

*Everlasting God,
in whom we live
and move
and have our being:*

*You have made us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless
until they rest in you.*

*Give us purity of heart
and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may
hinder us from
knowing your will,
no weakness keep us
from doing it;
that in your light
we may see light clearly,
and in your service
find perfect freedom;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.*

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*through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.*

I praise you,
I worship you,
I adore you.

You hold the heavens
in your hand,
all stars rejoice
in your glory.

You come in the sunrise and
the song of morn
and bless the splendor
of the noonday.

The stars in their courses
magnify you,
day and night tell of your glory.

Your peace blows over the earth
and the breath of your mouth
fills all space.

Your voice comes in the thunder
of the storm
and the song of the wind
whispers of your majesty.

You satisfy all things living
with your abundance
and our hearts
bow at your presence.

Accept us, your children,
Creative God,
and hearken to our prayer.

Bend over us, Eternal Love,
and bless us.
Amen.

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Amen.

*O God, full of compassion,
I commit and commend
myself to you,
in whom I am,
and live,
and know.*

*Be the goal of my
pilgrimage,
and my rest by the way.
Let my soul take refuge
from the crowding turmoil
of worldly thought
beneath the shadow
of your wings.*

*Let my heart,
this sea of restless waves,
find peace in you, O God.
Amen.*

Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

*O God, full of compassion,
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Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

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 seek so much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life.
Amen.

Attributed to Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

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Psalm 46: 1 – 5.7
(NRSV)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake
in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble
with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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Grant to me, O Lord,
to know that which
is worth knowing,
to love that which
is worth loving,
to praise that which
pleases you most,
to esteem that which is
most precious unto you,
and to dislike
whatsoever is
evil in your eyes.

Grant me with true
judgment to distinguish
things that differ,
and above all to search
out and do what is well
pleasing unto you,
through Jesus Christ
my Lord. Amen

~Thomas of Kempis (c.1380-1471)

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*God, give us grace
to accept with serenity
the things that
cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.*

*Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as
a pathway to peace,*

*Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will
make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably
happy in this life,
And supremely happy with
You forever in the next.
Amen.*

--Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

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You who called us to
hope in your Name,
Which is first of all creation,
Open the eyes of our heart
That we may know you
Who alone remains
Highest among the highest and
Holiest among the holy.

Save those of us who
are in affliction,
Have mercy on the lonely,
Raise up those that are fallen,
Be manifested to those
that are in need,
Heal the sick,
bring back those of your
people that go astray.
Feed the hungry,
redeem our captives,
lift up those that are weak,
comfort the faint-hearted.
Amen

--Clement of Rome, 1st Century

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*Sweet and loving God
When I stay asleep
too long,
Oblivious to all your
many blessings,
Then, please, wake me up,
And sing to me
your joyful song.
It is a song without
noise or notes.
It is a song of
love beyond words,
Of faith beyond the power of
human telling.
I can hear it in my soul,
When you awaken me to your
presence.
Amen.*

--Mechthild of Magdeburg (c.1210?-c.1282)

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Romans 8:26-28

(NRSV)

Likewise the Spirit
helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how
to pray as we ought,
but that very Spirit intercedes with
sighs too deep for words.

And God,
who searches the heart,
knows what is
the mind of the Spirit,
because the Spirit intercedes
for the saints according
to the will of God.

We know that all things work
together for good for those who
love God,
who are called according
to his purpose.

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Isaiah 40: 1 – 11

(NRSV)

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare
the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the
field. The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

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Psalm 42: 1-6a (NRSV)

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.*

*My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and
behold the face of God?*

*My tears have been my
food day and night,
while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”*

*These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession
to the house of God,
with glad shouts and
songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.*

*Why are you cast down,
O my soul, and why are you
disquieted within me?
Hope in God:
for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.*

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Psalm 139: 1-16 (NRSV)

O LORD, you have searched me
and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you,

for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days
that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

Psalm 139: 1-16 (NRSV)

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