

Example Prayers for the Church Year

[All are from *The Worship Sourcebook*, first edition; published by The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Faith Alive, and Baker Books; 2004. Reference numbers included below]

Advent Prayers to Christ

D.9.1.7

Eternal God,
you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,
we may joyfully give him praise
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

D.1.4.13

O God, whose will is justice for the poor
and peace for the afflicted,
let your herald's urgent voice
pierce our hardened hearts
and announce the dawn of your kingdom.
Before the Advent of the one who baptizes
with the fire of the Holy Spirit,
let our complacency give way to conversion,
oppression to justice,
and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Christmas Prayers to Christ

E.1.4.11

O God, our Father, creator of the universe,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, came to our world,
pour your Holy Spirit upon your church,
that all people of our world,
being led through the knowledge of your truth to worship you,
may offer the gold of intellect,
the frankincense of devotion,
and the myrrh of discipline
to him who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns for ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

E.1.4.20

O Lord, our God,
as we celebrate again the festival of Christmas,
we ask you to make us humble and loving like Jesus,
who did not come to be served but to serve,
and who said that it is better to give than to receive,
so that in his name
we may devote ourselves to the care
and service of all who are in need.
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

E.1.4.21
God of love,
open the hearts and minds of many this Christmastime
to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ,
that all whose lives are insecure, or empty, or aimless,
may find in the one born at Bethlehem all they need today—
and much more besides. For his name's sake, Amen.

Epiphany Prayers to Christ

F.1.4.3
Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose Epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation
with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.

F.1.4.5
Everlasting God,
you brought the nations to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all the nations,
through him who is the true light
and the bright morning star,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

F.9.1.5
As sages from the east offered you their best,
so may we honor you, O Christ,
with our highest visions and finest energies.
As you turned the water to wine at Cana,
so come to your church
and teach us to change human tears to joyful song.
As you were baptized to fulfill all righteousness,

so may your church humbly do your will.
As you gave light to those who followed you on earth,
so be our light as we follow you
on city streets or country roads.
Be revealed among us in power, in Word, in sacrament,
and in places where we live and work.
Glory be to you, O Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Lent Prayers to Christ

I.1.4.3

O Lord our God, long-suffering and full of compassion:
Be present with us in this season
in which we recall our Savior's sufferings and celebrate his triumph.
Give us your Holy Spirit,
so that as we acknowledge our sins and implore your pardon,
we may also have the strength to deny ourselves
and be upheld in times of temptation
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I.1.4.5

Merciful God,
you called us forth from the dust of the earth;
you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism.
Look upon us as we enter these forty days
bearing the mark of ashes,
and bless our journey through the desert of Lent
to the font of rebirth.
May our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace;
our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.
All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus,
for in his cross you proclaim your love
for ever and ever. Amen.

J.1.4.4

From Bethlehem to Nazareth,
from Jordan to Jericho,
from Bethany to Jerusalem,
from then to now,
come, Lord Jesus.
To heal the sick,
to mend the brokenhearted,
to comfort the disturbed,
to disturb the comfortable,
to cleanse the temple,
to liberate faith from convention,
come, Lord Jesus.
To carry the cross,

to lead the way,
to shoulder the sin of the world
and take it away,
come, Lord Jesus.
Today,
to this place,
to us,
come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Easter Prayers to Christ

N.1.4.4, based on an ancient Easter hymn of praise known as the Exultet
Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!
Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes forever!
Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Rejoice, O church! Exult in glory!
The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!
Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Amen.

N.1.4.11

Brightness of God's glory and exact image of God's person,
whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison,
as you have shared our frailty in human flesh,
help us to share your immortality in the Spirit.
Let no shadow of the grave terrify us
and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you.
Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days,
as the first and the last, the living one,
our immortal Savior and Lord. Amen.

N.4.4.6

We worship you, Jesus, our Savior;
you conquered death by your cross:
you are the stone rejected by the builders;

you have become the cornerstone:
make all of us living stones in your church.
We pray to you for Christians:
may they live in the joy of the resurrection
and be a visible sign of your presence by their mutual love.
We pray to you for the leaders of your church:
as they celebrate your resurrection with all your servants,
may they be strengthened for your service.
We pray to you for the leaders of the nations:
may they exercise their office as servants of justice and peace.
We pray to you for all who are suffering
from illness, grief, old age, and exile:
may your resurrection be a source of comfort and aid for them. Amen.

Pentecost Prayers to Christ

Q.1.4.2

Spirit of the living God, visit us again on this day of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Like a rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,
come, Holy Spirit.
Like tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,
come, Holy Spirit.
With speech that unites the Babel of our tongues,
come, Holy Spirit.
With love that overlaps the boundaries of race and nation,
come, Holy Spirit.
With power from above to make our weakness strong,
come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Q.1.4.6

Blessed be our God at all times,
now and always and forever and ever. Amen.
Glory to you, our God! Glory to you!
Holy Spirit, Lord and Comforter,
Spirit of truth everywhere present, filling all that exists,
treasury of good gifts and source of life, come and dwell in us;
cleans us from all sin and in your love bring us to salvation:
God, holy; God, strong and holy;
God, holy and immortal; have pity on us. Amen.

Q.9.1.7

God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us
to serve and worship you now and always. Amen.

