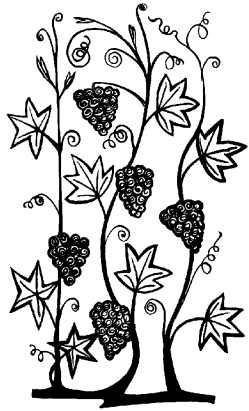


# Prayer for a Christian Community



*maranatha*

## Prayer for a Christian Community

*This may be prayed by inserting the name of a specific community or church where appropriate. It may be used as intercession for the Church throughout the world. It may also be used personally.*

**Our Father**, we confess the truth here in your presence: you are light and in you there is no darkness. Without you we can't see what we need to see or know what we need to know.

We pray that you will bring any destructive, hidden things within each of us and within this community out into your light. We believe the truth of your word that you cannot be mocked: if we sow to please our sinful natures we will experience destruction in our personal lives and in the life of this community. But if we sow to please the Holy Spirit, the life you have given us will continue to grow and bear fruit in your kingdom.

As members of your Body and especially as members of this community, we want to put your kingdom and your righteousness first in our lives. We want to walk as a children of the light.

**Lord**, we want to know the truth about what is in our hearts, and we want to know it from you. We do not want to

know any truth apart from you—apart from your love and grace.

Show us any "life" we live that is not your life. Show us any ways in which we try to secure for ourselves by our own efforts what you want to give us by grace. Speak to us, Lord, about any way we are treating you like a "resource"; any way we are trying to use you to get the things we want or think we need. Reveal the truth to us about anything we love more than we love you.

We confess to you that at times we have held on to hurts and offences and kept a record of the sins of others. We lift all such record keeping to you—the things we are aware of and the things hidden from us. We renounce the seeming benefits of keeping these lists of offences. We confess the truth that all the evidence we gather simply condemns us and fills us with bitterness.

We confess the truth today that sinful humanity gathered evidence against you and crucified you. And so we place all of the evidence we have gathered against ourselves, others and against you, Lord, upon your cross, with thanksgiving for your self-giving love.

Forgive us for acting as though mercy must be "deserved". Forgive us for

living as though love must be earned. Thank you for the gift of what we need; save us from what we deserve. Save us from what we have earned. Thank you Jesus that you died for us when we were your enemies, dead in our sin.

Cleanse us. Set us free. Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us. We no longer want to keep any record of our own wrongs or the wrongs of others. By your grace we will walk the way of love that your mercy has opened to us. We commit ourselves to opening our hearts and hands every day to receive the power we need from you to be cleansed from the habit patterns of sin in our lives. By your grace we will walk the way of repentance together. As we grow in grace and truth, let us see your glory, Lord.

**Jesus**, we acknowledge before you that the most important things in our lives are not our circumstances or the things that happen, but who we are in every circumstance and how we respond to what happens. We do not want circumstances to dictate who we are and what we say and do. We want to be about our Father's business.

**Father**, our desire is that we would be, individually and as a community, transformed more and more into the likeness of your Son. Thank you, Lord,

that you are setting us free to be the persons you want us to be in all that happens today and in the days to come.

**Jesus**, we want you to be enthroned in each one of us and in the midst of this Community as our only Saviour; as our only Lord and as our only judge.

**Jesus**, as we receive the grace to live your life, we want to be filled more and more with thankfulness for who you are and for what you have done; we want to grow daily in trust and love through the obedience you make possible, by your Spirit, as you are in us and we are in you.

**Holy Spirit**, as we put to death the works of our flesh by your power, fill us with your gifts so that the church may be built up into the life of our Saviour.

**Holy Spirit**, fill us with the grace to live from you and be led by you.

**Sovereign Lord**, we want to know you as the only living God, Holy, righteous and sovereign over all. Teach us holy fear.

**Father**, we want to know you as our Abba. Bring your word of life to us every day: the word you breathe deep in us that tells us who we are.

**Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit:**

We surrender the life of this community to you. We surrender our wills to you. We surrender our judgments, our ways, our desires and our plans to you.

**Lord of Glory** we each want to live lives pleasing to you and together we want to be a community which pleases you.

It is our desire to follow the way you open to us in the days and years ahead, no matter the cost.

By your grace we will live together in unity, aligned with the narrow way that leads to life, our allegiance to you expressed in lives submitted to your will and to your embrace of love and mercy.

May these things be fulfilled according to your will, for your glory and the increase of your kingdom.

In the Name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, AMEN.

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