

On Matt. 5.1-2

Holy God, faithful and righteous Sovereign,
As you instructed your people through Moses on Mt. Sinai,
so you teach us through your Son's words from the Mountain.
May they be to us words of life and salvation,
and raise us to your presence,
to share your life of mercy, love and holiness,
through the same Jesus Christ,
our teacher, reconciler and ruler.
Amen.

On Matt. 5.1-12

Jesus Christ,
you blessed the needy,
and those who long wholeheartedly for God's reign of justice and love:
help us in our needs,
and make us see that our greatest need
is to want you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.
So may our deepest needs and desires be met
in the eternity of your rule of love.
Amen.

Litany of the beatitudes

- 1) V./ Almighty God our Father
Teach us to know our need of you.
R./ that we may receive and enter your kingdom.
V./ Let us rely on you, and not our own strength,
R./ that we may know your rule and power in our lives.
V./ Give us humble dependence on you,
R./ that we may be raised to your heavenly realm.
- 2) V./ God our Saviour, bearer of the world's sin and pain,
Grant us sorrow for our sins of pride, mistrust and selfishness,
R./ that we may know the comfort of your forgiveness.
V./ Help us to share in bearing the pain of the world
R./ that we may share the joy of your salvation.
V./ Enable us to feel with and comfort others in their sadness,
R./ that all tears at last may be wiped from our eyes.
- 3) V./ Gentle patient Creator,
Give us a gentle spirit,
R./ that we may care for your creation as your stewards.
V./ Bestow on us the strength of long suffering and forbearance with others,
R./ that we may endure to the end and receive your promises.
V./ Let us be sensitive and obedient to your will
R./ that we may inherit your world as your people.
- 4) V./ God the all-giver,
Give us eagerness to do your will,
R./ that we may share in its final fulfilment.
V./ Make us to yearn for justice and love to triumph throughout the world
R./ that we may find our satisfaction in your completed salvation.
V./ Keep us from being content to benefit from oppressive and evil situations,
R./ that we may be filled with your love and your glory.
- 5) V./ Lord, our redeemer and pardoner,
Grant us the strength and patience to forgive,
R./ that we may be forgiven.
V./ Inspire us to help those in need.
R./ that our own needs may be met.
V./ May we support the weak and those in trouble,
R./ that our own weaknesses may find healing.
- 6) V./ Lord of beauty, truth and light,
Enable us to desire you above all things,
R./ that we may truly know you.
V./ Let us desire other things only in you and for you,
R./ that we may see you everywhere.
V./ Help us to turn away from all that contradicts your will and nature,
R./ that we may understand you and rejoice in you.

- 7) V./ God of peace, who reconciled creation to yourself,
Empower us with tact, courage and endurance to be reconcilers,
R./ that we may be and act like you.
V./ Assist us to bear the pain and misunderstanding
that comes to those who seek to bring peace by witnessing to the truth,
R./ that we may follow the example of the Son, Jesus Christ.
V./ Let us know your peace in our hearts to enable us to share it with others,
R./ that we may share too in the joy of your love and life, as your children.
- 8) V./ O God, who in your Son suffered for us to bring us eternal life,
Strengthen us to share the insults and attacks you experienced,
R./ that we may share your triumph too.
V./ Help us to bear the pains of love and truth,
R./ that we may do your will and enter your joy.
V./ Keep us true to you in suffering,
R./ that we may be united to you in your eternal glory and kingdom.
V./ Lord, have mercy
R./ Christ, have mercy
V./ Lord, have mercy.

On Matt. 5.11-12

God of patience and joy,
We confess that we find it hard to suffer for you,
and difficult to rejoice when we are suffering.
Remind us of the examples of your saints who suffered in the past,
and were vindicated by you.
Above all keep us aware of the sufferings of Christ, God the Son,
of the pain you took on through him in love for us,
and of the glory and the promise of life for us all
which he won by his sufferings.
So may we be strengthened to endure,
protected against bitterness,
and given trust and joy even in our dark times,
through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

On Matt. 5.13
Mark 9.50
Luke 14.34-5

God our Father,
We praise you that you sent your Son,
to heal the world you made through him,
and to restore its true character,
as salt disinfects and preserves,
and brings out the true flavour of food.
As you have given your Church the Spirit of Christ to continue his work,
may we too be purifiers and healers.
May the infections of sin,
- pride, selfishness, greed, hatred, confusion and despair, -
be cleansed from our lives,
that we may help to cleanse our fellows and our societies
from these things and their results.
So may Christ restore in us and through us
the true flavour of your creation and your kingdom,
- the joy and beauty of true love and sharing,
of grateful trust and creativity
in response to and participation in your own, glorious love.
This we ask through the same Jesus Christ.

Amen.

On Matt. 5.13
Mark. 9.50
Luke 14.34-5

Lord, our God,
Make us realise that as your church,
we are of no use,
and lose our true character,
unless we live to help and care for others,
by bringing healing in their lives,
seeking to cleanse ourselves and our societies of sin,
and bringing the flavour of your forgiving love and joy to the world.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may do these things,
and not be thrown away and lost,
as useless to you and our fellows.
This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
the source of true health and salvation,
who gave himself to purify us from sin,
and bring us to fullness of life.

Amen.

On Matt. 5.13
Mark. 9.50
Luke 14.34-5

God of love,
As salt was a symbol of peace and fellowship at common meals,
and in the sacrifice of your old covenant,
may we be reconcilers,
bringers of peace, love, and unity to the torn and struggling peoples of your world.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who blessed the peacemakers and revealed your nature as love.
Amen.

On Matt. 5.13
Mark. 9.50
Luke 14.34-5

God of holiness, truth and love,
you call your people to be salt to the earth,
to be preservers and healers in your world.
Yet salt stings as it disinfects and heals.
Forgive us when,
for fear of being unpopular and attacked,
we fail to stand and witness to your truth,
keeping silent when we should speak,
neglecting necessary action,
or even joining in injustice, folly and selfishness
so as to be acceptable to other people.
Do not let us become like salt that has lost its saltiness.
Do not let us be useless, fit only to be thrown away.
Give us your courage and integrity, with love's prudence,
to stand for what is right,
to bear suffering for your sake,
and so to help to preserve and cure your world from evils,
and fill it with the flavour of your goodness and love.
We ask it for the sake of Jesus, your Messiah,
who stood up for your truth even to dying on the cross,
and so became the healer of your creation from evil and death,
the one who restores creation
to the true character and flavour for which you made it,
the flavour of your glory, goodness and love.
Amen.

Luke 8.16 & 11.33

Luke 8.16 & 11.33

Luke 16.17

God of faithfulness,
Whose Son came to fulfil the Law and Prophets,
We praise you that you keep all your promises,
and fulfil the relationship you establish with humankind.
We thank you that Jesus came to gather up, complete and raise to a new level,
all that you revealed to your Old Testament people
of yourself, your will and your truth.
So let us trust you that, even though heaven and earth disappear,
your love for us cannot fail,
and we shall be preserved, transformed and come to our completion
in the fulfilment of your Kingdom,
in Christ, through whom all things reach your goal.
Amen.

On Matt. 5.17-20

Almighty God,
In your Son you are faithful to every scrap of your will and promises for us.
help us to be wholly faithful to you,
entirely obedient to your revelation in Jesus Christ,
letting nothing stand in the way of our doing your whole will for us.
We ask this through your love and mercy to us in Jesus,
in which you give us your own righteousness
by free forgiveness brought by his cross
and by uniting us in him as your children,
in the life of your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

On Matt. 5.21-6

God of love and justice,
Make us to know how truly disastrous our discords are,
the quarrels between individuals, families, peoples, and nations,
and especially between Christians.
Teach us to seek reconciliation before it is too late,
before our quarrels set in motion a train of destruction,
which works itself out in utter ruin.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who sought peace for his people, even at the cost of his life.
Amen.

On Matt. 5.21-6

God of patience and mercy,
Deliver us, we pray, from anger and from insulting each other.
Teach us to seek reconciliation with all people,
for you are the creator and lover of all,
and will that all people live in the harmony of your triune life,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

On Matt. 5.27-30

God of purity and love,
Teach us not to play with temptation
 or to let selfish and destructive thoughts linger in our minds.
Help us to refuse to compromise with sin.
Grant us rather to seek purity,
 and the true love that is faithful, committed,
 self-controlled, self-giving and self-sacrificing,
So may we avoid the counterfeit love that can be the mere indulgence of our
appetites.
Thus enable us to grow in the true life that is in your image,
 sharing your character of holy love,
 that we may come to your eternal glory,
 and escape the erosion of our true selves
 by the selfishness that would finally destroy us eternally.
This we ask through the perfect expression of your love and being,
 Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 Amen.

On Matt. 5.31-32 & 19.3-9

Mark 10.1-2

Luke 16.18

God, our Creator and Saviour,
Our lives are secure only in your faithfulness to your covenant-making love,
 and you created us to reflect your loyalty and your love
 in the union of man and woman in marriage.
As you have called us to keep this covenant of marriage,
fill us with your self-giving love,
 your patient care,
 your strength and stability,
 that we may love our partners loyally,
 and build each other up in your truth.
This we ask through Jesus Christ,
 who was faithful to you and your purpose of salvation even to death,
 and so established a new and final covenant,
 to bring us to your eternal life of love.
 Amen.

On Matt. 5.21-42

God, you are holy love beyond our reaching and achieving,
but you come to us in your mercy in Jesus
to forgive us
and to call us ever onward towards fuller sharing in your character and ways.
So help us to live by trust in you,
and to share ever more fully in your holy love,
your patience and care, your truth and faithfulness, your mercy and forgiveness.
We ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

On Matt. 5.33-37

God of all power and truth,
May we remember our own weakness and feebleness,
and humbly trust in your greatness and faithfulness.
So keep us from making arrogant promises and assertions,
and make us truthful, as you are the God of truth.
Guide, strengthen and establish us with your own reliability,
that people may be able to depend on our word.
This we ask through Jesus Christ,
your true and living word,
in whom all your promises are fulfilled,
who was faithful to death,
and rose to share your indestructible glory.
Amen.

On Matt. 5.38-42 (or 43-48)
Luke 6.27-38

God, our Rescuer and our Judge,
We rely on your generosity and mercy.
We can have no claim on your perfect holiness and righteousness.
We cannot deserve to share your life as your children.
Yet you have adopted us through Jesus Christ as your family,
giving up your beloved Son to a criminal's death,
that we might live as forgiven people,
sharing your glory.
Make us forgiving and generous,
not seeking revenge,
but taking pains to help others,
even those who treat us badly.
This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who died for his ungrateful and cowardly friends,
and prayed for the enemies who killed him,
and who now lives in the glory of your eternal being.
Amen.

On Matt. 5:43-48
Luke 6:27-8, 32-6

Teach us, good Lord,
by the patience and forgiveness of your Son, Jesus Christ,
to forgive our enemies,
to pray for all who persecute us,
and to do good and care for all people,
for you care for all,
and send the blessings of life even on the ungrateful and wicked.
This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who gave up his life for his bitter enemies and unfaithful friends,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
in the eternal glory of your love.

Amen.

On Matt. 5:43-48
Luke 6:27-8,32-6

God, the Father of us all,
we praise you for your open, universal love,
that reaches to deserving and undeserving,
and seeks to draw all people to respond to you as your children.
May we reach out in love too, to everyone we can,
and so share your perfect life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who showed your open love
by reaching out to the despised and the wicked,
and sharing the death of common criminals,
and who now reigns with you,
shedding your Spirit of reconciliation and love on all who will receive,
and offering to all the opportunity to be your children.

Amen.