

The Biblical roots of a typical Episcopal Sunday service

*This document began as a Bible study. While Episcopalians often note how much of the prayer book is rooted in the Bible, this document explores some of the biblical connections with a typical Episcopal Sunday worship service (Holy Eucharist Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer A). I hope this document will be a helpful resource. It is not meant to be a comprehensive guide, only the beginning of a deeper exploration. The words of the liturgy are in **Bold Italics**, followed by the biblical connection. The NRSV translation is used unless stated otherwise.*
~The Rev. David Nelson

Blessed be God

This phrase is often translated as "Praise the Lord." This phrase occurs 35 times in the Psalms. See Psalm 150 for an example.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Spoken by Jesus in Matthew's gospel (28:19).

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

"For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever" (Matthew 6:13).
King David praises God's kingdom (1 Chronicles 29:11).

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

"Jesus has been raised" (Mark 16:6).

An angel says to Mary, "He has been raised...he has been raised from the dead" (Matthew 28:6-7).

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The disciples announce the resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:34).

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

Psalm 103:1-3 (paraphrased).

His mercy endures for ever.

In Psalm 136 this phrase appears at the end of all 26 verses (EHV).
See Lamentations 3:22.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

Possibly a reference to Psalm 139:1,4 "O Lord, you have searched me and known me...you are acquainted with all my ways."

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

This is a paraphrase of Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

Possibly a paraphrase of 1 Thessalonians 1:6, "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit."

that we may perfectly love you

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear...We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:18-19).

and worthily magnify your holy Name

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:3).

Mary's song of praise includes these words, "My soul magnifies the Lord...for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name" (Luke 1:46,49).

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See 1 Corinthians 15:57, Romans 5:1, Romans 7:25, and many others passages make similar references.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

After announcing to the shepherd's the birth of Jesus, an angel and the heavenly host sing these words (Luke 2:14).

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,

Possibly (Rev 19:6) where the heavenly host praises God.

we give you thanks,

"...giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20).

we praise you for your glory

A paraphrase of angels singing of God's glory (Rev 7:12).

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

See 2 John 3 and John 1:18.

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

John the Baptist announcing Jesus to his disciples (John 1:29).

have mercy on us;

Psalm 6:2, 41:4, 51:1, 123:3, Isaiah 33:2.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.

Paul references Jesus at the right hand of God, praying for us (Rom 8:34).

For you alone are the Holy One,

A man with a demon names Jesus as “the Holy One of God” (Luke 4:34).

You alone are Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.

The angel Gabriel told Mary about her son, “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David” (Luke 1:32).

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Paraphrase of John 14:26. Jesus says to the disciples before his death, “But the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

David praises God and notes that God’s mercy endures forever (1 Chronicles 16:34).

“Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ our Lord” (1 Timothy 1:1-2).

“Tobit rose from bed and said to his wife, “My sister, come, let us pray and beg our Lord to grant us mercy and protection”” (Tobit 8:4).

Jesus tells a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector. Jesus praises the tax collector who prays, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Luke 18:9-14).

Finally, a blind man begs Jesus to be healed, shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me” (Luke 18:38-39). Jesus heals him.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Not a direct Scripture quote. Possibly draws from these two passages:

Revelation 4:8 “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

Isaiah has a vision of God’s throne, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3).

Holy Immortal One may be a reference to 1 Timothy 1:17: “To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

The Lord be with you.

“Boaz himself came from Bethlehem and said to the harvesters, ‘The Lord be with you! and they replied, ‘The Lord bless you!’” (Ruth 2:4).

When David is preparing to fight Goliath, Saul says to David, “Go, and may the lord be with you” (1 Samuel 17:37).

“The Lord be with your spirit” (2 Timothy 4:22).

And also with you.

“May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen” (Galatians 6:18).

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit” (Philippians 4:23).

Let us pray.

“Tobit rose from bed and said to his wife, “My sister, come, let us pray and beg our Lord to grant us mercy and protection”” (Tobit 8:4).

The Lessons are read: Old Testament, Psalm, and New Testament.

**The Lessons are direct readings from Scripture.*

The Word of the Lord.

See Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 30:5, Ephesians 6:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12.

In the Bible, this phrase can mean the Scriptures, to Jesus (see John 1), or the actions or words of God.

Thanks be to God.

See 1 Corinthians 15:57, 2 Corinthians 9:15.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.

“The beginning of the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1).

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John of Patmos shares a vision, “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Revelation 21:23).

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Jesus tells Martha, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” (John 11:40).

The Gospel of the Lord.

“The beginning of the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1).

Paul uses ‘gospel’ referring to the message of Jesus he is passing onto others (Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 15:1-28).

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:3).

‘Blessed’ and ‘praise’ come from the same Greek word (eulogia). See Revelation 5:12, 7:12.

**The Sermon usually reflects upon scripture.*

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

Mark 12:29, "Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'" Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy 6:4.

the Father,

Paul says, "...and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18).

"There is...one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:6).

the Almighty,

See Genesis 17:1, Job 6:4, 29:5, Psalm 68:14, 91:1, Ezekiel 1:24, Joel 1:15, Revelation 1:8, 4:8, 15:3, 16:7, 16:14, 19:5-6, 21:22.

maker of heaven and earth,

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth" (Genesis 14:19).

"My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2).

"May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion" (Psalm 134:3).

"Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 146:5-6).

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

of all this is, seen and unseen.

"Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers--all things have been created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

"By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible" (Hebrews 11:3).

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

Paul says, "...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist" (1 Corinthians 8:6).

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

There are many more references to Jesus as Lord.

The only son of God,

Jesus talking to Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

"No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known" (John 1:18).

"And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9).

eternally begotten of the Father,

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV).

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14 KJV).

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18 KJV).

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9 KJV).

God from God,

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God" (John 1:1-2). The Word refers to Jesus.

Light from Light,

"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

"The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:9).

"For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

true God from true God,

"And we know that the Son of God has come and given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life" (1 John 5:20).

begotten, not made,

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14 KJV).

of one Being with the Father.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1-2). The Word refers to Jesus.

Through him all things were made.

“All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being” (John 1:3).

“He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him” (John 1:10).

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers--all things have been created through him and for him” (Colossians 1:16). Paul says, “...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist” (1 Corinthians 8:6).

For us and for our salvation

“When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:25-26).

An angel appears to Joseph and says, “Mary will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

“For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him” (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10).

he came down from heaven:

“Jesus said, “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man” (John 3:13).

Jesus said, “The one who comes from heaven is above all” (John 3:31).

Paraphrased in Philippians 2:6-11.

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

and was made man.

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

“So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified” (Mark 15:15).

“Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

he suffered death

“Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last” (Matthew 27:50).

and was buried.

“So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock” (Matthew 27:59-60).

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

“Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons” (Mark 16:9).

“They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead” (Acts 10:39-41).

in accordance with the Scriptures;

“Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day”” (Luke 24:45-46).

“For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

he ascended into heaven

“So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19).

“When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

“So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19).

Jesus says, “But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God” (Luke 22:69, Mark 14:62, Matthew 26:64). Jesus was quoting from Daniel 7:13-14: “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done” (Matthew 16:27).

Jesus tells a parable of the sheep and the goats: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left” (Matthew 25:31-32).

In addition, there are many references to the return of Jesus and the judgment.

and his kingdom will have no end.

“His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).

The angel Gabriel talking to Mary, “Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:33).

“But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom” (Hebrews 1:8).

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

Jesus says, “It is the spirit that gives life” (John 6:63).

Paul says, “for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6).

Paul says, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17).

There are numerous other references to the Spirit in the Old and New Testament.

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Jesus says, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you” (John 14:15).

The spirit is mentioned in association with the Father (Matthew 10:20, Romans 8:10-11, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 3:14-16) and the Son (Romans 8:9, Galatians 4:6, Philippians 1:19, 1 Peter 1:11).

With the Father and Son he is worshiped and glorified.

See Jesus praying in John 17:1-5.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets” (Hebrews 1:1).

“First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:20-21).

“In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit” (Ephesians 3:5).

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Jesus prays for unity, “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20-21).

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus said, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:28).

“John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4).

“[John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3).

Peter said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2).

“For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

Jesus says, “Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29).

See Acts 17:31, 24:15, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 15:52, 1 Thessalonians 5:16, Revelation 20:12-13.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

“But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home” (2 Peter 3:13).

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more” (Revelation 21:1).

Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16).

**The prayer forms vary by occasion.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:8-10).

“Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

Most merciful God,

Jesus said, “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

“Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

“If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

This acknowledges a failure to live into the greatest commandment, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Following the greatest commandment to love God is the connected love of neighbor. Jesus says, “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:31).

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

See 2 Chronicles 7:14, “...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

An example of God's mercy and the human response, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,

"Walking in the ways of the Lord" is captured by the Psalmist, "I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

A frequent theme in Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:29, Psalm 29:2, 66:2, 96:8, Romans 1:5.

Almighty God have mercy on you,

Multiple instances: Psalm 6:2, 41:4, 51:1, 123:3, Isaiah 33:2.

forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The depth of forgiveness can be grasped by this prayer from the cross. "Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

strengthen you in all goodness, "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word" (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The power of the Holy Spirit is a frequent theme in the New Testament. See Romans 8:11, 15:19, 1 Corinthians 2:4, 1 Thessalonians 1:5.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Paul tells his congregations, "Greet one another with a holy kiss" (1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:26).

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways" (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Possibly a paraphrase of Paul's words, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit" (Philemon 1:25).

"Peace to you" (3 John 1:15).

And also with you.

"May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen" (Galatians 6:18).

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit" (Philippians 4:23).

Offertory Sentences

**The Offertory Sentences can be an appropriate sentence of Scripture (Book of Common Prayer page 376).*

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

“Boaz himself came from Bethlehem and said to the harvesters, ‘The Lord be with you! and they replied, ‘The Lord bless you!’” (Ruth 2:4).

When David is preparing to fight Goliath, Saul says to David, “Go, and may the lord be with you” (1 Samuel 17:37).

“The Lord be with your spirit” (2 Timothy 4:22).

And also with you.

“May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen” (Galatians 6:18).

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit” (Philippians 4:23).

Lift up your hearts.

“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul” (Psalm 25:1, 86:4).

“To you, O Lord, I call...as I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary” (Psalm 28:1-2).

We lift them to the Lord.

“Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands to God in heaven” (Lamentations 3:41).

“Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord” (Psalm 134:2).

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

See 1 Chronicles 29:13, Psalm 28:7, 69:30, 95:2, 100:4, 106:1, 118:28, 147:7, Mark 6:41-43, 1 Corinthians 1:4, 1 Corinthians 15:57, 2 Corinthians 2:14, 2 Corinthians 9:11, Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 1:2.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

“We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing” (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

“...giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20-21).

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

A proper preface is said.

** A proper preface is a season appropriate prayer that is loaded with scripture.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Revelation 4:1-11 describes a heavenly vision full of heavenly praise.

Holy, Holy, holy Lord,

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3).

“Day and night without ceasing they sing, “Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come” (Revelation 4:8).

God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

“God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come” (Ephesians 1:20-21).

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

“The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”” (Matthew 21:9).

“So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord”” (John 12:13).

See Psalm 118:25-26, Matthew 21:15, Mark 11:9, Luke 19:38.

Holy and gracious Father:

The graciousness of God is attested to in many passages, including Psalm 116:5, 145:8, Isaiah 30:18.

In your infinite love you made us for yourself;

God’s infinite love can be seen in this passage, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love” (1 John 4:18).

and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death,

The fall into sin of humanity is a frequent biblical theme including the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) and Paul's famous words, "since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son,

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

"But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins..." (Hebrews 10:12).
See John 3:16, Romans 6:23, 1 Peter 3:18.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;

Paul explains, "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you," (1 Corinthians 11:23a) before summarizing these elements of the Last Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23b-26).

and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Direct quotation of 1 Corinthians 11:24.

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Direct quotation of 1 Corinthians 11:25.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

"At the same time, pray for us as well, that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison..." (Colossians 4:3).

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

“For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

The Lord instructs Moses to memorialize the Passover feast (Exodus 12:14). Jesus celebrates the Last Supper on the Passover when the lambs were being prepared (Mark 14:12). Like the lamb, Jesus is the sacrifice. John the Baptist’s comments, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

After his death, a resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and said, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'" (John 20:17).

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

A spirit of thanksgiving to God as well as sanctification can be found in this passage. “But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament,

While not connected to receiving communion, this passage asks for sanctification, “May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace;

This admonition calls for a sense of unity, constancy, and peace, by walking in love. “I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:1-6).

and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

See John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Peter 4:13.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

Jesus said, “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13).

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

A similar doxology is said by Paul, “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:36).

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

A reminder of when Jesus taught the Lord’s Prayer. “He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples” (Luke 11:1).

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

Direct quotation of Matthew 6:9-13 KJV.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

“For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

“Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:8 KJV).

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

“Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19).

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.

“While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:26-28).

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).

Let us pray. “Tobit rose from bed and said to his wife, “My sister, come, let us pray and beg our Lord to grant us mercy and protection” (Tobit 8:4).

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

“Ever since the creation of the world God’s eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been seen and understood through the things God has made” (Romans 1:20).

you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Not a direct quotation. The idea of Jesus being spiritual food is seen in this passage: “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35).

Send us now into the world in peace,

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;

Not a direct quotation. The spirit of this petition is captured in this Psalm: “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing” (Psalm 100:1).

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See 1 Corinthians 15:57, Romans 5:1, 7:25, and many others passages make similar references.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

After healing a woman Jesus says, "Go in peace" (Mark 5:34). The same words are given after healing a woman's daughter (Luke 8:48).

Upon receiving the promise of seeing the Messiah, Simeon says, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace..." (Luke 2:29). Sending a servant out in peace is a frequent theme in Scripture including Genesis 26:31, Judges 18:6, Isaiah 55:12.

Thanks be to God.

See 1 Corinthians 15:57, 2 Corinthians 9:15.

