



Prayer Booklet

For the *Night vigil* 2019

*« But deliver us from evil”
(Matthew 6:5-14)*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

BREATH OF LIFE
ALL-POWERFUL GOD
PRAYER

PRAYERS OF VICTIMS AND PRISONERS

WHAT I WANT TO BELIEVE
GOD IS A LAMP
THAT THIS TRIAL OF IMPRISONMENT...

TRUST AND HOPE

OUR LORD AND OUR GOD
HYMN OF SIMEON
I BELIEVE IN THE MERCY OF GOD

INTERCESSION

WE ARE BREATHLESS, LORD
PRAY WITH OUR BROTHERS OF THE EASTERN CHURCH
PRAYER
PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE EXCLUDED

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

LET US REJOICE
CHRIST, THE SOURCE AND FUTURE OF OUR DIGNITY
THE GOOD THAT YOU DO

MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

YOU WILL NOT BE TORTURED
DISARM YOURSELF

BIBLICAL TEXTS

PSALMS

SONGS

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

BREATH OF LIFE

Claude Bernard, Liturgical manual

Come Holy Spirit, find in us your dwelling
And make us carry your Spirit,
Transparent with your light

Come in us and guide our energies,
Ô you the gift that gives for the sake of giving

You who unites without confusion,
Move in the heart of your churches
So that each and every one of us recognizes the truth

Whether working or resting,
In peace or in war, in joy and in pain,
Touch our hearts.
Be the source, the fountain, our life.
Uncover our faces, give us epiphanies

Without you, without the Word, with the Father,
Man is nothing, he is not man,
Since to be flesh without the spirit is not to be fully human

Forgive us our trespasses
Give us strength to heal our wounds,
To love this world more than we are capable of now

Enable us to work towards reconciliation,
To be overcomers and work towards justice
Once strangers, may we be found again

Take lies away from us
And according to your promise, lead us towards the truth

Bless our trust,
Strengthen the bonds of love,
Breathe life into our hope

ALL-POWERFUL GOD

Martin Luther, Protestant reformer

God, grant that I may stay firm in my faith and not give in to doubt

Not because of my prayer, but because you, you are the truth

All-powerful God, always remind us that no one can do us wrong, without being harmed a thousand times more in your eyes

Thus help us to forgive rather than punish, to show mercy rather than hate

All-powerful God, allow us to reject all hatred and any spirit of discord so that we may live together like true children of God, in perfect fraternity. Not "my Father," but instead, "our Father."

PRAYER

Saint Ephrem the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life

Give me not unto the spirit of sloth, of idle curiosity

Of domination and idle talk

But grant unto me, Thy servant, a spirit of integrity, humility,

Patience and love

Yes, O Lord and King,

May I see my own faults

And not condemn my brother

For blessed art Thou from age to age.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF VICTIMS AND PRISONERS

What I Want to Believe

Inmates of the Bois d'Arcy Prison

I refuse to believe that man can be a prisoner of hate, of racism, and of war.

I believe that love, brotherhood, and peace can become a reality.

I will never believe in a God who enjoys suffering, who regrets having given humans freedom, who will only save Christians.

I do not believe that human beings, even if guilty, condemned, and haughty, can be forever separated from God's mercy

I believe in God

I believe that He is living, in spite of His silence and His discretion.

I believe that He created us for happiness and for life, despite evil and suffering

I believe that He is the Father, despite the limits of my reasoning and the limits of my heart

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary

He lived among us like a free man

He loved to treat each person as a unique being in the world

He believed in and gave each one the chance to live a life of love

It is He that Peter recognized as Christ, the son of the living God.

He continued loving throughout his betrayal, arrest, judgment, condemnation, execution, without fleeing the hate brought upon him, choosing not to put away his enemies in their duplicity.

He forgave them because they did not know what they were doing

But God, his Father, did not abandon him in death; he resurrected him, Peter and the disciples as his witnesses

I believe in the Holy Spirit that Jesus has given us: he makes the blind see, he gives us inner freedom that is stronger than any prison bar; he allows us to communicate with each other. He calls us to follow Jesus' example and tread the path of service to others.

To the Church, I believe that God entrusts the mission of announcing to all humanity, the love that He has for us, the faith that gives freedom and the hope according to which nothing is ever lost.

GOD IS A LAMP

Angel, prisoner on death row in Arizona

God is a lamp that lights our path when we don't see anything

He transforms night into day

Our God guides us and gently comforts us with his shepherd's staff.

He gives us the courage to continue to walk

God is a lamp that lights our path.
We need to trust Him and obey Him.

Even in the darkest of times when we cannot find our path, we can hear him whisper:
"All will be well, turn towards me and pray. The morning shall come and the sun will rise. Night will be no more."

God is a lamp that lights our path till we arrive at the shining shore.

MAY THIS TRIAL OF IMPRISONMENT...

Jean-Claude, detained in France

Whatever be the reasons were for which human justice brought us here to prison, accused or convicted, each of us has made mistakes and wronged others over the course of our lives.

May this trial of imprisonment and of doubt, just like Jesus, doubtful and in anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, be for each of us a chance for introspection, for recognition of true values, a period of conversion and of resurrection...

Who can know God's plan?
No encounter is free of charge

May the risen Lord Jesus, after having been arrested, judged, condemned and executed on a cross by the hands of men, make of us true workers for God's true justice, true artisans of God's peace, and true witnesses of God's love.

TRUST AND HOPE

OUR LORD AND OUR GOD

Édith of Tertre, co-founder of ACAT

You are our Father and we bless You.

We declare our love for You and are grateful that each one of us is called to be a servant with You to combat evil, suffering, and death in the world through Your love and our love for fellow humans.

Today in particular, You renew in us Your call to continue the fight with every woman and every man who is willing, this fight for the abolition of torture and the death penalty.

You ask us to be channels of Hope, of the Hope of Life in the midst of despair.

Lord Jesus, without You we would feel so weak and powerless in the face of suffering.

What we know is that You are there in our lives, You who vanquishes evil, suffering, and death – always present – and that we are also called to be faithful witnesses of Your Hope.

Let us grow in faith.

Make us attentive to what you ask us to be and to live: and that, concretely, our action comes to life in the light of the Gospel.

Hymn of Simeon

Simeon, the new theologian (949-1022)

I give you thanks, Lord, I give you thanks, you alone
You who touch our hearts, a just and compassionate King

Do not allow, however, a day that brings sorrows, trials,
or tribulation beyond my strength

Instead, do grant me a way of escape, ô my God
And the strength to be able to bear the pain

Because since time began, it is you who have been, the giver of goodness for those
who, with all their soul, bow down before you with dignity

To them you disburse gifts of faith and works, of holy hope and the blessings of your
divine and lovely Spirit.

Ô merciful one, now, and throughout the ages without end.

Amen.

I Believe in the Mercy of God

Evangelical church of Djibouti (DEFAP)

I believe in the mercy of God:

He has come to share in the condition of the poorest, who are victims of political oppression, economic accidents, or ideological domination. Through the birth of Christ, I discover that the refugees are our brothers and that the Lord loves them first and foremost.

I believe also in the mercy of God:

For all those responsible for all these sufferings.

It's by reason of their revolt against the Lord of all the living, or by following an ideology that despises and crushes their brothers. Yet they kept to themselves in solitude and in fear. On the cross, Christ offers them forgiveness. He calls them to change their lives and recognize their brothers.

I believe in the mercy of God for myself as well:

Often have I disowned my brothers, deaf and blind to their sufferings, maybe even I have participated in their oppression.

Often I have lost courage, I have fled, I have abandoned my calling. But on the cross, Christ forgave me and, risen, he comes to me and calls me once again to him.

Through his spirit, he has given me the hope to once again share and the courage to serve him.

INTERCESSION

We Are Breathless, Lord

Lytta Basset, a Swiss Protestant theologian

We are breathless, Lord,
But you come to us
In all your strength, in all your fervour
In all your burning Breath...

Help us to uncover your glowing trace
On the face of the stranger
Tell us how to welcome others in their truth
In their words and in their language
In their darkness or their faith,
To welcome them into Your silent presence!

Teach us to tend this flame in us
which comes to us from above
During each Pentecost of our lives,
How to allow the inner tenderness to bloom
That galvanizes us to engage in the bravest acts
And the most courageous intercessions

In the narrowness of our homes,
In between the most sacred barricades,
May Pentecost burst through, may it give us a second breath!
Come thyself to intercede for us and for all those who suffer...
For those who hurt and destroy...
For those whose humanity is in danger...

Ô God, give life to our prayer!

LET US PRAY WITH OUR BROTHERS OF THE EASTERN CHURCH

Churches of the Chaldeans, the Armenians and of Antioch

Byzantine Church of Antioch

Early in the night, our souls turn towards You, as your commandments illuminate the Earth. We have wanted to fulfill charity and holiness by living in awe of You. For it is You that glorifies us, You the true God. Hear and answer us.

Remember, Lord, all who pray to You, each of us by our name, and deliver them by your strength. Bless your people, sanctify your heritage! Give peace to the world that belongs to you, to your churches, to your servants, and to all your people. As your name, worthy of all honor and exaltation, is blessed, Ô God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

(Second recital of the twelve morning service prayers.)

Chaldean Church

Lord, your mercy is eternal. Ô Christ, You who are all merciful, give us your grace, hold out your hand and help all those who are tempted, You who are good, have mercy on all your children and come to their aid; give us, merciful Lord, refuge in the shadow of your protection, as well as deliverance from evil and the followers of the Evil One.

My life crumbled like a spider's web: during the time of distress and of trouble, we have become like strangers, and our years have withered under the misery and unhappiness. Lord, You who, with one command, calmed the waters, in your mercy, relieve this world of its troubles and hold up this universe that staggers under the weight of its faults.

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Lord, may your merciful hand rest on the believers and confirm your promise to the apostles: "I am with you every day until the end of the world"; be our help as you have been theirs and, through your grace, save us from all evil, give us security and peace, so that we may give you thanks and adore your Holy Name, forever and ever.

Hymn of the service of the second day of "Ba'oussa" of Saint Ephrem, doctor of 1 Église (morning service)

Armenian Church

Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will to men. To you be the highest praise in the heavens. Bless us, our Savior and Master, we praise you, we glorify you, we confess and adore you, we praise you and give you thanks for your great glory; You our King, You the Holy One of the heavens, the Savior and the all-powerful Father; our Lord and the only son of the Father, Jesus Christ. Our Master and Lord, Lamb of God and Son of the Father, who has become one of us by the Virgin Mary. You have granted us mercy. You have forgiven the sins of the world. That is why, hear our cry of hope, you the Holy One who is seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us, as You are holy, You are the Most High, You alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER

The Dombes Group

Lord, you did not suffer for us, just so that we would succumb to evil, but so that through your suffering, our faith would be fortified.

You know, however, our weaknesses and we pray to you humbly: save us from suffering for we will not turn away from you

And if we are not spared from trial, then we beseech you, deliver us from evil!

We pray to you also for the world itself, so often overtaken by war, injustice and misfortune. We pray that the tragedies of humanity do not dim our humanity or stifle our cry of hope.

Save our world from giving into to the temptations of power, pride, and hatred.

Deliver us from Evil!

PRAYER FOR THE MARGINALISED

Bertrand of Luze, Protestant pastor

Let us pray that God will teach us to refuse the absurdity of a world that pits us against each other, that blinds us to the point that we no longer realize we are children of the same Father.

Let us pray that the Lord will distance us from this insidious desire to dominate the other, to amass more and more, and to consider the one that we encounter on our path as a nuisance, as someone who infringes upon our territory, on our rights and on our liberties.

Let us pray to the Lord to teach us to see the other as someone precious before God.

Let us pray to the Lord to create in us a vigilance that enables us to oppose all harmful declarations no matter where they come from, and allows us to judge, not the people but the evil forces, the laws, the decisions, the decrees that exclude and reject humans, and instead realize the dignity that all have received from God.

Give us, Lord, a responsible attitude regarding those to whom you have given the responsibility to administer our communities, of our regions, of our countries, and particularly all that relates to the difficulties facing the most vulnerable, the poor, the strangers, and the minority groups.

Give us the strength to sacrifice our time and our comfort in order to allow all to be considered as your children.

Grant our churches the will to unite to act together and fight against the forces of division that pit us against each other. In every corner of the world, may the force of Your Spirit spur the churches to create channels of welcome, assistance, and advice for the most vulnerable; to create associations that, together, will use all possible means to come to the aid of those that are excluded.

Lord, in relation to this task that you have given us, do we feel our own weakness, but it is You and Your love for all humanity that gives us the only assurance and hope.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

LET US REJOICE

Let us rejoice on this day of the Resurrection
For Christ, who was mocked, crowned with thorns, hung on the cross yesterday
Today rises from the tomb

Let us rejoice as Christ brings into his light
those who were held captive by the darkness of hell

Let us rejoice in this spring of life
As hope pours out among the victims of wars,
Among those afflicted in body and in spirit

Let us rejoice, for by the cross all sadness is taken away
And joy floods the world

Let us rejoice, because the Lord has descended deeply
into the hearts of humans where anguish lies;
He visits them, He illuminates them
And torments, anguish, hell are vanquished
Engulfed in the depths of the open love from the Lord's pierced sides

Let us rejoice, for he is risen, the Christ, the eternal joy

CHRIST, THE SOURCE AND FUTURE OF OUR DIGNITY

Guy Aurenche, former president of ACAT

Be thou Blessed, Lord, the source and future of our dignity
Your show tenderness to the youngest ones
We have so much trouble discerning your presence
In those that we deem unworthy of our humanity
Help us, you who have lived our life as humans
To never dehumanize one who seems distanced from you
Lord, you who have known tears and anguish, blessed art thou
You dare to show your emotion before death and abandonment
You speak your compassion to those that "could faint on their way"
We are so burdened by the suffering which makes us absent or talkative
Teach us, you who also understand suffering, to be fully present
By the sides of those whom pain overwhelms
Lord, revolted by injustice and hypocrisy, blessed are you
You give us a law of love and sharing
You ask us to make adjustment to our lives in keeping with it
Tell us, you who died for staying true to your message
How to constantly invent rules for a more just world
Lord, you know how to withdraw and pray, blessed are you
You reveal to us the quality of brotherliness by pointing us to the Father
We are troubled by a choice between activism and resignation

We fear both the silence of your absence and the demand of your call
Come pray through us when we feel discouraged
When the prayer seems scandalous in the face of violence
Lord, you spoke with the wicked and the executioners, blessed are you
You denounce without compromise those who do not know how to love,
And then, in the same word, invite them to change
We have so much trouble praying for those who torture,
To celebrate the forgiveness of which certain victims are capable
Inspire in us the tongue of real dialogue
And the courage to take the first step towards reconciliation
Lord, you are living, blessed are you
Your words and gestures put us back on the path of life.

THE GOOD THAT YOU DO

The Deaconesses of Reuilly

Lord, I want to sing of the good that you do,
You, in the Church and through my poem to speak
Of love that you bring it

She is weak but how many acts of life,
places of consolation and hope doe her name carry!
Who is her strength?

She is often distracted in her prayer,
But in how many churches, chapels,
In how many villages are there women and men that come towards You!
Who then lives in these hearts?

I will tell you, Lord, the poem of the Church
The Church is many, she sometimes comes apart,
But so many times the Church is forgiving, reconciliatory
What is its hope then?

It is sometimes incomprehensible
And yet it nourishes us, hosts us, baptizes us
And His word in her middle is open to all
Who then is her food?

Mould the Church, Lord, unify it
And keep it colored with a thousand colors,
Speaking all the languages of the Earth,
Celebrating all liturgies,
Singing all kinds of songs

And me, I will find my place, my own place,
That neither nothing nor no one will be able to take away

MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

THOU SHALT NOT TORTURE

Cardinal Roger Etchegaray

What a strange era ours is, that finds itself with the responsibility of drafting a new commandment that God didn't even imagine, when He gave to Moses the sacred tablets! Thou shalt not torture: it is that today we torture and greatly: it is, that we need to wake up our consciences...little tortured by the reality of torture.

Torture is spreading throughout the world. In certain countries, it is institutionalized; it becomes even a way to govern, camouflaged beneath psychiatric treatments or slogans of national security. We invent refined systems to properly torture, without leaving a trace. We export sophisticated torture equipment as much as we do household appliances. With this rationalizing of torture, the Inquisition, says Pierre Emmanuel, was nothing but a fairytale.

Our mind, is thus getting used to seeing the most monstrous things. At first we refuse to believe it, then we react swiftly or slowly. And soon, we slide down a slippery slope, made of all our neglects, of all in which we are complicit. The slightest sign by which we despise our fellow people can, from scorn to contempt, make us heartless and even gratified executioners

What a strange era ours is, that we can boast of seeing torture forbidden by the constitutions and universal declarations and are amazed to learn that torture spreads with the most subtle pseudo-justifications! Pope Paul VI has spoken of it as a dangerous "epidemic." "Torture," he says, "is to be absolutely condemned, it is never permissible, not even under the pretext of exercising justice and defending the public order..." We must further radicalize the fight against torture, not accepting half measures, make a principle of denouncing torture whatever the motive or the place may be.

A magnificent mission calls Christians to the forefront of the struggle for the abolition of torture with the same momentum as other generations fought slavery. Let us beware, this evil is like the second-headed Hydra. It resurfaces quickly, everywhere and in ourselves.

Courage and perseverance.

DISARM YOURSELF

Patriarch Athénagoras

We must wage the toughest war against ourselves. We must disarm ourselves.
I have waged this war throughout the years, it has been terrible.
But, now, I am disarmed. I am no longer afraid of anything because Love drives out fear.

I am disarmed from the desire to be right, to justify myself while disqualifying others
I no longer have my guard up, jealousy clenched tightly to riches

I welcome and I share. I do not particularly care about my ideas, about my projects,
If someone presented the best, or rather not the best but good,
I accept without regret.
What is good, true, real is always the best to me

If you disarm yourself, if you master yourself
If you open yourself to the God-Man that makes all things new,
Then He erases the bad past
And opens for us a new chapter where all is possible

BIBLICAL TEXTS

To accompany the "watching over"

1 Chronicles 16:31-36

Isaiah 32:6-8

Amos 5:12-15

Matthew 4:1-11

Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 5:38-48

Matthew 6:9-15

Matthew 13:18-19, 36-39

Luke 6:27-35

Luke 10:25-37

Romans 12:15-21

Ephesians 6:10-18

Galatians 5:13-15

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Titus 3:4-8

1 Peter 3:8-15

1 John 3:4-10

God deliver us from the midst of the nations

The fool entertains evil thoughts

Look for the good and not the bad

Jesus is tempted by the devil

The Beatitudes

Love your enemies

The prayer of Our Father

The devil and the son of the devil

Love your enemies

The Good Samaritan

Do not allow yourself to be overcome by evil

Put on the armor of God

Serve one another

Fear of the tempter

Saved by virtue of his mercy

Do not return evil for evil

He who sins is the devil

PSALMS

Supplication

Psalm 5	Give ear to my words, Oh Lord.
Psalm 22 (21)	Prayer of a suffering servant
Psalm 35 (34)	God cares about the affairs of humans
Psalm 54 (53)	Appeal to the just God
Psalm 59 (58)	Against impiety
Psalm 102 (101)	Prayer in adversity
Psalm 140 (139)	Against the wicked
Psalm 141 (140)	Against the occurrence of evil

Trust

Psalm 23 (22)	You are with me
Psalm 27 (26)	Near God, there is no fear
Psalm 116 (115)	I love the Lord

Thanksgiving

Psalm 27 (26)	Near God, there is no fear
Psalm 34 (33)	<i>Failure of the wise to exonerate God</i>
Psalm 116 (115)	I love the Lord
Psalm 140 (139)	Against the wicked

Praise

Psalm 72 (71)	The promised King
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SONGS

Songs for the 2018 theme

Hallelujah Ps 6	Lord, who sees my pain
Hallelujah Ps 42A	As the wandering deer squalls
G248 – Psalm 50	Mercy Lord
Hallelujah Ps 51	Take pity upon me, Lord, in your kindness
Hallelujah Ps 130	From the pit of my distress
Hallelujah 22/05	In your word, O God
Hallelujah 33/10	Jesus Christ, our hope
Hallelujah 33/21	O Jesus, your cross reigns
Hallelujah 34/15	My Redeemer lives
Hallelujah 44/14	Oh! Take my soul
Hallelujah 47/02	Our vessel is in danger
Hallelujah 48/07	Nearer, My God to Thee
D 161	Lord, make us
Hallelujah 48/10 G 139	You who are heavy laden with burdens
G 213	If hope has given you strength to walk
G 249	Be not afraid
P 150	Our Father, teach us to have joy
SM 176	Christ calls us today
SM 176	Let us not fear living in this world
T 111	Nothing will change
<i>Cabantous et Boldrini</i>	While we wait for the day

Other songs

Ensemble n°730, Fr. Pierre-Étienne	At a time when all slumber
Claude Bernard, Laurent Grzybowski	In the night of them that keep vigil
Taizé	In Our darkness
Dédié à l'ACAT, Alain Caburet	From the pit of my distress
Y 53, Ensemble n°467, Didier Rimaud	Let your daylight shine forth
Taizé	The Dark
Ensemble n°279, Orthodox liturgy	Christ the Messiah is risen
I 270, Georges Lefebvre	Lord we believe
Ensemble n°279	Lord, you are risen from the dead
G 212	Your night will be turned into broad
daylight	
C 243-1 (thanksgiving canticle)	Stay on your guard
Ensemble n°258	You who keeps silent
P 205	Find your presence in me
Song for ACAT 30th anniversary	You are the Alpha and Omega