

Prayer of the People: (continued)

**People: Thy kingdom come.**

Leader: Father, we pray that Satan’s kingdom may be destroyed and that your kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it, and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened. Lord, hear our prayer.

**People: Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

Leader: God, we pray that you, by your grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to your will in all things, as the angels do in heaven. Lord, hear our prayer.

**People: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: Holy One, we pray that of your free gift we may receive a sufficient portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy your blessing with them. Lord, hear our prayer.

**People: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

Leader: God, we pray that you, because of Christ’s work, would freely pardon all our sins— and we are encouraged to ask this because by your grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others. Lord, hear our prayer.

**People: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Leader: Father, we pray that you would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted. Lord, hear our prayer.

**People: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

Leader: We take our encouragement in prayer from you only, and in our prayers we praise you, ascribing power, and glory to you alone. And to testify our desire and assurance to be heard, we all say together,

**People: Amen.**

Benediction: [based on Ephesians 3:20-2]

Benediction Response: “Take, O Take Me As I Am”

Take, o take me as I am  
Summon out what I shall be  
Set Your seal upon my heart  
And live in me

Postlude

**Preparing for God’s Word**

Prelude

Call to Worship: [based on 96:1-2]

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song;

**People: Let us sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

**People: Let us sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Hymn of Praise: “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me  
in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been granted in  
what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him! All that  
hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him;  
let the amen sound from His people again, gladly for aye we  
adore Him.

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

[Loosely based Matthew 28:25-31]

Leader: Gracious God, it is scary to consider what would happen if you paid us back in full for all the wrong we have done. Lord, we seek your mercy... yet so often we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. It is so much easier to think of “what is fair” and “what is right” when we are looking at others failings and not our own.

**People: Lord, forgive us our debts.**

Leader: God, the forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend, yet so often we still withhold forgiveness and carry grudges over petty items.

**People: Lord, forgive us our debts.**

*(continue)*

(continued )

### Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

[Loosely based Matthew 28:25-31]

Leader: Too often we are eager to do your judging for you. We try to secure your forgiveness while avoiding repentance.

**People: Lord, forgive us our debts.**

Leader: Forgive us Father for the sins of our hearts. Save us from the sins we hide.

*(silent prayer of personally confession)*

Leader: And God's people said,

**People: Amen.**

Leader: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and has not dealt with us according to our sins. Instead, God has chosen the sacrifice of God's own son on our account. It is because Jesus Christ pays the full measure that our sins are forgiven. This gift of forgiveness makes us able, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God. In Christ we are forgiven. Praise God.

### Hymn of Preparation: "God, How Can We Forgive"

God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?

How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?

When human loving fails and every hope is gone,

Your love give strength beyond our own to face the dawn.

When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,

How can You still release our guilt, the debt we owe?

The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs

A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,

When You, while knowing all our past, forgive again?

No more we play the judge, for by Your grace we live.

As You, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

## **Hearing God's Word**

### Children's Message

### Prayer of Illumination

### New Testament Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

### Sermon

"Matthew & Forgiveness... It's Not About You"

## **Responding to God's Word**

### Hymn of Response: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Make me a channel of Your peace

Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love

Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord

And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Make me a channel of Your peace

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope

Where there is darkness, only light

And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned

In giving of ourselves that we receive

And in dying that we're born to eternal life

### Offering

### Prayer of the People: [Based on the Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A's 100-107]

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer.

**People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

Leader: Lord, we draw near to you with all holy reverence and confidence, coming as children to a father who is able and ready to help us as we pray together and for others. Enable us and others to glorify you in all that we do as we live and work in your creation. We are so thankful that your creation displays your power and mercy. Lord, hear our prayer.

*(continue)*