50 Days of Prayer

Osco Community Church

50 DAYS OF PRAYER
OCC 2017

"Lord, teach us how to pray aright,
With reverence and with fear;
Though dust and ashes in Thy sight,
We may, we must draw near."

-James Montgomery (1771-1854)
British editor and poet

We often pay lip service to prayer's importance. We will not hesitate to assure someone that we will pray for them. We are quick to answer to its necessity. Yet how often do we, when it comes down to it, really *pray*? How arrogant must we be to think we can live our lives for God's honor or bring glory to His name or advance His kingdom without the prayerfully depending on Him to do it?

Will you join us for the next 50 days while we as a church seek God's face in prayer and endeavor to become a people of prayer? We know from Scripture that God calls us to pray and that prayer is not in vain. What will God do with these 50 days? I look forward to seeing how He will move as we seek Him. Those who truly and humbly seek His face are surely not turned away disappointed.

The following pages are a guide for prayer based on the structure of the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) with each day corresponding to a different aspect and theme (Ex: Sunday - Adoration "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name"). This format has been borrowed and modified from the book *Handbook to Prayer* by Kenneth Boa. Many of Scripture translations for each day also come from this text as Boa has artfully translated these passages into prayers that we can then claim as our own as well.

Also contained in each day is a prayer from a brother or sister in Christ who has gone before us that also fits the theme. As we read and meditate on their words and make these prayers our own, we join our brothers and sisters in the faith and across time and space as we pray to God. These prayers have been pulled from a myriad of resources, but for those who would like more, I would recommend *The Communion of Saints*: *Prayers of the Famous* edited by Horton Davies.

The format of this guide has been written so that it can be done in just 10 minutes, but let me also encourage you to pray longer. Long or short, the most important thing is for you to PRAY! Feel free to write your own prayers out along with the ones provided. Will you join us in this prayer effort for the next 50 days?

Pastor Paul Henschel

Day 1 — Adoration

Sunday, February 26

Praising God for Who He is
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

Praise the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
For His loving mercy endures forever.
Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord
Or fully declare His praise? -Psalm 106:1-2

(Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship)

"Worthy of praise from every mouth, of confession from every tongue, of worship from every creature, is Your glorious name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Who created the world by the word of Your power, and in love wonderfully redeemed it. Wherefore with angels, and archangels, and all the company of heaven, we adore and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You, and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory:
Glory be to You, O Lord, most High."
-Source unknown

Day 2 — Thanksgiving

Monday, February 27

Praising God for what He has done
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the new Jerusalem, and his servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no night there; they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they shall reign for ever and ever. -
Revelation 22:3-5

(Thank God for this hope we have to look forward to)

"And now unto Him Who is able to keep us from falling and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the mountains of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy; to Him be power and authority, for ever and ever. Amen."
-Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)
American clergyman and social reformer

Day 3 — Submission

Tuesday, February 28

Agreeing with and submitting to God's will
"Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

The love of Christ compels me, because I am convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

-2 Corinthians 5:14-15

(Pause to reflect upon this reality we are called to follow)

"Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

"O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

-Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)
Founder of the Franciscan orders

Day 4 — Intercession

Wednesday, March 1

Making requests for others
"Give us today our daily bread"

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called in one hope of our calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. -
Ephesians 4:4-6

Churches and Ministries
- -Osco Community Church
- -Pastors and Elders
- -Ministries of the church
- -Other churches in our area

"O God of all power, who hast called from death the great Pastor of the sheep, our Lord Jesus: comfort and defend the flock which He hath redeemed by the blood of the eternal testament. Increase the number of true preachers; lighten the hearts of the ignorant; relieve the pains of such as be afflicted, especially of those what suffer for the testimony of the truth; by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ."

-John Knox (1505-1572)
Scottish reformer

Day 5 — Petition

Thursday, March 2

Making requests for ourselves
"Give us today our daily bread"

Hear my cry, O God,
And listen to my prayer.
From the ends of the earth I call to You
When my heart grows faint;
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
You have been a shelter for me
And a strong tower against the enemy.
I will dwell in Your tent forever
And take refuge in the shelter of Your wings.
-Psalm 61:1-4

Growth in Christ
- -Greater desire to know and please Him
- -Greater love and commitment to Him
- -Grace to practice His presence
- -Grace to glorify Him in my life

My activities and concerns for today

"You awaken us to delight in Your praises; for You made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You."
-Augustine of Hippo (354-430)
Theologian and author of *The Confessions*

Day 6 — Confession

Friday, March 3

Expressing our need for forgiveness of sins
"And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors"

Save me from bloodguilt, O God,
The God of my salvation,
And my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth will declare Your praise.
For You do not desire sacrifice, or I would bring it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and contrite heart,
O God, You will not despise. -Psalm 51:14-17

(Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Confess these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.)

"O Lord, You Who are all merciful, take away my sins from me, and enkindle within me the fire of Your Holy Spirit. Take away this heart of stone from me, and give me a heart of flesh and blood, a heart to love and adore You, a heart which may delight in You, love You and please You, for Christ's sake."

-Ambrose (339-397)
Bishop of Milan

Day 7 — Dedication/ Recommitment

Saturday, March 4

Necessary renewal as we face the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"

O Lord my God, may I fear You, walk in all Your ways, love You and serve You with all my heart and with all my soul.
–Deuteronomy 10:12

I have not been made perfect, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus also laid hold of me. I do not consider myself yet to have attained it, but one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and stretching forward to what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
–Philippians 3:12-14

(Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal)

"Grant, Lord God, that we may cleave to Thee without parting,
worship Thee without wearying,
serve Thee without failing,
faithfully seek Thee,
happily find Thee,
and forever possess Thee,
the one only God,
blessed for all eternity."
-Anselm (1033-1109)
Philosopher, archbishop of Canterbury

Day 8 — Adoration

Sunday, March 5

Praising God for Who He is

"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!
You have set Your glory above the heavens! -Psalm 8:1

Great and marvelous are Your works,
Lord God Almighty!
Righteous and true are Your ways,
King of the nations!
Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship before You,
For Your righteous acts have been revealed.
-Revelation 15:3-4

(Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship)

"O Lord in Whom all things live,
Who commanded us to seek You,
Who are always ready to be found:
to know You is life,
to serve You is freedom,
to praise You is our souls' delight.
We bless You and adore You,
we worship You and magnify You,
we give thanks to You for Your great glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord."
-Augustine of Hippo (354-430)
Theologian and author of *The Confessions*

Day 9 — Thanksgiving

Monday, March 6

Praising God for what He has done
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

O Lord, You are my God;
I will exalt You and praise Your name,
For You have done wonderful things,
Things planned long ago in perfect faithfulness.
-Isaiah 25:1

(Thank God for all the wonderful things He has done in your life and for His perfect plan)

"Thou that has given so much to me,
Give one thing more -
a grateful heart;
Not thankful when it pleases me,
as if Thy blessings had spare days;
But such a heart,
whose very pulse may be Thy praise."

-George Herbert (1593-1633)
Anglican theologian and poet

Day 10 — Submission

Tuesday, March 7

Agreeing with and submitting to God's will
"Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

-Galatians 2:20

(Pause to reflect upon this reality we are called to follow)

"Take, Lord, all my liberty. Receive my memory, my understanding and my whole will. Whatever I have and possess, You have given to me; to You I restore it wholly, and to Your will I utterly surrender it for Your direction. Give me the love of You only, with Your grace, and I am rich enough; nor ask I anything besides."

-Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)
Founder of the Society of Jesus and author of the *Spiritual Exercises*

Day 11 — Intercession

Wednesday, March 8

Making requests for others
"Give us today our daily bread"

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
-Matthew 9:37-38; Luke 10:2

Missions & Evangelism
- -Friends and Relatives
- -Neighbors and Coworkers
- -Local, national, world missions
- -The persecuted church around the world
- -The fulfillment of the Great Commission

"O Lord, convert the world—and begin with me."
-Chinese student's prayer

Day 12 — Petition

Thursday, March 9

Making requests for ourselves
"Give us today our daily bread"

May I be strong and courageous, and act. May I not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God is with me. He will not fail me or forsake me. -1 Chronicles 28:20

Personal Concerns
- -Spiritual warfare
  - The world, the flesh, the devil
- -Growth in character
- -Personal disciplines
- -Physical health and strength

My activities for today

"Almighty God, Who in Thy wisdom hast so ordered our earthly life that we needs must walk by faith and not by sight; grant us such faith in Thee that, amidst all things that pass our understanding, we may believe in Thy fatherly care, and ever be strengthened by the assurance that underneath are the everlasting arms; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

-Source unknown

Day 13 — Confession

Friday, March 10

Expressing our need for forgiveness of sins
"And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors"

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts,
And see if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting. -Psalm 139:23-24

(Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Confess these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.)

"O LORD, I have heard a good word inviting me to look away to Thee and be satisfied. My heart longs to respond, but sin has clouded my vision 'til I see Thee but dimly.

"Be pleased to cleanse me in Thine own precious blood, and make me inwardly pure, so that I may with unveiled eyes gaze upon Thee all the days of my earthly pilgrimage. Then shall I be prepared to behold Thee in full splendor in the day when Thou shall appear to be glorified in Thy saints and admired in all them that believe. Amen."

-A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)
American pastor and author

Day 14 — Dedication/ Recommitment

Saturday, March 11

Necessary renewal as we face the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"

May our love abound more and more in full knowledge and depth of insight, so that we may be able to approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ—having been filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
-Philippians 1:9-11

(Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal)

"Use me, my Savior, for whatever purpose and in whatever way You may require. Here is my poor heart, an empty vessel: fill it with Your grace. Here is my sinful and troubled soul: quicken it and refresh it with Your love. Take my heart for Your abode; my mouth to spread abroad the glory of Your name; my love and all my powers for the advancement of Your believing people; and never allow the steadfastness and confidence of my faith abate."

-Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899)
American evangelist and educator

Day 15 — Adoration

Sunday, March 12

Praising God for Who He is

"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not the God Who is in heaven? Are You not the ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one is able to withstand You. -2 Chronicles 20:6

I will praise You, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonders.
I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
-Psalm 9:1-2

(Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship)

"This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable Friend,
Whose love is as great as His power,
And neither knows measure nor end.
'Tis Jesus, the First and the Last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come."
-Joseph Hart (1712-1768)
English minister

Day 16 — Thanksgiving

Monday, March 13

Praising God for what He has done
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

The Lord has bared His holy arm
In the sight of all the nations,
And all the ends of the earth will see
The salvation of our God. -Isaiah 52:10

The Lord has performed mighty deeds with His arm;
He has scattered those who are proud in the thoughts of their heart.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
And has lifted up the humble. -Luke 1:51-52

(Thank God for the greatness of His salvation and how He has mightily worked in your life and in others)

"Happy the man whose hopes rely
On Israel's God; He made the sky,
And earth, and seas, with all their train;
His trust forever stands secure;
He saves the oppressed, He feeds the poor,
And none shall find His promise vain."
-Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
English hymn writer

Day 17 — Submission

Tuesday, March 14

Agreeing with and submitting to God's will
"Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
-Colossians 2:3

In Christ all the fullness of the Godhead lives in bodily form. -Colossians 2:9

I have set my hope on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. -1 Timothy 4:10

(Pause to reflect upon all we have in Christ, in whom we set our hope)

"Eternal God, the refuge of all Your children,
in our weakness You are our strength,
in our darkness our light,
in our sorrow our comfort and peace.
May we always live in Your presence,
and serve You in our daily lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord."
-Boniface (c. 672-754)
Missionary to the Frankish empire

Day 18 — Intercession

Wednesday, March 15

Making requests for others
"Give us today our daily bread"

May I learn to do good,
Seek justice,
Remove the oppressor,
Defend the orphan,
And plead for the widow. -Isaiah 1:17

World Affairs
- -The poor and hungry
- -The oppressed & persecuted
- -Peace among nations
- -Those in authority
- -Current events & concerns

"We beg You, Lord, to help and defend us. Deliver the oppressed, have compassion on the despised, raise the fallen, reveal Yourself to the needy, heal the sick, bring back those who have strayed from You, feed the hungry, lift up the weak, remove the prisoners' chains. May every nation come to know that You are God alone, that Jesus is Your Son, that we are Your people, the sheep of Your pasture."

-Clement of Rome (??-100)
Apostolic Father

Day 19 — Petition

Thursday, March 16

Making requests for ourselves
"Give us today our daily bread"

May I fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith, so that there will be laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing. -2 Timothy 4:7-8

Family and Ministry
- -Family
- -Ministry
  - Making Him know to others
  - Sharing His love with others

My activities for today

"O Lord Jesus Christ...save us from the error of wishing to admire you instead of being willing to follow You and to resemble You."

-Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)
Danish philosopher and theologian

Day 20 — Confession

Friday, March 17

Expressing our need for forgiveness of sins
"And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors"

If I claim to be without sin, I deceive myself, and the truth is not in me. If I confess my sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive me my sins and purify me from all unrighteousness. If I claim I have not sinned, I make Him a liar and His word is not in me.
-1 John 1:8-10

(Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Confess these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.)

"We confess to You, O heavenly Father, as Your children and Your people, our hardness, and indifference, an [unrepentance]; our grievous failures in Your faith & in pure & holy living; our trust in riches and our misuse of them, our confidence in self, through which we daily multiply our own temptations. We confess our [timidity] as Your Church and witness before the world, and the sin and bitterness that all know in their own hearts. Give us all contrition and meekness of heart, O Father, grace to amend our sinful life, and the holy comfort of Your Spirit to overcome and heal all our evils; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

-Edward White Benson (1829-1896)
Bishop of Truro, archbishop of Canterbury

Day 21 — Dedication/ Recommitment

Saturday, March 18

Necessary renewal as we face the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"

You are God Almighty; may I walk before You and be blameless.
-Genesis 17:1

May I love my enemies, do good to them, and lend to them, expecting nothing in return. Then my reward will be great, and I will be a child of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and evil. May I be merciful just as my Father is merciful.
-Luke 6:35-36

(Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal)

"Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve You as You deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to seek reward,
except to know that I do Your will."
-Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)
Founder of the Society of Jesus and author of the *Spiritual Exercises*

Day 22 — Adoration

Sunday, March 19

Praising God for Who He is
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

"To whom will you compare Me?
Or who is My equal?" says the Holy One.
Lift your eyes to the heavens
And see Who has created them,
He Who brings out the starry host by number
And calls them each by name.
Because of His great might and the strength of His power,
Not one of them is missing.
Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth,
Does not grow tired or weary.
No one can fathom His understanding.
-Isaiah 40:25-26, 28

You, O Lord, remain forever; Your throne endures from generation to generation. -Lamentations 5:19

(Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship)

"Sovereign Father, heavenly King,
Thee we now presume to sing;
Glad Thine attributes confess,
Glorious all, and numberless."
-Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Methodist leader and hymn writer

Day 23 — Thanksgiving

Monday, March 20

Praising God for what He has done
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in spirit
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the Lord delivers him out of them all. -Psalm 34:18-19

God is my refuge and strength,
An ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore I will not fear, though the earth changes
And the mountains slip into the heart of the sea.
-Psalm 46:1-2

(Thank God for how He has done these things in your life)

"All praise to Him Who now hath turned
My fears to joys, my sighs to song,
My tears to smiles, my sad to glad. Amen."
-Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672)
New England poet and Puritan

Day 24 — Submission

Tuesday, March 21

Agreeing with and submitting to God's will
"Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly passions and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age.
-Titus 2:11-12

Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.
-1 Peter 3:10-12

(Pause to reflect upon this reality we are called to follow)

"Grant us, O Lord, to know that which is worth knowing, to love that which is worth loving, to praise that which can bear with praise, to hate what in Thy sight is unworthy, to prize what to Thee is precious, and above all, to search out and to do what is well-pleasing unto Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord."
-Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380-1471)
Dutch monk and author of *Imitation of Christ*

Day 25 — Intercession

Wednesday, March 22

Making requests for others
"Give us today our daily bread"

We should offer petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings on behalf of all men, for kings and all those who are in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and reverence. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. -1 Timothy 2:14

Government
- -Spiritual revival
- -Local government
- -State government
- -National government
- -Current events and concerns

"Almighty God, Whose is the eternal only power,
and other men's power but borrowed of Thee:
we beseech Thee for all those Who hold office that,
holding it first from Thee, they may use it for
the general good and to Thine honor: through
Jesus Christ our Lord."

-William Tyndale, (c. 1494-1536) (adapted)
Reformer & translator of the Bible into English

Day 26 — Petition

Thursday, March 23

Making requests for ourselves
"Give us today our daily bread"

May I watch carefully how I walk, not as the unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. May I not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
-Ephesians 5:15-17

Spiritual Insight
- -Understanding and insight into the Word
- -Understanding my identity in Christ
  - Who I am
  - Where I came from
  - Where I am going
- -Understanding God's purpose for my life

"O gracious and holy Father,
Give us wisdom to perceive You,
intelligence to understand You,
diligence to seek You,
patience to wait for You,
eyes to see You,
a heart to meditate on You,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord."
-Benedict (480-547)
Founder of Western Christian monasticism

Day 27 — Confession

Friday, March 24

Expressing our need for forgiveness of sins
"And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors"

The Lord your God is gracious and compassionate, and He will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.
-2 Chronicles 30:9

(Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Confess these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.)

"I am not worthy, Master and Lord, that You should come beneath the roof of my soul: yet, since You in Your love toward all wish to dwell in me, in boldness I come. You command, 'Open the gates'—which You alone have forged; and You will come in with love toward all as is Your nature; You will come in and enlighten my darkened reason. I believe that You will do this: for You did not send away the harlot that came to You with tears; nor cast out the repentant publican; nor reject the thief who acknowledged Your kingdom; nor forsake the repentant persecutor, a yet greater act, but all of those who came to You in repentance, were counted in the band of Your friends, who alone abide blessed forever, now, and unto the endless ages."

-John Chrysostom (c. 347-407)
"Golden-mouth" preacher in Byzantium & author of a major liturgy of the Eastern Orthodox Church

Day 28 — Dedication/ Recommitment

Saturday, March 25

Necessary renewal as we face the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"

God, please fill me with the knowledge of Your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that I may walk worthy of You and please You in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of You; strengthened with all power according to Your glorious might, so that I may have great endurance and patience with joy.
-Colossians 1:9-11

(Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal)

"O Lord, reassure me with your quickening Spirit; without You I can do nothing. Mortify in me all ambition, vanity, vainglory, worldliness, pride, selfishness, and resistance from God, and fill me with love, peace, and all the fruits of the Spirit. O Lord, I know not what I am, but to You I flee for refuge. I would surrender myself to You, trusting Your precious promises and against hope believing in hope. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever; and therefore, waiting on the Lord, I trust I shall at length renew my strength."
-William Wilberforce (1759-1833)
English evangelical abolitionist

Day 29 — Adoration

Sunday, March 26

Praising God for Who He is

"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, praise His name;
proclaim His salvation day after day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
He is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens
Splendor and majesty are before Him;
strength and glory are in His sanctuary.
-Psalm 96:1-6

(Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship)

"How dread are Thine eternal years, O everlasting Lord!
By prostrate spirits day and night incessantly adored!
How beautiful, how beautiful the sight of Thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power, and awful purity!
Oh how I fear Thee, living God! With deepest, tenderest fears,
And worship Thee with trembling hope, and penitential tears."
-Frederick Faber (1814-1863)
British hymn writer and theologian

Day 30 — Thanksgiving

Monday, March 27

Praising God for what He has done
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
Will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust. -Psalm 91:1-2

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid? -Psalm 27:1

(Thank God for how He has been these things in your life)

"I thank you, O God, for the relief and satisfaction of mind that come with the firm assurance that You govern the world; for the patience and resignation to Your providence that are afforded as I reflect that even the tumultuous and irregular actions of the sinful are, nevertheless, under Your direction, who are wise, good, and omnipotent, and have promised to make all things work together for good to those who love You."

-Susanna Wesley (1669-1742)
Mother of 19 children, including John & Charles Wesley, and author

Day 31 — Submission

Tuesday, March 28

Agreeing with and submitting to God's will
"Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. -Matthew 10:38-39

(Pause to reflect upon this reality we are called to follow)

"See, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent so that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust You altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in You. In You I have sealed all the treasures I have. I am poor; You are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; You are upright. With me there is an abundance of sin; in You is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with You from Whom I can receive, but to Whom I may not give. Amen."

-Martin Luther (1483-1546)
The great German reformer

Day 32 — Intercession

Wednesday, March 29

Making requests for others
"Give us today our daily bread"

May Your commandments be upon my heart, so that I may teach them diligently to my children and talk about them when I sit in my house and when I walk along the way and when I lie down and when I rise up. -Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Family

-My immediate family
-My relatives
-Spiritual concerns
-Emotional and physical concerns
-Other concerns

"Almighty God and heavenly Father, we thank You for the children which You have given us; give us also grace to train them in Your faith, fear and love; that as they advance in years they may grow in grace, and may hereafter be found in the number of Your elect children; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

-John Cosin (1594-1672)
English churchman

Day 33 — Petition

Thursday, March 30

Making requests for ourselves
"Give us today our daily bread"

May I keep Your statutes and Your commandments and be careful to do as the Lord my God has commanded me; may I not turn aside to the right or to the left.
-Deuteronomy 4:40; 5:32

Growth in Wisdom
- -Developing an eternal perspective
- -Renewing my mind with truth
- -Greater skill in each area of life

My activities for today

"My dearest Lord,
be Thou a bright flame before me,
be Thou a guiding star above me,
be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
today—tonight—and forever."
-Columba of Iona (521-597)
Irish missionary

Day 34 — Confession

Friday, March 31

Expressing our need for forgiveness of sins
"And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors"

No temptation has overtaken me except what is common to man. And God is faithful, Who will not let me be tempted beyond what I am able, but with the temptation will also provide a way out, so that I may be able to endure it.

-1 Corinthians 10:13

(Thank God for the truths contained in this verse. Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Confess these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.)

"O God, early in the morning I cry to You. Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on You: I cannot do this alone. In me there is darkness, but with You there is light; I am lonely, but You do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help; I am restless, but with You there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with You there is patience; I do not understand Your ways, but You know the way for me. Restore me to liberty, and enable me so to live now that I may answer before You and before me. Lord, whatever this day may bring, Your name be praised."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

German theologian & anti-Nazi who wrote this prayer while awaiting execution

Day 35 — Dedication/ Recommitment

Saturday, April 1

Necessary renewal as we face the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"

Whatever I do, whether in word or in deed, may I do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. -Colossians 3:17

(Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal)

"O, dear Savior, be not impatient with us, but still school us at Your fee, till at last we shall have learned some of the sublime lessons of self-sacrifice, of meekness, humility, fervor, boldness, and love which Your life is fit to teach us. O Lord, we beg You, mold us into Your own image. Let us live in You and live like You."

-Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892)
English Baptist minister and biblical expositor

Day 36 — Adoration

Sunday, April 2

Praising God for Who He is

"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise
In the city of our God, His holy mountain.
We have meditated on Your unfailing love, O God,
In the midst of Your temple.
As is Your name, O God,
So is Your praise to the ends of the earth;
Your right hand is filled with righteousness.
-Psalm 48:1, 9-10

O come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. -Psalm 95:6

(Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship)

"Let our mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Thy glory, for that Thou has counted us worthy to partake of Thy holy, divine, immortal and life-giving mysteries: preserve Thou us in Thy holiness, that we may learn of Thy righteousness all the day long. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia."
-Liturgy of John Chrysostom (c. 347-407) & Basil the Great (c. 303-379)
Eastern Orthodox Church Fathers

Day 37 — Thanksgiving

Monday, April 3

Praising God for what He has done
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

By grace I have been saved through faith, and this not of myself; it is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one can boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

I am confident of this, that He who began a good work in me will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. - Philippians 1:6

(Thank God for what He has done for you and in you to bring about your salvation)

"We thank Thee, O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that Thou hast revealed Thy Son to us, on Whom we have believed, Whom we have loved, and Whom we worship. O Lord Jesus Christ, we commend our souls to Thee. O heavenly Father, we know that although we shall in Thine own good time be taken away from this life, we shall live forever with Thee. 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' Father, into Thy hands we commend our spirits; through Jesus Christ."

-Martin Luther (1483-1546)
The great German reformer

Day 38 — Submission

Tuesday, April 4

Agreeing with and submitting to God's will
"Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

I will not lay up for myself treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But I will lay up for myself treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where my treasure is, there my heart will be also. -Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:34

(Pause to reflect upon this reality we are called to follow)

"Grant, almighty God, since we have already entered in hope upon the threshold of our eternal inheritance, and know that there is a mansion for us in heaven since Christ, our head and the first fruits of our salvation, has been received there; grant that we may proceed more and more in the way of Your holy calling until at length we reach the goal and so enjoy the eternal glory of which You have given us a taste in this world, by the same Christ our Lord."

-John Calvin (1509-1564)
French theologian and reformer in Geneva

Day 39 — Intercession

Wednesday, April 5

Making requests for others
"Give us today our daily bread"

As living stones, we are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that we may declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
-1 Peter 2:5, 9

Churches and Ministries
- -Osco Community Church
- -Pastors and Elders
- -Ministries of the church
- -Other churches in our area

"Great Shepherd of souls, bring home into Your fold all who have gone astray. Preserve Your Church from heresy or schism, from all that persecute or oppose the truth; and give to Your ministers wisdom and holiness and the powerful aid of our blessed Spirit."
-John Wesley (1703-1791)
Anglican priest & founder of the Methodist Church

Day 40 — Petition

Thursday, April 6

Making requests for ourselves
"Give us today our daily bread"

May I learn to be content in whatever circumstances I am. Whether I am abased or in abundance, whether I am filled or hungry, let me learn the secret of being content in any and every situation. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
-Philippians 4:11-13

Faithfulness as a Steward
- -Of time
- -Of talents
- -Of treasure
- -Of truth
- -Of relationships

"Almighty God, Who knows our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking: Set free Your servants from all anxious thoughts about tomorrow; make us content with Your good gifts; and confirm our faith that as we seek Your kingdom, You will not allow us to lack any good thing; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

-Augustine of Hippo (354-430)
Theologian and author of *The Confessions*

Day 41 — Confession

Friday, April 7

Expressing our need for forgiveness of sins
"And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors"

The Lord does not see as man sees. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
-1 Samuel 16:7

(Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Confess these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.)

"Almighty and merciful God, the fountain of all goodness, Who knowest the thoughts of our hearts: we confess that we have sinned against Thee, and done evil in Thy sight. Wash us, we beseech Thee, from the stains of our past sins, and give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things; that, being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, and at last enter into Thy promised joy; through the mercy of Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
-Alcuin of York (745-804)
Scholar and teacher

Day 42 — Dedication/ Recommitment

Saturday, April 8

Necessary renewal as we face the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"

May I be a person of faith, who does not doubt the promises of God, and not a double-minded man, who is unstable in all his ways. -James 1:6, 8

May I walk worthy of God Who calls me into His kingdom and glory. -1 Thessalonians 2:12

If I live according to the flesh, I will die; but if by the Sprit I put to death the deeds of the body, I will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. -Romans 8:13-14

(Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal)

"Lord, educate us for a higher life, and let that life be begun here. May we be always in the school, always disciples, and when we are out in the world may we be trying to put into practice what we have learned at Jesus' feet. What He tells us in darkness may we proclaim in the light, and what He whispers in our ear in the closets may we sound forth upon the housetops."

-Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892)
English Baptist minister and biblical expositor

Day 43 — Adoration

Sunday, April 9

Praising God for Who He is

"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

John looked and heard the voice of many angels encircling the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and their number was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb, Who was slain,
To receive power and riches and wisdom
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

-Revelation 5:11-12

(Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship)

"As on this day we keep the special memory of our Redeemer's entry into the city, so grant, O Lord, that now and ever, He may triumph in our hearts. Let the King of Grace and Glory enter in, and let us lay ourselves and all we are in full and joyful homage before Him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

-H.C.G. Moule (1841-1920)
Bishop of Durham

Day 44 — Thanksgiving

Monday, April 10

Praising God for what He has done
"Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove the disgrace of His people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation." -Isaiah 25:8-9

(Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving)

"When I survey the wondrous Cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all."
-Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
English hymn writer

Day 45 — Submission

Tuesday, April 11

Agreeing with and submitting to God's will
"Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. -1 Peter 2:20b-21

(Pause to reflect upon this reality we are called to follow)

"O Lord Jesus, forasmuch as Your life was despised by the world, grant us so to imitate You, even though the world despises us, that with Your image always before our eyes, we may learn that only the servants of the cross can find the way of genuine happiness and true light. Hear us and save us, Lord Jesus."

-Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380-1471)
Dutch monk and author of *Imitation of Christ*

Day 46 - Intercession

Wednesday, April 12

Making requests for others
"Give us today our daily bread"

You have given us a new commandment to love one another even as You have loved us; so we must love one another. By this all men will know that we are Your disciples, if we have love for one another. -John 13:34

Believers
- -Personal friends
- -Those in ministry
- -Those who are persecuted and in need
- -Special concerns

"O Lord Jesus Christ, Who prayed for Thy disciples that they might be one, even as Thou art one with the Father: draw us to Thyself, that in common love and obedience to Thee we may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that Thou art Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

-William Temple (1881-1944)
Archbishop of Canterbury and president of the Workers' Educational Association

Day 47 — Petition

Thursday, April 13

Making requests for ourselves
"Give us today our daily bread"

Help us to be imitators of You, since we are Your dearly loved children and help us live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. -Ephesians 5:1-2

Relationships with Others

-Greater love and compassion for others
-Loved ones
-Those who do not know Christ
-Those in need

"My Lord I love You
my God I am sorry
my God I believe in You
my God I trust You.
Help us to love one another
as You love us."

-Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)
Founder of the Sisters of Charity

Day 48 — Confession

Friday, April 14

Expressing our need for forgiveness of sins
"And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors"

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth
For those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
For Your name's sake, O Lord,
Pardon my iniquity, for it is great. -Psalm 25:10-11

(Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Confess these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.)

"Forgive us that with the Cross as starting point we have made of Christian faith a bland and easy-going way of life.

"Forgive us that our preference runs to Bethlehem and Joseph's garden, to poinsettias and lilies, and away from Golgotha, with its rusty nails and twisted thorns.

"Forgive us that we are more willing to be instructed or reformed than we are to be redeemed.

"Open us, each one, to ever new and deeper meanings in our Savior's Passion."

-Ernest T. Campbell (1926-2010)
Minister of Riverside Church, New York City

Day 49 — Dedication/ Recommitment

Saturday, April 15

Necessary renewal as we face the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"

My attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
-Philippians 2:5-8

May I not seek my own interests, but those of Christ Jesus.
-Philippians 2:21

(Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal)

"Lord Jesus, risen from the dead and alive forevermore;
stand in our midst tonight as in the upper room;
show us Your hands and Your side;
speak Your peace to our hearts and minds;
and send us forth into the world as Your witnesses;
for the glory of Your name.
-John R.W. Stott (1921- 2011)
British clergyman and leader

Day 50 — Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 16

Spend some time reading and meditating on one of the gospel accounts of the death and resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 26:17-28:20; Mark 14:32-16:8; Luke 22:39-24:53; John 18:1-20:31) as well as the following song:

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Brought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand