

Praying in English

Brenda Noble December 2023

Parts of a prayer: Address + Thanks + Confession + Request + Ending

Address: Greet who we are talking to

Our Father who is in heaven (Oh, Heavenly Father)

Lord God, who made the heavens and the earth

Thanks / Praise

We praise you **for verb +ing**

Eg. We praise you **for remembering us and protecting us** as we travelled.

We thank you **for noun**

Eg. Thank you, Lord, **for your love** which you show us every day.

We want to say thank you **because/that [+ full sentence]**

Eg. We want to say thank you **because you are always with us**. You never leave us.

Confession

Lord, we are sorry **that [+ full sentence]**

Eg. We are sorry **that we forget your help** and worry about our lives instead of trusting you.

Eg. We confess **that we are not as patient** with other people as we should be.

Please forgive us **for [noun]**

E.g. Please forgive us **for the times** we didn't listen to you.

Please forgive us **for Verb +ing**

E.g. Please forgive us **for doing things our own way** instead of obeying you.

Request: **verb**

E.g. Please **help us know** what you want us to do.

May + verb

E.g. **May we know you** more and more deeply.

Ending: We want to follow your will Lord.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sample short prayers in English:

Note about reading out loud together:

- When we read or pray together, we pause when there is a comma (,).
- If the sentence is long, we also break it into thought groups (chunks). See the /

E.g. Please forgive us for doing things our own way instead of obeying you.

^{Confession} Please forgive us / for doing things / our own way / instead of obeying you.

Prayer before eating

^{Address} Lord God, / ^{Thanks} You made everything in this world. / Thank you that / you have given us / this food and these friends, / and that we can enjoy this meal together. ^{Request} May you be honoured / by all that we say and do. / ^{Ending} In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Prayer: What should I do?

^{Address} Father God, / ^{Thanks} I thank you / that you always listen to us, / your children. / You are always right here with me / and you love me. ^{Confession} I am sorry / I tried to find the answer myself. ^{Request} Right now, / I don't know what to do. / I pray that you will guide me / and show me the right decision. / I want to trust you more. / Please help me to lean on you / while I am making this decision. / ^{Praise} Thank you that I can trust you / to be with me, / no matter what happens. / ^{Ending} May you get the glory for everything I do. / In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Prayer for strength

^{Address} Lord, ^{Praise} You made the sun and the moon, / the day and the night. / You know what I'm worried about, / and you know I need sleep. ^{Request} Please help me to sleep well tonight, / and to wake up ready / to face whatever tomorrow brings / because / ^{Praise} I know you watch over me / whether I sleep / and whether I'm awake. In Jesus' Name, Amen.