

P A S T O R A L

# Care Rites and Prayers



## Pastoral Care Companion

### Visitation Prayers

#### › Anger, Bitterness, Self-Pity, Turmoil

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*LSB Altar Book*, p. 623)

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*LSB Altar Book*, p. 639)

Lord, Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*LSB Altar Book*, p. 825)

#### › Anxiety, Apprehension, Fear

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*LSB Altar Book*, p. 589)

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*LSB Altar Book*, p. 630)

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness

and mercy; through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*LSB Altar Book*, p. 631)

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*LSB Altar Book*, p. 818)

## Resources — Home and Family

### › Abuse

Empathy, compassion, and patience will characterize the pastor's approach in dealing with the physical, emotional, and spiritual damage that may be present in victims of abuse. Because the effects of abuse often linger, the pastor will recognize the need for ongoing care marked by patient use of the gospel to heal, to release from bondage to anger, shame, and fear, and to restore to a life of faith and love.

The pastor may want to suggest that the emotional scars from abuse may well require the assistance of other professional help as well.

## Psalmody

Psalm 13

Will You forget me forever?

- 1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?  
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
- 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.
- 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
- 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to the Lord,  
Because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalm 31:1-4, 9, 15-16 My soul and body are in grief

1 In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
in your righteousness, deliver me!

2 Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

3 For you are my rock and my fortress;

and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

4 you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,

for you are my refuge.

9 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;

my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.

15 My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my  
persecutors!

16 Make your face shine on your servant;

save me in your steadfast love!

#### ADDITIONAL PSALMODY

Psalm 6:4-10 The Lord has heard my plea

Psalm 70 O Lord, make hast to help me!

Psalm 71:1-6, 12 You have given the command to save me

Psalm 91 I will be with you in trouble

Psalm 140: 1-4, 12-13 Deliver me from evil and violent men

## Readings

**Romans 8:26-30, 37-39**

*Nothing shall separate us*

<sup>26</sup> The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Hebrews 4:14-16** *Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses*

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

#### ADDITIONAL READINGS

Lam. 3:22-26 *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases*

John 16:33 *Christ has overcome the world*

1 Peter 2:19-24 *Christ also suffered for you*

1 Peter 5:6-7 *Cast all your anxieties on Him*

## Prayers

Lord God, You promise to help and comfort those who call upon You in the day of trouble. Grant to name Your deliverance in Christ Jesus that by the power of Your Holy Spirit he/she may not be overcome in adversity but be strengthened to live confidently in Your love and peace. Make him/her to know that in all things You work for the good of those who love You and that nothing can separate him/her from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (829)

### For the physically abused

Father in heaven, look with tenderness on name, who has been physically abused. Extend Your healing hand that he/she may be made whole. Remove the damage he/she has suffered in mind, heart, and spirit. By the guidance of Your Spirit, lead him/her to trust in Your steadfast mercy that he/she may live at peace with everyone; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (830)

### For the sexually abused

Merciful Father, the physical and emotional pain caused by the sin against name's body is deep and severe. You know what he/she has experienced and what is needed for healing, and You alone can provide it. Through Your promises to name in Holy Baptism, cleanse him/her from his/her shame, and make all things new, that he/she may be strengthened to live a fulfilling life in You; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (831)

## Hymns

### **Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing** *LSB 421*

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me  
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,  
Granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet  
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
For Your all-atoning passion  
Has procured my soul's salvation. (st. 4)

### **Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior** *LSB 640*

Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God:  
Cleanse us, unclean, with Thy most cleansing blood;  
Increase our faith and love, that we may know  
The hope and peace which from Thy presence flow. (st. 4)

#### ADDITIONAL HYMNS

**All for Christ I Have Forsaken** *LSB 753*

**Christ, the Life of All the Living** *LSB 420:5*

**Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus** *LSB 529:2*

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# Visitation

## Visitation Orders

### › Visiting the Sick and Distressed

As he enters the house or room, the pastor speaks this greeting:

Peace be to this house (place).

Luke 10:5

**Amen.**

*The pastor may read an appropriate portion of Holy Scripture according to the circumstance. He will then instruct the person patiently to trust God's holy will, confident that, according to His gracious promise, in all things He works for the good of those who love Him. The pastor may also sing an appropriate hymn.*

*The confession of sins may follow one of the forms below. In the case of individual confession, the pastor assures the confidentiality of the confession by requesting others present to leave the room or by taking other appropriate measures.*

#### General Confession

**O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

OR

#### Individual Confession

**Pastor, please hear my confession and pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will.**

Proceed.

**I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.**

**What troubles me particularly is that . . .**

*The penitent confesses whatever he has done against the commandments of God, according to his place in life. Then he concludes by saying:*

**I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.**

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**Yes.**

#### Question Form

Do you confess to almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner?

**Yes.**

Do you confess to our merciful Father that you have sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed?

**Yes.**

Do you confess that you justly deserve His temporal and eternal punishment?

**Yes.**

Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

**Yes.**

Do you pray God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of His beloved Son, to be gracious and merciful to you?

**Yes.**

Finally, do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**Yes.**

Let it be done for you as you believe.

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the penitent and says:*

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*When individual Confession and Absolution is concluded, the pastor invites the family and loved ones to return.*

*When a sick person is to be anointed with oil, the following passage from Holy Scripture is read:*

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders<sup>1</sup> of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person has great power. *James 5:14-16*

Name, you have confessed your sins and received Holy Absolution. In remembrance of the grace of God given by the Holy Spirit in the waters of Holy Baptism, I will anoint you with oil. Confident in our Lord and in love for you, we also pray for you that you will not lose faith. Know that in godly patience the Church endures with you and supports you during this affliction. We firmly believe that this illness is for the glory of God and that the Lord will both hear our prayer and work according to His good and gracious will. [*John 11:4*]

*Using his right thumb, the pastor anoints the sick person on the forehead while saying:*

Almighty God, the Father of our lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

**Amen.**

The pastor leads those gathered in the following prayers.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be Thy name,**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;**

**give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

*The pastor and those gathered pray the Prayer Sentences (Preces). Circumstances may require that the pastor read them by himself.*

O Lord, save your servant name,

**who trusts in you.**

*Psalm 86:2*

Send him/her help from the sanctuary

**and strength from Your holy dwelling.**

*Psalm 20:2*

Look upon his/her affliction and pain,

**and forgive all his/her sins.**

*Psalm 25:18*

O Lord, hear our prayer,

**and let our cry come to You.**

*Psalm 39:12*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

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<sup>1</sup>The Greek word for “elders,” presbyteroi, in the reading from James refers to pastors and not lay elders.

Let us pray.

O Lord, look down from heaven; behold, visit, and relieve Your servant name, for whom we pray. Look upon him/her with the eyes of Your mercy, and give him/her comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend him/her from every danger to body and soul, and keep him/her in peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (518)

**Amen.**

*If the Lord's Supper is not to be received, the service concludes with the Blessing on page 255.*

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call upon You in faith. Give strength and confidence to Your servant name in his/her time of affliction. Grant that he/she may know that You are near, and that underneath him/her are Your everlasting arms. Grant that he/she, resting on Your protection, may fear no evil, for You are with him/her to comfort and deliver him/her; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (519)

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

It is appropriate that the pastor receive the body and blood of the Lord with the sick or distressed person, together with those present who have previously been admitted to the Lord's Table. During the Distribution, the pastor says:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

*After all have communed, the pastor says:*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

**Amen.**

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (403)

**Amen.**

*The pastor speaks one of the following blessings:*

God our Father grant you His wholeness and peace so that you may remain constant in faith and call upon His holy name. The Lord Jesus Christ grant you the joy of His countenance and a new, steadfast spirit. The Holy Spirit generously pour upon you His mercy and grace that He would fill you inwardly and outwardly, surround you, and be with you always. The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be and remain with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

The Lord bless you and  
keep you.

The Lord make His face  
shine upon you and be  
gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance  
upon you and † give you peace.

**Amen.** *Numbers 6:24-26*

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