

## Christian Prayers by and for the Dying

Written and compiled by Bill Paulling, DMin



### A Prayer to Say When I am Dying

Heavenly Father, though my body is weak, and my spirits are low, still I come to you in prayer. Though I do not know how to pray as I ought and though I struggle to form the right words, look into my heart and see the needs of my soul. Uphold me, dear Lord, by your mighty power. Help me, though very sick, to rely upon your grace and mercy by faith. Make me certain, by your Holy Spirit, that my sins are forgiven and that I have a real and eternal home in heaven. I ask that the promises of your word comfort me in my hour of need.

Say unto my soul, "I am thy salvation." Help me to believe that Christ truly died for me, and rose again victorious over sin, death, the grave, and every evil. Grant me a deep and abiding assurance that I am loved by God and that in Christ I am kept safe and secure forever. I pray this not for my sake, or because I am worthy, but purely for the sake of your dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### A Prayer to Say for Those Who Minister to Me in My Dying

I want to thank you, Heavenly Father, for those you have sent to minister to me in my distress. I am reminded of your love and goodness toward me in all the things that they do for me. Forgive me, when I have been irritable or difficult to minister to. Help me to bear my sufferings through your strength and to show my gratitude in some way, by a kind word, or just a smile. Enable me, I pray, to minister to them as well, according to my ability at this time. Father, strengthen all who must minister to me. Give them a deep and abiding sense that they are serving you, and let them experience joy in their service. Allow my life in some way to be a blessing to them. Bear them up by your grace and mercy so that they might glorify you even while they take care of me. Bless their families, dear Lord, and be a minister to them in their troubles, even as they have ministered to me in mine. Thank you for hearing my prayer, for Christ's sake. Amen.

### Prayers from Martin Luther's *Manual of Prayer at All Time*

Dear Lord, Thou knowest that I am a poor sinner, but Thou hast shown me that Thou wilt be gracious to me through Thy dear Son to forgive my sins, and not to remember Thy wrath and condemnation. Thou wouldst have me believe this without doubt. I rely on this assurance, and will gladly pass out of this life in it.

Dear Lord Christ, even if I do not fulfill Thy law, and still have sin, and am afraid of death and hell, I yet know from the Gospel that all Thy merits are mine by faith. I am sure of this for Thou canst not deceive me. Thou wilt surely keep Thy promise. As a pledge of this, I have received

baptism, and on it I rely. Since Thou, dear Lord, art mine, I will gladly die, if it please Thee, dear Father. Death cannot harm me for it is swallowed up in victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear Lord, I know, when I have done my best, I have still lived a blameable life. But I am comforted because Thou hast died for me, and hast sprinkled me with the blood from Thy holy wounds. For I am indeed baptized in Thee, and have heard the word through which Thou hast called me, commanded me to believe, and assured me grace and life. With these blessings I will gladly go hence, not in anxious and hesitating doubts and fears, which ask: Who knows what judgment God in heaven will pass on me? For I now live in the assurance of the gracious decree which God has given from heaven over and against the curse of the law: He who believes in the Son of God has eternal life. Amen.

Charles E. Kistler, ed. 1917. *Martin Luther's Prayers: A Manual of Prayer at all Times and a Companion Book to the Small Catechism*. Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Press: St. Louis.