

On Matt. 10.1-4  
Mark 3.13-19  
Luke 6.12-16

Jesus, Messiah,  
you transform our lives by your presence.  
You called the unstable, impetuous Simon to become Peter, the Rock.  
You made James and John, the fiery Thunderers,  
    into the first apostle to die for you  
    and the apostle of love.  
You made Matthew, the tax collector, a deliverer of your generous good news.  
You made Simon, the patriot and nationalist freedom fighter,  
    into one of the ministers of your reconciliation and liberation for all humankind.  
You called ordinary people  
    to an extraordinary life of trust and love in witness to you.  
You called weak people to overthrow the power of evil by your Spirit.  
Transform us too:  
    make us stable,  
        enduring,  
        loving,  
        generous,  
        reconciling and liberating people,  
        empowered to witness to you  
        and to overcome evil by the power of your goodness,  
            in the might of your Holy Spirit,  
            to the glory of God the Father.  
                                Amen.

On Matt. 10.1-4  
Mark 3.13-19  
Luke 6.12-16

Jesus, our faithful friend,  
you chose twelve apostles, but one of them was a traitor.  
Preserve and deliver us from ingratitude and hardness of heart,  
                                selfishness and lack of trust,  
and keep us loyal to you,  
    that we may remain with you,  
    be your witnesses and your friends to the end of our lives on this present earth,  
    and rejoice with you for ever in your Father's kingdom.  
                                Amen.

On Matt. 10 : 1-4  
Mark 3 : 13-19  
( Luke 6 : 12-16 )

Lord Jesus,  
you chose the twelve and gave to all of them power to heal and cast out evil spirits,  
yet one of them betrayed you.  
May we not rely on our spiritual gifts or our status and authority among your people,  
but seek to grow and remain more and more united to you  
in faith, hope and love,  
in grateful obedience and integrity.  
Forgive us when we let you down;  
preserve us from ultimate disloyalty and betrayal.  
Thus may we truly share your salvation ourselves and with others,  
to the glory of the Father,  
and the final good of your creation, including ourselves.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10 : 5-13  
Mark 6 : 7-10  
Luke 9 : 1-4  
Luke 10 : 1-9

God, our Parent, our Ruler and our Friend,  
as we seek to share the healing, liberation, and new life that Jesus brings us,  
may we not be distracted or set ourselves apart from people  
by worrying about wealth or seeking our own comfort.  
Let us rather give ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of your kingdom  
in the power of your Holy Spirit,  
through the same Jesus, your Messiah,  
who sets us free to love and share with you and with our fellows.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10 : 5-6

God of all faithfulness,  
your Son sent his apostles first to the lost sheep of your chosen people, Israel,  
to fulfil your loyalty  
to yourself in your choice of Israel,  
and to your chosen people, even when they were unfaithful to you.  
Help us by your Spirit  
to perceive in that the promise of your loyalty to us too,  
your weak and fallible people of today,  
to be strengthened in our trust in you who are so reliably true to your love,  
to turn to you in sorrow for our unfaithfulness to you,  
and thus to grow ourselves in love and loyalty to you,  
through the same Jesus Christ,  
who was faithful to you and to us even to dying for us,  
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit  
in the eternal glory of your love.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10 : 5-6

Holy God,  
may your Son's sending of his apostles at first  
    only to lost sheep of the house of Israel  
remind us of your sovereignty,  
    and that we are created, saved and given eternal life by your choice,  
    not because we deserve it, or because you depend on us.  
So give us humility,  
    but give us confidence too  
    as we recognise your loyalty to your choice and promises,  
    and that you chose Israel  
for the sake of the ultimate revelation and gift of your love and salvation  
    to all people,  
    and to the whole of creation,  
through the same Jesus Christ our redeemer.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10.7-8

God of love and salvation,  
help us to share the good news of your kingdom,  
    and in your work of overcoming all that damages and destroys human life,  
    for Jesus Christ's sake,  
    through whom your kingdom, healing and liberation come.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10.8

God of grace,  
as you give us all things freely,  
    life, joy, forgiveness, and the offer of a share in your kingdom as your children,  
help us to give freely to others,  
    our help, our forgiveness, our kindness and love,  
    for Jesus' sake,  
    through whom you give us all your good gifts.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10 : 9-10

Mark 6 : 8-9

Luke 9 : 3

Luke 10 : 4

God, Creator and King of all,  
help us to remember that all wealth and power come from you,  
    and that you show us through your Son  
        that true wealth is not found in money or material goods.  
So help us to be ready to give up this world's wealth  
    to serve your good news of healing, liberation and new life,  
    and to rely, in your service, on your Spirit, not on worldly riches or power.  
This we ask for the sake of Jesus, your Messiah,  
who for our sakes became poor to give us the true wealth  
    of freedom,  
    loving community,  
    and true life with you as your daughters and sons.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10 : 11-13

Mark 6 : 10

Luke 9 : 4

God of love,  
by your Christ you welcome us into an eternal home.  
Jesus calls us to be hospitable,  
    and to be grateful and gracious in receiving hospitality.  
As we seek to share your new life,  
    give us grace to show appreciation and thankfulness  
        to all who welcome us and seek to help us  
            by hospitality or other forms of assistance.  
May we never hurt others by ingratitude.  
Keep us from the snobbery and selfish love of comfort  
    that can tempt us to despise the welcome of poor or ordinary people  
            and to neglect them for the rich,  
    and also from the judgmental attitudes of an inverted snobbery  
        that tempts us to despise and shun wealthy people.  
Make us true followers of your Messiah, Jesus,  
    who lived as a poor and ordinary person,  
    and sought to heal and help poor and rich alike,  
        to lead them to the true wealth  
    in the values of your kingdom of humble and generous love.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10 : 14-15

Mark 6 : 11

Luke 9 : 5

Luke 10 : 10-12

Holy God,  
in whom alone is true life,  
make us realise how vital it is for us to respond to your love  
and your message of salvation,  
lest we fix ourselves in rejection of you  
and bring eternal destruction upon ourselves.  
May we accept the good news of your kingdom and seek to share it with others,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom you give us the fullness of your life.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10.16-42

Lord God,  
give us courage to speak for you, even when to do so is likely to get us into trouble.  
If we suffer for your message, keep us from sourness and bitter anger,  
and give us patience and peace in our hearts.  
We pray for those who are suffering imprisonment, ill treatment,  
or are threatened with death for their faith or their stand against injustice.  
Give them your comfort, peace and preservation from bitterness.  
Help us, O Lord, to accept criticism with patience.  
Give us wisdom and openness to weigh criticism aright,  
and, if it is justified, to change ourselves,  
through Jesus Christ, our Helper.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10.16-22

God our Father,  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that we may have strength and courage to be faithful to you,  
to stand firm to the end and to speak for you and your gospel, whatever the cost.  
Give us wisdom that we may avoid unnecessary dangers and witness effectively.  
Give us the simplicity and innocence of faith,  
that we may be open to your guidance in whatever we say and do  
and rely on you for our answer to those who criticise and accuse us.  
Give us endurance to return love for hatred  
that we may persevere through all persecution and sufferings  
and share at last in the kingdom of the Son of Man,  
the triumph of the truly human order of love and freedom in your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who bore for us the suffering of betrayal and false accusation,  
insults and mockery, shame and spitting, hatred and scorn, flogging and death,  
and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, to all eternity.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10.17-20  
Mark 13.9-12

Almighty God,  
from you comes all authority in heaven and earth.  
We pray for all who are persecuted for their faith in you and your Word, Jesus Christ,  
especially for those attacked by governments and officials.  
We pray for all who face interrogation, even with torture.  
May your Holy Spirit be with them, as you promised through your Son,  
to give them words and wisdom to witness to your truth,  
that their enemies may know themselves wrong.  
to give them courage and strength  
to endure suffering from obstinate, frightened and deluded powers,  
to give them your comfort in their hearts,  
and to show them at last, now or in the life to come, the triumph of your truth.  
We pray too for persecuting governments,  
that they may learn the true source and nature of power in you,  
and come to use it for your glory and the good of human beings.  
We ask through the same Jesus Christ,  
who used his power in forbearance and weakness,  
triumphing in love and suffering by the cross,  
to rise as Lord of your eternal kingdom.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10.17-24  
Luke 21.12-19

For all who suffer and are persecuted for their faith in Christ, we pray to the Lord:  
**R./ Lord have mercy.**  
For those whose families reject them, attack them and even seek to kill them, we pray  
to the Lord: R./  
For those who are treated as second class citizens because of their Christian  
allegiance, who are denied civil or legal rights or protection, we pray to the Lord: R./  
For those who are tried, imprisoned, tortured for their Christian faith, we pray to the  
Lord: R./  
For those who face death for their loyalty to Christ, we pray to the Lord: R./  
For all the martyrs of Christ we give praise to the Lord, and for all who have lost  
loved ones in this life by persecution we pray to the Lord: R./  
For all persecutors, that God may change their hearts, we pray to the Lord: R./  
For ourselves, that, however we may be called to suffer for Christ, we may be faithful,  
we pray to the Lord: R./  
That we and all who are persecuted for Christ's sake may have the assurance of God's  
final victory through Christ, and of a share in his eternal glory for all who faithfully  
suffer for him, we pray to the Lord: R./  
For Christ's triumph over all evil, and for the promise of eternal life with him as your  
children in the love of the Holy Spirit, we give praise to the Lord: **R./ Alleluia,**  
**Amen.**

On Matt. 10.24-25

Jesus Christ, our teacher, master and friend,  
when we face misunderstanding and contempt,  
                    criticism and attack  
                    for your sake and for the sake of the truth,  
may we find comfort and strength  
                    in the fact that you suffered in the same way for us.  
Help us to bear such sufferings steadfastly,  
                    and without losing our love for you or for our fellows,  
  even those who make us suffer.  
Give us your peace, even in our pain,  
                    and bring us through these adversities to share in your eternal joy,  
                    for your love's sake.  
                                    Amen.

On Matt. 10.24-25

God our Father,  
let not the sufferings of this world, and our sufferings for your Son's sake,  
                    blind us to your almighty and abiding love and faithfulness to us.  
Give us a sense of awe and reverence at your greatness, that reaches to eternity,  
                    and at your omniscient care, that numbers the very hairs on our heads.  
So overcome all our fears, we pray, except the horror of displeasing you by sin.  
Give us the peace and assurance of deep faith in you,  
                    even when our lives and feelings are battered,  
                    and grant us courage to continue to stand firm and witness to your love  
                                    in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
                                    Amen.

On Matt. 10.26-33  
Luke 12.2-9

God of truth,  
May we go in awe of you alone.  
Give us your Spirit's strength, purity, love and self control  
in all we think and say and do,  
to live according to your will.  
so that we need have no shame when your judgement reveals all things.  
Give us courage and wisdom to witness boldly to your Word,  
Jesus Christ and his way,  
as your Spirit guides us.  
Grant us such a strong and clear faith and hope in you and your love,  
and in the triumph of your kingdom,  
that we may not fear the unjust powers of this world,  
unjust governments,  
brutal and greedy economic interests,  
fanatical religious movements,  
even if they threaten our lives.  
Enable us to fear nothing except separation from you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
and may that fear be only an aspect of our trust in your parental love and providence,  
which cares for every little creature in this world,  
and for every hair of our heads,  
and sets such a value on each of us  
that in your Son you shared our life and death to unite us to you  
in the glory of your kingdom.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10.32-33  
Mark 8.38  
Luke 9.26

Holy God,  
forgive us our cowardice, our complacency and our softness  
that flee the significance of this life,  
and want to ignore the gulf between your love in Christ and what opposes it:  
pride, selfishness, greed, cruelty and hatred.  
Enable us by your Spirit to stand for Christ, by word and life,  
and not to deny and reject our union with him.  
So may we never be separated from him,  
and may his union with us bring us to share eternally his union with you  
by the salvation he has won for us for your love's sake.  
Amen.



Lord Jesus Christ,  
help us to put you first in our lives,  
that we may do the Father's will, which you came to carry out.  
Thus all our loves will be hallowed and true,  
for they will be in the Divine love.  
We pray indeed for harmony in our families and in society,  
but if our obedience to you brings conflict and suffering,  
we pray that you will keep us loyal to you,  
and give us strength to bear it and not to fall into hatred.  
Help us to take up our cross,  
to bear the sufferings of love as you did, in whatever form they come to us,  
that we may find our true life and identity, even though we seem to lose them.  
We ask it in your name,  
for you seemed to lose everything on the cross,  
but so won for us new life by your own rising from the dead.  
Amen.

God our Father,  
we pray for all Christians persecuted for their faith,  
especially those thrown out and even attacked by their own families.  
[Especially we pray for ..... ]  
Give them courage and strength, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit  
to carry these tormenting burdens as Jesus did.  
Let them know you in all their sufferings as the One who gives them true life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

God our Father,  
we praise you that you have so united us, your people, to yourself,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
that in receiving our fellow Christians and ministers we receive Christ,  
and so receive you.  
May we indeed welcome and help each other in generous love,  
and thus be joined ever more closely to you,  
in the bonds of your own Triune being,  
as your daughters and sons in the unity of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

On Matt. 10.40-42

Mark 9.41

Luke 10.16

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we praise you that even feeble, muddled responses to your messengers and people  
may become channels of your grace,  
ways in which people may find salvation.  
Enable us so to witness to your goodness, truth and love  
that people will be able to respond to it in us,  
and so find the reward of your mercy,  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Friend.  
Amen.