



STEADFAST & SURRENDERED

Open by reading the following scripture passage out loud together:

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58, ESV)

Beginning in Thanks

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us:

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and time to rest and worship,

We thank you, Lord.

For all who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all who earnestly seek after truth, and all who labor for justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is good and gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

**To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father,
and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen**

Preparation of our Hearts and Souls

Confession

Spend a couple of minutes in silence, listening to your Good Shepherd's voice, that He might show you those things you need to confess, praying the following:

Dear Heavenly Father,
Shine your light, through the power of your Spirit, that I may know how I have grieved your heart—those things I have done and those I have left undone.

Now pray the following prayer out loud:

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
we have followed too much the deceits and desires of our
own hearts.
we have offended against your holy laws.
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared
to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord;
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Say the assurance of pardon together:

Merciful Lord, thank you for your forgiveness and peace. Thank you that because of your cross, our sins have been removed from us, as far as the east is from the west. Thank you that we now, having been cleansed from all our sin, may serve you with a quiet mind.
Amen.

Read the following scripture passage:

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:36-39, ESV)

Pray the following prayers together:

For Submission to God’s Will

Joseph Mercier

O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me only know your will. Amen.

For Christ to Be Formed in Us

Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of Self-Dedication

William Temple

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Preparation of our Space

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God's peace be with you and with all who enter this room.

And with your spirit.

When Jesus became flesh, He made His home and dwelt among us. Let us pray that, through His Spirit, He be with us now, blessing this space in preparation for His ministry among us. May He always be here, strengthening our hearts through prayer and friendship, nurturing our minds through study of His Word, comforting and filling our souls with the joy of the assurance that we are always loved by Him.

Amen.

Lord, be close to your servants who dwell in this room. May its walls be for us a reminder of the safety and security that comes from you. May its windows be for us a reminder that you see into our souls and understand our every need. May its door remind us that you always are standing at the door of their hearts waiting to be welcomed in to strengthen us with the abundance of your love.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Pray the following prayers together:

For Quiet Confidence

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Holy Thought

O God, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truth our reason withers: Consecrate our lives to your will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, and such steadfastness of purpose, that in time we may come to think your own thoughts after you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Close by saying together:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.