



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lay Ministers Training
September 21, 2025



Goals of Workshop

- You will receive information on what the Prayers of the People are
- You will be able to find suitable intercessions in our prayer books or on appropriate online sites.
- You will learn practices and resources to help you when preparing Prayers of the People
- You will write prayers
- You will gain self-confidence in writing and praying your prayers, and to pray them with grace and confidence



What are Prayers of the People?

- ▶ Prayers of the People are prepared by Licensed Lay Ministers or Commissioned Lay-Ministers-in-Training, depending on your Parish's practice, and are delivered on behalf of the community of faith praying together during worship.
- ▶ Prayers are written and prayed for the needs and concerns of our congregations, the church, our community and world
- ▶ With these prayers we stand in the gap for individuals who feel they don't know how to pray or can't pray at this time
- ▶ And, we pray because our congregations feel relieved and comforted that their loved ones, their community and world situations are being lifted up before God.
- ▶ As believers we know that when we pray, God hears our prayers and responds. This is the first building block of confidence to pray on behalf of those gathered in worship.



Prayers from our Prayer Books

- **The Book of Common Prayer (BCP)** provides Prayers of the People in the Holy Communion/Eucharist service on Pages 75-76. *Please note the instructions in red.*
- Other prayers and thanksgivings can be found on Pages 37-61 of the Book of Common Prayer.



Prayers from our Prayer Books

The Book of Alternative Services (BAS) provides Litanies for weekly Eucharist Worship found on Pages 110-128

Other prayers found in the BAS include:

- Holy Baptism – Page 155
- The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage with Eucharist – Page 533
- The Blessing of a Marriage without a Eucharist - Page 546
- Form I, Funeral Liturgy in the Church - Page 579
- Form II Funeral Liturgy – Page 593
- Additional Funeral Prayers – Page 601-603
- Occasional Prayers for specific occasions – Listed on Page 675
- Home Prayers – Page 691



Writing your Own Prayers

- Begin with prayer to hear what the scripture is saying and for inspiration to write prayers which will speak to the congregation's needs and be reflective of the day's scripture.
- Personal reading of scripture in preparation for the coming week or when you are scheduled to serve – suggest you read the scripture at least 2-3 times.
- Make notes of what stands out for you – what words or themes do you see
- Sit with quiet music (if you like) and think about the readings
- Pray to be open to what God is saying in the readings about God's people
- Recall conversations you were a part of or heard throughout the week.
- What you have seen/heard on the news about the needs of the world?
- What you heard about the needs of your community?



Writing Your Own Prayers

- ▶ Think about what may be happening in the scripture that relates to what is happening in our world right now.
- ▶ Be sure to use language that is inclusive. Inclusive means using words to describe God, not all of which are masculine and not separating out people (e.g. Try not to use 'those people')
- ▶ Create a draft of your prayers and then re-read scripture
- ▶ **Mechanics of Prayer** – the BCP and BAS provide guidance on what can be included in our prayers – the church, the world, the community, all in need of healing, lifting out of poverty, or distress of any kind, the departed and the grieving, and the environment. This is not a complete list.



Responses to the Prayers

Think about the response to the prayers as this is where the congregation participates/interacts, and it should be reflective of the prayers. In the BAS, the Litanies provide responses, however, you may wish to use the following examples or something of your choosing.

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ■ Example – L: Hear Us | R: Compassionate One |
| ■ Example – L: God of Hope | R: We need your peace |
| ■ Example - L: God of Light | R: Shine through us |
| ■ Example - L: Healing God | R: Answer our prayer in love |
| ■ Example – L: God of Love | R: Your will be done |

Make sure the response is no longer than 4-6 words

If the response is longer or difficult to remember have it printed in the bulletin or if using screens, ask to have it included in the slides for the coming Sunday.



Resources

As we discussed above both the BCP and the BAS have a variety of prayers that we can use. We can also find various cycles of prayer on-line as seen below.

- ▶ Our Diocesan website publishes prayer cycles for all our parishes by the week.
<https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/pages/prayer-cycles>
- ▶ The Anglican Communion website publishes the part of the world for which we pray each week. https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/497162/acp_from-aba-to-divine-hope-via-zululand-2023-to-2026_webpdf.pdf
- ▶ The Anglican Lutheran Moravian Cycle of Prayer is also online.
<https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian-Cycle-of-Prayer-2024-2025.pdf>

Other Resources We Can Use

- **The Internet:** Be sure you are looking at Prayers which have been written for the Anglican Church (or the Lutheran or Moravian Churches) – the Year (A, B or C) and that these prayers reflect the readings for the day
- **For Example:**
- [Prayers | The Church of England](#)
- [Three-Year Series Prayers - LCMS Worship - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](#)
- Published books of Prayers of the People: Prayers of Intercession – Susan Sayers



Other Resources We Can Use

- Other Licensed Lay Ministers who write their own prayers
- Your Rector/Priest-in-Charge
- Prayers relating to the theme of Creation:
- Living Ecological Justice, Food Grains Bank, Creation Matters, Seasons of Creation ([Diocesan Environment Network | Ministries | Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island](#))
- Licensed Lay Ministers' Association web site (Links & Resources and Training Videos and Resources [Licensed Lay Ministers Home Page](#))
- Resources used by your Parish for Sunday School or Liturgy development



Time to Write and Read Prayers

We are going to send you to a room, where you can work on prayers based on the scripture for next Sunday. When 20 minutes is up we will bring you back and ask for a volunteer to pray the Prayers of the People which you have written.

QUESTIONS





Good Night and Blessings on you Prayers.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for us to share our passion for prayer.

We are just going to leave you with this brief reflection and then a Closing Prayer

- From **God's Little Devotional Book for Women** – “One might estimate the weight of the world; tell the size of the celestial city; count the stars of heaven; measure the speed of lightening and tell the time of the rising sun – BUT you cannot estimate prayer power. Prayer is as vast as God because God is behind it. Prayer is as mighty as God because God has committed to answering it.”