

# Prayers of Love and Faith

DRAFT: 10 October 2023

Once commended by the House of Bishops, a priest may include these prayers in an existing form of service under their Canon B5 discretion, subject to the stipulations therein.

## The Collect

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Sunday or of the Feast, or:

Almighty God,  
you send your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of all your people.  
Open the hearts of **N** and **N** to the riches of his grace,  
that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

DPLF

In some traditions, the Collect for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is appropriate on Saturdays:

Almighty God,  
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:  
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood  
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# Prayers

These (Dedication and Acclamation) are used immediately before the Intercessions.

## The Dedication

God of generosity and joy,  
with you is the well of life and in your light, we see light:  
we give you thanks for N and N,  
for the love and friendship they share,  
and for their commitment to one another.  
As they come before you this day,  
trusting you as the giver of all good gifts,  
strengthen their love by your love,  
gladden their hearts with your joy,  
and transform their journey through life  
into a pilgrimage of grace.  
By your blessing,  
and with you as their companion and guide,  
may they rejoice in hope and be sustained in love  
all the days of their life and in the age to come.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

DPLF

Or:

Blessed are you, sovereign God,  
the author of all good things.

You have made us in your image  
to reflect your truth and light.

You have come to us in your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who called us no longer servants, but friends.

Pour out, we pray, the abundance of your grace  
upon N and N in their life together.

Bless them that, loving each other as you have loved them,  
they may share in the blessings of your kingdom  
where goodness and mercy abound;

and bring them to feast with your saints for ever  
in your heavenly home,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

DPLF

A prayer of commitment may be said by the couple together:

God of all good things,  
we offer you our lives,  
our hopes and hurts,  
our praise and promise,  
in a covenant of faith and hope.  
Unite our wills in your will,  
that we may support one another  
and show forth your love  
all the days of our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

DPLF

After which the priest says:

May almighty God  
give you grace to persevere with joy,  
that he may complete  
the work he has begun in you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

DPLF

The priest may say either of the 'prayers when rings are worn':

God of faithfulness and joy,  
source of everlasting love,  
by your blessing, let these rings remind N and N  
of the commitment they have made to each other,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

DPLF

Or:

Almighty God,  
whose love is revealed in Jesus Christ  
and poured out in the Holy Spirit:  
by your blessing, may these rings  
worn by your servants N and N  
be signs of their hope-filled covenant  
and of your everlasting love,  
in our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

DPLF

## Acclamation

This responsory acclamation may be said, or a hymn may be sung.

Where you go, I will go;  
**Where you go, I will go;**  
Where you dwell, I will dwell;  
**Where you go, I will go.**

Your people shall be my people,  
**Where you go, I will go;**  
and your God shall be my God.  
**Where you go, I will go.**

Ruth 1:16–17

# Prayers of Intercession

Extemporary prayers may be used instead or as well, but it would be difficult to later prove that these did not breach Canon B5.

God of love and mercy,  
look with kindness on your servants N and N.  
Give them wisdom and devotion in their life together,  
that each may be to the other  
a strength in need, a counsellor in perplexity,  
a comfort in sorrow and a companion in joy.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

DPLF

May the hospitality of their home  
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;  
may their love overflow to neighbours in need  
and embrace those in distress.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray that those whose lives are brought together  
be given wisdom, patience and courage  
to serve one another in Christ's name.  
Help them to desire all that is good,  
that the offering of their lives may speak your praise.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

May the friends and family gathered here,  
and those separated by distance,  
be strengthened and blessed this day.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Sustain **N** and **N** throughout their lives  
and finally, in your mercy, bring them  
to the joy of your heavenly city  
where we will all see you face to face.

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers**  
**for the sake of your Son,**  
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Preparation of the Table

“At the Preparation of the Table in a service of Holy Communion, one or both of the couple, or their family and friends, may be invited to bring the elements of bread and wine to the holy table.”

DPLF p. 22 Note 8

## Eucharistic Prayer

Use the Prayer and Preface you would usually use for the season or day.

## Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion of the Sunday or Feast, or another suitable prayer (such as this one), is said.

Holy Spirit of God,  
you know our strength  
and have compassion on our frailty.  
Be with **N** and **N**  
in all they undertake.  
And grant that we their friends,  
with all who become their friends,  
may love and support them in the years ahead;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DPLF

In some traditions, the Post Communion for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is appropriate on Saturdays:

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessèd Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



All material is from 'Common Worship' (main volume), except as marked:  
DPLF — Prayers of Love and Faith, draft as released January 2023

**Common Worship & Prayers of Love and Faith**, material from which is included in this service, are copyright © the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2000–2023.