

PRAYERS

722 O Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ, we bow before You and humbly acknowledge our fallen condition, and our need of Your Divine work of redemption; grant to us, O Lord, that which You alone can give, the power to see You in Your Word, and to follow You in the path of Your commandments; for to You belong all the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

723 We praise You, O Lord, and magnify Your holy name, because You took upon Yourself a body of flesh and blood, to manifest Your power and to redeem and save the lost; and we pray, O Lord, that You confirm and establish Your work in people's hearts that Your kingdom may prevail on earth and endure forever. Amen.

724 O Lord God of heaven and earth, who from Your infinite love and pity did take on Yourself our fallen nature, and did come to redeem and save: come now, we beseech You, and grant to us the blessings of Your redeeming work that we may bear fruit to You in works of charity and love, through Your mercy, O Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

725 O Lord, our Redeemer and Savior, who in Your infinite mercy did overcome death and hell for us, we beseech You to lead us to fulfill Your redemption in our lives by taking up our cross daily and following You in a life of repentance; strengthen our purpose to put away everything that defiles, or works abomination, or makes a lie; lead us to renounce the lusts of self and the world that we may become worthy of Your kingdom, and give glory to You in a life of eternal use. Amen.

726 O Lord Jesus Christ, on this Your natal day, we pray that You bless the hearing and reading of Your Word. Help us to understand ever more truly the great mercy of Your coming, which is told since ancient times and yet is ever new. Cleanse our hearts, we pray, and make us pure within, that we may worship You in innocence and love, becoming aware of Your near presence in Your glorified Human to uplift and save all who call upon You in sincerity of heart. Amen.

727 We beseech You, O Lord, to order our steps in Your Word, that no iniquity may have dominion over us. Give us strength against our inward foes, and protect us against the powers of darkness. Guard us against the spirit of self-will, pride and vain imagination. Save us from the rejection of Your truth, and from every perverse and sinful thought. From prejudice, blindness and hardness of heart, O Lord, deliver us. Lead us in Your ways and teach us, that not our will may be done but Your will, O Lord, forever. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, in Your second advent You have revealed the secrets **728** of heaven to all who have ears to hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Redeem us, we pray, from the glamour of the world and the love of rule. Open our hearts to the selfless love of serving others, and prepare us in Your good time for a place and a use in Your eternal kingdom in the heavens. Amen.

O Lord, Your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. **729** Help us to read it in a humble spirit, and to seek and find the treasures of heavenly truth which You have laid open at Your second coming. From ourselves we can know nothing of truth, but You can teach us. Bless us with spiritual understanding, intelligence, and wisdom in ever-increasing measure, that we may know You and love Your law and Your way. Amen. *Cf. Psalm 119: 105*

Most merciful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who by Your second coming **730** in the power and glory of Your Word did enable us to acknowledge You as the only God of heaven and earth, our Creator and our Redeemer, we pray for the prosperity of Your New Church, now descending from You out of heaven. Dispel the darkness that prevents Your appearing. Open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, and reveal Yourself to Your creatures as the husband of Your church, the true and only object of her love and worship. And wherever Your church appears on the face of the earth, may she be so led by Your Holy Spirit that all who embrace the Heavenly Doctrines may maintain them in purity of heart and holiness of life, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that the truth of Your Word may be engrafted in our **731** hearts, and bear fruit to the salvation of our souls, and to the honor and glory of Your holy name, now and evermore. Amen.

O Lord, our God, we confess that You alone are life and that we are but **732** vessels having no life of our own. You have all power, and without You we can do nothing that is good. Be with us continually and teach, enlighten, and lead us. Protect us lest the poison of evil enter our hearts, drawing us down into the valleys of death. O Lord, make Your face shine upon us, and deliver us and lift us up into Your kingdom. Amen. *Adapted from AE 1148: 4*

O Lord, teach me the way of Your statutes and I will keep it unto the end. **733** Give me understanding and I shall keep Your law; yes, I will keep it with my whole heart. Turn away my reproach, I pray, and let Your mercies come to me, according to Your Word. Amen. *From Psalm 119: 33, 34, 39, 41*

O Lord, breathe into our hearts, we pray, the love of Your truth, that we **734** may draw near to You and become Your humble servants, obeying Your commandments in simplicity of heart, loving You above all things, and Your

truth for its own sake, that You may enter into us, and dwell in Your own with us forever. Amen.

735 Lord God, You open Your hand and satisfy every living thing; give us, we pray, the bread which comes down from heaven, that we may eat of it and not die. You make the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of humankind, and give to all their daily bread. We ask You to open for us the treasures of Your Word and pour out upon us the blessings of heaven that we may grow strong in spirit, ready to keep Your law, and that Your will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Amen. *Cf. Psalm 145: 16; John 6: 50; Matthew 6: 10*

736 Grant, O Lord, in Your mercy, that we may see and acknowledge our evils and shun them as sins against You; so shall You create in us a new heart and a new spirit; for You, O Lord, have all power; great are the wonders of Your mercy, and Your truth abides forever. Amen.

737 O Lord, You know the springs of our life; all the thought of our heart is laid open before You; from You no secret is hidden. Enlighten our minds, we beseech You, that we may see and acknowledge our secret sins and open transgressions, and be made pure in heart by Your might and power, O Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

738 O Lord our Father in the heavens, we lift up our eyes to You from whom alone comes our help. Show us Your mercy, we pray, and forgive us our trespasses. Purify our affections that we may willingly refuse the evil and choose the good. Teach us the way of Your commandments, and lead us in it, that we may come at last to the gates of Your heavenly kingdom, and dwell in Your presence forever. Amen.

739 Most merciful Lord, You have all power over hell, and hold it under subjection to Yourself; we pray for Your Divine presence in the hour of temptation, that the hosts of evil may be turned back, and that we may obtain the victory in Your name, and through Your mercy, O Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

740 O Lord God, reveal Your will to us when we reach the crossroads of our lives. Sustain us in our trials and temptations. Hold us up with Your mighty arm, that in our blindness and self-will we may not swerve from the way which You have set for us. Cleanse our hearts and fill us with Your Spirit, that in will and deed we may fulfill the duties of our calling, and learn to become citizens of Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

741 O Jesus Christ our Lord, help us to love one another as You have loved us, to be merciful as You are merciful, to forgive as You have forgiven, that we may follow You all the days of our life. Amen.

O Lord God of mercy and love, You have given us Your new commandment, that we should love one another as You have loved us; we pray that You bestow on us a mind forgetful of ill will to our neighbor, a conscience free of evil thought or design, and a heart sincere in keeping Your commandments, that mutual love may prevail on earth, and Your heavenly kingdom be established to endure forever. Amen. **742**

Cf. John 13: 34; 15: 12

Teach us, O Lord, to depart from evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it. Do not remember the sins of our youth, but help us to put away the things of this world that would turn us aside from the path that leads to heaven. Deliver us from envy and contempt, from pride and hardness of heart, and let us find strength in mercy and forgiveness, that we may receive Your love into our hearts and make the truth of Your Word the law of our life. Amen. **743**

Cf. Psalm 34: 14; 25: 7

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Father in the heavens, we lift up our eyes unto the mountain of Your holiness from whence comes our help, even unto You, the Maker of the heavens and the earth. And we pray You, O Lord, to join our souls to You in a covenant which shall not be forgotten, that we may have power from on high to do Your will, that we may abide forever in Your love, and that Your church, the New Jerusalem, may become as one before You, the bride and wife of the Lamb. Then shall You restore love truly conjugal to the children of men, and Your heavenly kingdom shall reign triumphant on the earth and endure forever. Amen. **744**

Cf. Psalm 121: 1, 2; Jeremiah 50: 5

O Jesus Christ, our Lord, we ask You to give us understanding and strength that we may walk steadfastly in Your ways. Give us faith and trust in the dispensations of Your providence. Enlighten us from Your Word, that at every crossroad of life we may see to choose the better way. When doubts arise, help us to open our hearts in prayer to You that You may lift up the light of Your countenance on us and give us peace. Amen. **745**

We pray, O Lord, that You grant to us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, that Your law may be written in our hearts, and that in Zion and Jerusalem may be deliverance for all who call upon Your name. Amen. **746**

From Isaiah 11: 2; Jeremiah 31: 33; Joel 2: 32

We pray, O Lord, for Your church, the New Jerusalem, that she may be firmly established on the earth, that all people may be enlightened by the spirit of Your Word, and be inclined to follow You where You lead, to come to You where You dwell, and to live with You in a life of happiness and use forever. Amen. **747**

748 O Lord Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Father, You taught us to pray for the things of everlasting life. Write Your new name on our foreheads, and the name of the New Jerusalem, that Your will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Feed us with the heavenly bread of love and charity, that we may learn to forgive as You have forgiven. Bend our will to the ways of Your providence, and protect us from all evil, that we may enter into Your kingdom of spiritual uses, acknowledging that You alone are Life, and that from You is all power in heaven and on earth, that we may give glory to Your holy name forever. Amen.

Cf. Revelation 22: 4; Matthew 6: 10; 28: 18

749 O Lord Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that You are our Creator, our Father, the true God and eternal life; grant, O Lord, that we may confess You not only with our lips but in the conduct of our lives, and that we may always worship You in sincerity of heart, in singleness of purpose, and in all humility, to the glory of Your name and the uplifting of Your church, now and evermore. Amen.

750 O Lord God, our Savior Jesus Christ, You are our Deliverer, You are our God, You are all-wise and all-merciful; You have all power; You alone are able to overcome the evil inclination of our hearts, and remove the power of hell within us. Left to ourselves we can do nothing that is good; trusting in our own strength we cannot be saved. Draw near to us, O Lord, and fill us with the spirit of Your presence that we may confess You as our God, and worship You in heart and life forever. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

751 O Lord, as the angel appeared to the shepherds so long ago, send the truth of Your Word to proclaim for us also the day of Your coming and the place of Your birth, that we too may go even unto Bethlehem to see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us. For we would worship You, our Savior, and bless Your name forever. Amen. *Cf. Luke 2: 8–20*

752 Grant, O Lord, that we Your children may find You in the city of David, where alone You can be born for us. Prepare our minds to receive You with joy and gladness at Your coming, saying in our hearts, "This is our God; we have waited for Him and He will save us; this is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Amen. *Cf. Luke 2: 8–20; Isaiah 25: 9*

753 O Lord, we are Your children and the sheep of Your pasture. Put forth Your hand, we pray, to guide our steps and to lead us in the way everlasting. Help us to live so that Your angels may be with us always, to guard us from all evil, and to prepare us for a place in Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, we Your children would come in the early morning this new day, seeking You with love and faith in Your Holy Word. Grant that the stone may be rolled away, and that we may hear from the angels the glad message of Your resurrection. Help us to see You in Your glory, to know that You are near, with Divine power to protect and Divine wisdom to lead, that we may abide under the shadow of Your wings and dwell at last in Your house forever. Amen. **754**

O ever-merciful God, grant that we may truly thank You, day by day, for all Your many blessings. Make us worthy of Your goodness toward us, and teach us to use aright the things that You have given us. We gratefully acknowledge Your providence in the harvest of the earth. Open our hearts, we pray, to receive with gladness Your heavenly blessings also, that we may know and understand Your Word and bear fruit to You in our lives, here and in Your heavenly kingdom forever. Amen. **755**

Grant us, O Lord, to be so inspired by Your Word that our thoughts may be cleansed from evil, and that we may be guided by Your commandments to do what is right, through Your mercy, O Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. **756**

O Jesus Christ our Savior, we thank You for coming down to be born among people, to redeem us from our sins and give us light in our darkness. We pray that You may be born in our hearts also, so that peace and goodwill may rule among us, and all our prayers may rise as a pure offering, to render glory to You in the highest. Amen. **757**

We pray, O Lord Jesus Christ: open our eyes to see if there be any wicked way in us, and give us help to shun our secret sins and open transgressions. For we would be Your children, who do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with our God; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Amen. **758**

Cf. Micah 6: 8; Matthew 19: 14

We thank You, O Lord our Creator, for the wonder and the beauty of the earth, for the flowers that bloom by day and the stars that shine by night. You have filled all nature with Your glory. Fill our hearts, O Lord, with Your praise and with the beauty of holiness, and let nothing impure enter into them. Then shall we serve You without fear all the days of our life. Amen. **759**

Teach us, O Lord, to worship You. Make our hearts pure, our thoughts clean, and our spirits humble. Help us to be attentive and to listen well to the teaching of Your Word, that it may be written upon our hearts, and that we may learn to love only what is right in Your sight, now and forever. Amen. **760**