

Prayer Writers

Background

The prayers of the people were part of Christian liturgies as early as the 2nd century. By the 4th century, the prayers included some bidding, like what we do at the end. It is a glorious tradition. We at SPR have parishioners write the prayers for at least four reasons: to be part of that tradition; to have lay participation in the liturgy; to have payers with particularity, timeliness and local concerns; and to have variety.

How To Do It

1. Write 3 petitions that bring the specific concerns and joys of the congregation. You might consider these categories from the BCP: The Universal Church, its members and its mission, the country and all in authority, the welfare of the world, and the concerns of the local community
2. Write brief introductions for standard petitions for those who suffer and those in any trouble, thanksgivings including Birthdays/Anniversaries, and those who have died.
3. You may, but do not have to, write a concluding collect like on page 394. A collect "collects" the prayers prayed by the whole congregation. If you chose to write a concluding collect, make it one sentence. They follow this approximate form:
 - Address God ex: "Gracious God"
 - Describe God ex: "whose son spoke of forgiving seven times seven times,"
 - Asks for something related to that attribute of God. ex: "look with mercy on your people in prayer."
 - conclude with trinitarian or christological formula. ex: "through Jesus Christ"

Email your prayers to prayers@sp-r.org by Monday at 5:00 p.m.

How To Do It Well

1. Maximum length is 250 words.
2. Include specific local and international needs and concerns (e.g. local schools, Haiti, presidential election, Labor Day, snowstorms, drought)
3. Avoid prayers that express your unique opinions, like supporting one candidate for office. You are speaking on behalf of the entire community.
4. Spend time with the readings for Sunday and use a theme or image in the prayers. It makes the prayers richer and more integrated. You can find the Scripture readings at lectionarypage.net. We use the second option for Old Testament and Psalm.
5. Consider including prayers of thanksgiving and not just requests to God.
6. Please follow this order for the "pastoral" petitions (sick, birthdays, deaths):
 - Sick
 - Deaths
 - Birthdays and Anniversaries

Prayer Leaders

When To Go To the Ambo

Apostles Creed:
start walking here

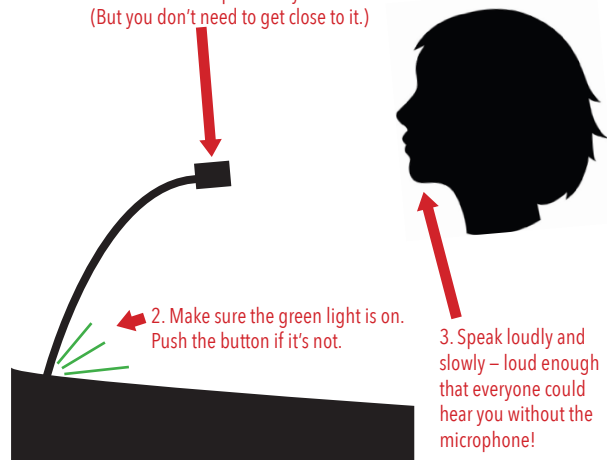
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Nicene Creed:
start walking here

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Using the Microphone

1. Point the microphone at your mouth.
(But you don't need to get close to it.)



Other Tips

Getting the Final Prayers

Prayers for the coming Sunday are emailed to you the Thursday before by Bryce Rich, our Administrative Assistant.

Practice

Please practice reading aloud the prayers at least once before Sunday – especially if they're not yours!

Pronunciation of Names

Though we try to include pronunciation of difficult names with the prayers, always feel free to ask Peter or Dan.