

LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



PRAYER RESOURCE



THE

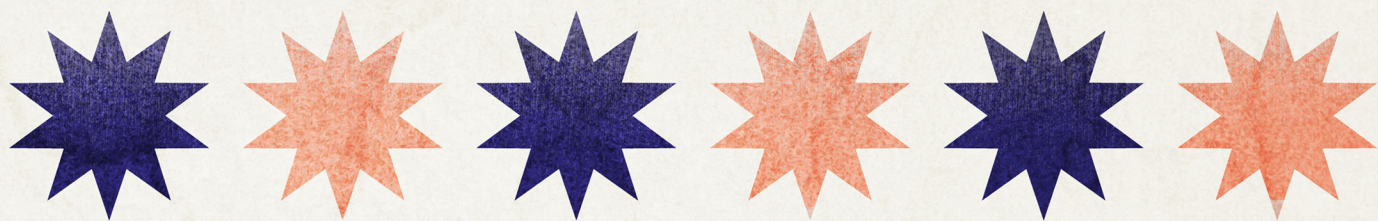


APOSTLES'

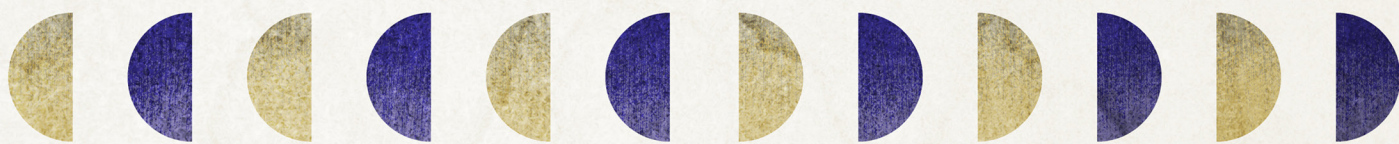


CREED





I BELIEVE IN



GO



What an amazing gift to be able to say, “I believe in God!” We know that this is a gift from you, the one true Lord, so that no one can boast. Humbly, we thank you for making yourself known to us by your Word and Spirit. As our Sovereign Creator and Ruler, our belief is not just “about” you but “in” you. Help us to place our trust in you alone with glad reliance and grateful praise. Forgive us for those times when we live more like “practical atheists” than children of the living God. Sadly, we far too often move about our lives with little to no thought about your presence, your promises, your guidance, and your glory. How tragic that we think life is all about us and that we so blatantly neglect the first four words of the Bible, “In the beginning, God.” Through Jesus’ gracious work, please forgive us for our forgetfulness of you, indifference to you, and independence from you. Enable us to think, speak, work, relate, play, and love controlled by this opening phrase of the Apostles Creed: I believe in God. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



FATHER



ALMIGHTY



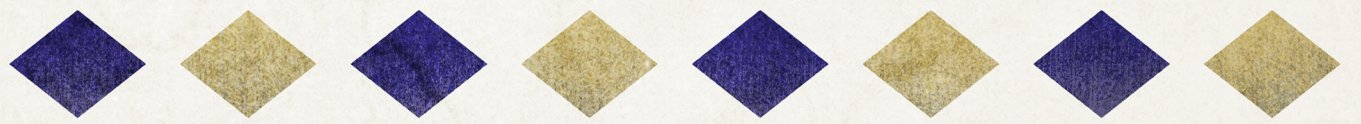
Glory be to the Father Almighty! We praise you that you are the Father of our Savior, and that you are also our Father through the work of our Savior, your Son. We are amazed when we hear Jesus praying in the upper room: "You have loved them even as you have loved me." As your adopted children, you love us no less than you love your only Son. Amazing grace! We delight in your tender and protecting care, knowing that "father-like, you tend and spare us; well our feeble frame you know; in your hand you gently bear us and rescue us from all our foes." We also confess and celebrate that our Father is the Almighty One. You have all the power to do everything in accordance with your nature. Your great power is administered with your great perfection. Praise be to the Father Almighty! Your almightiness in creation, providence, and salvation is the basis of our trust, joy, peace, hope, and protection. Thus, we rest in the words of the hymn: "A sovereign protector I have, unseen, yet forever at hand, unchangeably faithful to save, almighty to rule and command. If thou art my Shield and my Sun, the night is no darkness to me. And fast as my moments roll on, they bring me but nearer to thee." We worship you Father Almighty. To the glory of the Father and in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



MAKER OF



HEAVEN



EARTH



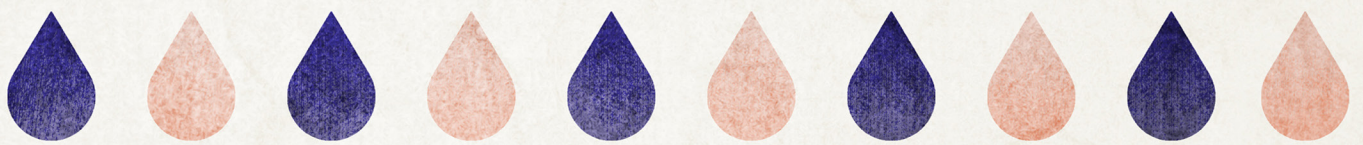
We rejoice that this is our Father's world. As maker of this majestic universe, you own it all and know its perfect design. Even as we adore you as Creator, we are reminded in Revelation of the response in heaven as the living creatures give glory and thanks to him who sits on the throne: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honor, and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being." It is to our listening ears that all nature sings and round us rings the music of the spheres. As the birds their carols raise, we are stunned that the composer of creation's music is our Father! We see the beauty of creation, for the heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of your hands. The morning light and the lily white declare our maker's praise. What a glorious thought, that such a wondrous and perfect artist is our Father! You are the master craftsman who in wisdom made all of your works. We worship and adore you. As we meander our way through your world, give us both worship and wonder. By your Spirit's power, enable us to steward your masterpiece well to the praise of your name. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



ⲓ AND IN ⲓ



JESUS CHRIST,



HIS ONLY SON,



OUR LORD





Jesus, we adore you with the words of the angel's announcement at your birth: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." What a wondrous announcement and what a glorious statement in the creed. As your name means "God is Savior," you are the better Joshua! You conquer all of your foes and ours. Our greatest foe is sin, and you paid sin's penalty on the cross, disarmed sin's power by your resurrection, and one day will eradicate the presence of sin completely upon your return. Praise and glory to you, Jesus! We worship you, for you are the Christ, the long-awaited King. At your name every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth. As the Anointed One, you perfectly fulfill all the hopes and expectations of the anointed office – prophet, priest, and king. We bless you, for you are God's only Son. As John tells us, no one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. God in flesh in the person of Jesus is a truth too great for us to fully grasp. We hear the voice of heaven on the mount of transfiguration direct us: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him." Please forgive us for our apathetic hearts that refuse to listen to you, and for our casual response that fails to apply your commands with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. For you are the Lord and your words and ways are authoritative, wise, and good. As we wait for the day when every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father, give us strength and faith to praise you and to promote you in all our endeavors. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



CONCEIVED BY



THE HOLY SPIRIT,



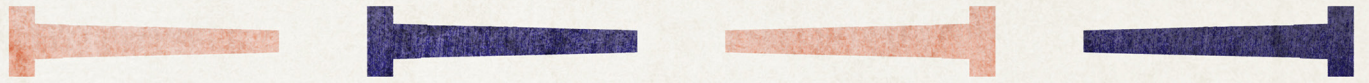
BORN OF THE



VIRGIN MARY



Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting King: we adore you for your willingness to leave the glories of heaven and to enter our broken world. By a wondrous miracle, you entered our world in the virgin birth, and by a glorious miracle you departed our world in ascending to heaven. You, Jesus, are fully God and fully man! For you took on flesh, yet were free of sin, that you might become the perfect sacrifice for us. As the second Adam, you faced temptation and kept full and perfect obedience. You passed the test that the first Adam failed, and this is our great hope: "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who received God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!" For this reason, the angel announced that you, born of a woman, would be called Jesus, which means you will save us from our sins – our record in the first Adam. Ever since our exile from the garden of Eden we were banished from your presence. But through grace you have been drawing near in the cloud, tabernacle, temple, and now in the flesh! And because of your work in the flesh, we now have your constant presence in the Holy Spirit. We look forward to the day when the whole earth is full of your presence and glory and we live and move with redeemed bodies forever. Increase our praise and our faithfulness because of these great truths. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



SUFFERED UNDER



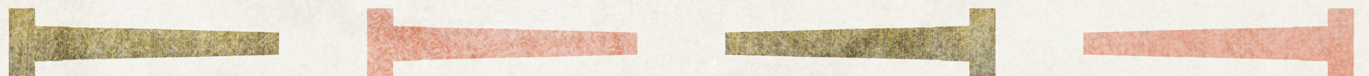
PONTIUS PILATE, WAS



CRUCIFIED,



DEAD AND BURIED



Holy God, we confess that we all, like sheep, have gone astray and turned to our own way. But you, in your grace and mercy, laid our iniquity on the Lord Jesus. Suffering Servant, we rejoice in your full and final work of atonement. For us, you suffered unjustly; and in the perfect wisdom and will of God, the miscarrying of human justice was the securing of divine justice. What a redemptive reversal for our good and your glory! We are humbled that, though you are innocent and guiltless, you took the punishment for our sin and died the death of a criminal. We celebrate and relish the truth that you, God, made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Amazing grace indeed! Give us deeper faith in the atonement and redemption that is ours in Jesus. When we are unsure of our security before you, guide us to remember that you first loved us and sent your Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. May we be quick to repent of the ways we seek to labor to earn your favor, minimizing the precious blood of Jesus on the cross! In our moments of despair and doubt, by your Spirit, help us to hear your true words: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"; "Father, forgive them"; "It is finished." May we never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. We give all glory and honor to you. You are our only hope for salvation. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



HE DESCENDED

X X X X X X X X X X

INTO HELL.



THE THIRD DAY

HE ROSE AGAIN



FROM THE DEAD.



Glorious Savior, we rejoice that you have been “put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.” What comfort to know what Richard Baxter wrote: “For Christ leads me through no darker rooms than he went through before.” We adore you as the high priest who is able to sympathize with us in all our weakness. For you have undergone death, the darkest foe; but thanks be to God that by your resurrection, death has lost its sting. What hope and comfort we now have in our greatest temptations and fiercest trials. For in any darkness we face, we are simultaneously assured of your merciful sympathy and your marvelous victory. Your resurrection establishes your reign, guarantees your return, secures our justification, delivers to us vitality unto righteousness, assures us of our own blessed resurrection, and aims us toward the renewal of all things. All glory and honor to you, our Risen King. We confess that too often we live in despair and in wavering unbelief. Forgive us, we pray, by the atoning work of Jesus. Enable and strengthen us as your church to be a colony of life in a country of death. May we be a part of your ongoing resurrection work as we labor by your power to make all things new. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.



HE ASCENDED



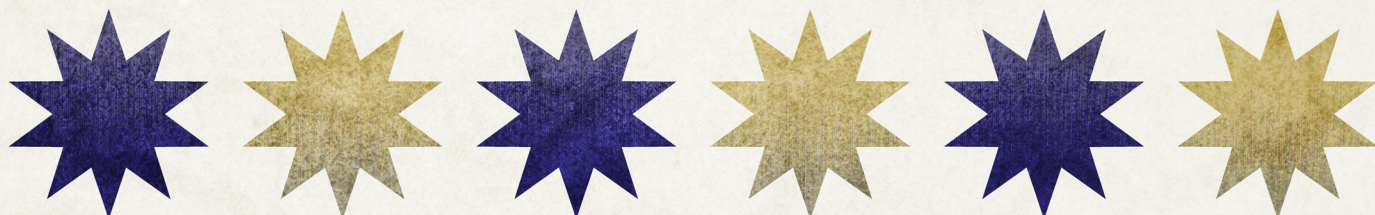
INTO HEAVEN AND SITS



AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD



THE FATHER ALMIGHTY





Reigning King, you reign with highest authority and are seated in a position of glorious honor. From that position you departed to enter our sin-ruined world, and to that position you returned, having conquered sin and death by your life, death, and resurrection. Though no more on earth, we have full and certain confidence according to your Word that you are always with us because of the gift of your Holy Spirit. Your royal seat not only reflects your kingly work but your priestly work as well. As the writer of Hebrews proclaims, "Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God." Glory be to God for the truth of your seated session that declares to us the full and finished atoning work of our Messiah. As we live and move about this broken world, may your holy reign give us boldness and rest because we know that you are working to subdue us to yourself and to restrain and conquer all enemies. Though it appears to our eyes at times that evil overrules you, give us faith to believe that you will make your enemies your footstool and that your rule is always for your glory and the church's good. Cause us to live surrendered lives to you that embody this song: "Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace; for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums, but deeds of love and mercy, the heavenly kingdom comes." In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

X X X X X X X X X X

FROM THENCE



HE SHALL COME

— TO JUDGE —

THE LIVING



AND THE DEAD

X X X X X X X X X X

Son of Man, what hope we find in these words: "He shall come!" You told us that you are going to prepare a place for us and that you would come back and take us home. Praise to you, our faithful Redeemer, who will surely complete the work guaranteed by your resurrection. We thank you that with your coming will come our bodily resurrection and the fullness of everlasting life and new creation. When we think of that day, we are full of joy and anticipation. Thanks be to God! Because your return will accomplish the judgment of both the living and the dead, strengthen us to be ready and vigilant since the timing of your return is unknown to us. When we are spiritually asleep, wake us from our slumber. When we are passive in our walk with you, activate our hearts. When we are content to live by sight, give us abounding faith. When we grow hard-hearted toward God and tender toward sin, give us repentance. As we seek to live vigilantly in light of your return, help us rest securely because of our union with Christ. By grace, we, as your children, confidently await you as Judge because you already stood trial in our place and removed the whole curse of God's wrath from us. We will stand before you clothed in the righteousness of Jesus to the praise of your glorious grace. May our confidence in Christ engender compassion in us toward those who will stand alone on that day. Give courage, zeal, and urgency to us, that we may share the Gospel of grace with all those we know who are standing upon their own works. Forgive us our apathy for the lost. If we truly lived in light of the great day of your return and judgment, our lives would be more gloriously directed. Until that day, keep us watchful with sincere obedience and earnest expectation. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

I BELIEVE

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦  
★ IN THE ★

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦  
H O L Y



S P I R I T

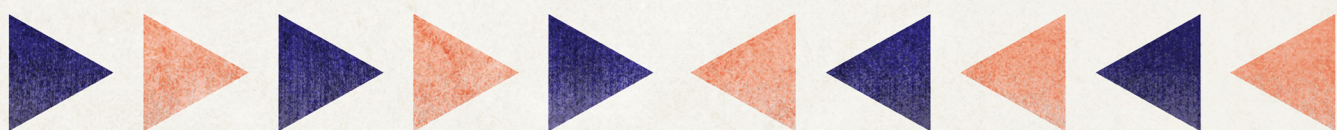
Holy Spirit, we believe in you and are exceedingly grateful for your work in our lives. You give life to us as we are born in the Spirit. Once dead in our sins, we are alive because of your work of regeneration within us. Never allow us to forget that our life in Christ is a gift! Thank you also for being our Counselor. More than we even acknowledge and notice, you guide us to think about what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy. Cause us to be more mindful of and thankful for your work in us that always precedes our work. Continue to provide illumination for us each time we open the Scriptures, that we may be convicted of our sin and emboldened by the work of Jesus Christ. Enable us to remember that we did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" Holy Spirit, deepen our cry as sons and daughters of the Father. We are so thankful for you, Holy Spirit. When we are full of sorrow, you comfort us. When we are at a loss for words in prayer, you groan for us. When we are absent of strength, you empower us. Just as your purpose is to glorify the Son, strengthen us for that very task each day. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.



HOLY



CATHOLIC



CHURCH

Lord Jesus, we praise you as the head of the church and thank you for faithfully establishing and enlivening the church. Because we believe the church is the pillar and foundation of truth, we now pray for your beloved bride, the church universal:

Jesus, with thy church abide, be her Savior, Lord, and Guide, while on earth her faith is tried: we beseech thee, hear us.

Keep her life and doctrine pure; grant her patience to endure, trusting in thy promise sure: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she one in doctrine be, one in truth and charity, winning all to faith in thee: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost until she find, and the brokenhearted bind: we beseech thee, hear us.

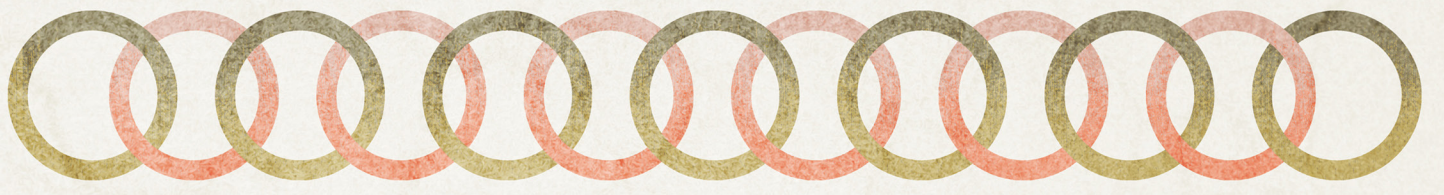
Save her love from growing cold, make her watchmen strong and bold, fence her round, thy peaceful fold: we beseech thee, hear us.

May her lamp of truth be bright, bid her bear aloft its light through the realms of heathen night: we beseech thee, hear us.

Arm her soldiers with the cross, brave to suffer toil or loss, counting earthly gain but dross: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she holy triumphs win, overthrow the hosts of sin, gather all the nations in: we beseech thee, hear us.

(text from "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"; text by Thomas Benson Pollock, 1871; music by John Henry Gower, 1891)



  **THE**  



**COMMUNION**



  **OF**  



**SAINTS**





We adore you, Gracious Father, for sending your son Jesus to gather, secure, and preserve a people for yourself out of the entire human race. You are the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and those of us in your church past, present, and future. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, enable us to throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, that we, your church, might run with perseverance together. We confess that we tend to view our faith as predominantly private and personal rather than corporate and communal. Forgive us according to the work of Jesus and enable us to reject any form of "lone ranger Christianity." Drill down deep into our hearts and minds this identity and calling: We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ, who are well-acquainted with the love of God out-poured. May we share your love generously and broadly. We are the body of which the Lord is Head, and we are called to obey him, now risen from the dead. May we spread resurrection life generously and broadly. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place, formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace. May we shine the light of God's grace generously and broadly as he uses broken jars of clay like us. We ask all of these things for the glory of your name in the church, now and forever. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.



THE



FORGIVENESS



OF



SINS



Our Redeemer, from the cross we hear you exclaim, "It is finished," and our hearts swell with joy. With those words, you proclaim the full payment of our sin debt and the satisfaction of God's wrath for your people. Amazing love! We celebrate that you do not hold our sins against us anymore and have removed our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west. Hallelujah! Our earnest request is that you would convince our hearts daily of the sure truth that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We confess that our lives are often fruitless because we suffer from Gospel amnesia, forgetting that we have been cleansed from our own sins. Enable us joyfully to remember and relish the sufficient, satisfactory, and final work of Jesus that has made us pardoned sons and daughters of the High King of Heaven. With such a great gift of mercy, strengthen us to gladly show mercy and forgiveness to those who sin against us. We confess that we tend to desire mercy for our sin condition but justice for everyone else's sin condition. Help us to see the senseless inconsistency of such a view, the rot of revenge, and the slavery of bitterness. We are sorry for our sinful reactions to being sinned against; please forgive us for failing to forgive others. As those set free from judgment forever because of Jesus, our atoning sacrifice, empower us to set others free through forgiveness. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.



RESURRECTION



Eternal God, what comfort we have in knowing that when we die, our life will not end! We rejoice that when we draw our last breath, our souls will be taken immediately to Christ, our Savior and King. Even more amazing still, Lord, you have promised us that one great and glorious day, Jesus will return, and every one of his followers will be given a resurrected body, one that will not bear even the slightest blemish from the Fall. We stumble and sin now, and ache and groan as dwellers of earth, but we know that there is a day coming when we will feast and sing around your throne. Hallelujah! Praise be to God!

Help us to make the hope of our resurrection not a fleeting “pie in the sky, by and by” thought. Make it a belief to which we cling, not just as we face death or grieve the deaths of those precious to us, but also as we face the ordinary trials of life. When we think at noon that we can barely make it until we drop in bed at the end of the day, remind us of what awaits us at the resurrection. When we give in to temptation and sin against you yet again, call us to confession and remind us of the promise of the resurrection. The trumpet will sound, and we will be changed! Death will be swallowed up in victory! We praise you now that this is our certain hope. In the name of our resurrected Lord Jesus. Amen.



THE  LIFE

EVERLASTING



O great triune God, who had no beginning and who will reign forever and ever, we praise you in utter wonder as we contemplate the gift of eternal life. You have told us that no human heart has ever imagined "what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor. 2:9) To have something that will surpass anything we could possibly envision, even in our deepest longings or wildest flights of fancy, is truly a blessing beyond measure. Death feels so final to us now, Lord, and so awful. With great thanksgiving, we praise you that one day there will be no more death and no more mourning. We are so very grateful to know that one day you will wipe every tear from our eyes. (Rev. 21:4) O how we thank you that the new world we will live in one day will be so unlike the one we live in now. We will leave behind fear, grief, injustice, and suffering and experience nothing but perfect love, purest joy, and profound peace. As we wait, help us to long more for the absolute blessedness we will have with you, the strength of our heart and our portion forever, than we yearn for anything on this earth. (Ps. 73:26) And when we are young or busy, and death seems distant, pry our thoughts away from the "gilded toys of dust" to which we so wrongfully cling, and fill our hearts with a fresh desire to serve and worship you. We pray in the name of our Savior Jesus, who secured eternal life for us. Amen.