

# PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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*25 prayers of confession on 1 Corinthians  
written by Dan Green, Tim Bongers, and Chris Fry*

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## 1 CORINTHIANS

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Our Father in Heaven,

We praise you for your grace which you have given to us in your Son the Lord Jesus.

That in Him we are sanctified and called to be holy.

That as we wait for His revealing we have been given all we need to follow Him faithfully.

And that we do so in the knowledge that He will keep us strong to the end, so that on the day of His return we will be blameless, not because we are in ourselves, but because He was on our behalf, and has taken the punishment our sins deserve in our place.

Yet we confess that we are ungrateful and do not thank you as we should for all that you have done for us.

We do not live holy lives and run after those sins that characterised our past.

We do not depend upon the resources you have given to us for life in fellowship with your Son.

Father, forgive us, we pray.

And we ask that by your Spirit now, you would conform us more and more to the likeness of your Son.

So that as He was holy, so we would be.

As He was dependent upon you, so we would recognise our need for you day by day.

We pray this in full confidence that you who have called us are faithful.

## **1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

Our God – how great you are. We praise you our creator and our redeemer.

We praise you for the salvation you give to us through your Son, the Lord Jesus, and His death in our place.

We praise you that through faith in Him, you have made us acceptable in your sight, rescuing us from our sins and covering us with His righteousness.

Not only that, we praise you that you make us part of your family and place us in local churches.

We praise you for uniting us to another, and for the unity in desire and purpose that you have given to this local church.

But gracious Father, we confess that maintaining this unity is not easy and on our own we are unable to do so.

We confess that we are selfish and want our own way; that we find it difficult to agree with one another because that means putting the interests of others so often above our own; that even if in public we put on a show of being united, that private our thoughts, words, and actions tell a different story.

Father, forgive us we pray.

Thank you Jesus, that you came not to be served but to serve, that you died so that we can be forgiven of all our sins, and that your Spirit now lives in us.

Holy Spirit, give us the power we need to love one another as Jesus has loved us, so that there would be no divisions both publicly and privately among us.

Make us aware of any ways in which our attitudes and behaviour is in danger of damaging the unity we share in Christ.

And we pray that you will continue to do so until the day we will be perfectly united to one another, and all your people from every nation and

every age, as we join to give God all the praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength for ever and ever.

## **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5**

Almighty God, You alone are the source of all wisdom and righteousness.

We praise You that before the world was created, You planned in Your wisdom a way for sinful human beings to be saved.

Forgive us for the many times when we have thought ourselves wiser than You. Your word shows us how we should live, and yet we determine to live according to our own understanding.

And yet, in our pride we come up with any number of reasons why we deserve our place in heaven on our own merits.

We fail to see the seriousness of our sin and so we readily pretend we have no need of a Saviour.

We consider ourselves wise because we have access to information and ideas, and we are tempted to believe the world's lie that You are unjust because You insist on punishing our sin.

Help us instead to be all the more grateful that Your Son was prepared to take the fierce heat of Your wrath against our rebellion.

Help us to see clearly that the cross represents the wisdom of God acted out once and for all.

All our human thought is foolishness in comparison to this.

Lord Jesus, You are the Wisdom of God.

Throughout Your life on earth You displayed wisdom greater than Solomon's.

Never did a foolish thought cross Your mind, never was a word wasted, never was a deed later regretted.

You served Your Father without ever doubting His wisdom.

You were prepared to be seen as weak and to be crushed in order to save millions of people.

You died to make foolish people wise to the things of God.

Holy Spirit, go on convicting us of our sin and of the truth of God's word. Make us more like the Lord Jesus day by day, so that we will no longer be foolish but wise.

Help us to reject worldly thinking and give us minds that take after our Saviour – renew our minds by Your power.  
May we never be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; instead, will You make us determined to know and declare Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

## **1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

Our Lord and heavenly father we come before you now to lay ourselves before you.

We thank you for the way the scriptures speak of your abounding wisdom which has been seen in the way you created the world, in the way you chose and guided people to lead your chosen people through the Old Testament, in the way you have chosen to reveal yourself and your character in the form of your Son.

We give you praise that this wisdom belongs to you only and that no-one can even compare with your thoughts and deeds.  
You are a great God and we marvel at your wisdom.

Yet Lord we know that we so easily disregard your wisdom and instead cling on to the foolish thoughts we have that claim to be wise.

You know our hearts and that is both awesomely wonderful and awesomely terrifying.  
Whilst we might try and hide our lives from others we know we cannot hide the way we live from you.

Therefore you already know that our lives are so often based on raising ourselves up and claiming that the way we live or the decisions we make are wise.  
We turn to the world's view of wisdom and listen to their voices, living lives in rebellion and disobedience to the abounding rivers of wisdom in your word.

We ask your forgiveness for living in this way.

So we thank you for the wisdom of Christ who laid aside his place in heaven to live a life and die a death that was all part of your plan.  
And we give you praise for His death which was the pinnacle of your wise plan.

We thank you that he trusted you, even to death and that through Him we know have your Holy Spirit which enables us to see the wisdom of living for you and the folly in ignoring you.

We also thank you that through Christ death we now look forward to the time when we will be with you, a time when this world's pains and groans will pass away and a time when we will be able to glorify you in the way you created us to.

We thank you again that through your spirit working in us we are able to see your wisdom which is hidden but which you choose to reveal through us.

So we pray that you will help us to not only hear your Spirit's voice as He speaks wisdom to us but we pray that you will help us to listen to His words.

Please those words of wisdom from you to be heard clearly above the voices of the world which will cause folly and sin.

And what we pray for ourselves we would pray for others we know who are still in darkness.  
We would ask that you would help us not to keep the wisdom we know of from you to ourselves.  
Please help us to live out our thanks and hope in such a way that others will want to seek you as well.

As a community we pray that our hearts desire would be to see others welcomed into your kingdom, even through sinful and needy people like us.  
We know that this requires a work of your Spirit in the hearts of those we rub shoulders with, a work which we cannot do but we would pray you would do.  
Yet we also acknowledge that your spirit needs to work in us to stir us, to see the needs around us and also to give us courage to live and speak of you.

So we commit these things to you knowing that you love to hear us call upon you.

In your name we pray.

## 1 Corinthians 3:1-21

Sovereign Lord, Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,  
We praise you that the kingdom you have given to your Son is continuing to be built and extend as more and more people from all nations repent of their sins and put their trust in Jesus.

We praise you for those men and women who first told us the gospel and the work of your Spirit in opening our eyes so that we could see our need for a Saviour.

We praise you for the leaders and teachers you give to us to help us grow and mature in our faith, by teaching us from your Word what to believe and how to behave in a manner worthy of the salvation we're received. And whether it is by planting seeds or watering them, we praise you that you graciously use in the good work of making disciples.

Yet we confess, that we are not the people you saved us to be.  
We have not made the progress in our faith that we should have done.  
Our appetite and love for your Word is too low.  
Our behaviour so often conforms to the pattern of this world, putting ourselves and our wants first.  
Our effectiveness and zeal in serving you and making the Lord Jesus known lacks urgency.  
Forgive us for the many different ways we continue to sin.  
Have mercy on us Father according to your great love.

And knowing that a Day is coming when we will be judged as a church for our growth, our maturity, our service, and our faithfulness.  
We are so grateful for our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Jesus thank you for the forgiveness you give to us through your death on the cross.  
We thank you that you died for us and that your death cleanses us from all our sin.

But too we pray now that by your Spirit you would give us minds that want to know you more and more and delve down deeply into your Word.  
Please would you give us hearts that love you, and wills determined to obey all that you tell us to do.  
We don't want to be a church that only escapes through the flames, but one that is maturing, dependent upon you, faithful in service, and which does all things for the glory of God.

## 1 Corinthians 4:1-21

Almighty, holy God, we are reminded that in You there is no darkness at all.  
Your light exposes even the most secret things of this world.  
The things in our lives that we would like to stay hidden cannot be hidden from You.  
Our secret sins and hidden thoughts are therefore not shielded from You.

Help us then to confess our sins to You and repent of them...let go of them...put them to death.

Your motives are pure and loving; ours are so often selfish and cold.

Pride and arrogance loom large in the list of things that drive us.  
We turn the blessings You have given us into boasts, and rejoice in our accomplishments and possessions.  
Too often we see ourselves through the world's eyes, and judge success by the world's standards.

Father, have forgiven all those who have called upon the name of Your Son; please go on forgiving us as we go on repenting of our sin.  
Help us to rejoice in our status as Your forgiven people and as children adopted into Your royal family.  
Above all, help us to rejoice in all that we are in Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit, please make us daily more like the Lord Jesus.  
He was strong, yet for us He became weak in the world's eyes.  
He deserved the highest honour, yet became the most dishonoured of men.  
He endured slander, ill – treatment and ultimately the cross, and yet managed to bless even those who conspired against Him.  
He is our righteousness and holiness.

Help us as we read the Word that You inspired.  
Help us to see the Lord ever more clearly, and to delight in Him.

May vain boasting and arrogance fade away as we become more like Christ. Teach us true humility and may the life of Christ in us be ever more evident to those who encounter us.

In Christ's name we pray.

## **1 Corinthians 5:1-13**

We praise and thank you this morning for your generous and bountiful gifts to us which you shower upon us.  
We know that when we pause to think your good gifts represent your love for your creation and should humble us.  
We also acknowledge that you are with us as we gather this morning.

As individuals we come before you this morning to once again fall on our faces before you.  
We do not deserve your mercy.  
We are sinners who are full of impurity of thought, deed and action.  
As we look back over the past week we can think of many instances where our heart has been darkened by sin.  
We daily allow sin to creep back into our hearts and grieve your spirit.  
If we search our hearts we know that it is such a struggle to remain pure and we so often give in to temptation too easily.

So we thank you once again for Christ.  
We thank you that he lived life as a man and so knows our struggles.  
We thank you that he overcame those temptations through reliance on his Father's words.  
We thank you that he acted as our Passover Lamb and were willing to be sacrificed for impure people such as us.  
As we look at the cross it is an immense thing to realise that Jesus soaked up all the wrath which we deserved upon himself.

We pray that you will help us to continue struggling against the sinful nature.  
We pray that you will help us to boast in the cross and not in our own strength.  
We ask that through your Holy Spirit you will continue to be changing us to be more like Christ.  
Help us to follow his example and resist temptation through reliance upon your word.

We also pray that you will help us to love the community you have placed us in.  
We know that it is no accident that we are here in this community so we pray that you will enable us to pray for opportunities, but also use those opportunities to show that we have a God who loves us in spite of our frailties and deficiencies.

His offer of forgiveness is an offer to everyone.  
In a world of sin and darkness we pray that you will enable people to have their eyes opened to the forgiveness and light that you shine through ordinary sinners like us.

## **1 Corinthians 6:1-11**

Almighty God, our Provider,  
We praise you for all the good things you give to us and which come to us from your kind hand.  
There is simply so much we could praise you for.  
From all the things we possess that fill our homes, to all the relationships we have that we enjoy, and the wonderful gift we have received of being part of your kingdom through faith in your Son.

Yet we confess that so often we live as those who have been brought under your loving rule.  
Rather than living in harmony with one another, we have grievances and fail to settle disputes.  
We get involved in all kinds of unrighteous behaviour that was part of what we were before Jesus saved us.  
Forgive us for all the ways and all the times we don't live as we should.

Thank you Jesus that because of your death all our sins have been washed away.  
Thank you that you have made us your holy people.  
Thank you that in you we are justified and will one day be presented before your Father as spotless.  
That even now He sees us as those who have never sinned or will never sin because your perfect righteousness which covers.

Holy Spirit, help us we pray to live our lives each day as those who have been washed, who have been sanctified, and who have been justified by the name of the Lord Jesus.  
So that as we do, others will be drawn to your Son and be brought into His kingdom of God, through faith in Him.

## **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

Father, we are reminded that Your perfect Son suffered and died once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us back to God... ultimately to restore to the heights of glory from which we once fell.

Thank You that the moment we first repented and believed, You forgave us our sins and united us with Your Son.  
Help us to remember that we are united with Him.  
Whenever we lose sight of this, sin is likely to beset us.  
When we lose sight of grace, we lapse into legalism, making rules for ourselves to judge ourselves by.  
When we lose sight of Your holiness, we deceive ourselves into thinking that it matters not how we conduct ourselves.  
We echo the great prayer request that we would not be led into temptation.

We confess that all too often, we court temptations instead of distancing ourselves from the very thought of them.  
Technology allows our senses to be flooded with ideas and images that do us no good and lead us down dark paths.  
Help us all to resist conduct that divides marriages, splits families and weakens churches.

As a church may we neither make claims to perfectionism, nor be guilty of moralising.  
Rather, may your Spirit enable us without fuss to go about the business of leading lives worthy of Christ.  
When we fail, help us to freely confess our short – comings and repent of them.  
Help us to be all that we are in Christ.  
May our bodies truly be the temples of the Holy Spirit that Your Word assures us they are.  
We are no longer our own. We were bought at a great price by the blood of Your Son.  
So help us by Your Spirit to glorify Yourself in our bodies.

## **1 Corinthians 7**

We give you thanks and praise for your wonders of creation this morning.  
We thank you that in your wisdom you created us in your image and that you took joy in creating us in this way.  
We thank you for the joy of the different relationships we have in this world.  
Friendships, brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, aunts and uncles and grandparents.  
We thank you that each of these relationships is a minute mirror in to how you exist perfectly with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Yet as we reflect on these relationships we acknowledge that we find it difficult to maintain them as they were created to be.  
Each relationship we have can be tainted by the sin within our own hearts.  
Marriages are affected by selfishness, friendships damaged by words said, family relationships damaged by selfish attitudes.  
And ultimately our relationship with you is not what we would want it to be.

So we come before you on bended knee seeking your forgiveness in the knowledge that we have a Saviour who came to rebuild the relationship with you that we could never achieve on our own.  
We thank you Jesus for your death but also for the way you now intercede for us at the Father's right hand.  
We thank you for the fact that he will present the church as His bride on the final day.

And we therefore pray that you will help our relationships with each other to be ones of love and unity.  
We ask for your spirits help as we seek to do this.  
We pray that each relationship we have, whether at work, home or church might be flavoured with your fragrance of love, mercy and patience.  
We especially pray for the married couples represented and pray that in a society that seemingly no longer values the sanctity of marriage we might strive to show it to be something to be treasured and upheld as you created it to be.

## **1 Corinthians 8**

Father, we consider today the catastrophic loss of life sustained over the past century of human conflicts.  
We acknowledge that our race has failed to live up to the mandate you gave us at creation.  
We have widely failed in our duty of care towards one another.  
When Cain petulantly retorted the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" the answer should have been a resounding YES.  
Instead of caring for our fellow man's needs, we have envied and hated, storing up goods for ourselves and depriving others in the process.  
Nations have fought with nations; millions have been lost in the process.  
Many of these died quite unprepared to face your holy judgment.  
Humanity can make no serious claim to inherent goodness.  
We thank You again that not since the flood have you wiped all evil from the face of the earth.

You have borne patiently with the inhabitants of the earth.  
Much more than that, you have sought to save humanity at great cost to Yourself.

We thank You that Your Son, the Man of peace was prepared to stoop and become one of us in order to reconcile man to God.  
Thank You that by His death and resurrection He has brokered peace.  
Thank You that for those who have trusted Him, the enmity between God and man is at an end.  
Help us to be peace makers...warning others of their dire need to seek forgiveness from You on Your own terms.  
Forgive us the many times when we go on living as if Your light had not dawned on us.  
Forgive us the times when we prolong disputes with others rather than nipping things in the bud.  
Help us to be prepared to be wronged rather than to stand upon our supposed rights.  
Help us to model reconciliation within the church.  
May there be no ongoing disputes amongst us.  
May those who are mature encourage those who are new to the faith.  
May those who are strong at any one time encourage those who are weak and struggling.  
May we each be concerned for each others' needs and esteem others more highly than ourselves.

Above all, may Your Spirit who lives in us make us daily more like Christ.  
Each day He walked the earth He thought always of You, He meditated constantly on Your word, and He was selfless in His devotion to lesser human beings than Himself.  
LORD, give us the strength to follow in our Master's footsteps.  
Help us die to self, live to serve You and seek to draw others to Jesus.

## **1 Corinthians 9**

Sovereign Lord, how we praise you have made yourself and your glory known to us.  
And that we can know you not just as the Sovereign Lord but as our Lord through Jesus Christ your Son.  
We praise you that we can know more of you as your Word instructs us about your character and works.  
Not only that, it teaches us how live as those who know you.

We praise you too for those who work hard to teach us from your Word and thank you that you have gifted this church with a number who can do this. How kind you are.  
And we praise you that you want to be known by more people that you have given us the wonderful task of sharing this good news.

Yet Father, we confess that so often we fail to appreciate what you have given us so that we can know you better.  
We have the privilege of greater access today to your Word than any other generation in history, yet how often we keep it closed and fail to read and delight in what it reveals to us about you.  
We have teachers who labour to make it clear and understandable to us but we fail to listen attentively to what they say.  
We confess too, that so often we don't share your passion for you to be known by more people and are lukewarm in our desire to tell people the gospel and see them come to faith in Jesus.  
Forgive us we pray.

Thank you Jesus that you love us and gave yourself up for us on the cross so that we can be forgiven.  
For setting us free so we can be holy and you are holy.

Thank you that you show us what it means to love God's Word – that you truly said "Oh how I love your law!"  
And you show us what it means to love people and desire to see them saved – by sacrificing yourself in place of sinners on the cross.

Help us by your Spirit to have a real longing to know you better.  
To read your Word and meet the Lord Jesus and have our vision of who He is enlarged and expanded.  
Give us a willingness to learn and be taught by those you have given to us as teachers and preachers.  
Help us to listen attentively today.  
And would you fill our hearts with love for others that we share what we know about you with them and long for them to be brought to faith and know our Lord for themselves.

## **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

Our dear Lord and heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise that you are the God of all of history.

You are the same yesterday, today and forever and we acknowledge that there is no other like you this morning.

We can see your wondrous deeds throughout the whole Bible.

Your patience with the Israelites, your love in providing for them, the examples you give us to help us live according to your commands.

We thank you also for the way you have also warned us through your judgements what an awesomely powerful and just God you are.

Therefore we come before you this morning to say sorry for those sins which so frequently trip us up in our faith.

Those sins which we can see the Israelites make in the OT as they drift away from you back to their old ways of life.

We too easily give in to those sins of the sinful nature that should be put in the past and we fail to live lives of complete obedience to you.

We grumble, we complain, we deliberately wander away and we ignore your warnings.

Yet we thank you for your faithfulness.

We thank you that you provided your son who overcame the temptation in the wilderness and modelled for us how to rely on your words.

Not only that but we thank you that we can hold Jesus up to all our sins and shout that our sins have been laid upon him.

We thank you that we can now draw spiritual strength from the rock of Christ and his Holy Spirit which dwells in us and is changing us to be more like Him.

And we would also ask for your help as we face the struggles of this life.

We pray that you will help us to heed the warnings given to us regarding detestable sins.

We also pray that just like Christ showed us, you will enable us to show compassion to those who still walk in darkness, who still live lives which are rebellious in your eyes.

We pray that you will continually give us a heart to pay and get alongside such folk and show them the true light in the form of your Son.

### **1 Corinthians 10:14-22**

Our Lord and our God,

Our hearts do rejoice that the Lord Jesus has come and is coming again.

We praise you that He came to save.

That because of His body which died on the cross in our place and His blood that was shed so we can be forgiven, we can be rescued from a judgment that was ours.

As those who have been saved by Jesus, we praise you that we can know Him as our Saviour, our Lord, our brother and our friend.

How we should find all our joy and delight in knowing Him and being known by Him.

How we should give Him all our love and trust and obedience.

Yet gracious Father, we can confess that so often we do share our affections and loyalty with another.

Even this last week we have given into temptation and be seduced away by the different idols of the world.

We have invested our time and talents, our thoughts and energy, our hopes and dreams, and treasured the things you made rather than you the maker.

We have broken the first commandment and have worshipped other gods. Forgive us we pray.

Thank you Jesus for the mercy you have on us sinners, according to your unfailing love.

Help us by your Spirit to fix our eyes upon you, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our resolve to follow you.

Show us the foolishness of chasing the pleasures of the world.

Break the patterns of sin in our lives.

Give us a fresh desire to love you, to trust you, to obey you.

Until the day we see you face to face and are made perfectly like you and truly have no other god before you.

Amen.

### **1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1**

Father we acknowledge the truth that all people on earth have sinned and fallen short of you glory.

If this is true for all people on earth, then it must be true for us here today.

We confess our sins before You, and affirm that if we had been the only sinners on earth, then Christ would still have had to come and die for us.

We remember that He lived His entire life in obedience to You.

He thus lived to give glory to You...to restore honour to the name of God that had been dishonoured by human beings.



Thank You that Your light ever dawned on us, that the Gospel was ever preached to us, that You ever gave us a new mind to accept Your truth. May we always be grateful that You have adopted us into Your Royal family.

May this never give way to pride in our status as Your forgiven children. May You enable us to reflect the humility of Christ in our dealings with each other and with the world.

Your word tells us that none of us should seek his own good, but the good of others.

We confess that we struggle to do this at all, and we certainly struggle to live this out with right motives.

Too often we will seek to be seen to be performing acts of kindness.

At other times, we will mistakenly believe that good deeds earn us credit with You.

Help us to put the needs of others above our own in simple obedience to Your word.

Forgive us that we have too often retreated from the outside world.

Help us to make and maintain good contacts with those outside the church.

Help us to enjoy working and mixing and eating with folk so that in doing so we can give a reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

Forgive us for expecting unbelievers to behave as if they were Spirit – filled believers.

Forgive us that in keeping our distance from folk we have failed to introduce them to the Perfect Saviour who was the Friend of sinners.

Father, please help us to rejoice in all the freedoms You have given us in Christ.

May we neither see them as a licence to sin, nor despair and slide back into slavish obedience to the law.

Rather will You fix our thoughts afresh on Christ, not just day by day, but hour by hour. May the presence of Your Spirit in us make us daily more like Christ.

In His name we pray.

## **1 Corinthians 11:2-16**

Dear heavenly Father we come to you this morning in awe of who you are.

Your wisdom is insurmountable, your knowledge is endless, your love is limitless, your holiness unfathomable.

Despite our best attempts to seek names for ourselves throughout history you have and always will have the greatest name above the heavens and the earth.

And we thank you that in your majestic wisdom you have created this world with order.

You have given man and woman complimentary roles in your creation.

We also thank you that you have given us the gift of prayer that both man and woman can come to you with as a form of worship.

Yet we know that as we look at our prayer life it is often not worship.

Our prayer life is inconsistent and erratic, often based on need rather than revelling in worship of you.

Our motivation for coming to you should be to just spend time with you as we would a friend or loved one, yet too often our prayers reveal the one sided nature of our relationship with you.

Please forgive us for these things.

Please forgive us when we treat you in a way that lessens all that you have done for us and continue to do for us.

We thank you for the example of Christ on this earth.

We thank you that he modelled complete obedience and reliance upon you.

We thank you that his prayer motives were pure and worthy of glorifying you.

We thank you for the way he praised your name in front of others, not seeking glory for himself.

We thank you for the way he taught his disciples reliance on you.

We thank you for his ending of the Holy Spirit who is living in us if we have bowed the knee before you.

Please help us through your spirit to be people whose prayers form worship of you.

We ask for your help in devoting time with you, not because we feel we should, but because we long to.

We pray that you will continue to help this church be reliant on you in prayer and that through this dispute and disunity may not be known.

What we pray for our church we also pray for churches up and down this country.

We pray that this nation so steeped in Christian history will not neglect the need to come to you in prayer.

In times where self-reliance is rife we pray that your church might not follow this pattern but will constantly look to you until Jesus returns again.

## **1 Corinthians 11:17-34**

Great God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for your plan of salvation.

We praise you that your Son willingly took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, that he will pierce for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities, and that the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him.

That in His body He faced all your wrath and anger at our sin and by His blood He has made forgiveness all who trust in Him possible.

And knowing how quick we are to forget how great a salvation we have, we praise you for the regular reminder of it you give to us through the Lord's Supper.

We praise you for the way this meal strengthens our faith as it assures us that what Christ has done for us is as real as the bread we eat and the cup we drink from.

We bless you too that through this meal you remind us that we are joined to those who share in taking of the bread and the cup and are marked out as your people.

Forgive us gracious God, when we do not live up to our identity which the Lord's Supper reminds us of.

When we sin against you, and when we sin against those who make up your body, the church, especially when we divide ourselves from those you love and shed your precious blood for.

Discipline us by your Spirit so that we see our foolishness and repent of our wrongdoing.

So that as your people we walk humbly, bearing with one another in love, and display the unity your Son's death has achieved.

Jesus, thank you, that because of your death, we can know that God will forgive our wickedness and remember our sins no more.

## **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

Our God, we praise you, for all the many ways you have been our helper in the past.

We praise you for the work of your Spirit that enables us to say Jesus is Lord – to believe in Him and be saved.

We praise you for joining us and uniting us to others who too have said Jesus is Lord in local churches.

We praise you for the way your Spirit is changing and transforming us so that we display the fruit of Christ's character more and more.

And we praise you for the different gifts the Holy Spirit has blessed us with so that we can serve one another.

Yet we acknowledge that we take the many ways you help us for granted.

We are not amazed as we should be that you have given to us the gift of repentance and faith that has made it possible to trust in Jesus.

We confess that we have not always shown the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

And we admit our failure to use the gifts your Spirit gives to us in the right way.

That we use them for our own glory, to make ourselves look good, rather than for the common good of building up your people.

That sometime we fail to use them and neglect serving your people and by doing so harm your people.

Father forgive us for our sins we pray.

Thank you Lord Jesus that you lived a perfect life of service in the power of the Spirit.

That you came not to be served but to serve, for our good and the glory of your Father in heaven.

And did so supremely by dying on the cross and giving your life as ransom for many, taking the punishment our sins deserve.

Help us now to follow your example and to use the gifts you give to us by your Spirit for the benefit of others, especially those who are part of this local church.

## **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

Our Lord God we come to you this morning to give you praise and thanks for your power and sovereignty.

## 1 Corinthians 13

We thank you for the way you have worked in history for your glory and our salvation.

And we thank you for the way you have set aside the church as a way of expressing your love to the world.

For the way we can come into your church to be taught and also be an encouragement to each other.

As we look around we see many different backgrounds and also people you have gifted in many different ways and we praise you for this.

We thank you that even though we are individuals with individual an individual faith in you we can become one united body under Christ.

We thank you for the way you have gifted specific people to serve the church whether it be visible or unseen.

Yet we ask forgiveness for the times when our hearts drift away from this unity.

For the times when we allow resentment to build up against another brother or sister.

For the times when our hearts allow envy or jealousy in.

For the times when we allow our words or actions to sow division or disunity.

We know it is so easily achieved and that the Devil jumps for joy when these things happen.

So we thank you for Christ.

We thank you for the victory he won on the cross which we, as one body of people, can boast about.

We thank you that in his death he achieved the ultimate unification.

Once we were unable to have access to God and yet now we, if believers, can be called children of God.

And we pray that as children we would not allow ourselves to be turned back to our former lives but that we would a people who are joyful at what you have done for us.

That we would be happy to play our part in your church.

That you would help the church here to be known for its unity under your Son.

So we pray for your Spirits work in our lives, that you would continually soften our hearts to you and that you would help us to continue running the race together and that through this you would work mightily in this area.

Father, we come before You in all Your holiness, aware once more that we have failed of ourselves to keep Your commandments.

Our instructions are to love You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and love our neighbours as ourselves.

We have failed to do so; in fact, our natural tendency is to disobey You and distrust our neighbours.

If we truly loved our neighbours as ourselves, then our conduct towards them would be very different.

But we have failed to be patient and have failed to be kind.

We have been envious, boastful and self – seeking.

We are too easily angered, and are guilty of keeping records of wrongs that we perceive to have been committed against us.

We expect greater mercy from others than we are prepared to give them.

We confess that we have not rejoiced in the truth as we should, and yet there are times when we delight in doing wrong.

Thank You that Yours is the love that never fails.

The only Man who ever kept the law went to the cross for the honour of Your name and the love of sinful people.

Help us to rely on Your grace towards us in Christ and not in any goodness of our own that we may pretend to have.

Help us to go on daily repenting of our sins and putting them to death.

By your Spirit, make us daily more like Christ, and make us an outward looking people who demonstrate our love for others by declaring to them the astonishing salvation of a holy God.

For Your name's sake we pray.

## 1 Corinthians 14

Our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
How we praise you for who you are.  
Sovereign and Holy. Wise and Powerful. Loving and Gracious. Wrathful and Judging. Faithful and Unchanging.  
How we praise you for what you have done.  
We praise you Father that you are our Creator and our Redeemer.  
We praise you Lord Jesus for saving us by dying on the cross in our place, taking the punishment we deserve.  
We praise you Holy Spirit for giving us new life and enabling us to put our faith in Jesus.

Lord God, we praise you for the immense privilege we have of being able to and command to gather together as your people.  
To lift our voices in thanks as we sing.  
To express our dependence upon you as we praise.  
To be instructed by you as we hear you speak to us through your Word.  
To encourage one another to not give up following Jesus but to fix our eyes upon Him.  
To be remind how sinful we are, but also how you have been amazingly gracious to us, by forgiving us.

Father forgive us, when our gatherings, like this service this morning, do not give you the honour you deserve.  
When we go through the motions.  
When we come because of what we can get out of being here and not to edify the church.  
When our actions distract other people from looking to you.  
When we fail to strength, encourage, or comfort other believers.  
When those who don't know you reject the Lord Jesus not because of who He but because of how we behave.  
How sorry we are Lord, and how grateful we are that Jesus' blood covers and forgives these sins like it does all the sins of His people.

Holy Spirit, help these times when we come together as a local church to be occasions that are fitting and orderly and intelligible.  
When we build one another us. Give us gifts that enable us to do this.  
When we take care about what we do.  
When what is said aligns with the truth of your Word, whether it be in the songs and hymns sung, the prayers prayed or the Word preached.  
May this be true of this service this morning.

May it be a time when it is clear that you really are among us.

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

We thank you for the reminder that you are indeed the Most High, the supreme author and creator of this world and the one who is in heaven looking down upon us now.  
We thank you that we have a God who is fully deserving of our praise, a God who is too big for us to comprehend with our small minds.  
So we thank you for your word that speaks of you and describes your many works to us.

Yet we come to you this morning on bended knee in acknowledgment that there is so much in our lives that entangles us still.  
We are sorry for the times when we do not hold firmly onto your Word but trust in our own strength.  
For the times we warp words from your Word to justify ourselves in our minds.  
For the times when we trust more in the things that we do for our salvation instead of relying on your grace which you freely pour out upon us.  
For the times we take for granted or belittle Christ's death on the cross.  
We praise and thank you that in your Son was willing to die a death which enabled us to be part of your family.  
We know that without this we would be unable to even come before you now as we do now in prayer.  
We also praise you for Christ's resurrection and appearing to the disciples and many others.

Dear God these are things we know so well and yet we fail to sometimes see their magnitude or significance.  
Please guard us against this.  
Please help us to hold on to your Word and to preach it in our hearts so that our lives are continually being changed by it.  
Please help us to hold Christ in the centre of our lives, to cherish him as the most precious thing in our lives.  
We pray that through your Spirit you might help us never to forget that we come to you only through grace.  
We bring nothing to your church, nothing to your family and yet we can see through the gospel that you, the Most High, sought us out and chose to forgive us.  
What news that is.

We pray that this news would be evident as people loom into our lives in the way we live.

We pray that you will go on spreading your message of salvation through sinful and unworthy people like us, that other sinful and unworthy people would truly be able to say, 'What a God, what a Saviour that you should love even me.'

### **1 Corinthians 15:12-34**

Almighty heavenly Father, we ask again, at the outset of this service, that you would forgive us our many failings and shortcomings.

Forgive us for all the times this week when we have acted as if we were still in Adam...choosing to rebel against you either for a moment or for a longer period of time.

Help us to remember that as your people we are no longer found in Adam, but in Christ.

Forgive us for living as if this life were all there is, as if there were no life to come, as if we didn't truly believe that You raised Your Son from the dead by Your mighty power.

Forgive us for living as if we doubted that You have put everything under Christ or that He is in control of all creation.

Forgive us for pretending that You do not see and know everything, even the things we think we do in secret.

Forgive us for living as if time were not short, as if there were no urgency to tell others of their need for Christ. Will you forgive us for expecting unbelievers to behave as if they were Your people when we have failed to share the Good News of Jesus with them.

Forgive us for all the times we forget about Your Grace and goodness to us, and live as if we could earn Your favour by good works and self – improvement.

Forgive us for choosing to listen to those who distort Your truth and being misled by them.

Help us instead, Father, to be secure in Christ...to delight in our unity with Him.

When He died, it was as if our old self died with Him.

When He was raised, You raised us too.

He is seated with You in heaven, and that is where our real life is to be found.

Make us more like Him day by day as Your Holy Spirit works in us.

Lead us on to be more Christ – like in our attitude towards You, towards each other, and towards those outside the Church.

In Jesus' name.

### **1 Corinthians 15:35-58**

Our God, Our Father

How we long for that day when we will have the privilege and pleasure of joining in that everlasting song, with all the angelic beings and all Christians who have come before us and will come after us.

We praise you that one day the Lord Jesus will return and fully and finally save His people.

We praise you that on that day we will be given new resurrection bodies like Jesus' is now.

Bodies not earthy, but heavenly. Ones suitable for living in the new heavens and new earth.

Bodies not perishable, but imperishable. Ones that won't decay.

Bodies not dishonourable or lowly, but glorious.

Bodies not weak, but powerful.

Bodies not natural, but spiritual.

Bodies not mortal, but immortal. Ones that will never die.

We praise you that the day is coming when all who trust in Jesus for salvation will be changed.

We praise you that on that day, death will be swallowed up in victory and the cry will go up 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'

Because Jesus' victory over sin, Satan and death will be seen by all and they will not be able harm us one bit.

Lord Jesus we thank you that you have give us this hope because you humbled yourself.

By leaving the glory of heaven and making your dwelling among us as a man.

By living a perfect and holy and righteous life that we never could.

By dying on the cross, taking all your Father's wrath at our sin until it was satisfied.

By marching in victory out of the tomb and all the way to your Father's right hand where you are interceding for us.

Forgive us God when we live as those who don't believe this and when we act as if we have no hope.

When we behave as if this world is all there is.

For failing to store up treasures in heaven by not giving ourselves fully to the world of the Lord.

Change us Holy Spirit so that we are now more and more like what we one day will be.

Make us more like Christ.

Help us to stand firm in the faith.

Help us to work hard for the gospel knowing that our labour in the Lord is not in vain.

For glory of the Risen King

## **1 Corinthians 16**

Father, we seek Your forgiveness afresh this morning for the many ways we have failed You this past week.

We fail every day to love You with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength.

We have by no means loved You as we ought.

We put other loves above our devotion to You.

Our hearts are so often hardened to Your Word, so that we reject the encouragements and corrections it has for us.

Many are the times that Christian brothers and sisters have brought Your word to bear on our lives and we have refused to listen and submit to it.

Remind us that it is by Your Word that the Spirit speaks to us and convicts us of sin.

Forgive us for the times that we lose sight of the grace that has been shown to us.

Help us never to take it for granted and fool ourselves into thinking that it doesn't matter that we sin.

Forgive us also for ever thinking that we have achieved a level of goodness on our own, by our own efforts.

Forgive us for looking down on others or envying the gifts You have given to other people.

Forgive us for failing to love others as ourselves. We confess that we often overlook the needs of others simply because it is inconvenient to attend to those needs.

In all things, help us to consider Christ, and the humility He demonstrated during His life on earth.

Make us daily more like Him by Your Spirit. Give us more of His love both for the church and for those outside of the church.

Forgive us our arrogance in failing to pray; indeed, make us people of prayer, wholly dependent on You.

In Christ's name we pray.