

PRAYERS OF ST. FRANCIS

St. Francis is known as the man who was most like Christ, “*the first after the only one*”, the universal brother, a man of peace and reconciliation, the *Poverello*, the lover of the poor, the troubadour of creation. It is true. Francis of Assisi, however, was first and foremost a mystic, a real contemplative, enamoured with the poor and crucified Christ. Francis was not only a man who prayed, but, as his biographer Thomas of Celano says, he was “*a man become prayer*”. The presence of God transfigured him until He made him “*another Christ*”.

The Prayer before the Crucifix at San Damiano

Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith, certain hope and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord,
that I may carry out Your holy and true command.

A Salutation of the Virtues

Hail, Queen Wisdom!
May the Lord protect You,
with Your Sister, holy pure Simplicity!

Lady holy Poverty,
may the Lord protect You,
with Your Sister, holy Humility!

Lady holy Charity,
may the Lord protect You,
with Your Sister, holy Obedience.

Most holy Virtues,
may the Lord protect all of You
from Whom You come and proceed.

There is surely no one in the whole world
who can possess any one of You
without dying first.

Whoever possesses one
and does not offend the others
possesses all.

Whoever offends one
does not possess any
and offends all.

And each one confounds vice and sin.
Holy Wisdom confounds
Satan and all his cunning.

Pure holy Simplicity confounds
all the wisdom of this world
and the wisdom of the body.

Holy Poverty confounds
the desire for riches, greed,
and the cares of this world.

Holy Humility confounds pride,
all people who are in the world
and all that is in the world.

Holy Charity confounds
every diabolical and carnal temptation
and every carnal year.

Holy Obedience confounds
every corporal and carnal wish,
binds its mortified body
to obedience of the Spirit
and obedience to one's brother,
so that it is subject and submissive
to everyone in the world,
not only to people
but to every beast and wild animal as well
that they may do whatever they want with it
insofar as it has been given to them
from above by the Lord.

A Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen,
Mary, holy Mother of God,
Who are the Virgin made Church,
chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven
whom he consecrated with His most holy beloved Son
and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,
in whom there was and is
all fullness of grace and every good.
Hail His Palace!
Hail His Tabernacle!
Hail His Dwelling!

Hail His Robe!
Hail His Servant!
Hail His Mother!
And hail all You holy virtues
which are poured into the hearts of the faithful
through the grace and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit,
that from being unbelievers,
You may make them faithful to God.

The Praises of God and the Blessing

You are the holy Lord God Who does wonderful things.
You are strong. You are great. You are the most high.
You are the almighty king. You holy Father,
King of heaven and earth.

You are three and one, the Lord God of gods;
You are the good, all good, the highest good,
Lord God living and true.

You are love, charity; You are wisdom, You are humility,
You are patience. You are beauty, You are meekness,
You are security, You are rest,
You are gladness and joy, You are our hope, You are justice,
You are moderation, You are all our riches to sufficiency.

You are beauty, You are meekness,
You are the protector, You are our custodian and defender,
You are strength, You are refreshment, You are our hope,
You are our faith, You are our charity,
You are all our sweetness, You are our eternal life:
Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Saviour.

The Canticle of Creatures

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honour and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

Praised be you, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day, and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High one.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
And through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
Through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be You, my lord, through Brother fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed those who endure in peace,
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.

The Praises To Be Said at All the Hours

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
Who is, and Who was, and Who is to corner
And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

O Lord our God, You are worthy to receive
praise, glory and honour and blessing.
And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

The Lamb Who was slain is worthy to receive
power and divinity, wisdom and strength,
honour and glory and blessing.
And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Let us bless the Father and the Son with the Holy Spirit:
And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Bless the Lord. all you works of the Lord.
And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Sing praise to our God, all you His servants

and you who fear God, the small and the great.

And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Let heaven and earth praise Him Who is glorious.

And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Every creature in heaven, on earth and under the earth;
and in the sea and those which are in it.

And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

And let us praise and glorify Him forever.

All-powerful, most holy, most high, supreme God:
all good, supreme good, totally good, You Who alone are good,
may we give You all praise, all glory, all thanks,
all honour, all blessing, and all good. So be it! So be it!
Amen.

Exhortation to the Praise of God

Fear the Lord and give Him honour.

Worthy is the Lord to receive praise and honour.

All you who fear the Lord praise Him.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Heaven and earth, praise Him.

All you rivers, praise the Lord.

All you children of God, praise the Lord.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The King of Israel!

Let every spirit praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord because He is good;

all you who read this, bless the Lord.

All you creatures, bless the Lord.

All you birds of heaven, praise the Lord.

All you children, praise the Lord.

Young men and virgins, praise the Lord.

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
to receive praise, glory, and honour.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity and Undivided Unity.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

A Prayer Inspired by the Our Father

O *Our Father* most holy: Our Creator, Redeemer, Consoler, and Saviour:

Who are in heaven: In the angels and the saints, enlightening them to know, for You, Lord, are light; inflaming them to love, for You, Lord, are love; dwelling in them and filling them with happiness, for You, Lord, are Supreme Good, the Eternal Good, from Whom all good comes without Whom there is no good.

Holy be Your Name: May knowledge of You become clearer in us that we may know the breadth of Your blessings, the length of Your promises, the height of Your majesty, the depth of Your judgments.

Your kingdom come: That You may rule in us through Your grace and enable us to come to Your kingdom where there is clear vision of You, perfect love of You, blessed companionship with You, eternal enjoyment of You.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven: That we may love You with our whole heart by always thinking of You, with our whole soul by always desiring You, with our whole mind by always directing all our intentions to You, and by seeking Your glory in everything, with all our whole strength by exerting all our energies and affections of body and soul in the service of Your love and of nothing else; and we may love our neighbour as ourselves by drawing them all to Your love with our whole strength, by rejoicing in the good of others as in our own, by suffering with others at their misfortunes, and by giving offence to no one.

Give us this day: in remembrance, understanding, and reverence of that love which [our Lord Jesus Christ] had for us and of those things that He said and did and suffered for us.

Our daily Bread: Your own beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Forgive us our trespasses: through Your ineffable mercy through the power of the passion of Your beloved Son and through the merits and intercession of the ever blessed Virgin and all Your elect.

As we forgive those who trespass against us: And what we do not completely forgive, make us, Lord, forgive completely that we may truly love our enemies because of You and we may fervently intercede for them before You, returning no one evil for evil and we may strive to help everyone in You.

And lead us not into temptation: hidden or obvious, sudden or persistent.

But deliver us from evil: past, present, and to come.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

We adore You

(*Test 5*)

We adore You, Lord Jesus Christ, in all Your churches throughout the world and we bless You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

The Office of the Passion of the Lord

Marian Antiphon

Holy Virgin Mary, among the women born into the world, there is no one like you. Daughter and servant of the most high and supreme King and of the Father in heaven, Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us with Saint Michael the Archangel, all the powers of heaven and all the saints, at the side of your most holy beloved Son, our Lord and Teacher.

Psalm VII: Vespers

All you nations clap your hands*
shout to God with a voice of gladness.

For the Lord, the Most High*
the Awesome, is the Great King over all the earth.

For the Most Holy Father of heaven, our King before all ages*
sent His Beloved Son from on high+
and has brought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult*
let the sea and all that is in it be moved+
let the fields and all that is in them be glad.

Sing a new song to Him*
Sing to the Lord all the earth.
Because the Lord is great and highly to be praised*
awesome beyond all gods.

Give to the Lord, you families of nations,+
Give to the Lord glory and honour*
Give to the Lord the glory due His name.
Take up your bodies and carry His holy cross*
and follow His most holy commands even to the end.
Let the whole earth tremble before His face*
tell among the nations that the Lord has ruled from a tree.

He ascended into heaven+
and is seated at the right hand of the most holy Father in heaven*

O God, be exalted above the heavens+
and above all the earth be your glory.
We know that He is coming*
that He will come to judge justice.

Psalm XV: Vespers of the Lord's Birth

Exult in God our help!*
Shout to the Lord God living and true with cries of gladness!
Because the Lord, the Most High,*
the Awesome, is the Great King over all the earth.
Because the Most Holy Father of heaven, our King before all ages,+

sent His Beloved Son from on high*
and He was born of the Blessed Virgin Holy Mary.
He called to me: You are my Father*
and I will place Him, my firstborn, as the Highest,+
above all the kings of the earth.
On that day the Lord sent His mercy*
and at night His song.
This is the day the Lord has made*
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
For the Most Holy Child has been given to us+
and has been born for us on the way*
and placed in a manger
because he did not have a place in the inn.
Glory to the Lord God in the highest*
and peace on earth to those of good will.
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult,+
let the sea and its fullness resound,*
let the fields and all that is in them be joyful.
Sing a new song to the Lord,*
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Because the Lord is great and worthy of praise*
He is awesome beyond all gods.
Give to the Lord. you families of nations,+
give to the Lord glory and praise*
give to the Lord the glory due His name.
Take up your bodies and carry His holy cross*
And follow His most holy commands even to the end.

Prayer to the Trinity

(LtOrd 50-52)

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God,
give us miserable ones
the grace to do for You alone
what we know You want us to do
and always to desire what pleases You.
Inwardly cleansed,
interiorly enlightened
and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit,
may we be able to follow
in the footprints of Your beloved Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
and, by Your grace alone,
may we make our way to you,

Most High,
Who live and rule
in perfect Trinity and simple Unity,
and are glorified
God almighty,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord God living and true!
Let us always render Him
praise, glory, honour, blessing and every good.
Amen. Amen, So be it. So be it.
(From the Office of the Passion)

Fear and honour,
praise and bless,
give thanks and adore
the Lord God Almighty in Trinity and in Unity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
the Creator of all.
(From the Rnb XXI, 2)

The invitation to restore all goods to the Lord
(Rnb XVII, 17-18)

Let us refer all good
to the Lord, God Almighty and Most High,
acknowledge that every good is His,
and thank Him,
“from Whom all good comes,
for everything.
May He,
The Almighty and Most High,
The only true God,
Have, be given, and receive
All honour and respect,
All praise and blessing,
All thanks and glory,
To Whom all good belongs,
He Who alone is good.

Prayer and Thanksgiving
(Rnb XXIII)

All-powerful, most holy, Almighty and supreme God, Holy and just Father, Lord King of heaven and earth
we thank You for Yourself for through Your holy will and through Your only Son with the Holy Spirit You

have created everything spiritual and corporal and, after making us in Your own image and likeness, You placed us in paradise. Through our own fault we fell.

We thank You for as through Your Son You created us, so through Your holy love with which You loved us You brought about His birth as true God and true man by the glorious, ever-virgin, most blessed, holy Mary and You willed to redeem us captives through His cross and blood and death.

We thank You for Your Son Himself will come again in the glory of His majesty to send into the eternal fire the wicked ones who have not done penance and have not known You and to say to all those who have known You, adored You and served You in penance: "Come, you blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world."

Because all of us, wretches and sinners, are not worthy to pronounce Your name, we humbly ask our Lord Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, in Whom You were well pleased, together with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, to give You thanks, for everything as it pleases You and Him, Who always satisfies You in everything, through Whom You have done so much for us. Alleluia!

Because of Your love, we humbly beg the glorious Mother, the most blessed, ever-virgin Mary, Blessed Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, all the choirs of the blessed seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominations, principalities, powers, virtues, angels, archangels, Blessed John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, Peter, Paul, the blessed patriarchs and prophets, the innocents, apostles, evangelists, disciples, the martyrs, confessors and virgins, the blessed Elijah and Henoah, all the saints who were, who will be, and who are to give You thanks for these things, as it pleases You, God true and supreme, eternal and living, with Your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

All of us lesser brothers, useless servants, humbly ask and beg those who wish to serve the Lord God within the holy Catholic and Apostolic Church and all the following orders: priests, deacons, sub deacons, acolytes, exorcists, lectors, porters, and all clerics, all religious men and women, all penitents and youths, the poor and the needy, kings and princes, workers and farmers, servants and masters, all virgins, continent and married women, all lay people, men and women, all children, adolescents, young and old, the healthy and the sick, all the small and the great, all peoples, races, tribes, and tongues, all nations and all peoples everywhere on earth, who are and who will be to persevere in the true faith and in penance for otherwise no one will be saved.

With our whole heart, our whole soul, our whole mind, with our whole strength and fortitude with our whole understanding with all our powers with every effort, every affection, every feeling, every desire and wish let us all love the Lord God Who has given and gives to each one of us our whole body, our whole soul and our whole life, Who has created, redeemed and will save us by His mercy alone, Who did and does everything good for us, miserable and wretched, rotten and foul, ungrateful and evil ones.

Therefore, let us desire nothing else, let us want nothing else, let nothing else please us and cause us delight except our Creator, Redeemer and Saviour, the only true God, Who is the fullness of good, all good, every good, the true and supreme good, Who alone is good, merciful, gentle, delightful, and sweet, Who alone is holy, just, true, holy, and upright, Who alone is kind, innocent, clean, from Whom, through Whom and in Whom is all pardon, all grace, all glory of all penitents and just ones, of all the blessed rejoicing together in heaven.

Therefore, let nothing hinder us, nothing separate us, nothing come between us.

Wherever we are, in every place, at every hour, at every time of the day, every day and continually, let all of us truly and humbly believe, hold in our heart and love, honour, adore, serve, praise and bless, glorify and exalt, magnify and give thanks to the Most High and Supreme Eternal God Trinity and Unity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator of all, Saviour of all Who believe and hope in Him, and love Him, Who,

without beginning and end, is unchangeable, invisible, indescribable, ineffable, incomprehensible, unfathomable, blessed, praiseworthy, glorious, exalted, sublime, most high, gentle, lovable, delightful, and totally desirable above all else for ever. Amen.

Blessed is he who loves the Lord

(The First Version of the Letter to the Faithful, Chapter I)

In the Name of the Lord! All those who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole soul and mind, with their whole strength and love their neighbours as themselves, who hate their bodies with their vices and sins, who receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who produce worthy fruits of penance. O how happy and blessed are these men and women while they do such things and persevere in doing them, because the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them and make Its home and dwelling place among them, and they are children of the heavenly Father Whose works they do, and they are spouses, brothers, and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are spouses when the faithful soul is joined by the Holy Spirit to our Lord Jesus Christ. We are brothers to Him when we do the will of the Father who is in heaven. We are mothers when we carry Him in our heart and body through a divine love and a pure and sincere conscience and give birth to Him through a holy activity which must shine as an example before others.

O how glorious it is to have a holy and great Father in heaven! O how holy, consoling to have such a beautiful and wonderful Spouse! O how holy and how loving, gratifying, humbling, peace-giving, sweet, worthy of love, and, above all things, desirable: to have such a Brother and such a Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who laid down His life for His sheep and prayed to His Father, saying:

Holy Father, in your name, save those whom you have given me in the world; they were yours and you gave them to me. The words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and have believed in truth that I have come from you and they have known that you have sent me.

I pray for them and not for the world. Bless and sanctify them; I sanctify myself for them. I pray not only for them, but for those who will believe in me through their word 'that they might be sanctified in being one as we are.

I wish, Father, that where I am, they also may be with me that they may see my glory in your kingdom. Amen.

Blessing to Brother Leo

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He show His face to you and be merciful to you.

May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace.

(Blessing to Brother Leo)