SUMMIT
SPOKANE

11 PRAYERS FROM THE CHURCH

Prayer 1:

Instrument of Your Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console,
not so much to be understood as to understand,
not so much to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.
– St. Francis of Assisi

Prayer 2:

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.
-St. Augustin

Prayer 3:

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless till they rest in you; grant us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness from doing it; but in your light may we see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you, the joy of the hearts that love you, the strength of the wills that serve you; grant us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant to us your servants that we may have, to our God, a heart of flame; to our neighbors, a heart of love; and to ourselves, a heart of steel. Amen.

-St Augustine

Prayer 4:

Steer the ship of my life, good Lord, to your quiet harbor, where I can be safe from the storms of sin and conflict. Show me the course I should take. Renew in me the gift of discernment, so that I can always see the right direction in which I should go. And give me the strength and the courage to choose the right course, even when the sea is rough and the waves are high, knowing that through enduring hardship and danger in your name we shall find comfort and peace. Amen.

O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, and especially with our brothers and sisters the animals to whom you gave the earth as their home together with us. We remember with shame that we have dominated over them in the past with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the earth, which should have risen to you in song, has been instead a groan of pain. Teach us that they do not live only for our benefit, but for themselves and for you, and that they love the sweetness of life as much as we do. Amen.

-Basil of Caesarea, 330-379

Prayer 5:

Jesus, how sweet is the very thought of you! You fill my heart with joy. The sweetness of your love surpasses the sweetness of honey. Nothing sweeter than you can be described; no words can express the joy of your love. Only those who have tasted your love for themselves can comprehend it. In your love you listen to all my prayers, even when my wishes are childish, my words confused, and my thoughts foolish. And you answer my prayers, not according to my own misdirected desires, which would bring only bitter misery; but according to my real needs, which brings me sweet joy. Thanks you, Jesus, for giving yourself to me.

You taught us, Lord, that the greatest love a man can show is to lay down his life for his friends. But your love was greater still, because you laid down your life for your enemies. It was while we were still enemies that you reconciled us to yourself by your death. What other love has ever been, or could ever be, like yours? You suffered unjustly for the sake of the unjust. You died at the hands of sinners for the sake of the sinful. You became a slave to tyrants, to set the oppressed free.

-Bernard of Clairvaux, 1090-1153

Prayer 6:

From Tanzania on the International Day of Prayer

Our Lord and God Almighty, we praise you,
for you created us all and made us
into many different tribes and nations,
that we may befriend one another
and that we may not despise each other.
Open our hearts, we pray,
so that we may respond to the needs
of all our brothers and sisters.
Oh Lord Jesus, bless all our lands
with more lasting peace and fraternal understanding.

Above all, heavenly Father,
touch the hearts of our political leaders
and all those in power.
We pray that they may exercise power gently,
that they may humbly seek a disinterested dialogue

that will bring about understanding,
leading us all to a place where all nations and all people
live together in peace and harmony.
Where there is bitterness teach us forgiveness and reconciliation, replace hatred with love and indifference with care.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen
- Aneth Lwakatare

Prayer 7:

Prayer in Times of Conflict

God of compassion and mercy,
We bring to you our divided society and our broken world,
Seeking your healing and transforming grace;
It is easy for us to point the finger at others,
Yet we know that we all need your forgiveness;
So we lift into your presence today, not only the victims of your conflicts, But also those we have called enemies.
Break down the walls of hatred, distrust and bitterness
And open a way for us to reach one another in truth and love.
Enable us to build a society where all can belong; To share our gifts in mutual respect
And to seek for the new future which you offer us. Through Jesus Christ.

Prayer 8:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.
Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.
Be honest and sincere anyway.
What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.
Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, will often be forgotten.
Do good anyway.
Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.
Give your best anyway.
In the final analysis, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway.
– Mother Theresa

Prayer 9:
Disturb us, Lord,
when We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us, Lord,
when With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision Of the new Heaven to dim.
Disturb us, Lord,
to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.
Amen
– Francis Drake

Prayer 10:

Prayer For Unity

O God,…we thank Thee for Thy Church, founded upon Thy Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon Thee… Help us to realize that man was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace, help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children, Black, White, Red, and Yellow, will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Prayer 11:

Prayer of Surrender

Loving Lord and heavenly Father, I offer up today all that I am, all that I have, all that I do, and all that I suffer, to be Yours today and Yours forever. Give me grace, Lord, to do all that I know of Your holy will. Purify my heart, sanctify my thinking, correct my desires. Teach me, in all of today's work and trouble and joy, to respond with honest praise, simple trust, and instant obedience, that my life may be in truth a living sacrifice, by the power of Your Holy Spirit and in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, my Master and my all. Amen.

– Elisabeth Elliot