

Children's Prayers

A selection of spoken and written prayers from children of various ages...

After a presentation on how to "illuminate" one's work with beautiful lettering, a six-year old girl wrote four separate prayers:

*The Lord is my love.
Dawn has done and the Lord has come.
Love is strong love you.
I am the True Vine.*

She took these prayers to the prayer table and neatly arranged them. She then asked the catechist to light the candle there and briefly sat with the lit candle and her prayers. Then she returned to her table and wrote another prayer: "Lord is strong and we are small."

Caitlin (age 7) wrote the following prayers:

The Great Shepherd is our leader. Please pray for me O Lord our God.

The world is yours O Mighty Father for ever and ever and I love you.

*We are children of the Lord.
He helps us with our troubles and our fears.
He cures our sicknesses.
And others of course.
When you are scared the Lord is with you.
And God's creation is too.
Maira, age 7*

The Star of God!

*The star of God is shining over us.
Jesus is making it shine.
When he shines over us, it makes us happy.
And when it makes us happy we look up to him.
Lucy and Julia, age 6*

Jesus is With Us

*Jesus is with us in our prayer.
Jesus is with us in our prayer.
He is the shepherd of the earth.
Mary is the mother of Jesus.
Annie, age 7 and Erin, age 6*

A Baby is Born

*A baby is born, its name is Jesus.
He became the Prince of Peace.
Everyone wants to meet him but he is in heaven,
But that doesn't mean that his love can't come on you.
Quinn, age 6*

Jesus is Like a Pearl

People wonder what Jesus is like, he is the Christ.
He is like a pearl,
I know that because the Bible tells me so.
Jesus made all these things for us, we should take care of them.
Annie, age 7

Wise Men Journeying

Wise men journeying through the darkness of the night,
Guided by a star's single light.
Riding on donkeys, finding grace,
To his Lord's honest face.

Light of star, shining bright,
Where is Jesus in the night?
Help me find him, oh my God.
With the star, oh Lord.
Spencer, age 8

Children's prayers from the Level II (6-9 atrium):

"God almighty,
My Lord my savior,
I love you.
Amen!!!!!!"
Katie, age 7

Rain down, Oh Lord give me your soul.
Rain down, Oh Lord protect my house from evil.
Rain down, Oh Lord help my school's students learn.
Rain down, Oh Lord I give my life to you.
Rain down, Oh Lord make the wine and bread holy.
Amen.
Rebecca, age 8

Drizzle down your kindness Jesus.
Drizzle down your food and drinks.
Drizzle down your SELF.
AMEN.
Annie, age 7

Ethan (7) wrote this prayer:

"Lord Jesus, turn night into day and let the people who walk in darkness have light."

Then, he re-wrote it again with illustrations. Then, he wrote it a third time, with the paper divided into two sections. On the one side he began illustrating "good"/light behaviors, on the other side "bad"/darkness behaviors.

David (6) copied the Our Father prayer. When asked, "Which is your favorite part?" he replied, "on earth as it is in heaven." When asked why, he said, "Heaven is with earth, so people who die aren't all the way dead."

Vincent (7) composed a liturgical season set of prayers:

"Come Lord Jesus in my words and in my prayers." (Christmas prayer)

"Come my Father in my words and in my prayers." (Ordinary Time prayer)

"Rise Lord Jesus in my words and in my prayers." (Easter prayer)

"I wait for Christmas Lord Jesus in my words and in my prayers." (Advent prayer)

"I wait for Easter Lord Jesus in my words and in my prayers." (Lent prayer)

The Mystery of Faith

I presented "The Mystery of Faith" to the Level II atrium. When pondering the proclamation, "Christ has died," some of the children began wrestling with the question, "Did Christ really, totally die?" Vincent (age 7) initially said, "He only half died." The catechist replied, "Then why does the Church have us respond, 'Christ has died?'" There was further discussion with the children about Christ's death on the cross, his placement in the tomb, and the state of his body during those times.

Vincent wrestled with this question out loud, but eventually fell into silence. We completed our communal meditation on "The Mystery of Faith." During the atrium work period, he composed this prayer:

If the Lord had brought love and faith to the world all joy may be full, and the Lord has done those things for us. My joy is full because of this and my love is as strong as bold rock. O Father O God you have done great things for us. It is good for us and good for you Lord. Now for us you are more greater than before. You came from heaven to show us that you are our God. That long ago you cried your last cry and breathed your last. You are now risen. Amen. Now I have said the full joy of God and my soul proclaims: O Lord my God because of you I have full joy and my love up to my blood and now I say O Lord I proclaim that the love from you has made the world. From your love Lord you made our joy and make us keep the Sabbath day. O Lord my God I praise you for my love and faith. Now through my love and through yours ... Amen.

Another prayer by Vincent:

O God O Lord you come to me and I come to you. I in you and you in me. When your blood flows and breaks the spears of battle it flows and pierces the feathers of soldiers' helmets and you Lord are on the highest cloud of heaven. Amen.

Prayer by Sergio, First Communicant, written on retreat following First Communion Mass

Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen.

Jesus I know you a lot.

Jesus I love you a lot.

Jesus I pray for you a lot.

Jesus I receive you a lot.

Jesus I like your creation a lot.

Jesus I draw you a lot.

Jesus I need you a lot.

Jesus I do this for you a lot.

Jesus I like you a lot.

Jesus I want you a lot.

Jesus I give thanks to you a lot.

Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen.

*O God the mighty
You lead me to the light and dark goes away.
Katie (age 6)*

*God is our Lord.
God is our light.
God is our friend.
God loves us most
So we should love Him too.
Renee (age 6)*

*Oh Lord, you made me who I am today
And Lord, when I am in darkness you make me in light
You guide me in right paths as he has promised
And you love me for who I am
Mary (age 7)*

*God said let wine and bread enter your body as my flesh and my blood.
As he said this it was so.
Ellie (age 11)*

After working with the Great Commandment, a 5-year old girl wrote wrote:
*You shall love the Lord in your songs.
I love the Lord and your neighbor.*

*I spoke to the Lord
And He said that I am the light of the world.
So I said, "Parousia is on its way."
So glory came to us and then it was the best life ever.
Dominick, age 7*

The Kingdom of God and the Leaven

After mixing a batch of flour, yeast, and water, Sergio (age 9) created a booklet entitled "The Kingdom of the Leaven Bread." Sergio wrote:

*The parable:
"He told them another parable. The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed
in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through."*

*Sergio's reflection:
And it rised all through the leaven bread.
And Jesus was happy.
The leaven bread is like the kingdom of God.
And with the yeast it will rise,
And get bigger and bigger.
The kingdom of God is like leaven bread.
It will be like leaven bread.*

*The bread will rise.
It has the kingdom of God.
Jesus is the kingdom.
The kingdom has risen.
The bread is like God.
Yeast is the power of rising.
God is true.
The kingdom is like the leaven bread.*

Prayers by Quinn, age 10:

The Good Shepherd protects his sheep. His staff keeps away more enemies than a stone wall. His call is louder than a horn. His eye sees farther than a telescope. Every touch cleans the dirt from their beautiful coats. He leads all his sheep to clean water. He teaches them forever ... and ever.

*I believe every good deed will make one more star in the sky.
Every sin, a star will be illuminated.
When it's done you'll feel like you can fly.
It will not be done if we sin or let yourself be humiliated.
God is like a swan's beautiful head.
God is as delicate as a dove sleeping in your hand.
One day the night sky will be as bright as the sun with stars.
We will not need the moon as a portable nightlight.
Nor will we need a flashlight to shine in the shadows of death.*

Dayenu

Dayenu is a traditional prayer litany that is part of the Jewish Passover celebration. The prayer recounts the manifold gifts that God continued to provide to His People, from the Exodus to the Torah to the prophets. After each gift, the company proclaims "Dayenu!" which means "it would have been enough."

We sing a version of the *Dayenu* prayer in atrium during the Lenten season. Megan Griffin (gr. 5) and Maddie Samson (gr. 6) decided to extend this prayer of gratitude to celebrate God's gifts in our time of Redemption.

*Had he given us the prophets,
And not sent us the Messiah,
Given us the prophets, well then Dayenu!*

*Had he sent us the Messiah
And not brought him back from the dead
Sent us the Messiah, well then Dayenu!*

*Had he brought him back from the dead
And had not restored our life,
Brought him back from the dead, well then Dayenu!*

*Had he then restored our life
And not given us the saints
Restored our life, well then Dayenu!*

*Had he given us the saints
And not given us the sacraments
Given us the saints, well then Dayenu!*

*Had he given us the sacraments
And not sent us Parousia,
Given us the sacraments, well then Dayenu!*

Prayer by Ayden, age 7:

*O Lord forgive us of all our mistakes.
I love the Lord because he helps us because he is so great.
I love the Lord because he is so good.
I love the Lord because he is so nice.
I wish I could see the Lord but it is so hard.
I wish I could hear the Lord but he is not here.
I can love the Lord but I cannot see it, hear it, wish it
but I can love it, believe it, and pray for it.
I love the Lord with all my heart.
I love the Lord. I pray for the Lord and I believe it.*

Isaiah 11: 6-9

After reading Isaiah's peaceable kingdom prophecy, Isabel (age 9) composed this poem and drew this picture:

*The wolf will be petted.
People will never be dreaded.
In Heaven you will always be joyful.
Everything in Heaven is beautiful.
Instead of the sun a candle,
Everything will be easy to handle.
Heaven will be in much peace,
Everyday will be a big feast.
Every day you will have church,
You will always find Jesus and not have to search.*

Advent, 2009

Prayers following the presentation on the synthesis of the Advent prophecies:

Thomas, age 6:

*The people in dark may see God.
The people who have seen Jesus have seen God.
The people who are in danger have been rescued by Jesus.
The people in light have seen Jesus and God.*

Mary, age 7:

*I will see a star at night.
I will see a constellation at night too.
I will watch in darkness and see a great light.*

Prayer by Alliah (9)

God is with you.

Peace is with you.

Love is with you.

All is with you.

("All" refers to God, peace, and love)