the worst of one another. In Him is all wisdom and knowledge, yet we have thought ourselves wise. He has conquered sin and death, yet we continue to fear. He has taken the guilt of sinners upon Himself, yet we have been hesitant to confess. He has given us new life by His Spirit, yet we often live as we once lived. Forgive and blot out our sins through the incarnate life and willing sacrifice of Your holy Son, our Lord Jesus. And through His Spirit enable us to live as those who trust in Christ.

Our Father in Heaven whose Son was given for us: We confess that we are unworthy of this unspeakable gift. Through Him You have loved us, yet we have not loved You as we ought, nor loved one another. He was freely given that we might live, yet we have withheld kindness from those in need. He humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant, yet we remain proud and reluctant to serve. He became poor that by His poverty we might become rich. Yet too often we have lived in selfishness and worldly pride, hoarding the good gifts that you have given to us, rather than using them to relieve the burdens of others. Forgive us our sins. Conform us to image of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

Our Father in Heaven, whose Son was given for us: We confess that we are unworthy of this unspeakable gift. For we have not loved You as we ought, nor have we been loving to one another, kindhearted and forgiving one another as You, for Christ's sake, have forgiven us. We have too often lived in selfishness and worldly pride, trusting in our own wisdom rather than the wisdom of God, in our plans rather than yours, hoarding the good gifts that You have given to us, rather than using them to relieve the burdens of others. Forgive and blot out our sins, through the incarnate life and willing sacrifice of your holy Son, our Lord Jesus. Amen.

(Adapted from The Book of Common Worship, 1946)

Our Father in Heaven whose Son was given for us: We confess that we are unworthy of this unspeakable gift. Your only Son was given for us, yet we doubt your love. Your Spirit has been given to us, yet we doubt your presence and depend upon our own power. You have given us grace, yet we are afraid to confess our sins. You have adopted us as your own, yet we do not pray or seek the wisdom of our heavenly Father. Forgive our ungratefulness, our self-dependence, our self-righteousness, our prayerlessness. Enable us by your Spirit to live in humble reliance upon you.

Our Father in Heaven whose Son was given for us: We confess that we are unworthy of this unspeakable gift. Though Christ humbled Himself, we find humility difficult. We so enjoy the praise of others that we exalt ourselves. We think ourselves deserving and then become discontented with what we have. We are easily irritated, quickly defensive, slow to forgive, slow to seek forgiveness. Our pride causes us to depend upon ourselves, thus we resist the protection and leading of our good shepherd; indeed, we pray little. Yet Father, in the presence of Christ, we see ourselves rightly, so on the basis of His humble sacrifice, we ask that You forgive us our sins and by Your Word and Spirit make us like Him.

Our Father in Heaven, whose Son was given for us,
we confess that we are unworthy of this inexpressible gift.
We know that you should guide us, yet we go our own way;
that you should fulfill us, yet we console ourselves.
We think your truth too high, your will too hard,
your power too remote, your love too free.
Yet they are not, for without them we are of all people most miserable.
So we pray, 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.

Our Father in Heaven, who gave your son for us,
we are unworthy of your inexpressible gift.
Through Him You have loved us,
yet we have not loved You as we ought, nor loved one another.
He humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant,
yet we remain proud and reluctant to serve.
In Him is all wisdom and knowledge, yet we think ourselves wise.
You placed the guilt of sinners upon Him,
yet we are hesitant to confess.
He is the way, the truth and the life,
yet we struggle to repent and believe.
He has been made in every way like us, though without sin,
and so sympathizes with our weaknesses, yet we neglect to pray.
He has given us new life by His Spirit, yet we often live as we once lived.
Forgive and blot out our sins through the incarnate life and willing sacrifice of Your holy Son,
our Lord Jesus. And through His Spirit enable us to live as is becoming one who trusts in Christ.

Our Father in heaven, whose Son was given for us,
we confess that we are unworthy of your inexpressible gift.
You sent Your Son to be the light that banishes the darkness of
sin and death.
Forgive us for continuing to prefer the dark ways of our
self-centeredness and self-sufficiency!
You sent Your Son to guide our feet into the path of peace.
Forgive us for proudly persisting in our warring and conflicting ways with you and others.
You sent your prophet to be a voice crying out.
Forgive us for blushing to speak about our Savior!
Humble us and embolden us so that we might serve you without fear.
This we pray in the strong name of Jesus. Amen

Palm Sunday

Blessed Lord Jesus, before your cross we kneel and see the heinousness of our sin, our iniquity that caused You to be 'made a curse', the evil that provoked the severity of divine wrath. By the crown of thorns, the pierced hands and feet, the bruised body, the dying cries, we see the enormity of our guilt. Your blood is the blood of incarnate God, it's worth infinite, it's value beyond all thought. How much must be the evil and guilt that demands such a price. Jesus our King, who on this day in Jerusalem was greeted with praise but later treated with contempt, we confess that we are often no different, for our faith can be more show than substance, more parade than pure, more habit than heart. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Forgive our capricious and fickle discipleship. Cause our faith to be constant, our love to be steadfast, our obedience to be joyful, even as we walk in humility, bathed in your blood, justified by faith in Your holy name. Amen.

No Liturgical Calendar date

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people. We acknowledge and confess the sins which we have too often committed against You by thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We know we have struggled to trust in Your Word, to live by Your wisdom in joyful obedience to You. For we have been selfish and proud, jealous of others and interested in our own gain. We confess times when we have been unwilling to change wrong thoughts and ways when confronted by Your Word; when we have not sought to live in peace with those we find difficult; when we have failed to show compassion and mercy to those in need. We fear that our lives betray our profession of faith, for we see in ourselves much inconsistency and insincerity. We earnestly repent, and are deeply sorry for our wrongdoings; for the memory of them weighs us down, the burden of them is too great for us to bear. For the sake of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us these and all other sins.

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Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has shaped in us your holy will. Amen.

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Order our lives by your holy Word and make your commandments the joy of our lives. Conform us to the image of your loving Son Jesus that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

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Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.

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Almighty God, we acknowledge from our hearts that we are unworthy of your grace and salvation. So little have we truly believed our Savior's conquest of sin and death on our behalf. How often we forget that the Lord Jesus now sits at the Right Hand where he rules over all things for the church, that there he intercedes for us, and that someday he will return from there to bring salvation to all who are waiting for him. How often we are weak or discouraged because we have forgotten that because Christ is in heaven, we who belong to him are as much as seated with him there. How wrong of us that so great a Savior and salvation should not produce in us greater love and firmer hope. Forgive us for such little faith, restore to us the joy of our great salvation, and help us to walk worthy of such through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and gracious Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen

(Adopted from the liturgy of John Knox, 16<sup>th</sup> century)

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Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence because of our many sins. Yet you are a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father to all who turn to you. We humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ Your Son, to show mercy to us and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our lives but also the words of our mouths and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

(John Knox, 1514-1572)

Almighty Father, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that too often we fail to bow before him or acknowledge his rule in our lives. Too often we have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to glorify him. Forgive us. Deliver us from evil, that we may be your faithful people, joyfully obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, was raised for our justification, who ascended to rule over all things for the sake of his church, and who one day will return.

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Almighty God, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge and confess the sins that we have committed against You by thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have made idols of success, of power, of status, of human intelligence, of material possessions, of family, of security, of our own passions, of what others think of us, and more. Not trusting in You alone to satisfy us, not joyfully obeying You, not giving You thanks in all things, not loving You supremely, we have failed to honor You as God. Knowing that You are Lord, we earnestly repent of our sin. For the sake of the One who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we, from this time onward, may look to You alone for all that we need, that we may glorify Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge and confess the sins that we have committed against you by thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have inflated and depended upon our own righteousness and good works. We have sought to build our case before you by compiling our list of achievements. We look to our own adequacy and too easily overlook our sin of pride, conceit and self-centeredness. Not trusting in you alone, we disregard your sufficiency, not depending completely upon your adequacy, we belittle what you have accomplished, not loving you supremely, we have failed to honor you as God. Knowing that you are our gracious Lord, we earnestly repent of our sin. For the sake of the One who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may look to You alone for all that we need, that we may glorify your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God, our heavenly Father, though You are ever faithful to us, we confess that we have been unfaithful to You, though You have loved us, we have not loved You with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We have failed to seek You in everything, we have believed that we know what is best for ourselves, we have relied upon our own strength, we have coveted what we do not have, we have doubted Your provision of grace and mercy, we have not obeyed Your commandments. We have sinned against You. But this we know, that You have given Your Son for us, our substitute, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins, who provides all that we need for forgiveness of sin, for life and for godliness. Grant, we pray, that we may trust in Him alone, and live faithful to You. Amen.

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Almighty God our heavenly Father, you have called us to be the church, to take the ministry of Jesus to the world. Yet we acknowledge we are too often more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving, posturing than praying. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your ambassadors to a fallen and broken world. Awaken us to the power of the gospel and the promised gift of your indwelling Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Almighty God and heavenly Father, by your word and Spirit, I see myself in the light of Jesus. I see that I have sinned in thought, word and deed, in what I have done and left undone. I see that I have not loved you or my neighbor as I ought. Deeper still, I see that I have put myself in your place, acting as if I am God, setting my own standards of good and evil, directing my own life, seeking my own glory. I am sorry for my sins. I see Jesus, the one who suffered and died for me. By his blood, forgive me for my sins. Grant me peace, for I see that by your grace I have peace with you, and that you are present with me. Amen.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess the grievous sins which we have too often committed against Your divine majesty. We know of times when we have not honored You as God through praise and joyful obedience, or given You thanks for Your love for us. We know of times when we have failed to love others as You have loved us; times when we have been selfish and proud rather than compassionate, kind, or patient; rather than bearing with others or forgiving as we have been forgiven. We earnestly repent, and are deeply sorry for these our wrongdoings; the memory of them weighs us down, the burden of them is too great for us to bear. For the sake of Your Son, forgive us all that is past; and grant that from this time onwards we may always serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge and confess the sins which we have too often committed against Your divine majesty, by thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We know of when we have not honored You as God, when we have not trusted Your word or been comforted by Your sovereignty, wisdom and love, when we have not lived in joyful obedience. We know of when we have not glorified You by loving others as You have loved us, when we have been selfish and proud, when compassion, kindness, and patience have not been true of us, when we have not comforted others by the comfort we have received, when we have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. We earnestly repent, and are deeply sorry for our wrongdoings; for the memory of them weighs us down, the burden of them is too great for us to bear. For the sake of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us all that is past. Grant that we may serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess the sins which we have too often committed against your divine majesty. We know of times when we have not honored you as God through praise and joyful obedience, or given you thanks for your kindness. We know of times when we have failed to love others as you have loved us; times when we have been angry with one another, gossiped about one another, neglected to care for one another; times when we have failed to be compassionate, kind, and patient; when we have not persevered with one another, not thought the best of one another, not forgiven as you have forgiven us. We earnestly repent, and are deeply sorry for our wrongdoings; for even the memory of them weighs us down, the burden of them too great for us to bear. For the sake of Your Son, forgive all that is past; and grant that from this time onwards we may always serve and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Almighty God, who is rich in mercy to all those who call upon You, hear us as we humbly come to You confessing our sins, imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our words and deeds, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude; our pride and willfulness; our failures and shortcomings toward You and others. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; by Your Spirit enable us hereafter to serve and please You in newness of life; and this through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God, though you are our loving Father, we confess that we have not honored you as we ought; though you are our faithful Lord, we confess that we have not feared you as we ought; though you are worthy of our whole-hearted dedication, we confess that we are often half-hearted in our devotion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins. Holy Spirit, work in us all that we need for life and godliness, that we may, from this day forward, honor you, fear you, glorify you. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer 1549, 1662 edition)

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Almighty God, who works all things for good for those who love you and are called according to your purpose; who adds all things to those who seek first the Kingdom of God:  
Forgive us, for we are cold in love towards you and our neighbor.  
Forgive us, for we are weak in faith, for we doubt and fail to trust you in all things.  
Forgive us, for we do not seek your Kingdom, do not submit to your rule in all things,  
do not reflect your glory in all places.  
We plead not our merit or desert;  
nor extenuating circumstances;  
nor the frailty of our nature,  
nor the force of the temptations we encounter;  
nor the persuasions of others who lead us astray.  
We plead only the blood of Christ to wash us from our sins  
and His Spirit to create in us a clean heart, a right and willing spirit. Amen.

(Adapted from the prayers of Martin Luther, 16<sup>th</sup> c, and John Ballie, 19<sup>th</sup> c)

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Almighty God,  
Who gloriously raised Your Son Jesus Christ from the grave,  
that we would no longer be condemned,  
and that we might have life eternal,  
Please hear our earnest prayer of confession:  
We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed;  
in what we have done and in what we have left undone.  
We are truly sorry, and we sincerely repent.  
Grant to us full pardon for all our transgressions,  
and cleanse us of all our iniquity,  
that we may forevermore honor Your Name and sing Your praise,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty and gracious Father, we confess that we are slow to learn of our spiritual bankruptcy and prone to forget Your might and grace. Rather than cry to you in prayer, we try to live by our own strength; rather than look to You for mercy, we strive to prove our worthiness. And when we do pray we often ask wrongly, looking to satisfy our own passions rather than Yours. And then we complain when life doesn't turn out as we had hoped, when we find ourselves weary and confused, when we find ourselves anxious and afraid, when we find ourselves unsatisfied and discouraged. Please forgive our prayerlessness and thanklessness. Break us of our pride; convince us of our poverty and Your gracious provision. May we look to You and You alone to satisfy our every need and desire. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, 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. Enable us to desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, so that we may know the fullness of joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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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 offended against your holy laws. 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. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(From the Book of Common Prayer)

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Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have sinned and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against Your holy law,  
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.  
But You, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their sins,  
restore thou those who are sincere,  
according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

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Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have sinned and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against Your holy law,
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.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord;
according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord,
forgive our sins and restore to us the joy of Your salvation.
And grant, for Christ's sake, that we may hereafter live godly lives,
to the glory of Your holy Name.

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Father in heaven, forgive my sins. Forgive my careless attitudes concerning Your purposes and will, my refusal to relieve the suffering of others, my envy of those who have more than I have, my obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, my indifference to the treasures of heaven, my neglect of Your wise and gracious commands. Work in me that I may desire that which is good, to love what You love, and to do what You command. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the One who died to pay the penalty for my sins so I may be forgiven, and the One who rose that I may live to God. Amen.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. Though we have your word to guide us, your Spirit within us, and godly shepherds to teach and care for us, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. 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. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive our sins. Teach us to submit to Your word and Spirit, and those whom you have placed in authority over us, that we may hereafter live godly, righteous, and holy lives to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

(Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer)

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ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. 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 thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

(From the Book of Common Prayer)

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Almighty and most merciful Father, whose forgiveness I now  
implore, have mercy upon me.  
I have committed many trespasses.  
I have neglected many duties.  
I have done what you have forbidden,  
and left undone what you have commanded.  
Forgive, merciful Lord, my sins,  
and enable me, by the Holy Spirit, to amend my life according to your  
Holy Word, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

(Adapted from the prayers of Samuel Johnson, 18<sup>th</sup> c)

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All searching God, You read our hearts; You view our principles and motives; You know our hearts even more than we ourselves. We are distraught over how we have failed to glorify You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Yet You have not turned away from us, but made the way for our return to You by Your Son who died that we might be forgiven, who rose from the dead that we might have eternal life. For in Him the enslaved find redemption, the guilty pardon, the weak strength, the needy provision, the ignorant wisdom and knowledge. Once enemies we now know peace with God. So, we repent of our sins; renounce the power of the world, the flesh and the devil; that we may follow You, even as we await the blessed hope of the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Leader: Blessed Jesus, you offered us all your blessings when you announced "Blessed are the poor in spirit"

All: but we have been rich in pride.

Leader: "Blessed are those who mourn"

All: but we have not known much sorrow for our sin.

Leader: "Blessed are the meek"

All: but we are a stubborn people.

Leader: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness"

All: but we are filled to the full with other things.

Leader: "Blessed are the merciful"

All: but we are impatient and judgmental.

Leader: "Blessed are the pure in heart"

All: but we have impure hearts.

Leader: "Blessed are the peacemakers"

All: but we have not sought reconciliation.

Leader: "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness"

All: but our lives do not challenge the world.

Leader: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me"

All: but we have hardly made it known that we are yours.

Leader: Your Law is holy and your benedictions are perfect, but they are both too great for us. You alone are blessed.

All: We ask You to forgive our sins and give us the blessing of your righteousness. Amen.

Leader: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

(Based on Matt. 5:3-11; Ps. 32:1-2, 5)

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Dear God, before you I confess that I am a great sinner. The Ten Commandments would drive me and commit me directly to Hell. But your precious gospel teaches me to know and believe that out of love you have established a kingdom through Jesus Christ. In it you will be merciful and will help forlorn and condemned sinners. So I say my confession of faith in one word: I am truly a sinner, but God is merciful to me. I am your enemy, but you are my friend. I deserve condemnation, yet I know that you do not want to condemn me. You want me to be blessed and to inherit heaven. This is indeed your will. You have permitted this truth to be preached to me and have commanded me to believe it, for the sake of your Son whom you have given for me. Amen.

(A prayer of Martin Luther)

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Eternal God, forgive us for being hesitant to love the church we have received. Forgive us for going each to our own way, and forgive us for demanding that the church go with us. Forgive us when we do not respect those who lead, when we are not at peace with one another, when we do not serve one another with the gifts you have given, when we repay evil with evil and not with good, when we are joyless, thankless and faithless. Help us to remember the ministry of those who have gone before us, that we too may be faithful until we rejoice with all the saints in your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Adapted from the prayers of John Calvin, d1564)

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite and gnaw and frighten me. They speak to me of my weakness: How quick I am to say that which I ought not say; do that which is displeasing to You; shy away from that which may cause me to suffer even though it may result in the good of others. Where shall I go? I look to you Lord Jesus, and believe in you. When my faith is weak, enable me to cling to you, for when I do I am made sure, for you have promised: "All who believe in Me shall have eternal life." When my conscience is troubled, and my sins frighten me and make me tremble, may I remember Your word: "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you; I will raise you up on the last day, and you will have eternal life." Though I cannot help myself by my own strength, I come to you for help, that I would trust you, follow you, please you, joyfully suffer for Your sake that other's may know God through You. Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer of Martin Luther)

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Eternal and Immortal God, all that you have made unmistakably shows us that you are powerful and divine, and worthy of our worship. Nevertheless, even though you have revealed yourself to us, we have immorally suppressed what we know to be true.

We have not honored you as God, nor given thanks to you. We have become futile in our thinking, and our hearts have been dark.

Claiming to be wise, we have been fools, and we have exchanged your glory for cheap copies. We have traded your truth for a lie, and we have sought in your creation what can only be found in you yourself.

Forgive us for failing to give you glory, and rescue us from our idolatrous hearts. Grant us faith to seek in your Son the satisfaction of our souls, and reveal your power in our salvation.

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Leader: Father in Heaven, it is the highest calling to worship You.

All: It is the crown and glory of our souls to adore You. It is pleasure beyond measure to approach You.

Leader: We know this to be a house of prayer.

All: Forgive us for thinking that we can live in our own strength; for not seeking You as we ought. Pour out a spirit of grace and supplication upon us.

Leader: We know this to be a house of praise.

All: Forgive us for not honoring You as God, for not loving You with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, for not giving You thanks in everything. Fill us with awe and every grateful emotion.

Leader: We know this to be a house of instruction.

All: Forgive us for not seeking wisdom and grace through Your word, for living as we think we ought, for following the traditions of men, for allowing our lives to be swayed by those who do not know Your Word.

Leader: On this morning, attend by Your Spirit the Word read and preached. Seal it to the hearts of all who hear. May it enlighten the careless, reclaim the wandering, establish the weak, comfort the feeble-minded, and make ready a people for their Lord.

All: This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Father in heaven, forgive my sins. Forgive my careless attitude concerning your purposes and will, my reluctance to relieve the suffering of others, my envy of those who have more than I have, my obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, my indifference to the treasures of heaven, my neglect of your wise and gracious commands. Forgive me for taking confidence in my own riches, thinking they make me secure. Cause me to trust in your provision for all that I need. Work in me that I may desire that which is good, to love what you love, and to do what you command. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the One who died to pay the penalty for my sins so I may be forgiven, and the One who rose that I may live to God. Amen.

Father in heaven, forgive our sins.
Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus,
we have tried to pile up good deeds to outweigh our sin,
to prove ourselves worthy of your favor,
to work off our guilt.
Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
we have tried to change through our own efforts, through sheer will power,
rather than through the new life that He gives us.
This has left some of us arrogant.
This has left most of us anxious and discouraged.
Forgive us for trusting in ourselves,
our own wisdom rather than the Father's,
our own righteousness rather than the Son's.
our own strength rather than the Spirit's.
Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Amen.

Forgive me, Lord, my sins – the sins of my youth, the sins of the present,
the sins I laid upon myself through disobedience,
the sins I cast upon others through my example;
the sins which are manifest to all the world,
the sins which I have labored to hide from my acquaintances,
and labored to hide from my own conscience,
and even from my memory;
my crying sins and my whispering sins,
my ignorant sins and my willful sins;
my sins against my superiors, equals, and subordinates,
against those I love and those who love me,
sins against myself, my own body, my own soul,
sins against You.
Almighty Father, merciful Son, blessed Spirit of God,
Forgive me, O Lord, through the merits of the anointed one,
my Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Adapted from a prayer of John Donne, 1572-1631)

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.

Father of all mercies, forgive us our debts. We owe to you joyful obedience, and yet we have left undone the things we ought to have done, and have done that which we ought not; we are to love you with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and we have not; even as we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. This obedience we owe and the judgment we incur for disobeying your law are debts beyond our ability to ever pay. We ask that you would forgive our debts for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who paid the debt of our obedience by living in perfect obedience for us, and paid the debt of our disobedience by dying for our sins. We ask this even as we forgive the debts of those who have sinned against us.

Father of all mercies, whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken and contrite: We confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul; we have not loved you with our mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong that we have done, and for the things left undone, so that we may hate our sin with a holy hatred. Yet in your mercy do not leave us full of sorrow. Rather, forgive us our sins and take them from us. Restore the joy of our salvation that we may love you and our neighbors with a holy love.

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, that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

God of all mercy, forgive our sins:
of omission and commission;
of angry tempers;
of word and walk;
of hard-heartedness, unbelief, presumption and pride;
of unfaithfulness to the souls of others;
of lacking in boldness for the cause of Christ;
of deficiency in outspoken zeal for His glory;
of bringing dishonor upon Your great name;
of deception, injustice, untruthfulness in our dealings with others;
of impurity in thought, word and deed;
of covetousness, which is idolatry;
of material and spiritual gifts unduly hoarded, carelessly squandered,
not consecrated to You, the great giver.

To these we add our sins
of our neglect of the study of Your word;
of prayers irreverently offered and arrogantly withheld;
of time misspent;
of yielding to Satan's wiles,
opening our hearts to his temptations,
being unwatchful when we know him nigh;
of quenching the Holy Spirit,
even as we neglect His law and His presence to transform.

Forgive us from all our sins,
known and unknown, felt and unfelt, remembered or forgotten.

Cleanse us, we pray, and make us whole.

This we ask because of Christ and His blood. Amen.

(Adapted from "Sins", The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions)

Gracious Father, in Jesus' name, forgive my sins. I confess that I am slow to learn, prone to forget and indifferent to both. I am pained by my prayerlessness, my thankless heart, my graceless speech, my dearth of love, my sloth in the heavenly race, my sullied conscience, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities. I seem blind while the light shines around me: Take the scales from my eyes, grind to dust the unbelief of my heart. Make it my highest joy to study you, to meditate upon you, to gaze upon you. Cause me to live as one who is wise, who makes the most of every opportunity to glorify your name. Amen.

God of all grace: We acknowledge and confess the sins which we have too often committed against Your divine majesty. We know of times when we have not honored You as God through praise and joyful obedience, or given thanks for Your kindness. We know of times when we have failed to love others as You have loved us; times when we have been angry with one another; when we have failed to be compassionate, kind, and patient; when we have not persevered with one another; not thought the best of one another; not guarded our neighbor's good name; not forgiven as You have forgiven us. We earnestly repent, and are deeply sorry for our wrongdoings, for even the memory of them weighs us down, the burden of them too great for us to bear. For the sake of Your Son, forgive all that is past, and grant that from this time onwards we may serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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God of mercy who sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.  
We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.  
We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,  
and great when we are small.  
We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.  
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.  
Return us to paths of righteousness  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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God of all grace, Father of all mercies, ever faithful, ever true:
Just as you promised, Christ has come to save us from sin and death;
You forgive all who call upon his name;
You give grace in time of need;
You care for us, provide for us, love us;
You are faithful.
Yet, we confess our unfaithfulness.
You have sent Christ, yet we still try to save ourselves;
You forgive, yet we still try to make up for what we have done;
You give grace, yet we still rely upon our own merit and strength;
You care and provide for us, yet we live as if all depends upon ourselves;
You have loved us, yet we have failed to love you.
And we have failed to love one another.
We are forgiven, yet we hesitate to forgive;
We receive grace, yet we are reluctant to give it;
We are cared and provided for, yet we overlook the needs of others;
We are loved, yet we have failed to love you with heart, soul, mind and strength;
We have failed to love one another as you have loved us.
Forgive us our sins.
Enable us, by your Spirit, to live faithful to you and to each other,
for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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Gracious God who sent your son to die for us:  
You have poured out your Spirit that we might bear witness of Christ.  
Yet, too often we remain speechless.  
You have filled us with your Spirit to produce in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
Yet, too often we are selfish, discontented, disagreeable, impatient, unkind, immoral, unfaithful, harsh,  
and lawless.  
For the sake of our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us.  
Holy Spirit, grant us power anew that we may testify of Christ, fill us anew that Christ may be formed in us.

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Assure us that because of Christ, we are free from the guilt and dominion of sin. Grant us grace to grow more and more in his likeness and image.

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Gracious God,  
Who calls sinners like us to come to you through Jesus,  
Who through his death forgives our sins even as we repent and believe in him,  
Who grants us eternal life,  
We humbly but straightforwardly confess to you our many sins:  
We have grieved you in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have no excuse.  
Please forgive and renew us.  
Set us free from the crippling powers of guilt and despair,  
and lift us again into the warmth of your embrace  
that we may cheerfully and obediently serve you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Gracious God,  
Who invites sinners like us to come to You,  
Who forgives us all our sins and cleanses us of all unrighteousness,  
and Who grants to us eternal life and unchanging love:  
We humbly but boldly confess to You our many sins:  
We have grieved You by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have trusted in our own wisdom and righteousness.  
We have no excuse.  
Please forgive and renew us.  
Set us free from the crippling powers of guilt and despair,  
lift us again into the warmth of Your embrace  
that we may cheerfully and obediently serve You,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Gracious Father, we confess with our lips the blessedness of taking refuge in you. Yet our lives often betray us. We sing the wonders of your love, but in our hearts we grumble and complain about your perfect law, under whose wise counsel we often chafe. We declare that we long for your coming, but in truth we are more wrapped up in the gifts that you give us than we are in you yourself. Instead of rejoicing in the heritage you have given us, and humbly resting in your wisdom in the trials into which you bring us, we are often stressed about the present and fearful for the future. On the basis of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, we ask that you forgive us. Amen.

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God of all mercies, who in compassion sent your Son to save sinners, grant us grace to feel and lament our own sin that made it needful for Christ to die. Lead us by prayer and meditation on your word to a sincere and deep repentance. As we rely upon the forgiveness that comes through our only redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the righteousness that is ours from his obedience for us, enable us to rejoice that we have been set free from sins' guilt and power. God forgives all who repent and believe in Jesus. Amen.

Gracious Father: though your law is written deeply on our hearts and in our consciences, we often ignore it and take little delight in it. You have delivered us from sin's guilt and power, but many times we are slow to obey and hesitant to speak of this great salvation. Can it be that we still take lightly our sin and for granted your grace and steadfast love? Father, forgive us.

Jesus: the lamb for sinners slain, upon whom our guilt was laid, by whom sin's penalty was paid—all who trust in you are forgiven. Keeper of every commandment, proclaimer of this great salvation by your lips, your life, your death and resurrection—upon all who trust in you is laid your righteousness. Jesus, thank you.

Holy Spirit: by whose grace and power we come to believe and rest in all that is ours in Jesus, continue to work in us that we may be more thankful for your kindness, more humble under your correction, more watchful against temptation, more obedient to your word. Cause our hearts to overflow with joy that our lips may boast of Jesus. Amen.

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God of all mercy, I have sinned against you in thought, word and deed; for I confess that I have not loved you with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, nor loved others as Jesus has loved me. This I know is evil in your sight. I am sorry and repent of my sin. According to your steadfast love expressed in the death and resurrection of Jesus, I plead your mercy – blot out my transgressions, wash me completely from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit, through Jesus Christ my Lord.

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Gracious Father, your word speaks to us of the sufficiency of Christ, yet we often trust in ourselves. We strive to be good enough, yet your word tells us that we are sinners and that Christ was good enough for us. We live with guilt, yet your word tells us that our guilt was laid upon Christ. We trust in our own wisdom and strength to live pleasing to you, yet you have given us your word and spirit to make us wise, to guide us and to conform us to the image of Christ. By the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, forgive us for not trusting your word, and by the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit, enable us to trust in you.

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Holy Father, we know that we are people of unclean lips. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed; we have not loved You with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, You are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in mercy; there is always forgiveness with You. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation; bind that which is broken; give light to our minds and strength to our souls. Sanctify us by Your holy Word and make Your commandments the joy of our lives. Conform us to the image of Your loving Son Jesus and send us into the world that we may glorify You. Amen.

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Holy Father, forgive us. Though You should guide us, we inform ourselves. Though You should rule us, we control ourselves. Though You should fulfill us, we console ourselves. 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 most miserable. Heal our confused minds with Your word, heal our divided wills with Your law, heal our troubled conscience 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.

Father, fill us with a knowledge of Your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that we may walk in a manner worthy of our Lord Jesus, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in our knowledge of You. Strengthen us with all power, according to Your glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy. We give You thanks that You have qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, for You have delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of Your beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Heavenly Father, we come to you secure in your embrace, for you have purposed to love us for our eternal good. But we confess that although by your love, wisdom, and power you are eminently trustworthy, we exhibit a lack of trust as our thoughts and actions expose anxious hearts. Father, forgive us. For we have not submitted to your sovereignty, Your discipline, your provision for us according to your wisdom. We have sought to set our own standard of need, and to satisfy our wants by our own accomplishments, in our own strength and by our own design. We have succumbed to our fears and doubted your goodness, overlooking Your mercy and kindness to us. We pursue our own way, designing our own future, setting our own goals, burdened by our anxiety, for we know ultimately that we lack the righteousness to choose well, the wisdom to set our path, the power to bring it about. Yet we vainly try, forgetting to look to you. Forgive us O Lord. *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (John 6:35, 10:10b)*

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Holy, holy, holy are you Lord, the whole earth is full of your glory. Though your holiness fills us with awe and wonder, its light reveals the darkness of our sin. We confess that we are people of unclean lips, unclean thoughts, unclean lives. Forgive us. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit. Make us holy. Sanctify us to your service that we might reflect your glory. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our mediator, who presents our prayer before you through his blood. Amen.

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Holy Father, though all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ, we confess that we fail to seek him as we ought and thus rely upon our own thoughts to guide us. Though Christ rules over all things for the sake of his church, we confess that we want to be in control of every situation. Though Christ gives true and everlasting peace, we confess that we often grumble in discontent. Forgive us for not trusting you, your wisdom, your power, your goodness, your love. 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.

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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.  
We plead Christ's blood to pay for our debts of wrong.  
We receive His worthiness for our unworthiness,  
His sinlessness for our transgression,  
His purity for our uncleanness,  
His sincerity for our hypocrisy,  
His truth for our deceits,  
His meekness for our pride,  
His constancy for our backslidings,  
His love for our enmity,  
His fullness for our emptiness,  
His faithfulness for our failures,  
His obedience for our lawlessness,  
His glory for our shame,  
His devotedness for our waywardness,  
His holy life for our ungodly ways,  
His righteousness for our dead works,  
His death for our life. Amen.

Holy Father, I have sinned times without number in thought, word and deed. I have been guilty of pride, of desiring the praise of men rather than God, of unbelief, of depending on my own wisdom, of failing to listen to Your word, of neglecting to seek You in all things. Purge from me every wrong desire, every immoral aspiration, every false way, everything contrary to Your wisdom and rule. Deliver me from every evil habit, every indulgence of former sins, every desert of Your word, every trust in myself, everything that prevents me resting in and taking delight in You. Enable me to walk in humility, bathed in the blood of Christ, justified by faith in His name. Amen.

(Adapted from The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions, "Confession and Petition" p79)

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Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.  
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

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Heavenly Father, your steadfast love and faithfulness preserve us. We are poor and needy, yet you take thought for us. We come to meet you in the midst of our brokenness - the brokenness of our world and the brokenness of our lives. We confess that we have not regarded you as holy, have not obeyed you as we ought and have sought our own path by our own wisdom. Your word teaches us that in this life we will have trouble, but we are surprised when it comes to us, and deny that we, in our sin, are the cause of trouble for others. We have looked not to the unseen, but to the seen, neglecting the great truth of your blessing us in Christ with every spiritual blessing. Please forgive us we pray. In Jesus' Name. Amen

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In confidence of your goodness and great mercy, O Lord, I draw near unto you, as one sick to the healer, as one hungry and thirsty to the fountain of life, a creature to the Creator, a needy soul to the King of Heaven and my only true comfort. I confess to you my own sin. Behold, in you is all that I can or ought to desire. You are my salvation and my redemption, my help and my strength. Cleanse and make glad therefore this day of your servant, for unto you, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul.

(Adapted from a prayer of Thomas a' Kempis, d. 1471)

Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten. Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements, and those when I have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself. Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided. Forgive me the pain I have caused others, and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen.

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Lord Jesus Christ, sin is my malady, my foe, with me from birth, residing in my life, affecting my character, influencing my faculties, following me as a shadow, intermingling with my thoughts, wanting to hold me captive.

Yet your compassions yearn over me, your heart hastens to my rescue, for your love endured my curse, your mercy bore my justice.

Let me walk in humility, bathed in your blood, tender of conscience, living in triumph as an heir of salvation through your blessed name. Amen.

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Lord God Almighty, holy is your wisdom, power, mercy and work. How can I stand before you with my endless and grievous offences? I have often loved darkness, been captivated by vanity, forsaken your mercies, trampled underfoot your beloved Son, mocked your provision, flattered you with my lips and broken your covenant. It is by your compassion that I am not consumed. Lead me to repentance, and save me from despair; Let me come to you renouncing, condemning and loathing my sin, but hoping in the grace that flows even to the chief of sinners. So may my soul rest in you, immortal and transcendent one, revealed in the person and work of your Son, the Friend of sinners.

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Lord, though we should look to You to guide us, we inform ourselves;  
though we should look to you to rule us, we follow our own ways;  
though you should fulfill us, we try to console ourselves.

We think your truth too high, your will too hard,  
your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not!

Indeed without them, we are of all people most miserable.

Forgive our sins.

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.

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Lord God, eternal and almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are sinners, conceived and born in guilt and corruption, prone to do evil; we have violated your holy commandments. But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true sorrow asking that your grace will relieve our distress. Have compassion on us, most gracious God, Father of mercies, for the sake of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt, also grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruit of holiness and of righteousness which is pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from the Genevan liturgy, 1542)

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you, but we confess that we can quickly desert you. You plainly tell us to take up our cross, but we readily grumble at hardship. You give us glory secured by your resurrection, yet we fear suffering and easily lose hope. We are weak and have little faith. Forgive us. Refresh us. Lead us anew into repentance that we might more faithfully follow you.

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Lord Jesus, I am blind, be thou my light; ignorant, be thou my wisdom; self-willed, be thou my mind. Open my ear to grasp quickly thy Spirit's voice and delightfully run after his beckoning hand. Melt my conscience that no hardness remains, make it alive to evil's slightest touch. When Satan approaches may I flee to thy wounds, and there cease to tremble at all alarms.

Be my good shepherd to lead me into the green pastures of thy Word, and cause me to lie down beside the rivers of its comforts. Fill me with peace, that no disquieting worldly gales may ruffle the calm surfaces of my soul.

Thy cross was upraised to be my refuge, thy blood streamed forth to wash me clean, thy death occurred to give me a surety, thy name is my property to save me. By thee all heaven is poured into my heart, but it is too narrow to comprehend thy love.

I was a stranger, an outcast, a slave, a rebel, but thy cross has brought me near, has softened my heart, has made me thy Fathers' child, has admitted me to thy family, has made me joint-heir with thyself.

O that I may love thee as thou lovest me that I may walk worthy of thee, my Lord, that I may reflect the image of heaven's first-born.

May I always see thy beauty with the clear eye of faith, and feel the power of thy Spirit in my heart, for unless he move mightily in me no inward fire will be kindled.

(*"Need of Jesus"*, The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions)

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Merciful Lord: We confess that we do not follow you wholeheartedly due to unbelief. Forgive me when I fail to believe that your scriptures alone should govern my life. Forgive me when I fail to believe that you are the source of all that is good in my life. Forgive me when I seek to take control of my life, thereby sinning against you in my pride, thinking that I know better than you. Forgive me when I turn to other false gods with my worship – the god of material possessions, the god of immoral sensuality, the god of self-reliance and self-glory. O Lord, forgive us our sins.

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Merciful Father, in the name of Jesus Christ I pray: Forgive my sins. Consume the thorns of all my offenses. Make clean my soul and holy my mind. Ever keep watch, guard, and protect me from every act and word that destroys the soul. And by his grace, set the temple of my life in order, no more a temple of sin, but a worthy dwelling of your Holy Spirit.

(Adapted from Simeon the New Theologian 949-1022)

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Most merciful Father, whose eyes are too pure to behold iniquity, but who has promised forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sins through Jesus Christ; we come before You, in a humble sense of our own unworthiness, acknowledging our many transgressions of Your righteous laws. We have thought, committed, and meditated on that which is evil, and we have ignored, excused, and forgotten that which is good. You have shown such kindness to us, yet in return we have been slothful and self-centered. Make us to feel deeply the great evil of our sin; and work in us a true repentance; that we may receive forgiveness at your hand, for you are ever ready to receive humble sinners who come to you through your Son, our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Most merciful Father, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet without sin,  
we confess before you our own sinfulness;  
we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;  
we have compromised with evil;  
we have doubted your power to protect us.  
Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness.  
Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will.  
Amen.

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Merciful God, I confess that though I need not want, too often I find myself consumed with wanting more; though your leading brings rest and restoration, too often I abandon it and take other ways finding myself restless; though your paths are right, too often I complain along the way; though you guard and protect me even in the most difficult circumstances, too often I become afraid, worried that you have abandoned me; though you provide sustenance in the midst of trouble, too often I refuse to receive from you; though you pursue me with goodness and mercy, too often I run from you and live in my guilt. Forgive my sins; restore my soul; cause me to trust you, turn to you, follow you, rely upon you, look to you all the days of my life; through Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of my soul, who gave himself for me.

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Merciful Lord:  
We confess that with us there is an abundance of sin,  
But in you there is an abundance of mercy.  
We are spiritually poor,  
But in you there is a wealth of righteousness.  
We are weak,  
But in you there is strength.  
We are empty,  
But in you there is fullness of righteousness, peace and joy.  
Forgive us for trusting in ourselves,  
For judging ourselves better than others,  
For piling up good deeds to outweigh our sins,  
For thinking all we need is one more chance.  
Forgive us for not trusting in Jesus,  
His life of righteousness for our unrighteousness;  
His death as the propitiation for our sin. Amen.

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Merciful Father, whose Son, our Lord Jesus has redeemed all those you have given him, and is therefore worthy to rule and reign over all things:  
Forgive us when we have been cold in love towards you and our neighbor.  
Forgive us when we have been weak in faith, for we know that we have doubted and have failed to trust you as we ought.  
Forgive us when we have not sought Your Kingdom, nor submitted to your rule in all things, nor reflected your glory in all places.  
We plead not our merit; nor extenuating circumstances, nor the frailty of our nature, nor the force of the temptations we encounter, nor the persuasions of others who lead us astray.  
We plead only the blood of Christ to wash us from our sins and His Spirit to produce in us His righteousness.  
Amen.

Most merciful God,  
whose son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way,  
yet without sin,  
we confess before you our own sinfulness:  
we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;  
we have compromised with evil;  
we have doubted your power to protect us.  
Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness.  
Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in  
your ways and delight in doing your will.  
Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes;  
and I will keep it to the end.  
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.  
Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.  
Incline my heart to your testimonies,  
and not to selfish gain!  
Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;  
and give me life in your ways.  
Confirm to your servant your promise,  
that you may be feared.  
Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
for your rules are good.  
Behold, I long for your precepts;  
in your righteousness give me life! Amen.

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Most holy and merciful Father,  
We confess to you and to one another,  
that we have sinned against you  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our  
whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not always had in us the mind of Christ.  
You alone know how often we have grieved you  
by wandering from your ways and following our own,  
by diluting your truth with our wisdom,  
by adding gods of our making to our worship of You.  
Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father,  
and free us from our sin.  
Renew in us the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wandering from your ways and following our own, by diluting your truth with our wisdom, by adding gods of our making to our worship of You. Forgive us, we pray, most merciful Father; and free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess in Thy Presence: Our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good; and all our shortcomings and offenses against Thee. Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned: In wandering from Thy ways; in wasting Thy gifts; in not loving Thee as we ought, nor loving one another; in remembering not thy mercy and forgiveness, nor being merciful or forgiving one another. But Thou, O Lord, have pity upon us; who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased Thee. Teach us to hate our errors; Cleanse us from our secret faults; and forgive our sins; For the sake of Thy dear Son our Savior. And most holy and loving Father; Send Thy purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech Thee; that we may henceforth live in Thy light and walk in Thy ways; According to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Henry Van Dyke, c1890)

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Merciful Father, forgive my sins.
I confess that every sense, member, faculty,
and affection of my being is a snare to me.
I can scarce open my eyes but I envy those above me,
or despise those below.
I covet the honor and riches of the mighty,
and am proud and unmerciful to the rags of others.
If I behold beauty it is a bait to lust; or see deformity,
it stirs up loathing and disdain.
The thoughts of my heart betray me.
When I think myself attractive, I am filled with pride;
when others look better, I am embarrassed.
When I do well, I desire applause.
When others have more, I lament what I do not have.
When in authority, I am prone to abuse my position
that others may serve my intents.
When I must submit to others, I begrudge their position.
Whatever my situation, I lack contentment
for I do not trust in You as I ought.
Enable me to know that Your grace is sufficient for me,
That having Christ, I lack nothing. Amen.

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Merciful Father, we have sinned times without number. We have been guilty of pride, thinking ourselves able to carry on life in our own strength, our own wisdom, our own righteousness. We have been guilty of unbelief, questioning Your rule over your creation, complaining of Your providence, even wondering if You care for us. We have failed to seek You in our daily lives, neglecting to pray and meditate on Your word. We pray that You forgive us our sins, for though they present us with a list of accusations, we trust that they will not stand against us, for we trust that all have been laid on Christ. Moreover, we desire to follow You so we pray that You deliver us from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, everything that prevents us from trusting in You alone. Amen.

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Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess in your presence and the presence of others, our sinful natures that are prone to evil and slow to do good; and all our offenses against you and others. You alone know how often we have sinned: In wandering from your ways; in wasting your gifts; in forgetting your love. Have mercy upon us; we are ashamed and sorry for disobeying you. Teach us to hate our wrongdoing; cleanse us from our secret faults; forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus our Savior. And O most holy and loving Father, send your purifying grace into our hearts, that from this day on we may live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Adapted from a prayer of Henry Van Dyke, 1895)

Most merciful Savior, I confess that I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and reluctant to admit my need. I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, my poverty of love, my lack of diligence in the heavenly race, my sullied conscience, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities, my unwillingness to sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. Forgive my sins. Make it my highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, seek you, love you, and serve you. Enable me to count all things loss that I may gain Christ.

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Most just and gracious God, you have promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all who repent and believe in Him. Therefore we ask you to forgive our sins. We confess we have failed to trust you, and have not glorified you through joyful obedience. We have not worshiped you alone, but have given place to the idols of prestige, pleasure, plenty and power to define and direct our lives. We have besmirched your holy name. We have not rested in all that Christ has done. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our parents, our spouses, our children, our neighbors. We know our tendency to shade the truth to protect ourselves; to take what isn't ours; to be discontented with what we have when we see how others have been blessed. The very sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father! We confess that Jesus is our only hope.

(Adapted from the prayer of confession of Richard Baxter, 1616 -1691)

Merciful and all sufficient Father, we confess that  
though every good and perfect gift comes from You,  
we are often dissatisfied with what we have,  
and fail to give you thanks;  
though you supply all of our needs,  
we seem always to want more.

Yet the more we have, the more tempted we are  
to take pride in our possessions, thinking ourselves better than others;  
to trust in the uncertainty of riches, rather than the certainty of your care for us;  
to keep for ourselves that we should give to others, rather than being as generous with others and you are with us;  
to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth rather than treasures in heaven;  
to forget you.

Father, forgive us our sins.

May we never be demanding of temporal blessings,  
but always refer them to your fatherly goodness,  
for you know what we need before we ask.

May we never think we prosper unless our soul prospers,  
or that we are rich unless rich toward you,  
or that we are wise unless wise unto salvation.

May we seek first your kingdom and its righteousness.

May we value things in relation to eternity.

May our spiritual welfare be our chief concern.

May we be poor, afflicted, despised and have your blessing,  
rather than be successful in enterprise,  
or be admired by our fellow-man,  
if thereby these things make us forget you.

May we cease to love that which is contrary to your will and ways,  
and seek our happiness in your favor, image, presence, and service.

(Some parts of this prayer were adapted from "Desires" in The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions)

Most merciful God, because of the atoning death of Jesus in whom I believe:

Forgive me when I forget that you are the creator and I am the creature:

that I am utterly dependent upon you;  
that all I have has been given;  
that apart from you I can do nothing.

Forgive me when I act as if I am my own master:

though you are sovereign, I try to rule myself;  
though you guide me, I seek to direct myself;  
though you care for me, I think myself self-sufficient;  
though you provide for me, I think all I have is a result of my own strength;  
though you are the source of all wisdom, I trust in my judgments;  
though you are the Lord, I correct your laws to suit myself.

Forgive me when I act as if I do not need a savior:

when I trust in my own righteousness;  
when I am unwilling to admit my sin;  
when I do not seek the forgiveness offered in the gospel.

Work in me that I would walk humbly before you, that I would trust you,  
that I would receive from you, that I would love you.

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Most merciful God, pride so often swells my heart.

I forget that any beauty or intellect in me is a free grant of Your goodness;  
every faculty of mind and body is an undeserved gift.

Forgive me when I forget that you are the creator and I the creature:

that I am utterly dependent upon You;  
that all I have has been given;  
that apart from You I can do nothing.

Forgive me when I act as if I am my own master:

though you are sovereign, I try to rule myself;  
though you would guide me, I seek to control myself;  
though you would care for me, I do for myself;  
though You would provide for me, I supply myself;  
though I should study, love, honor, and trust you, I serve myself;  
though I should obey You, I find fault and correct your laws to suit myself.

Forgive me when I act as if I do not need a savior:

that I need not admit my sin,  
that I need not repent and turn away from it,  
and live in the freedom that by the death of Christ all is forgiven.

Cause me to see myself in your sight, then pride must wither, decay, die, perish.

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Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess in Your presence, and in the presence of our brothers and sisters, our sinful nature which is prone to wander from Your ways, and our specific offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned: In disobeying Your commandments, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love and in refusing to rest in all that You have done for us.

We ask that You have mercy upon us, for we are ashamed and sorry for every time we have displeased You. For the sake Your Son and our Savior, forgive us. Teach us to hate our sin. Cleanse us from our secret faults. Send Your purifying grace into our hearts, that we may live in Your light and walk in Your ways. May we rest in Your provision. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess in Your presence, and in the presence of our brothers and sisters, our sinful nature which is prone to wander from Your ways, and our specific offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned: In disobeying Your commandments, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love and not loving one another.

We ask that You have mercy upon us, for we are ashamed and sorry for every time we have displeased You. For the sake Your Son and our Savior, forgive us. Teach us to hate our sin. Cleanse us from our secret faults. Send Your purifying grace into our hearts, that we may live in Your light and walk in Your ways. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Most merciful God,  
whose son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way,  
yet without sin.

We confess before you our own sinfulness:  
we know the times when we have turned from your commandments;  
when we have dishonored your name by taking unrighteous paths ,  
when we have sought our own glory and not yours;  
when we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;  
when we have compromised with evil;  
when we have doubted your power to provide for us and protect us.

For the sake of your holy name, forgive our sins;  
restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in  
your ways and delight in doing your will.

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Merciful Father, creator of all that is, our day seems like the time of Noah, when people lived unaware of Your goodness, authority and justice. Sadly, we confess that we often see in ourselves the same apathy for holiness, the same autonomy in attitude, the same presumption on Your patience as then. Forgive us for acting as if Your commandments are not binding and Your judgment is not real. May we not live according to the evil desires that once governed us, but rather enable us to live in reverent fear, knowing that we have been redeemed from that empty way of life, by the precious blood of Christ.

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My faithful God, your Word fails never,  
Your covenant surely will abide;  
Oh cast me not away forever,  
Should I transgress it on my side,  
Though I have oft my soul defiled,  
In love forgive, restore your child.

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Most holy and merciful Father: We acknowledge and confess our sinful nature, prone to evil and slothful in good, and all our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned: In wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have pity on us, O Lord, for we are sorry for every way in which we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our sin; cleanse us from our secret transgressions; forgive our sins for the sake of your Son and our Savior. Grant your purifying grace to us that we may henceforth live in your light and walk in your ways.

Our Father in heaven, you have made us to glorify you; Lord Jesus, through your sacrifice, you have saved us; Holy Spirit you have come to give us life, dwell with us and transform us. Still, I have sinned. I confess that I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and reluctant to admit my need. I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, my poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race, my sullied conscience, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities. I seem blind while the light shines around me. Remove any scales from my eyes; grind to dust any unbelief in my heart. Make it my highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, appeal to you for all that brings you glory.

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O God of Grace,  
Thou has imputed my sin to my substitute,  
and hast imputed his righteousness to my soul,  
clothing me with a bridegroom's robe,  
decking me with jewels of holiness.  
But in my Christian walk I am still in rags;  
My best prayers are stained with sin;  
My penitential tears are so much impurity;  
My confessions of wrong are so many aggravations of sin;  
My receiving the Spirit is tinctured with selfishness.  
I need to repent of my repentance;  
I need my tears to be washed;  
I have no robe to bring to cover my sins,  
No loom to weave my own righteousness  
I am always standing clothed in filthy garments,  
And by grace am always receiving change of raiment,  
For thou dost always justify the ungodly;  
I am always going into the far country,  
And returning home as a prodigal,  
Always saying, Father, forgive me,  
And thou art always bringing forth the best robe.

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O LORD,  
No day of my life has passed that has not revealed my sin  
and proven me guilty in your sight:  
Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart;  
praise has been often praiseless sound;  
my best services are filthy rags.  
Yet, even though my sins rise to heaven, your merits soar above them;  
though unrighteousness casts me down,  
your righteousness exalts me to your throne;  
all things in me call for my rejection; all things in thee plead my acceptance.  
I appeal from the throne of perfect justice to your throne of boundless grace,  
Grant me to hear your voice assuring me;  
that by your stripes I am healed,  
that you were bruised for my iniquities,  
that you have been made sin for me  
that I might be righteous in you,  
that my grievous sins, my manifold sins, are all forgiven,  
buried in the ocean of your concealing blood.  
I was guilty, but now pardoned; lost, but now saved; wandering,  
but now found; sinning, but now cleansed.  
Blessed Jesus, flood me every moment with descending grace,  
that I may live in joy unspeakable. Amen.

(Adapted from "*The Broken Heart*", *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*)

O merciful Father, have compassion upon us, for we are grieved for having sinned against you and one another. We have no refuge save only in your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Forgive us for taking your grace for granted and the cost of our forgiveness so lightly; in so doing we do not despise our sin as we ought and continue in it in thought, word and deed. Forgive us for failing to proclaim the glories of Calvary. Wash us from the stains of our past sins, and give us grace and power to put away all that is evil in your sight; and being delivered from the bondage of our sin, enable us to walk as those clothed in the very righteousness of Christ, in his name we pray. Amen.

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Our hearts are cold. Warm them with your selfless love.  
Our hearts are sinful. Cleanse them with your precious blood.  
Our hearts are weak. Strengthen them with your joyous Spirit.  
Our hearts are empty. Fill them with your divine presence.  
Lord Jesus, our hearts are yours. Possess them always and  
only for yourself.

(St. Augustine, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> c)

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Our Father, we think of all that You have done for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord: You have joined us with Him in His death, that by faith in Him we are freed from sin's penalty. You have joined us with Him in His resurrection, that by faith in Him we are freed from sin's power to live in newness of life. Yet, we confess that we often find ourselves living as if still enslaved to sin, still under sin's guilt and authority. Slow to seek forgiveness, reluctant to receive guidance from your word and strength from your Spirit, we fail to live as those made in your image. Forgive our pride that causes us to trust in ourselves; forgive our selfishness that causes us to look out for ourselves and neglect others; forgive our self-righteousness that causes us to forget our need for you. Restore to us the clear conscience that comes from knowing sins forgiven, the peace that comes from knowing that we belong to you, and the joy that comes from pleasing you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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O Lord our God,  
you know us better than we know ourselves.  
As we come before you now,  
both strong in faith and weak,  
we all share a deep need,  
for we are all lost without your grace.  
Search us, O God, and know our hearts,  
test us and know our troubled thoughts.  
Give us true repentance.  
Forgive us all our sins.  
Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day,  
to learn to serve each other  
and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to come at last to glory.

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Our Father we think of all that You have done for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Joined with him in His death and resurrection, we are freed from sin's penalty and power that we may live in newness of life. Forgive us for still living as those beholden to sin: for immoral thoughts and behaviors, for following impure passions that desire what is evil; for being discontented with what you have given to us. Forgive us for being so self-centered that we become angry at others, perhaps even at You; that we have wanted others to be hurt as we have been hurt; that we have spoken things of others to hurt them; that we have lied. Enable us to put on Christ, that we may be compassionate and kind, humble and meek, patient and forgiving; that He may be honored even as we live.

O Lord our God, we marvel that You should become incarnate, be crucified, dead and buried. Your tomb calls forth our adoring wonder, for it is empty and You are risen. Grant us to know that we have died with You so that we may live a new life, for we long to live as those dead and buried to sin, to selfishness, to the world; that we may no longer respond to the voice of the tempter but be delivered from evil. Purge from us selfishness, the fear of man, the love of praise, the shame of being thought out of step with our culture, the desire to fit in. Cause us to reckon our old life dead because of crucifixion and never feed it again. Grant us to stand with You, Jesus, to be content with rejection if that be Your will, willing to take up unpopular truths, and hold fast to the faith until death. Never let us wander from the path of obedience. Strengthen us for the battles ahead. Give us courage for all the trials and grace for all the joys. Help us to be a holy, joyful people, free from every wrong desire, from everything contrary to Your mind. Grant us more and more of the resurrection life: may it rule us, may we walk in its power, and be strengthened by Your presence in us. Amen.

(Adapted from "*Crucifixion and Resurrection*" in The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions)

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O God, may your Spirit speak in me that I may speak to you.  
I have no merit; let the merit of Jesus stand for me.  
I am underserving, but I look to your tender mercy.  
I am full of wants and sin, but you are full of grace.  
I confess my sin - my frequent sin, my willful sin;  
All my powers of body and soul are defiled.  
A fountain of pollution is deep within my nature.  
Lord, do you have mercy on me?  
You have struck a heavy blow at my pride,  
At the false god of self,  
And I lie in pieces before you.  
But you have given me another Master and Lord,  
Your son, Jesus.  
And now my heart is turned toward holiness,  
Towards complete obedience to you.  
Help me in all my doings to put down sin and to humble my pride.  
Save me from the love of the world and the pride of life,  
From everything that is natural to fallen man,  
And let Christ's nature be seen in me day by day.

(Adapted from "*Heart Corruptions*", The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions)

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Our Father in Heaven, whose Son was given for us,  
we confess that we are unworthy of this inexpressible gift.  
We know that you should guide us, yet we go our own way;  
that you should fulfill us, yet we console ourselves;  
we think your truth too high, your will too hard,  
your power too remote, your love too free.  
Yet they are not, for without them we are of all people most miserable.  
So we pray, 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.

O merciful Father, have compassion upon us, for we are grieved for having sinned against you and one another. We have no refuge save only in your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Forgive us for taking your grace for granted and the cost of our forgiveness so lightly; in so doing we do not despise our sin as we ought and continue in it in thought, word and deed. Forgive us for failing to proclaim the glories of Calvary. Wash us from the stains of our past sins, and give us grace and power to put away all that is evil in your sight; and being delivered from the bondage of our sin, enable us to walk in the paths of righteousness, for the sake of Christ. Amen.

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O Lord our God,  
you know us better than we know ourselves.  
And this You have shown us:  
We all share a deep need,  
for we are all lost without your grace.  
Search us, O God, and know our hearts,  
test us and know our troubled thoughts.  
Give us true repentance.  
Forgive us all our wrongs.  
Transform us by your Spirit, that we may love you and one another,  
that Christ may be magnified in us. Amen.  
O Lord, all knowing, most wise God,  
you have searched me and known me,  
you know the deepest desires of my heart,  
you know my secret loyalties as well as my hesitations,  
my doubts and reservations.  
Most loving Father, have mercy upon us,  
for though you have brought us into the light,  
we have retained a love for darkness.  
Though we know we are to walk in the light  
and love as Christ has loved,  
still we think of our own interests above others.  
Most gracious Lord,  
forgive us our sins, and by the blood of Jesus, cleanse us,  
that we may hereafter walk in the light of Christ.

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O Lord our God,  
you know us better than we know ourselves,  
you search us and know our hearts,  
you test us and know our troubled thoughts.  
We confess to you and to one another that  
we are tempted to love the things of this world more than you;  
its glory, praise, possessions, pleasures.  
Forgive us all our sins.  
Give us true repentance to turn from every false god,  
so that whatever idol we have known,  
we may tear it from your throne and worship you alone.

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O Lord our God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we come before you now, we all share a deep need: we are all lost without your grace. Search us, O God, and know our hearts, test us and know our troubled thoughts. We confess the sins that no one knows, and the sins that everyone knows. We confess the sins that are a burden to us, and the sins that do not bother us because we have grown used to them. Father, forgive us. May the Holy Spirit give us power to fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith, until that day when You call us home.

Our Father, we think of all that You have done for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord: You have joined us with Him in His death, that by faith in Him we are freed from sin's penalty. You have joined us with Him in His resurrection, that by faith in Him we are freed from sin's power to live in newness of life. Even still, we confess that we still find ourselves inclined to live as if we were still enslaved to sin, as if we were still under sin's guilt and authority: We often fail to seek and receive your forgiveness; to seek guidance from Your word and strength from Your Spirit, and live as those made in Your image. Forgive our pride that causes us to trust in ourselves; forgive our selfishness that causes us to look out for ourselves and neglect others, and most grievously, to forget You. Restore to us the clear conscience that comes from knowing sins forgiven, the peace of knowing that You are with us, and the joy that comes from pleasing You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Our God, who has loved us with an everlasting love:

We confess that we have doubted your love when we have not gotten what we wanted, when we have lost that which was precious to us, when we have been hurt by others, when we have had to endure suffering, when we have been lonely, when we have been humbled by the circumstances of life. Forgive us for grumbling and complaining, for envying others, for coveting their lives, for fantasizing our lives away. We repent of such an evil thought, that you do not love us, and look to the cross that through the death of Jesus we may be forgiven and never again doubt your love. Amen.

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Our Father, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. We confess that we have sinned against you. Our affections continually turn from you and our neighbor: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done and for the good we have left undone, so that we may hate our sin with a holy hatred. Order our lives by your Word, and make your commandments the joy of our lives. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that all may know that you are the Lord. Amen.

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Our Father in heaven, we have been entrusted with the gospel: Christ the King has conquered sin and death. This is a great gift to us. Forgive us when we have not guarded this truth, amending it with our own speculations and those of others; when we have not proclaimed it; when we have not believed it; when we have not lived out its implications.

We believe

In the Holy Spirit, but have not lived in the conscious presence of God, dependent on His grace and power;

In the communion of saints, but have not loved one another as we ought;

In the forgiveness of sins, but have lived in guilt and not forgiven others;

In the resurrection of the body, but have feared death.

In the life everlasting, but cling to this life as if it is all there is.

Grant us grace to guard this gospel and live as those who through Christ have been delivered from sin's penalty and power.

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Our Father in Heaven, You are the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, nothing is too hard for you. Forgive us for doubting Your power and living by our own strength. You are the God of steadfast love. Forgive us for living in despair, thinking that You have abandoned us, that our trouble will overtake us. You are just. Forgive us for taking our sin lightly, thinking that it matters not how we live. Your wisdom and purposes are perfect. Forgive us for relying on our own wisdom and complaining of that which You ordain. You have shown Your goodness and faithfulness to us in countless ways. Forgive us for doubting Your good purposes for our lives. Father, You have given Your Son to die for our sins and live to intercede for us. Forgive us forever doubting Your wisdom, power and love. By His blood, in His name, forgive us our sins. Amen.

Leader: Our Father in heaven,  
You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.  
All: Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!  
Leader: Let my plea come before you;  
All: deliver me according to your word.  
Leader: I have gone astray like a lost sheep;  
All: seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.  
Leader: With my whole heart I seek you;  
All: let me not wander from your commandments!  
Leader: I have stored up your word in my heart,  
All: that I might not sin against you.  
Leader: Deal bountifully with your servant,  
All: that I may live and keep your word.  
Leader: Put false ways far from me  
All: and graciously teach me your law!  
Leader: Incline my heart to your testimonies,  
All: and not to selfish gain!  
Leader: Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;  
All: and give me life in your ways.  
Leader: I entreat your favor with all my heart;  
All: be gracious to me according to your promise.  
Leader: May my heart be blameless in your statutes,  
All: that I may not be put to shame!  
Leader: Great is your mercy, O Lord;  
All: give me life according to your laws. Amen.

(Psalm 119: 4,5,170,176,10,11,17,29,36, 37,58,80,156)

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O Lord our God, we marvel that You should become incarnate, be crucified, dead and buried. Your tomb calls forth our adoring wonder, for it is empty and You are risen. Cause us to know that we have died with You that we may live a new life, for we long to live as those dead and buried to sin, to selfishness, to the world; that we may no longer respond to the voice of the tempter, but be delivered from evil. Purge from us selfishness, the fear of man, the love of praise, the shame of being thought out of step with our culture, the desire to fit in. Cause us to reckon our old life dead because of crucifixion and never feed it again. Grant us to stand with You, Jesus, to be content with rejection by others if that be Your will, to be willing to take up unpopular truths, and to hold fast to the faith until death. Never let us wander from the path of obedience to Your will. Strengthen us for the battles ahead. Give us courage for the all the trials and grace for all the joys. Enable us to be a holy, joyful people, free from every wrong desire, from everything contrary to Your mind. Grant us more and more of the resurrection life: May it rule us, may we walk in its power, and be strengthened by Your presence in us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Our sovereign and merciful Father,  
we have sinned and strayed from Your ways,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have transgressed against Your holy commands,  
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.

According to Your promises declared to us in Jesus, the one who died for us, forgive us our sins.

Holy Spirit, come as power to reign supreme in our lives, expelling from us every rebel desire, keeping us forever yours.

Come as teacher and lead us into all truth, filling us with understanding.

Come as love that we may adore God, loving Him as our all.

Come as joy to move in us, filling us with peace .

Come as light to illuminate the Scripture, molding us in its laws.

Come as sanctifier to consecrate us to you, making us wholly yours.

Come as helper to give us strength, directing our steps.

And all this, that your glory may be revealed in and through us.

(Portions adapted from "*Spiritus Sanctus*", The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions)

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Our Father, we think of all that You have done for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. You have joined us with Him so that His death to the penalty of sin was ours, so that we are freed from its penalty and power to live in newness of life. Forgive us for still living as those enslaved to sin, as if we are still under its guilt and authority. Forgive us for failing to seek and receive your forgiveness; for failing to seek guidance from Your word and strength from Your Spirit to live as those made in Your image. Forgive our pride and selfishness that cause us to trust in ourselves, to look out for ourselves and neglect others, and most grievously, to forget You. Restore to us the clear conscience that comes from knowing sins forgiven, the peace of knowing that You are with us, and the joy that comes from pleasing You, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O my Savior, help me. I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and reluctant to admit my need. I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, my poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race, my sullied conscience, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities. I seem blind while the light shines around me. Take the scales from my eyes; grind to dust my heart of unbelief. Make it my highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, sit like Mary at your feet, lean like John on your breast, appeal like Peter to your love, count like Paul all things loss save knowing Christ. Enable me to know Your goodness. I believe, help my unbelief. Amen.

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Our Father in heaven, though you are trustworthy in every respect, we confess that at times we have doubted that you are. Our doubt is expressed in our complaining, even our impatience with you. Forgive us. We know that we are to worship you only, yet upon reflection we see that we have followed our own wisdom and ways and that of others as well, often ignoring or even despising yours. Forgive us. We know that we are not to test you, but rather to take you at your word, to be content in you. Yet, whether we say it or not, we think, "if God really loves me he will do this for me," and if we do not receive it, we are disappointed in you and turn away. Forgive us. Hear our prayer, for we trust wholly on the righteousness of Christ and his death for us. Amen.

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O my Savior, forgive my sin.

I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and reluctant to admit my need.

I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, my poverty of love,  
my sloth in the heavenly race, my sullied conscience, my wasted hours,  
my unspent opportunities. I seem blind while the light shines around me.

Take the scales from my eyes; grind to dust my heart of unbelief.

Make it my highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you,  
count all things loss save knowing Christ. Amen.

O God of Grace,  
Thou hast imputed my sin to my substitute, and hast imputed his righteousness to my soul.  
But in my Christian walk I am still in rags;  
My best prayers are stained with sin;  
My penitential tears are so much impurity;  
My confessions of wrong are so many aggravation of sin;  
My receiving the Spirit is stained with selfishness.  
I need to repent of my repentance;  
I need my tears to be washed;  
I have no robe to bring to cover my sins, no loom to weave my own righteousness;  
I am always standing clothed in filthy garments, and by grace am always receiving change of raiment, for  
thou dost always justify the ungodly;  
I am always going into the far country, and always saying, Father, forgive me, and thou art always  
bringing forth the best robe.  
Every morning let me wear it, every evening return in it, go out to the day's work in it, be married in it,  
stand before the great white throne in it, enter heaven in it shining as the sun.  
Grant me never to lose sight of  
The exceeding sinfulness of sin,  
The exceeding righteousness of salvation  
The exceeding glory of Christ,  
The exceeding beauty of holiness,  
The exceeding wonder of grace.

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Our Father, we have not walked in a way that brings You glory. We have been prone to wander and pray that by Your grace we may be restored. We have been prideful, harsh with others, quick to anger, quick to condemn others for their weaknesses; we are prone to go our own way. We have spent our time pursuing and perfecting the ways of the world, and improving our stature among men. We have followed the latest thing without thought. We have sought to enhance our image. We have spoken to others unwisely, let our thoughts turn to bitterness and listened to the lies of the deceiver. We have not used our words to build up but rather to bring down. And as we have done these things we have not looked to You, but have rationalized our thoughts and actions. Father, forgive us, for we have missed Your mark; we confess we have sinned. Have mercy on us and build us up together for Your glory. Amen

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Our God, who has loved us with an everlasting love: We confess that we have doubted your love when we have not gotten what we wanted, when we have lost that which was precious to us, when we have been hurt by others, when we have had to endure suffering, when we have been lonely, when we have been humbled by the circumstances of life. Forgive us for grumbling and complaining, for envying others, for coveting their lives, for fantasizing our lives away. We repent of such an evil thought, that you do not love us, and look to the cross that through the death of Jesus we may be forgiven and never again doubt your love. Amen.

O LORD,  
 No day of my life has passed that has not revealed my sin  
 and proven me guilty in your sight.  
 Prayers have been often uttered from a prayerless heart;  
 Praise has been often praiseless sound;  
 My best services are filthy rages.  
 Though my sins rise to heaven, your merits soar above them;  
 Though unrighteousness casts me down;  
 Your righteousness exalts me to your throne.  
 All things in me call for my rejection,  
 All things in thee plead my acceptance.  
 I appeal from the throne of perfect justice  
 to your throne of boundless grace,  
 Grant me to hear your voice assuring me;  
 that by your stripes I am healed,  
 that you were bruised for my iniquities,  
 that you have been made sin for me,  
 that I might be righteous in you,  
 that my manifold and grievous sins are all forgiven,  
 buried in the ocean of your concealing blood.  
 I have been guilty, but pardoned,  
 lost, but saved,  
 wandering, but found,  
 sinning, but cleansed.  
 Blessed Jesus, keep me always clinging to your cross,  
 hide me in your appeasing wounds,  
 flood me every moment with descending grace. Amen.

(Adapted from "*The Broken Heart*", The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions)

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O God of Grace,  
 Thou has imputed my sin to my substitute,  
 and hast imputed his righteousness to my soul,  
 But in my Christian walk I am still in rags;  
 My best prayers are stained with sin;  
 My penitential tears are so much impurity;  
 My confessions of wrong are so many aggravations of sin;  
 My receiving the Spirit is infused with selfishness.  
 I need to repent of my repentance;  
 I need my tears to be washed;  
 I have no robe to bring to cover my sins,  
 No loom to weave my own righteousness  
 I am always standing clothed in filthy garments,  
 And by grace am always receiving change of raiment,  
 For thou dost always justify the ungodly;  
 I am always going into the far country,  
 And returning home as a prodigal,  
 Always saying, Father, forgive me,  
 And thou art always bringing forth the best robe.  
 Grant me never to lose sight of  
 The exceeding sinfulness of sin,  
 The exceeding righteousness of salvation,  
 The exceeding glory of Christ,  
 The exceeding beauty of holiness,  
 The exceeding wonder of grace.

(From The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions)

Most holy and merciful Father: You read our hearts; You view our principles and motives; You know each of us even more than we ourselves. Yet, we know too that we have failed to glorify You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. You have given us eternal life in Jesus, and yet we live as if it is not so: We live in guilt rather than as those forgiven. We worry rather than living in the security of knowing that we belong to you. We pursue that which we should flee – our evil desires and sinful inclinations; and we neglect what we ought to pursue -- righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness. Have mercy on us, Lord, and for the sake of Christ, forgive us our sins.

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Most holy God, most gracious Father,  
incline your ear to our troubles,  
hear us as we pour out our sorrow to you.  
We know that in all that we do, we are to serve you,  
that no one can serve two masters.  
We confess that we have too often  
preferred the ways of this world to your ways,  
neglecting your word for the word of others,  
rejecting your praise for the praise of men.  
We know that we are to be fervent in spirit, zealous for good works.  
We confess that we can be indifferent to the leading of Your Spirit,  
and reluctant to obey.  
We know that you have given us gifts to serve one another in love.  
We confess that we have often wasted our gifts,  
seeking our own interests rather than loving one another.  
Forgive us our sins.  
Cause us to grow in grace so that there is more  
resolve in our character, constancy in our zeal, love for our neighbor.

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Merciful Father, for the sake of Christ, forgive my sins.  
Forgive the sins that I remember,  
and the sins I have forgotten.  
Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation,  
and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.  
Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements  
and those when I have failed to boast in your works.  
Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others,  
and the leniency I have shown myself.  
Forgive the lies I have told to others,  
and the truths I have avoided.  
Forgive the pain I have caused others  
and the indulgence I have shown myself.  
Holy Spirit, work in me compassion, kindness, humility, meekness,  
patience, goodness, faithfulness and self-control.  
Holy Father, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen.

Most holy God, most gracious Father,  
Incline your ear to our troubles,  
Hear us as we pour out our sorrow to you.  
We know that we are to serve you in all we do;  
That no one can serve two masters.  
We confess that we have too often preferred the ways of this world to your ways,  
Neglecting your word for the word of others;  
Rejecting your praise for the praise of men.  
We know that we are to be fervent in spirit, zealous for good works.  
We confess that we have often been indifferent to the leading of Your Spirit, and slothful in holiness.  
You have called us to serve one another in love and sincerity of heart.  
We confess that we have often served when convenient and to our advantage.  
Forgive us our sins we pray; not because of our righteousness,  
but because of Your great mercy through the gift of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

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There are many times we think we love you well, O God. But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart, and all our mind, and all our strength, we confess that our love for you is a diluted love, made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart. Our love seems pure only for brief moments; soon our affections are drawn away. How easily our devotion dies. Forgive us; in deep mercy spare us, despite our lost first love for you; in grace rekindle our love for you in seeing anew Jesus' love for us.

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We confess that rather than coming to confess our sin and find joy and forgiveness in the cross, we often run and hide in shame. You have given us your most cherished treasure, yet we prize other things more highly than Christ. Each day we live with hearts full of our own desires, minds full of our own agendas, and plans for our own self-promotion. Forgive us for trusting in our own wisdom and strength more than in Christ's power to save us and others completely. Amen.

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We confess, our Father that we too often fail to reflect your image in us.  
We seem more ready to resent than to forgive,  
more ready to sit than to serve,  
more ready to look than to love,  
more ready to keep our distance than to welcome,  
more ready to criticize than to help.  
Forgive us for not loving and serving one another as we ought.  
Thank you Lord Jesus for serving us in every way,  
even giving your life as a ransom that we might be freed from our sins  
and welcomed into your kingdom.