Five Days of Thankfulness in the Psalms



Day 1

Call to Worship

Hear God call you to worship through his word:

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
For his steadfast love endures forever! *Psalm 118:28–29*

Adoration

Say or sing this praise to God:

O God, you made us and not we ourselves; therefore we are not our own but yours, your people, and the sheep of your pasture. Let us therefore worship and fall down and kneel before you, the Lord our Maker. You are the Creator of our bodies; they are fearfully and wonderfully made and secretly wrought. You are the Father of our spirits, for you formed the spirit of man within him and made us living souls. You have put wisdom in our inward parts and given understanding to our hearts. In you, O God, we live and move, and have our being, for we are your offspring. If you took away our breath, we would die and return to the dust from which we were taken. Only by your mercies are we not consumed, because your compassions fail not; they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness. Amen. *Matthew Henry*

Reading of the Law (for Conviction)

Hear God's law as his will for your life:

If you would enter life, keep the commandments.

Matthew 19:17

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

O God the Father of mercy, so slow to anger with children so swift to sin—deal not with us according to our deserts, but open up to us the arms of your compassion, that what we have lost by our offenses we may recover by your mercies and walk from now on in your way; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Bede*

Assurance of Pardon

Receive these words of comfort from God:

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made. *Psalm 145:8–9*

Reading of the Law (for Consecration)

Hear God's law as his way for your life:

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways! *Psalm 119:1–3*

Apostles' Creed

Confess what you believe about the Christian faith:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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.

Praise

Say or sing this praise to God:

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be.
Gloria Patri

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one Heidelberg Catechism (1563):

Lord's Day 1

1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

2. How many things must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

Three: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

O Lord, you are the light, the way, the truth, the life; in you there is no darkness, error, vanity, or death—you are the light without which there is darkness; the way without which there is wandering; the truth without which there is error; the life without which there is death. Say, Lord, "Let there be light," and I will see light and eschew darkness; I will see the

way and avoid wandering; I will see the truth and shun error; I will see life and escape death. Illuminate, O illuminate my blind soul, which sits in darkness and the shadow of death, and direct my feet into the way of peace. Amen. *Augustine*

Scripture Reading

Read this portion of God's word:

Psalm 100

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

O Father, most merciful, who in the beginning did create us, and by the passion of your only begotten Son has recreated us—work in us now, we ask, both to will and to do for your good pleasure. And forasmuch as we are weak, and can do no good thing by ourselves, grant us your grace and heavenly benediction, that in whatever work we engage we may do all to your honor and glory; and that, being kept from sin and daily increasing in good works as long as we live in the body, we may always show forth some service to you; and after our departure receive pardon of all our sins, and attain eternal life. Amen. *Anselm*

Further Petition

- Personal
- Church
- World

Lord's Prayer

In closing, pray the words that Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Day 2

Call to Worship

Hear God call you to worship through his word:

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds. *Psalm 57:9-10*

Adoration

Pray this praise to God:

O Lord our God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty; you cover yourself with light as with a garment. You are light, and in you is no darkness at all. You are love, and they that dwell in love dwell in you and you in them. You are the Father of light, with whom there is no change or shadow of turning, the one from whom comes every good and perfect gift. You are the blessed and only sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in the light that no one can approach. We bow in humble awe before you and praise your greatness. Amen. *Matthew Henry*

Reading of the Law (for Conviction)

Hear God's law as his will for your life:

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret
heart. *Psalm 57:9-10*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess in your presence our sinful nature that is prone to do evil and slow to do good, and all our shortcomings and offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned, in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, we who are ashamed and sorry for every way that we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our errors; cleanse us from our secret faults; and forgive our sins, for the sake of your dear Son our Savior. And, O most holy and loving Father, send your purifying grace into our hearts, we pray, that we may from now on live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Book of Common Worship (1906)*

Assurance of Pardon

Receive these words of comfort from God:

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who

is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." *Luke 7:47–50*

Reading of the Law (for Consecration)

Hear God's law as his way for your life:

Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. . . . You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. . . . Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. . . . Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. . . . So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 5:20, 48; 6:1, 33; 7:12*

Westminster Creed—Part 1

Confess what you believe about the Christian faith:

I believe man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever;
I believe God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being,
wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth;
I believe there is but one true and living God,
that there are three persons in the Godhead:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
and that these three are one God,
the same in substance, equal in power and glory;
I believe God has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass,
that God made all things of nothing, by the word of his power,
in the space of six days, and all very good;
and that God preserves and governs all his creatures and all their actions;
I believe our first parents, though created in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness,
sinned against God by eating the forbidden fruit,
and that their fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery;
I believe God determined, out of his mere good pleasure,
to deliver his elect out of the estate of sin and misery,
and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer;
I believe the only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,
who, being the eternal Son of God, became man through a virgin birth,
and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures,
and one person, forever. Amen.

Praise

Say or sing this praise to God:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
Doxology

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one Heidelberg Catechism (1563):

Lord's Day 5

12. According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment both now and in eternity: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?

God requires that his justice be satisfied. Therefore the claims of this justice must be paid in full, either by ourselves or by another.

13. Can we make this payment ourselves?

Certainly not. Actually, we increase our debt every day.

14. Can another creature—any at all—pay this debt for us?

No. To begin with, God will not punish any other creature for what a human is guilty of. Furthermore, no mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal wrath against sin and deliver others from it.

15. What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?

One who is a true and righteous man, yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is also true God.

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Most gracious God, our heavenly Father, in whom alone dwells all fulness of light and wisdom—illuminate our minds, we pray, by your Holy Spirit, in the true understanding of your Word. Give us grace that we may receive it with reverence and sincere humility. May it lead us to put our whole trust in you alone, and so to serve and honor you, that we may glorify your holy name and edify our neighbors by a good example. And since it has pleased you to number us among your people, help us to pay you the love and homage that we owe, as children to our Father and as servants to our Lord. We ask this for the sake of our Master and Savior. Amen. *John Calvin*

Scripture Reading

Read this portion of God's word:

Psalm 103

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Lord God, in kindness and tender mercy behold me the creature of your hand. Save me with your outstretched arm, for with my soul I have desired you in the night; yes, with my spirit within me, I will seek you early in the morning. I long for your mercy, and my soul trusts in you, the living God; you are my refuge in times of deep distress, and a faithful Savior. Lord, whether I sleep or watch, I am yours—whether I live or die, you are my God; therefore I cry to you, let your grace always be near; surround me with the defense of your power, and grant that I may rest secure, enjoy a quiet sleep, and in the morning awake in health and renewed strength. Amen. *Johann Habermann*

Further Petition

- Personal
- Church
- World

Lord's Prayer

In closing, pray the words that Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Day 3

Call to Worship

Hear God call you to worship through his word:

I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness,
and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the
Most High. *Psalm 7:17*

Adoration

Say or sing this praise to God:

Most holy, and blessed, and glorious Lord God, we are yours, and we are bound to serve you. For you made us and not we ourselves. We are therefore not our own but yours, and unto you, O Lord, we lift up our souls; your face, O Lord, we seek. Where shall we go for happiness but to you from whom we derive our being? You are the great benefactor of the whole creation; you give to all life and breath and all things. You are the great benefactor of your own people; you have fed us and kept us our whole life until this very day. You are God and not man, and therefore we are not consumed. Amen. *Matthew Henry*

Reading of the Law (for Conviction)

Hear God's law as his will for your life:

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." *Galations 3:10*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Lord God, you are faithful throughout all generations, righteous in your judgments, marvelous in strength and excellence; you are good and faithful toward those who trust in you; you show mercy and compassion—forgive us our sins, our unrighteousness, our transgressions, and our shortcomings. Do not hold us to account for every sin but cleanse us with the cleansing of your truth. Guide our steps to walk in holiness, righteousness, and singleness of heart. Help us to do those things that are good and pleasing in your sight. Amen. *Clement of Rome*

Assurance of Pardon

Receive these words of comfort from God:

When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.
Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple! *Psalm 65:3–4*

Reading of the Law (for Consecration)

Hear God's law as his way for your life:

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another. *John 15:12–17*

Westminster Creed—Part 2

Confess what you believe about the Christian faith:

I believe Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the office of
prophet, of priest, and of king;
I believe Christ, as our Redeemer, underwent the miseries
of this life,
the wrath of God, the cursed death of the cross, and
burial;
I believe he rose again from the dead on the third day,
ascended up into heaven,
sits at the right hand of God the Father,
and is coming to judge the world at the last day;
I believe we are made partakers of the redemption
purchased by Christ,
by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit;
I believe God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, and
repentance unto life
to escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin;
I believe, by God's free grace, we are effectually called,
justified, and sanctified,
and gathered into the visible church,
out of which there is no ordinary possibility of
salvation;

I believe we also are given in this life such accompanying benefits
as assurance of God's love, peace of conscience,
joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace,
and perseverance therein to the end;
I believe, at death, we are made perfect in holiness, and immediately pass into glory,
and that our bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves until the resurrection;
I believe, at the resurrection, we shall be raised up in glory,
shall openly be acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment,
and shall be made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity. Amen.

Praise

Say or sing this praise to God:

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.
Gloria Patri

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one Heidelberg Catechism (1563):

Lord's Day 11

29. Why is the Son of God called "Jesus," meaning "savior"?

Because he saves us from our sins; and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.

30. Do those who look for their salvation and security in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only savior Jesus?

No. Although they boast of being his, by their actions they deny the only savior, Jesus. Either Jesus is not a perfect savior, or those who in true faith accept this savior have in him all they need for their salvation.

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

O God, you have given us your Word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path—dispose us humbly to receive it, and enable us carefully to obey it, that being upheld and guided in your ways, we may walk in holiness and in righteousness before you all the days of our life, and finally come to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Family Prayers (1865)*

Scripture Reading

Read this portion of God's word:

Psalm 34

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

O Almighty God, our only help in times of trouble—look with mercy and compassion upon me when I am under your afflicting hand. Be my support and confidence under all my

sorrows and afflictions; let me not sink under the weight of them, through any disappointments or faintness of spirit. Give me such an entire trust and confidence in your mercy, through the merits of my dear Redeemer, that I may cast all my cares upon you, and with cheerfulness commit myself into your hands, assuredly believing that all things shall work together for good to them that love you; and, O Lord, grant that I may be found, through your great mercy, to be entitled to the benefit of your gracious promises. Amen. *Henry Thornton*

Further Petition

- Personal
- Church
- World

Lord's Prayer

In closing, pray the words that Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Day 4

Call to Worship

Hear God call you to worship through his word:

Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth. *Psalm 47:1–2*

Adoration

Pray this praise to God:

To you, O God, do we give thanks, for your name is near; your wondrous works declare it. Our souls bless you, and all that is within us bless your holy name; yes, our souls bless you, as we forget not all our benefits. We will praise you, O Lord, for it is good; it is pleasant, and praise is fitting for the upright. Yes, it is a good thing to give thanks to you, to sing praises to your name, O Most High, to show forth your lovingkindness in the morning and your faithfulness in the night. We will extol you, our God and King, and will bless your name for ever and ever. Every day we will bless you and praise your name for ever and ever; we will abundantly speak of your great goodness and sing of your righteousness. Amen. *Matthew Henry*

Reading of the Law (for Conviction)

Hear God's law as his will for your life:

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. *James 2:10*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

O good and gracious God, you are most worthy of all praises, even for your own sake, you who triumphs in all things in holiness. By you only are we made holy and sanctified. We praise you for our glorious redemption, purchased for us in your dearly beloved Son Christ Jesus. Give us therefore your Holy Spirit to govern us. And grant that all things which breathe with life may praise you as the true life of all creatures, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. *The Scottish Collects (1595)*

Assurance of Pardon

Receive these words of comfort from God:

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! *Psalm 25:6–7*

Reading of the Law (for Consecration)

Hear God's law as his way for your life:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your might.
And these words that I command you today shall be on
your heart.
You shall teach them diligently to your children,
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way,
and when you lie down,
and when you rise.
You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,
and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and
on your gates. *Deuteronomy 6:4–9*

Nicene Creed

Confess what you believe about the Christian faith:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and
invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of
God;
begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the
Father;
by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation,
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life;
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Praise

Say or sing this praise to God:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
O praise him! Alleluia!
Praise him above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Doxology

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one Heidelberg Catechism (1563):

Lord's Day 12

31. Why is he called "Christ," meaning "anointed"?

Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually intercedes for us before the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the deliverance he has won for us.

32. But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing.

I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

O God, who are near to all them that call upon you in
truth;
who are yourself the truth,
whom to know is perfect knowledge—
instruct us with your divine wisdom,
and teach us your law;
that we may know the truth and walk in it;
through him in whom the truth was made manifest,
even Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen. *Christian Prayers (1578)*

Scripture Reading

Read this portion of God's word:

Psalm 148

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Holy Spirit, reveal your righteousness, power, and love to our souls, that as our knowledge of you increases, our repentance will be more spiritual, evangelical, and effectual. We entreat you to enable us to forsake our former evils, to set a guard upon the door of our lips, and to inspire us with a worshipful reverence for that holy name which we have until now profaned. Amen. *John Newton*

Further Petition

- Personal
- Church
- World

Lord's Prayer

In closing, pray the words that Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Day 5

Call to Worship

Hear God call you to worship through his word:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever. *Psalm 136:1–3*

Adoration

Pray this praise to God:

O Lord, your understanding is infinite, for you determine the number of the stars, and call them all by their names. You are wonderful in counsel and excellent in deed; wise in heart and mighty in strength. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all according to the counsel of your own will. O the depth of your wisdom and knowledge! How unsearchable are your judgments, and your ways past finding out. We are in awe of your majesty. Amen. *Matthew Henry*

Reading of the Law (for Conviction)

Hear God's law as his will for your life:

Who can say, "I have made my heart pure;
I am clean from my sin"? *Proverbs 20:9*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

May we fly for refuge to the hope set before us, and while our day of grace and salvation yet remains, may we come to you to obtain that pardon and that sanctifying Spirit which you are ever willing to bestow. Oh let us beware, lest our hearts should be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, and lest we should at last be found guilty of treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath and manifestation of the righteous judgment of God. Let us not despise the riches of your longsuffering, but let them turn us to repentance, and cause us to come to you with penitent and contrite hearts. Amen. *William Wilberforce*

Assurance of Pardon

Receive these words of comfort from God:

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. *1 Peter 2:24*

Reading of the Law (for Consecration)

Hear God's law as his way for your life:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, what ever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. *Philippians 4:8–9*

Apostles' Creed

Confess what you believe about the Christian faith:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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.

Praise

Say or sing this praise to God:

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
God Almighty, three in one!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to him alone.
Gloria Patri

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one Heidelberg Catechism (1563):

Lord's Day 16

40. Why did Christ have to suffer death?

Because God's justice and truth require it: nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the Son of God.

41. Why was he "buried"?

His burial testifies that he really died.

42. Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

Our death is not a payment for our sins, but only a dying to sins and an entering into eternal life.

43. What further benefit do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

By his power our old man is crucified, put to death, and buried with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may offer ourselves as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to him.

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart, that I may hear your word and understand and do your will, for I am a sojourner upon the earth. Hide not your commandments

from me, but open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of your law. Speak unto me the hidden and secret things of your wisdom. On you I set my hope, O my God, that you will enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of your knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them; that in reading the lives and sayings of the saints I may not sin, but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment, and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul, and the inheritance of life everlasting. For you are the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from you comes every good deed and every gift. Amen. *John Chrysostom*

Scripture Reading

Read this portion of God's word:

Psalm 95

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

O Lord Jesus, pray for me as you did for Peter, that my faith may not fail; confirm me in the comfort that I am bought by your blood, made your child in baptism, and baptized into your name; that my weak prayer is made pleasing unto God by your mighty intercession; that your blood was shed for me; that I am saved and justified by you. Amen. *Johann Friedrich Starck*

Further Petition

- Personal
- Church
- World

Lord's Prayer

In closing, pray the words that Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen