

P R A Y E R JOURNAL

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:

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How to Use This Journal

THIS PRAYER JOURNAL CONSISTS OF fifty-two entries. Each entry includes a portion of a liturgy from *Every Moment Holy: Volume I* paired with two passages of scripture and three journal-response prompts. These prompts are intended to guide you toward:

- Cultivating an awareness of God's presence in a particular moment or season as you engage in conversation with your Maker, naming and giving honest expression to your thoughts, feelings, fears, and hopes
- Remembrance of the Lord's faithful presence in similar past moments
- A meditation on the truths of scripture as an anchor and a reminder that this moment sits in the greater context of the entire history of redemption—past, present, and future—and that, regardless of our current emotions or worries, God's promises to us remain true
- Surrender to the workings of the Spirit unto the end that—even through these circumstances—your own heart might be more conformed to the heart of Christ, and that you might be moved toward a deeper life of doxology—praise, worship, and thanksgiving.

Each entry also includes a blank page on which you might pen an original prayer of response in your own words, or capture additional thoughts and notes.

Our intention is to offer, through the fifty-two topics in this journal, a varied cross-section of the ever-changing seasons of the human soul as it navigates seasons of grief, celebration, joy, disappointment, worry, hope, and wonder alike.

Some journal users might opt to work through these fifty-two topics in a year's time, at a pace of one entry per week. Others will doubtless find it helpful to utilize the journal more frequently or more sporadically. You might ignore some topics but return often to others, working through them repeatedly.

No matter how you choose use it, there is no prescribed pace or order in which you should engage with these prayerful meditations. Our hope is that, however you incorporate this journal into the rhythms of your life, you will find it useful as a sort of spiritual atlas, allowing you to better map the current location of your heart and inviting you to engage more meaningfully with your Creator.

We also hope that in future years this journal might become for you a written witness to look back on—a chronicle of your own spiritual journey and of the movement of God's mercy, kindness, grace, and love faithfully extended to you over time, meeting you again and again so that you might proclaim along with the Apostle Paul this great truth:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-Romans 8:38-39

Now may the grace and peace of God rest upon you across all seasons, through any circumstance, in every moment.

—Douglas McKelvey & Hannah Hubin

Prayer Journal

POETRY READING: PSALM 139 PROSE READING: EXODUS 33:12–17

Inspire me to tell in words, of the holiness of your presence made manifest in all tasks, at all hours of all days.

For you, O Lord, are with us always.

Every sphere of life and creation is Yours, and all are threads of the same bright weave: our goings-out and our comings-in, our fellowship and our loneliness, our youth and our old age, our passions and our vocations, our chores and our entertainments.

You are equally present in our failures and in our successes,

in our sleep and in our wakeful hours, in our tears and in our laughter, in our births, in our lives, and even in the hours of our deaths. You are everpresent with us.

You are here. You are with me every moment. Every moment is holy.

Amen.

AN ENTRY FOR Cultivating an Awareness of God's Presence

FROM "A LITURGY FOR THE WRITING OF LITURGIES"

LORD, YOU HAVE SEARCHED ME AND KNOWN ME. YOU KNOW WHEN I SIT DOWN AND WHEN I STAND UP; YOU UNDERSTAND MY THOUGHTS FROM FAR AWAY. YOU OBSERVE MY TRAVELS AND MY REST; YOU ARE AWARE OF ALL MY WAYS. BEFORE A WORD IS ON MY TONGUE, YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT IT, LORD. —PSALM 139: 1–4 • Consider a season or event in your life in which you easily caught sight of the Lord's presence. What do you think made the holiness of that moment so visible to you?

• Now consider a season or event in your life in which you struggled—or are struggling now—to see the Lord's presence. What do you think might be hiding the holiness of that moment from you?

• How does Moses's desire for the presence of the Lord relate to your own? How might David's recognition of the presence of the Lord challenge you to recognize every moment as holy?

RESPONSIVE PRAYER:

AN ENTRY ON Renewal Amidst Discouragement

FROM "THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS: DAYBREAK"

JESUS REPLIED TO THEM, "IT IS NOT THOSE WHO ARE HEALTHY WHO NEED A DOCTOR, BUT THOSE WHO ARE SICK. I HAVE NOT COME TO CALL THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS TO REPENTANCE." --LUKE 5:31-32

POETRY READING: PSALM 32 PROSE READING: LUKE 5:27-32

I am weak and inconsistent, and often buffeted by fear and pride and selfishness. But being impoverished and ill-equipped as I am, I will look to the grace of God and to the sanctifying work of the Spirit to accomplish his purposes in and through me this day, as I, in grateful response, seek to choose that which pleases him.

I open my heart anew to you, O Lord, that the love of the Father and the life of Christ and the breath of the Spirit would quicken within me a greater affection for your ways.

Work your will in me. Lead me this day, Lord Christ, that I might walk its paths in the light of the hope of my coming redemption.

Amen.

• What weaknesses and inconsistencies burden you in this moment? How do your faults lead you to feel ill-equipped for the tasks ahead of you?

• How does the life and work of Christ comfort and lead you today? Consider the love of the Father and the presence of the Spirit within you as well. Yours is the forgiveness of a Trinitarian God. What joyful implications might this have for your present situation?

• Consider the truth that Christ came to call sinners, and that David calls himself blessed to be a forgiven sinner. How might your relationship with the Lord become more intimate through these acts of repentance and forgiveness?

RESPONSIVE PRAYER:

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