

A Liturgy Resource from Warhorn Media

Warhorn Media

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Contents

Liturgy	5
1 Opening Sentences	7
2 Calls to Worship	9
From the Pastor	9
Responsive Calls	11
3 Prayers	17
3.1 Invocations	17
3.2 For Illumination	18
3.3 Litanies	18
3.4 After Creed	19
3.5 Communion	19
4 Confessions of Sin	21
4.1 Scriptural	21
4.2 Traditional	23
4.3 Modern	24
5 Final Words	27

Liturgy

This site is a resource for planning worship services, providing lists of various elements as a quick reference. v2

The word “liturgy” can sound intimidating, but it is merely a composite Greek word meaning public work or duty. In Christian use, liturgy refers to the public service of God’s people. Thus, it consists of whatever actions we perform together to express our devotion to the Lord.

Under the Old Covenant, God had prescribed a gracious but elaborate service of animal sacrifices and votive offerings to be practiced in a restricted location (the tabernacle initially, later the temple in Jerusalem), through the mediation of the Levitical priesthood. Though these ancient ceremonies were fulfilled and done away with in the death of Christ, yet God has prescribed for the New Testament Church a liturgy of her own, albeit a far simpler and less restrictive one. This New Covenant liturgy is delineated in Acts 2:42, where we read that the first Christians were “continually devoting themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” These are the basic categories of public worship subsequent to the coming of Christ and the pouring out of His Spirit at Pentecost.

While there are perhaps various ways of faithfully giving expression to these simple Apostolic devotions, the Protestant Church has historically seen fit to make use of the elements found in the menu bar. (Note: song is a subcategory of prayer, dealt with here.) Under each category you will find examples from Scripture and history to assist you in preparing to lead God’s people in their spiritual service of worship.

Chapter 1

Opening Sentences

Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

— Psalm 124:8

The LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him. | Habakkuk 2:20

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- This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it. | Psalm 118:24
 - I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” | Psalm 122:1
 - God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. | John 4:24
 - Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. | Psalm 19:15

Chapter 2

Calls to Worship

From the Pastor

Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning. | Psalm 30:4-5

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the Lord; The humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together. | Psalm 34:1-3

Your lovingkindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like a great deep. O Lord, You preserve man and beast. How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. | Psalm 36:5-9

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations. | Psalm 100

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad. Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually. Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth, O seed of Abraham, His servant, O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones! He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. | Psalm 105:1-7

Praise the Lord, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples! For His lovingkindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord is everlasting. Praise the Lord! | Psalm 117

I long for Your salvation, O LORD, And Your law is my delight. Let my soul live that it may praise You, And let Your ordinances help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments. | Psalm 119:174-176

Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. | Isaiah 12:2

Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you. | Isaiah 55:1-3

Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. | Micah 4:2

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. | Romans 11:33-36

“Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.” |
Ephesians 5:14

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. | James 4:8-10

God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time. | 1 Peter 5:5-6

Responsive Calls

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

Congregation: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

Pastor: Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

Congregation: Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

1 Chronicles 29:10b-13 |

Pastor: O Lord, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. Many are saying of my soul, “There is no deliverance for him in God.”

Congregation: But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head.

Pastor: I was crying to the Lord with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustains me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me round about.

All: Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be upon Your people!

Psalm 3 |

Pastor: The law of the LORD is perfect,

Congregation: restoring the soul.

Pastor: The testimony of the LORD is sure,

Congregation: making wise the simple.

Pastor: The precepts of the LORD are right,

Congregation: rejoicing the heart.

Pastor: The commandment of the LORD is pure,

Congregation: enlightening the eyes.

Pastor: The fear of the LORD is clean,

Congregation: enduring forever.

Pastor: The judgments of the LORD are true;

Congregation: they are righteous altogether.

All: They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7-11 |

Pastor: Let us remember the deeds of the LORD; and His wonders of old.

Congregation: Many, O LORD, are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If we would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.

Pastor: Your way, O God, is holy; What god is great like our God?

Congregation: You are the God who works wonders; You have made known Your strength among the peoples.

Psalm 40:5; 77:11, 13-14 |

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples, And sound His praise abroad, Who keeps us in life and does not allow our feet to slip.

Congregation: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Psalm 66:8-9; 103:1 |

Pastor: Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Congregation: For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Pastor: Today, if you would hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.

Psalm 96:6-8 |

Pastor: Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.

Congregation: Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

All: For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

Psalm 96:1-4 |

Pastor: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad.

People: Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

Pastor: Fire goes before Him and burns up His adversaries round about. His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw and trembled.

People: The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

Pastor: The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples have seen His glory.

People: Let all those be ashamed who serve graven images, Who boast themselves of idols; Worship Him, all you gods.

Pastor: Zion heard this and was glad, and the daughters of Judah have rejoiced Because of Your judgments, O LORD.

People: For You are the LORD Most High over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

Pastor: Hate evil, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

People: Light is sown like seed for the righteous And gladness for the upright in heart.

Pastor: Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones, And give thanks to His holy name.

Psalm 97 |

Pastor: Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.

People: Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

People: For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100 |

Pastor: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly.

Congregation: Great are the works of the LORD; They are studied by all who delight in them.

Pastor: Splendid and majestic is His work, And His righteousness endures forever.

Congregation: He has made His wonders to be remembered; The LORD is gracious and compassionate. He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever.

Pastor: He has made known to His people the power of His works, In giving them the heritage of the nations.

Congregation: The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure. They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness.

Pastor: He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name.

All: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.

Psalm 111:1-10 |

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, Praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and forever.

Congregation: From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

Psalm 113:1-3 |

Pastor: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, In the city of our God, His holy mountain.

Congregation: Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths.

Psalm 48:1; Micah 4:2 |

Pastor: As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the road, begging. Now hearing a multitude going by, he began to inquire what this might be. And they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out, saying...

Congregation: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Pastor: And those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more...

Congregation: "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Pastor: And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he had come near, He questioned him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said...

Congregation: "Lord, I want to regain my sight!"

Pastor: And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he regained his sight, and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.

Luke 18:35-43 |

Chapter 3

Prayers

This section is still a work in progress, but please check out the prayer categories to the left for help in your worship planning.

3.1 Invocations

Merciful Father,

We come into Your presence now to praise Your holy name; To humble ourselves before Your heavenly throne and bring our sacrifices of praise before You. We ask that you would break us of our prideful, lofty thoughts and that You would rid us of all self-righteousness as we meet with You—the Holy God—at this hour. Cause us to give ourselves to Your attention and not to our own.

Would you please work in our hearts by Your Holy Spirit and would you do a mighty work this morning as we sing, read, and hear Your Word? Would you convict us of our sin and cause us to have true faith and repentance so that when we go out from this place we would be renewed in Your grace?

Father, we ask that the words we say and the thoughts of our hearts would be acceptable in Your sight—You who are our Rock and our Redeemer. In the name of Your dear son Jesus we pray. Amen.

Philip J. Moyer

Heavenly Father,

We are gathered here in Your presence to worship Your holy name.

You know our frame. You know our hearts. You know that we are but dust and that we have nothing to offer you, but to humble ourselves before Your awesome throne.

Father, by Your Holy Spirit, through the blood of Your Son Jesus Christ, would you put a right spirit within us this morning as bring our sacrifices of praise to You? You have said in Your word that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. And we call upon Your name this morning—believing—having confidence that you will be faithful to Your word. Have mercy on us, we pray. And may you receive all honor and glory now and forever.

Amen.

Philip J. Moyer

{For use during services when the Lord's Supper will be served}

Heavenly Father, Maker of heaven and earth,

You are our only help and we can do nothing apart from your grace. Would you please condescend to us this morning? Please be kind to meet with us and show Yourself all-glorious. Please be with the singing, the reading, the preaching of Your word, and be with us as we give offerings to you. Strengthen us by Your meal as we celebrate the Lord's Supper together and increase our faith in You this morning.

Lord, give us your Spirit so that we may worship you aright. Look on us with favor as we give You the glory that is due Your name. Please take our filthy rags, our humble sacrifices of praise, and make them pure and beautiful in Your sight. May You receive all the glory this morning as we worship You.

In the name of Your dear Son, Jesus we pray. Amen.

Philip J. Moyer

3.2 For Illumination

Empty

3.3 Litanies

Empty

3.4 After Creed

Heavenly Father, We have just confessed our faith in You and the path that You have made for us unto salvation through Jesus Christ. Father, we pray that You would make us not only confessors by mouth, but make our hearts and our actions to agree with these truths we have just confessed corporately.

Now, we pray, heavenly Father, that You would strengthen us through the reading and preaching of Your word. Open our ears to hear Your word and give us soft, humble hearts that are ready to receive Your instruction. And may Your Holy Spirit fall upon our pastor with great power as he preaches to us this morning. To you be all honor and glory and power forever. Amen.

Philip J. Moyer

3.5 Communion

Father God, we give you praise that your Son, Jesus Christ, was obedient to death, even death on the cross; and we confess that, therefore, He is highly exalted and is given a name that is above every name; that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow and every tongue confess, 'He is Lord,' to the glory of God the Father.

Father, meet us at this table. Would you please send your Spirit to strengthen the weak, to give faith to the doubting, to give forgiveness to the bitter, to give purity to the lustful, to give charity to the greedy? Father, give us whatever we need, that through this Body and Blood—broken and shed for us—we might go forth from this place cleansed through your grace.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

—Rev. Timothy B. Bayly

Chapter 4

Confessions of Sin

Transported by a vision into the throne room of God, the prophet Isaiah was compelled by the heavenly sight to cry out, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts” (Isaiah 6:5).

Confession of sin should likewise be our first and most natural response when coming before our holy God in worship. The Scriptures teach that “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.” Moreover, we are assured that “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1John 1:8-9). To confess our sins corporately to God, therefore, is to demonstrate faith in His willingness to forgive, and—when followed by an assurance of God’s pardon—to experience His glorious Gospel at work in our midst.

Here are some prayers of confession from Scripture and history to help guide you in the work of confession.

4.1 Scriptural

O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to You, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads and our guilt has grown even to the heavens. Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been in great guilt, and on account of our iniquities we, our kings and our priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity and to plunder and to open shame, as it is this day. But now for a brief moment grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage. For we are slaves; yet in our bondage our God has not forsaken us, but has extended lovingkindness to us in the sight

of the kings of Persia, to give us reviving to raise up the house of our God, to restore its ruins and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem. Now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments, which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, ‘The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from end to end and with their impurity. So now do not give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters to your sons, and never seek their peace or their prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and leave it as an inheritance to your sons forever.’ After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and our great guilt, since You our God have requited us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us an escaped remnant as this, shall we again break Your commandments and intermarry with the peoples who commit these abominations? Would You not be angry with us to the point of destruction, until there is no remnant nor any who escape? O LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we have been left an escaped remnant, as it is this day; behold, we are before You in our guilt, for no one can stand before You because of this. | Ezra 9:6-15

Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land. Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You. Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him. Thus He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what was done to Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth. Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice. And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and

have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked. O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us. So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name. | Daniel 9:4-19

4.2 Traditional

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, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who 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.

1549 Book of Common Prayer

Lord God, eternal and almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate 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 fruits of holiness and of righteousness pleasing in your sight: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from John Calvin's Geneva Liturgy of 1543

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, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable 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.

Adapted from John Knox's Liturgy of 1560

4.3 Modern

Heavenly Father,

It is our privilege to confess our sins before You because You have promised in Your Word that if we confess our sins, You are faithful to cleanse us from all unrighteousness through the blood of Jesus Christ, and that we will receive the promise of eternal life.

Father, we have sinned, and we ask that you would please forgive us for how we have broken Your perfect and Holy Law. Forgive us for running away from You and turning our backs on You.

Like sheep we have gone astray and have turned to our own ways. We have turned to our own earthly desires—to our own flesh, and in doing so we have turned to strange flesh. We have turned to other gods and we have sinned against You. We have done unlawful things in Your sight. Father, please forgive us and renew us in Your grace.

We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Philip J. Moyer

Heavenly Father, Merciful Father,

We come before you now as a people who are heavy with sin. Our sins weigh us down and we are unable to help ourselves. We confess that we have not turned to You in our distress. We have not called upon Your name in times of trouble, but rather in our wickedness we have sought to drive you away because of our shame. We have deceived ourselves seeking to be rescued by pleasures

and entertainments rather than coming before You, the holy God, to cry to You for help and to have our prayers answered.

We have sinned thinking that we can fix ourselves. We are guilty of clinging to the very sins for which Your Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross. Forgive us for our pride and for not bringing our burdens to You, thinking that they are not too heavy for us to bear.

Father we cannot bear the awful load of our sin. So please, heavenly Father, by the blood of Your Son Jesus Christ, remove from us this burden and save us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and renew a right spirit within us.

Father, You are our only Helper; our only Redeemer; the only One who can save.

Lord, hear our prayers and deliver us this day so that we would no longer be slaves to sin, but that we would be set free to dwell in Your peaceful Kingdom.

We ask in the powerful Name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Philip J. Moyer

Prayer of Confession for Pentecost

{After singing Come, Thou Almighty King}

Gracious Heavenly Father,

We know that You have promised Your Holy Spirit to all who trust in You. We have just asked the Holy Spirit to rule in each of our hearts and to never depart from us. Yet, we confess that we have sinned in many ways against You and Your Spirit, and have behaved as if He does not live in our hearts.

When you have healed us from sickness, we have attributed our healing to earthly things and we have not acknowledged You for the miracles You have done.

When you have given us gifts, we have refused to be content or thankful for your mercies to us and have instead envied your gifts to others.

We are an ungrateful people.

When you have touched our lips with your Holy Spirit, we have shut our mouths so that we would not have to bear the reproach of the words that we would say.

When you have spoken to us, we have shut our ears, afraid of what You might call us to do. You have given us Your Word, yet we have refused to walk in it. We have persisted in willful sin and have not repented.

We are a disobedient people.

In these ways, and many others, we have sinned against Your Holy Spirit and we ask that You would please forgive us, O heavenly Father, for how we have quenched Your Holy Spirit.

We pray that you would restore to us the joy of Your salvation and renew a right spirit within us. We repent of our sin. And we, as Your covenant people, trust in the promises You have made to us—having faith in Christ's provision and believing the power of the Holy Spirit to heal us and give us the ability to obey.

Renew our hearts, we pray.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Philip J. Moyer

Chapter 5

Final Words

We have finished a nice book.