

A Simple Service of Intercessory Prayer

“How to Pray for Others Together” in Practice

1. Opening Sentence (Leader)

Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need, trusting in God’s mercy and love.

2. Opening Scripture (Leader)

(Choose one)

- Psalm 46:1 — “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
 - 1 Timothy 2:1 — “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions... be made for all people.”
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3. Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God,
we thank you that you hear us when we call upon you.
You have given us your Word, your promises, and your Spirit.
Receive our prayers this day,
and strengthen our faith as we pray for others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4. Intercessions

(Leader introduces each section; petitions may be offered by one or several people.)

After each petition:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

A. For the Church

Almighty God, we pray for your Church throughout the world:
for its unity, faithfulness, and witness.

Strengthen pastors and leaders;
guide your people in truth and love.

B. For the World and Its Leaders

God of justice and peace,
we pray for the nations of the world
and for all in authority.

Grant wisdom, restraint, and a desire for the common good,
that peace may prevail.

C. For Those in Need

Compassionate God,
we pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:
the sick, the grieving, the lonely, the anxious, and the poor.
Bring healing, comfort, and hope.

(Optional: name individuals aloud or silently)

D. For the Local Community

Loving God,
we pray for this community:
for our neighbors, our families, and our congregation.
Help us to serve one another in love
and to be signs of your grace.

E. Personal Intercessions

(Silence or open prayer)

Leader: We offer now our own prayers, spoken or silent.

5. The Lord's Prayer (All)

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

6. Closing Prayer

O God,
you have commanded us to pray for all people
and have promised to hear us.
Receive these prayers we offer,
and accomplish your purposes in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

7. Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us;
the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. **Amen.**

This service intentionally reflects Luther's instincts:

- **Scripture-grounded**
- **Ordered and clear**
- **Communal participation**
- **Simple, not performative**
- **Centered on the Lord's Prayer**

It feels both **ancient and accessible**—which is exactly the balance Luther sought.

