



St. Francis Health Services



Book of Prayers

Introduction

Communal prayer serves as a reminder that we are always in God's presence. To live out St. Francis' (SFHS) mission, we ask you to begin important activities with prayer because it keeps us mindful of God's presence and that we need His grace and guidance in the healing ministry we have been called to do.

This book of prayers has been assembled by SFHS' Prayer Committee as a helpful resource for you. St. Francis leaders will find it useful for preparing prayer to begin meetings and for any event where prayer is appropriate. A variety of sources and styles have been included to honor the diverse ways in which we pray. The book is purposely loose-leaf format to accommodate removal of selections for copying purposes and adding new prayers.

The table of contents serves as a guide for selecting prayers for meetings with a particular focus. For example, if the focus of the meeting is a decision that must be made, choose a prayer under Stewardship.

It is our hope that as you use this book, you will begin to adapt various prayers to suit the needs of the group that is meeting. SFHS' Prayer Committee will be adding to this book on an annual basis. To submit prayers, readings, Bible passages, etc. send to Leah Nelson at Inelson@sfhs.org or Twig Webster at twebster@sfhs.org.

Helpful Hints for Leading Prayer

- ◆ Invite the group to pause for a few seconds of silence before beginning prayer.
- ◆ If the prayer is lengthy, invite the group to alternate praying each stanza.
- ◆ If you intend to have the group alternate reciting parts of the prayer, give the instructions before beginning the prayer.
- ◆ Copies of the prayer are only tools. If you intend to be the only speaker, do not distribute copies of the prayer. Allow the group to participate by attentive listening as you pray.
- ◆ Praying is different than merely reading aloud. Take the time to review the prayer beforehand and speak the words slowly when you pray.
- ◆ Pausing between different thoughts in prayer - even when within the same verse - allows participants to enter into the prayer more fully.

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Our Mission



***We are committed
to express Christ's message
of love and hope by providing for
health, residential, community
and allied services in a holistic,
competent and caring manner
that recognizes the value
and dignity in every human life.***



**PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS
OF ASSISI**

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 darkness, light;
and 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;
in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and in dying
that we are born to eternal life.
Amen

Lord, we seek Your wisdom in all things. You have entrusted us with the responsibilities of leadership. Lead us to act with integrity, commitment and respect. Guide us in our pursuit of excellence in service and in stewardship of the resources we have at hand.

Help us to share ideas and plans with each other, to respect the dignity of all Your people and to be kind and courteous to one another.

Remind us not to forget the needs of others. Let us focus on the work at hand that we may further our mission and benefit many people in Your Name. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

God, we thank You and praise
You for Your presence in our lives,
for this opportunity of coming together today
to affirm our identity and to celebrate
our common goals, so that by
working together in Your name,
we may truly heal the sick whom we serve.
Help us to remember and renew our personal
and communal commitment to the mission of
St. Francis Health Services and be guided by
prayerful consideration of the needs of our
residents respecting the dignity of each
person, creating a spirit of hospitality
and pursuing integrity of word and deed
in our lives. Bless us God, with Your guiding
Spirit as we search together for ways
to integrate these values into our decisions
and in our ministry of service.
In Christ's name, we pray.
Amen

Lord, our God,
we are humbled that You have
chosen us for the ministry of
healthcare; May we always
uphold our core values of
INTEGRITY, COMMITMENT,
RESPECT, EXCELLENCE,
SERVICE and STEWARDSHIP.
By Your grace, help us every
day to extend Your love and the
ministry of Jesus to all who
need care and healing.
May Your blessings be upon us
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Heavenly Father and Creator
of all that is, we thank You,
and we praise You for Your presence
here in our midst and for this
opportunity to come together
to serve our mission.
We thank You for the leadership
that is represented here,
for the many and diverse gifts of talents
they contribute. Send Your spirit upon us.
Confirm and strengthen our vision.
Be the hope that sustains and strengthens us.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen



Integrity

**We faithfully adhere
to high principles
and professional standards.**

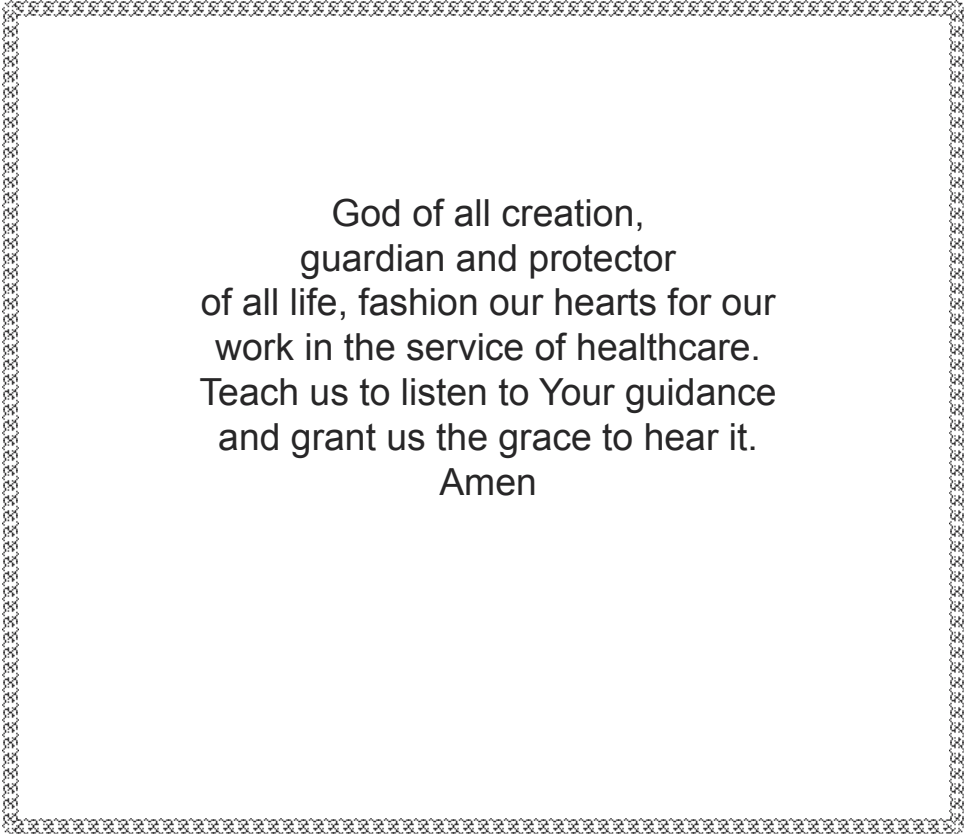


God of creation, help us realize
that on our journey we will
encounter many obstacles.

Give us the wisdom to
understand and grace us with
the ability to see obstacles as
opportunities for growth rather
than causes for complaint.

Gentle God, guide and direct us
through difficulties, so we may
see crisis as a catalyst,
providing us with the chance to
become stronger. We ask this
through Christ our Savior.

Amen



God of all creation,
guardian and protector
of all life, fashion our hearts for our
work in the service of healthcare.
Teach us to listen to Your guidance
and grant us the grace to hear it.
Amen

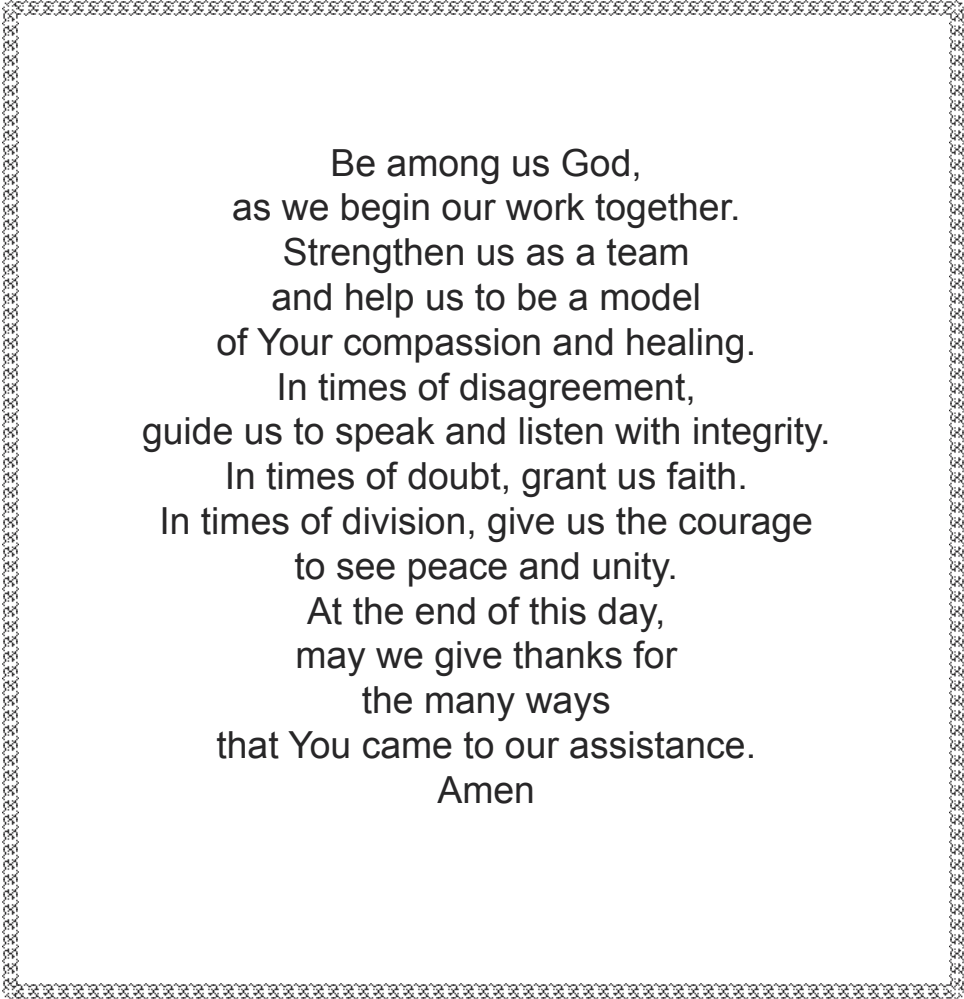
O God, Great Spirit and Source of Life,
may Your spirit flow through us as we live out
Your call to be of service as those who lead.
We desire to serve with grace, with dignity
and with great humility.

Help us always realize that You may choose
anyone to be Your vessel of grace.
We are humbled by Your choice of us
and strive to be worthy of this ministry of
leadership. We also realize that pride can get
in the way of Your divine grace; so while we
fully appreciate the dignity of our roles, help us
to always be respectful, never arrogant or
impressed with our position.

With Your gracious assistance, may all
that we are and all that we do be a reflection
of Christ's presence in our world.
May our lives be a reflection of service
and healing and may this holy work
of leadership come forth from within us.
In Jesus' name.
Amen

Lord God, You have called us together
to serve You in the midst of Your people.
We pray that we may serve
with understanding hearts
and that we may know what is right.
Trusting in Your guidance, we reach
out to You with our talents and our
inadequacies. Strengthen us so that we
may do Your will.

Lord, gift us with wisdom and understanding
so that our ministries may accomplish
the work of Jesus.
Let Your spirit fill our lives;
let Your love make us
compassionate servants.
We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who taught us to be servants of all.
Amen



Be among us God,
as we begin our work together.
Strengthen us as a team
and help us to be a model
of Your compassion and healing.
In times of disagreement,
guide us to speak and listen with integrity.
In times of doubt, grant us faith.
In times of division, give us the courage
to see peace and unity.
At the end of this day,
may we give thanks for
the many ways
that You came to our assistance.
Amen



Commitment

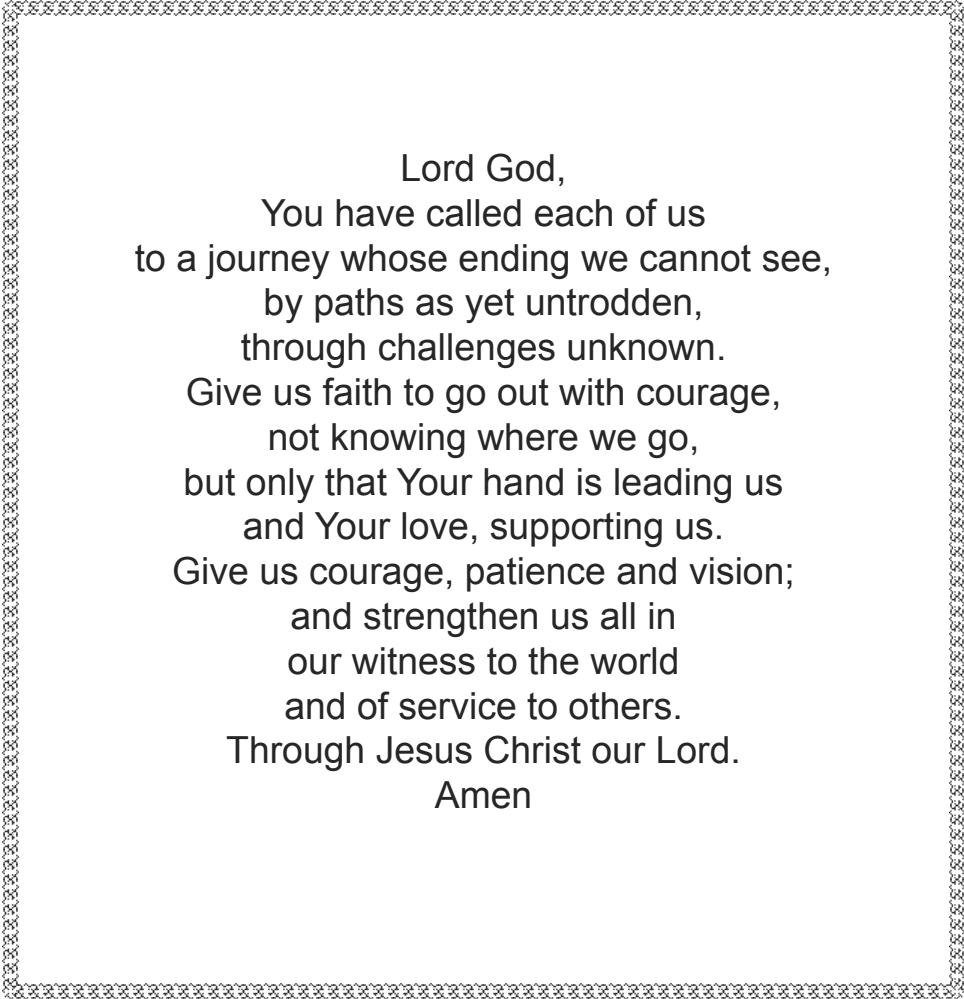
**We dedicate ourselves
to those we serve.**



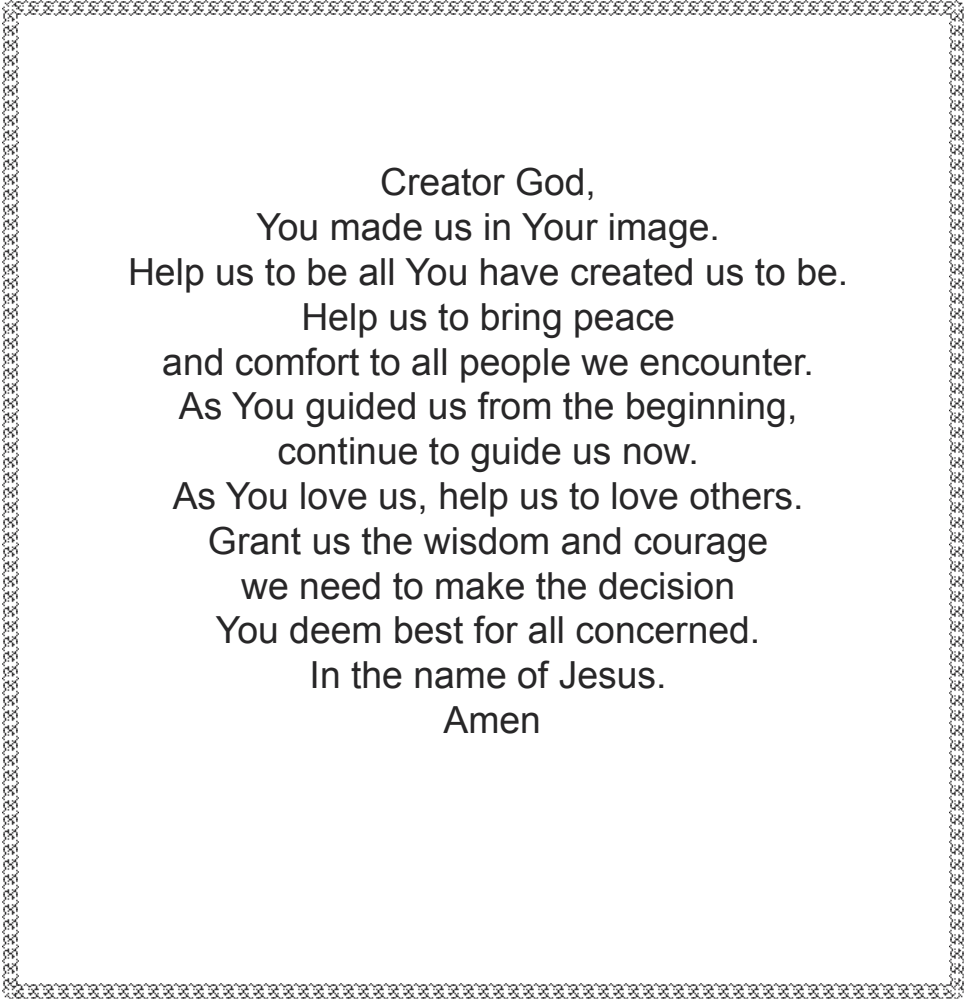
Lord God, giver of all good gifts,
we thank You for your presence with us today.

Lord, we ask that You strengthen
our commitment to those we serve.
You who know the desires of our hearts
and the work of our hands,
bless us with satisfaction
and joy in our work
that we may be a blessing to others
as we continue Your ministry.
We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen



Lord God,
You have called each of us
to a journey whose ending we cannot see,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through challenges unknown.
Give us faith to go out with courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that Your hand is leading us
and Your love, supporting us.
Give us courage, patience and vision;
and strengthen us all in
our witness to the world
and of service to others.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Creator God,
You made us in Your image.
Help us to be all You have created us to be.
Help us to bring peace
and comfort to all people we encounter.
As You guided us from the beginning,
continue to guide us now.
As You love us, help us to love others.
Grant us the wisdom and courage
we need to make the decision
You deem best for all concerned.
In the name of Jesus.
Amen

Today we place our lives in Your hands,
most merciful God, as we join together
in praise and thanksgiving
for the opportunity to serve You.

With confidence in Your promises to us,
we acknowledge that You are our God
and we are Your people.

Help us always to be
aware of Your presence.

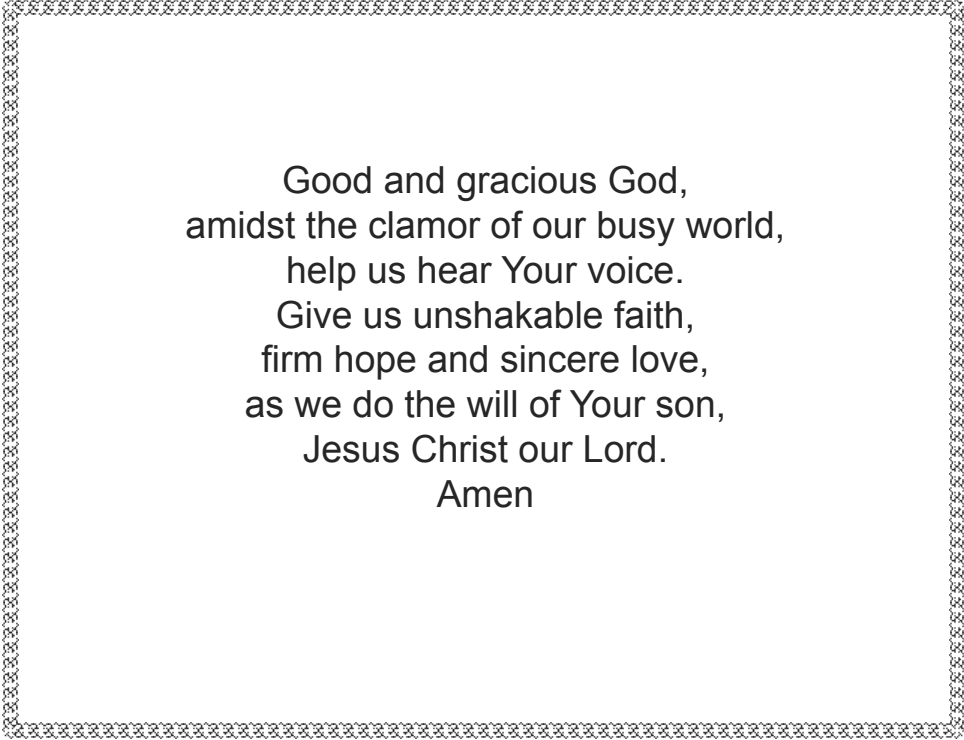
Help us to quiet our hearts so that
we may recognize Your voice.

Give us the grace to experience
Your comfort in the stresses of everyday life.

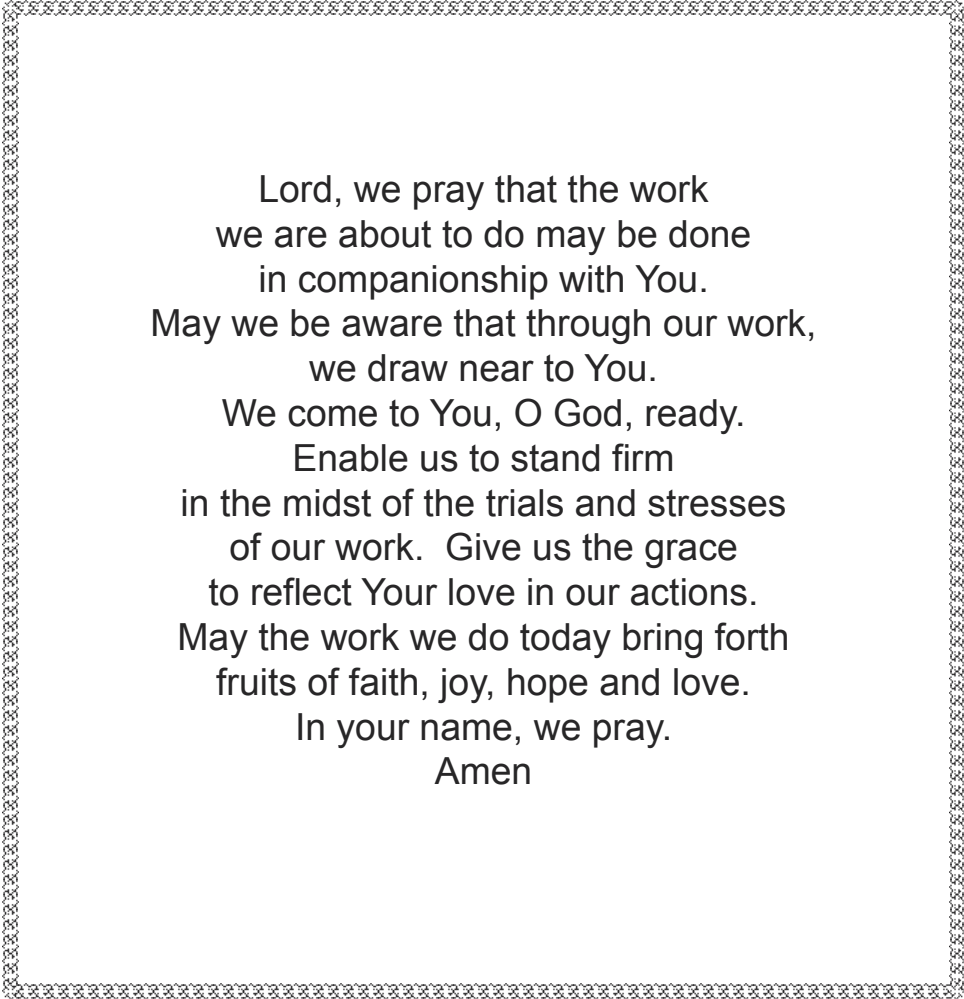
Especially in times of doubt,
draw us ever closer to You.

You are the source of all that is good.
We ask that You guide us with Your wisdom,
and that You give us the strength we need
to do Your work, and the courage
to act in humility and truth.

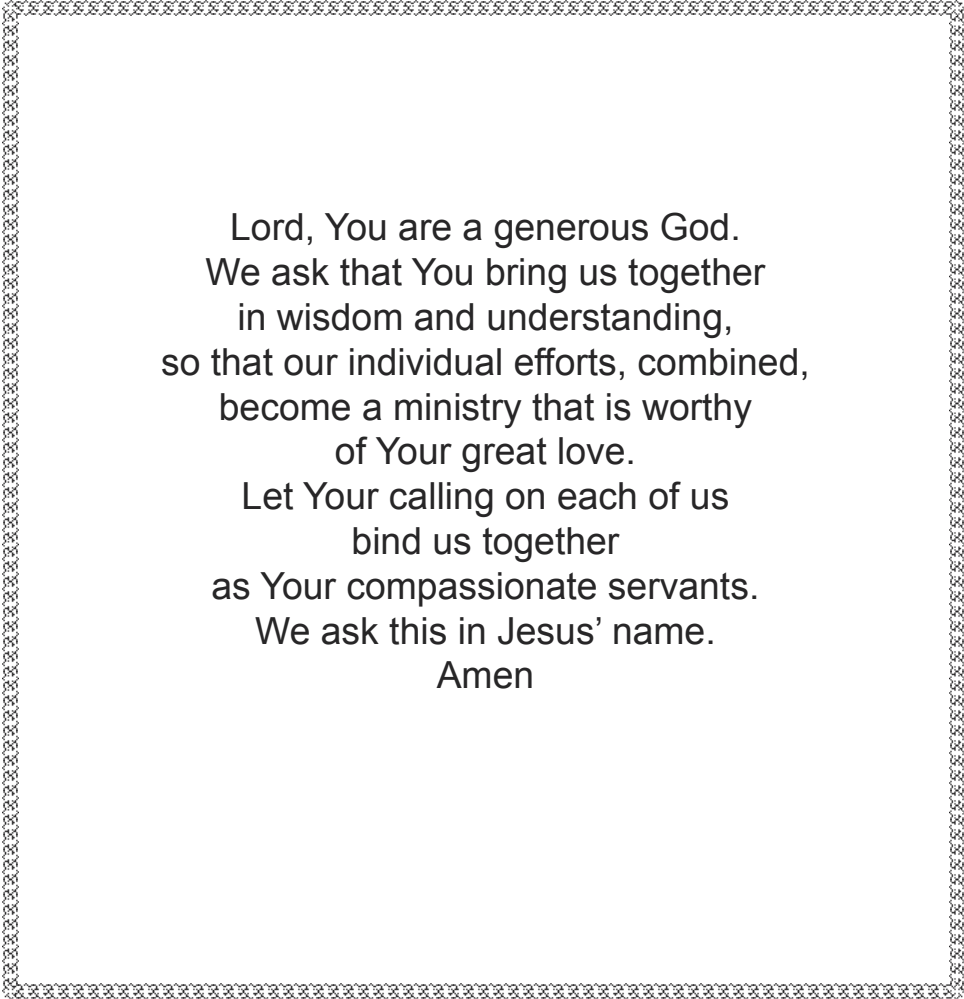
Amen



Good and gracious God,
amidst the clamor of our busy world,
help us hear Your voice.
Give us unshakable faith,
firm hope and sincere love,
as we do the will of Your son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Lord, we pray that the work
we are about to do may be done
in companionship with You.
May we be aware that through our work,
we draw near to You.
We come to You, O God, ready.
Enable us to stand firm
in the midst of the trials and stresses
of our work. Give us the grace
to reflect Your love in our actions.
May the work we do today bring forth
fruits of faith, joy, hope and love.
In your name, we pray.
Amen



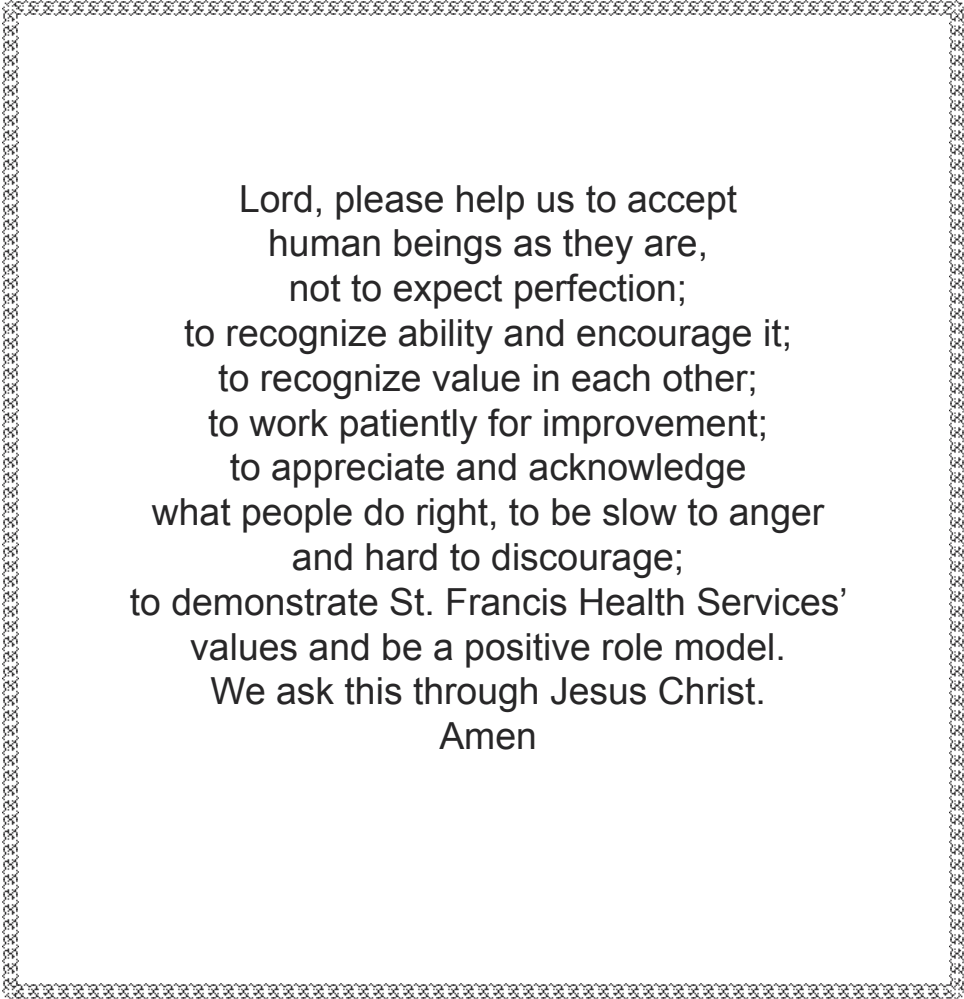
Lord, You are a generous God.
We ask that You bring us together
in wisdom and understanding,
so that our individual efforts, combined,
become a ministry that is worthy
of Your great love.
Let Your calling on each of us
bind us together
as Your compassionate servants.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen



Respect

**We value and treat
each individual with
compassion and dignity.**

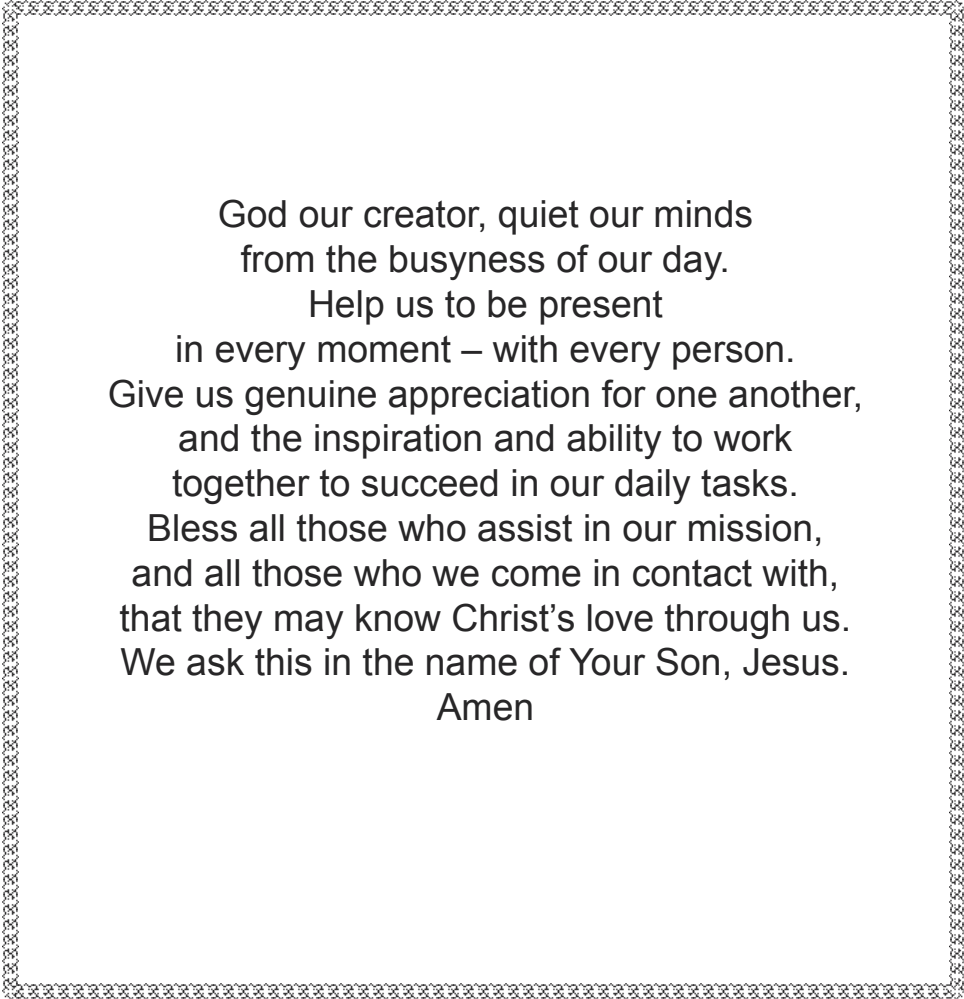




Lord, please help us to accept
human beings as they are,
not to expect perfection;
to recognize ability and encourage it;
to recognize value in each other;
to work patiently for improvement;
to appreciate and acknowledge
what people do right, to be slow to anger
and hard to discourage;
to demonstrate St. Francis Health Services'
values and be a positive role model.
We ask this through Jesus Christ.
Amen

We thank You for Your love and mercy
this day, most merciful God,
and we ask for the desire and ability
to give unselfishly to others,
as we have received so generously from You.
May the power of Your presence
heal the broken places of our lives.
When we lack strength,
renew us with Your love.
When we feel alone and lost,
be our companion and guide.

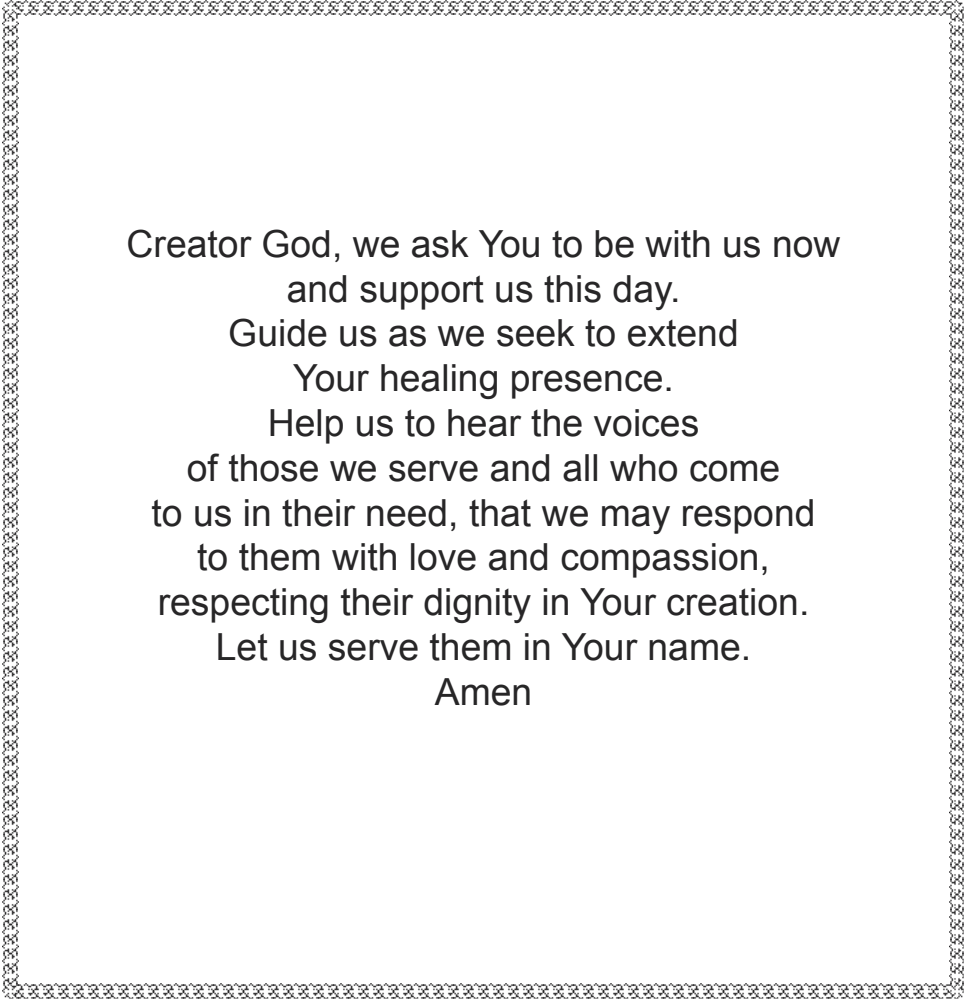
Quiet the voices of fear
that confuse our judgment
and our heart's true vision.
Give us Your guidance
that we may never ignore
the human needs around us.
Rather, help us to seek out opportunities
for service and love.
May we continue to serve You
with courage and gratitude today and always.
Amen



God our creator, quiet our minds
from the busyness of our day.
Help us to be present
in every moment – with every person.
Give us genuine appreciation for one another,
and the inspiration and ability to work
together to succeed in our daily tasks.
Bless all those who assist in our mission,
and all those who we come in contact with,
that they may know Christ's love through us.
We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus.
Amen

Gracious God,
We invite You to be with us
as we gather to discuss our work.
Help us be open to where
Your Spirit is leading us.
Lord, help us to communicate
with one another with openness and clarity.
Lord, enable us to listen to new thoughts,
ideas and suggestions
with understanding and appreciation.

And finally Lord, help us recognize
and encourage each other's
God given gifts and abilities.
We ask this in the name of Your Holy Son,
who is Jesus Christ,
God among us.
Amen



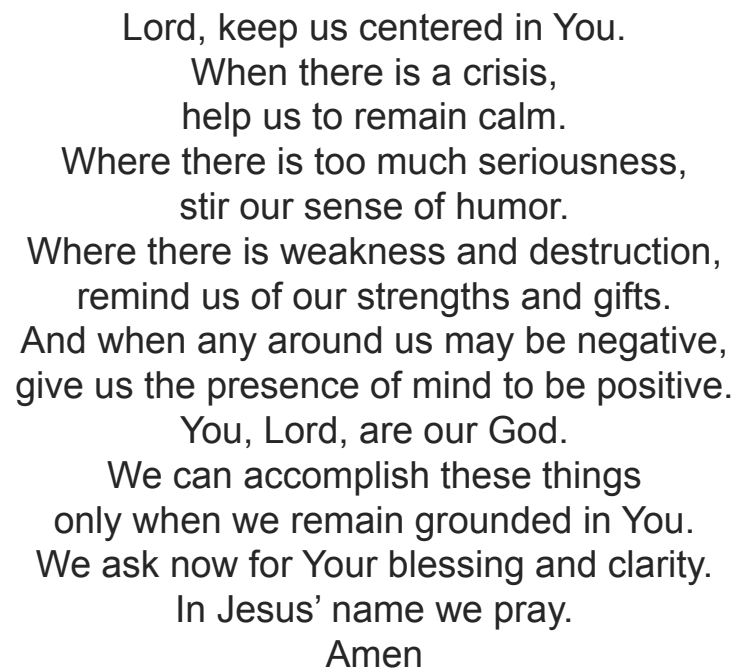
Creator God, we ask You to be with us now
and support us this day.
Guide us as we seek to extend
Your healing presence.
Help us to hear the voices
of those we serve and all who come
to us in their need, that we may respond
to them with love and compassion,
respecting their dignity in Your creation.
Let us serve them in Your name.
Amen



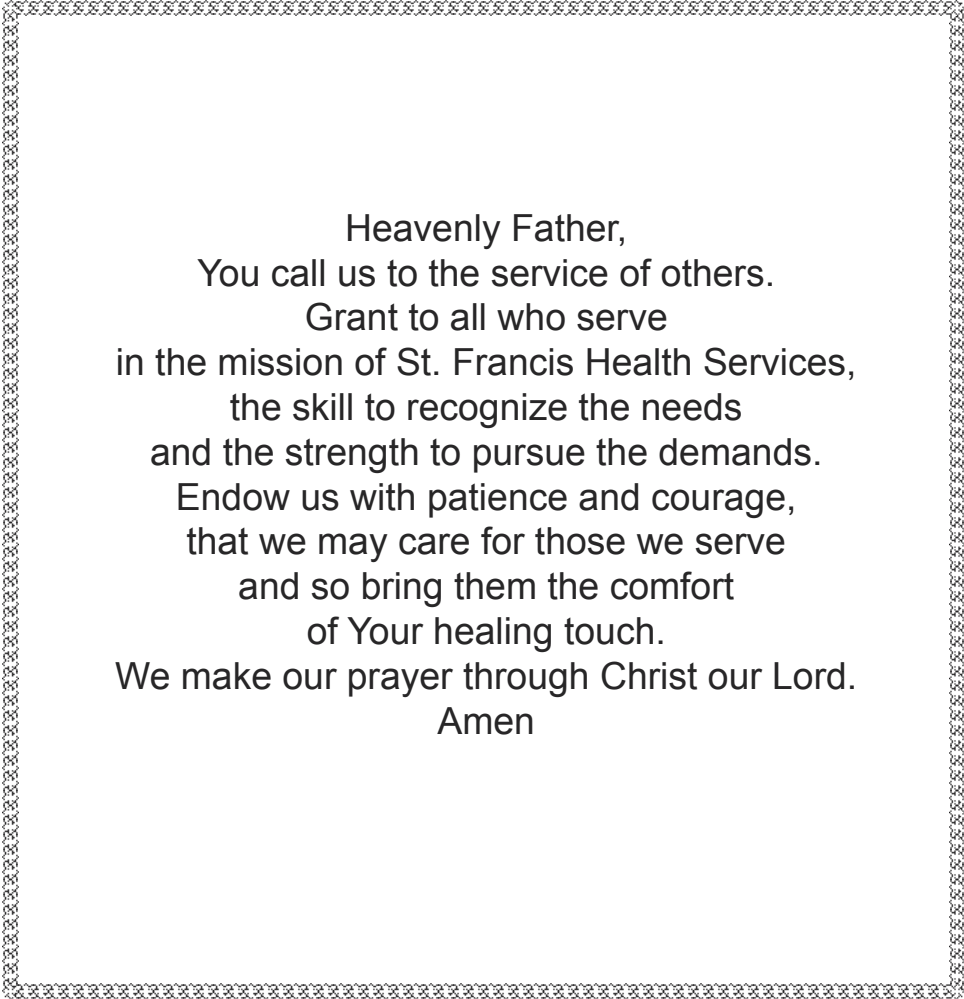
Excellence

**We have the passion
to do our best.**



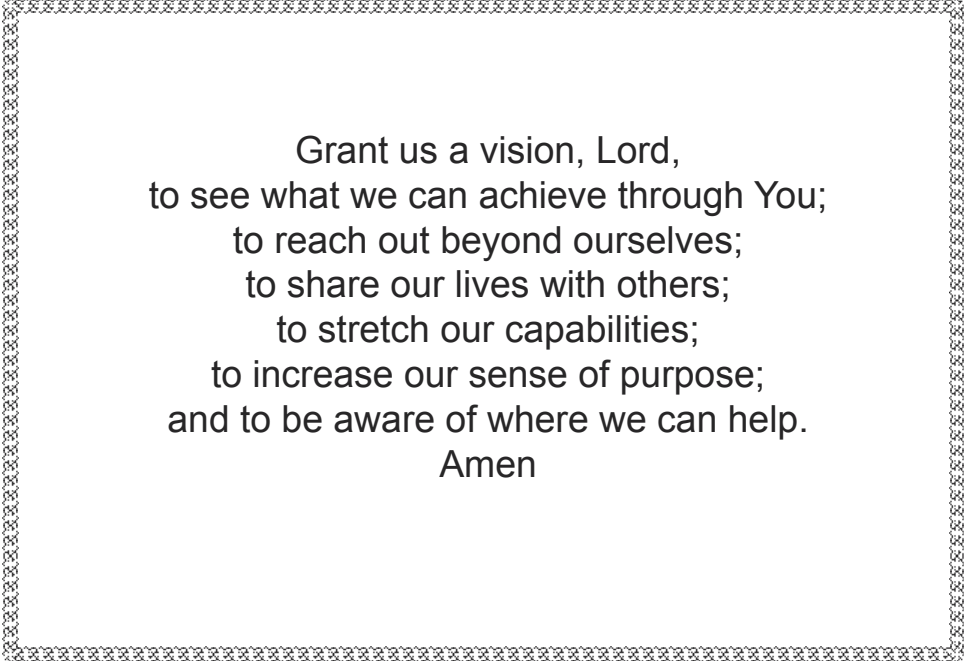


Lord, keep us centered in You.
When there is a crisis,
help us to remain calm.
Where there is too much seriousness,
stir our sense of humor.
Where there is weakness and destruction,
remind us of our strengths and gifts.
And when any around us may be negative,
give us the presence of mind to be positive.
You, Lord, are our God.
We can accomplish these things
only when we remain grounded in You.
We ask now for Your blessing and clarity.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen



Heavenly Father,
You call us to the service of others.
Grant to all who serve
in the mission of St. Francis Health Services,
the skill to recognize the needs
and the strength to pursue the demands.
Endow us with patience and courage,
that we may care for those we serve
and so bring them the comfort
of Your healing touch.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

God, we thank You for calling us
to the journey of Your healing ministry
to be Your presence in our world today.
Be with us as we stand together
touching the lives of others.
We ask you, God, for the strength
to give of ourselves; our time, our ideas,
our vision, our dreams
and our hope in Your promises.
Help us to be leaders who
discern and respond with compassion
to the needs of others.
Give us the courage to be open to change,
remaining faithful stewards of our resources.
We thank You for the work we have
and ask You to guide us in being
the best we can be. In Jesus' name.
Amen



Grant us a vision, Lord,
to see what we can achieve through You;
to reach out beyond ourselves;
to share our lives with others;
to stretch our capabilities;
to increase our sense of purpose;
and to be aware of where we can help.
Amen



Service

**We deliver what has not been done,
before it is expected.**



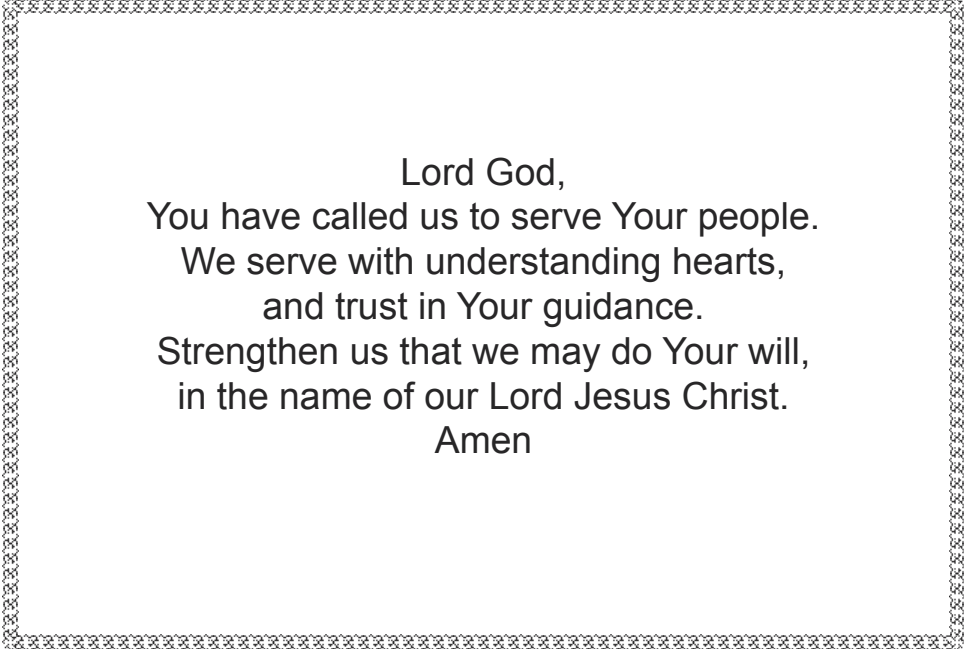
O God of all who cares for others,
bless and care for each employee
in St. Francis Health Services.
Guide each of us that we may
work with compassion,
touch with gentleness,
speak with tenderness,
and listen with our eyes as well as our ears.
Inspire us to smile,
understand with deep feeling,
know the time to be quiet,
the time to laugh,
the time to sympathize
and the time to encourage.
Help us to know above all
that the time to love is now.
God, hear our prayer for our generous
and hard working staff
and surround us with Your love
today and always.
Amen

Creator God, You have called us
to challenging work,
and we have accepted Your call.
We pray for Your guidance
and give You thanks as we seek each day
to know Your purpose for us.

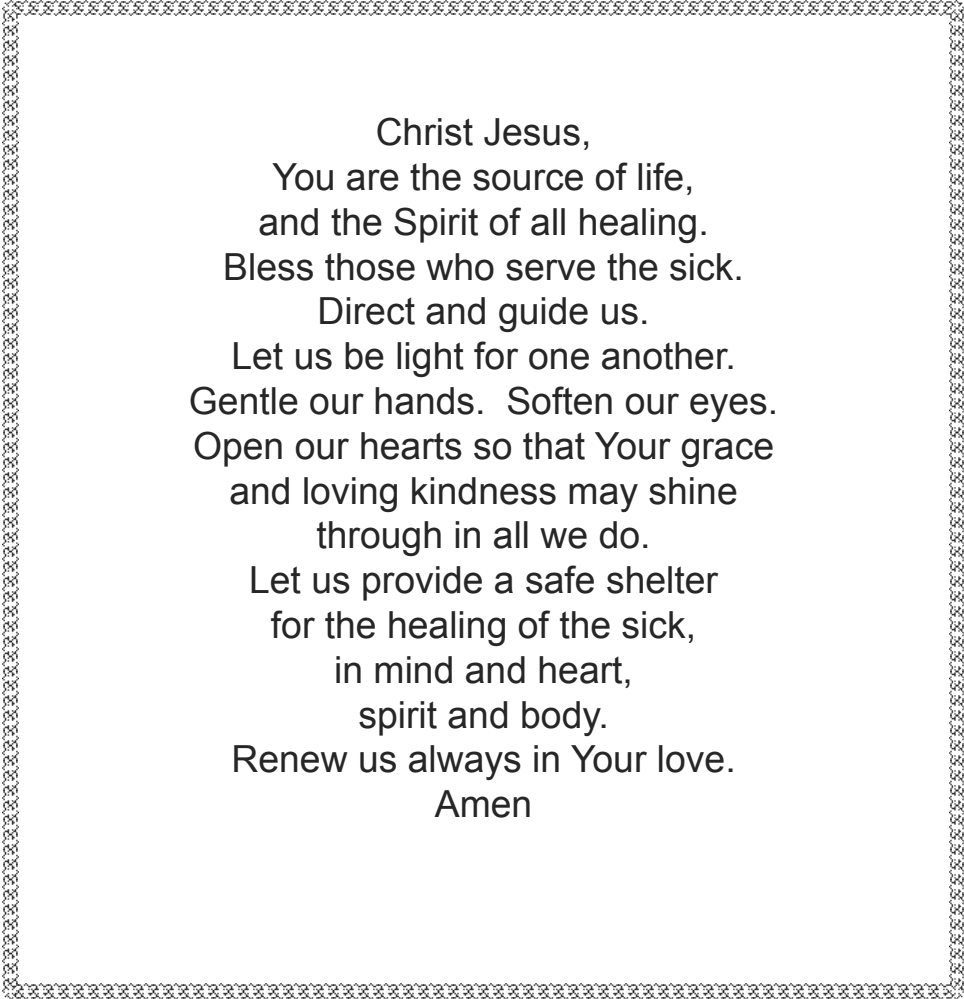
Guide us as we extend Your healing presence
to all who need us so that
we may serve them in Your name.
Help us to respect the dignity of all people
that we may respond to them
with justice, love and compassion.

Grant us the humility to realize
that You do not expect perfection,
but the courage to do our best,
not infallibility, but honesty and
understanding as we strive to do Your will.

Lord, God,
be with us now and always.
Amen

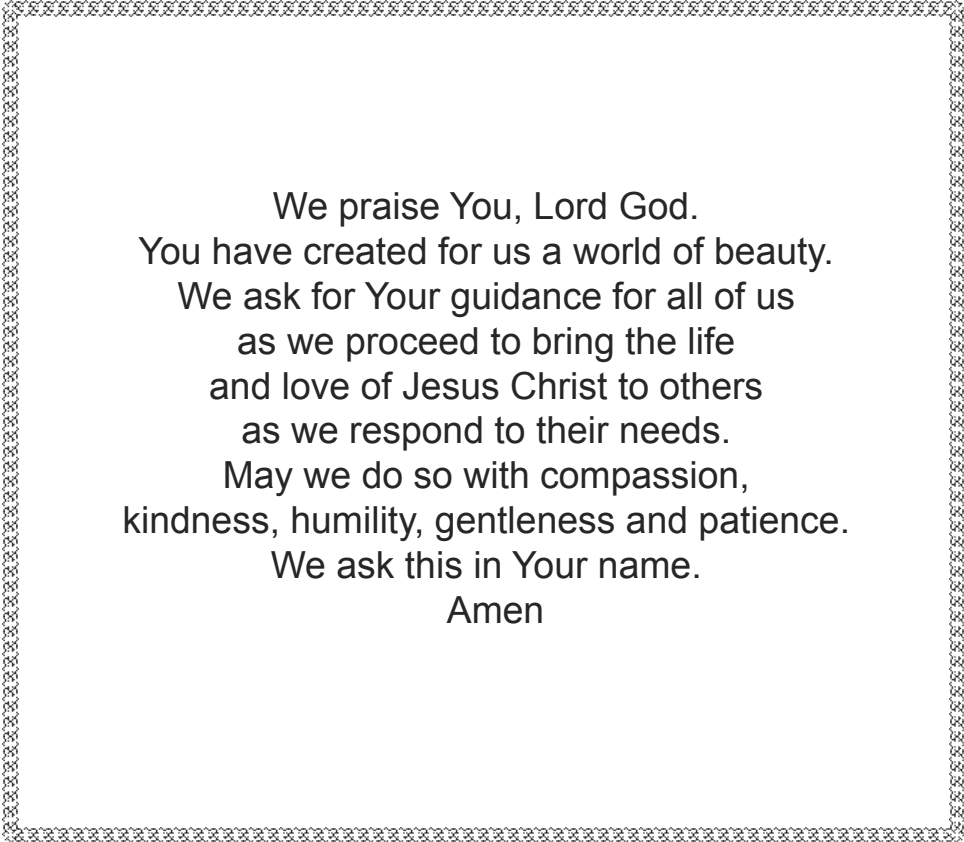


Lord God,
You have called us to serve Your people.
We serve with understanding hearts,
and trust in Your guidance.
Strengthen us that we may do Your will,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen



Christ Jesus,
You are the source of life,
and the Spirit of all healing.
Bless those who serve the sick.
Direct and guide us.
Let us be light for one another.
Gentle our hands. Soften our eyes.
Open our hearts so that Your grace
and loving kindness may shine
through in all we do.
Let us provide a safe shelter
for the healing of the sick,
in mind and heart,
spirit and body.
Renew us always in Your love.
Amen

Loving God,
You call us to the service of others.
Grant us the skill to deliver
what has not been done before it is expected.
Support us as we uphold each other
as members of a faithful community.
Fill us with patience and courage,
that we may care for the suffering
and the sick, and bring them the comfort
of Your healing touch.
Pour out your spirit upon us.
Confirm and strengthen our vision.
Be the hope that sustains and strengthens us.
We thank you, Lord, for the motivation
You alone can give us.
In your name we pray.
Amen



We praise You, Lord God.
You have created for us a world of beauty.
We ask for Your guidance for all of us
as we proceed to bring the life
and love of Jesus Christ to others
as we respond to their needs.
May we do so with compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
We ask this in Your name.
Amen



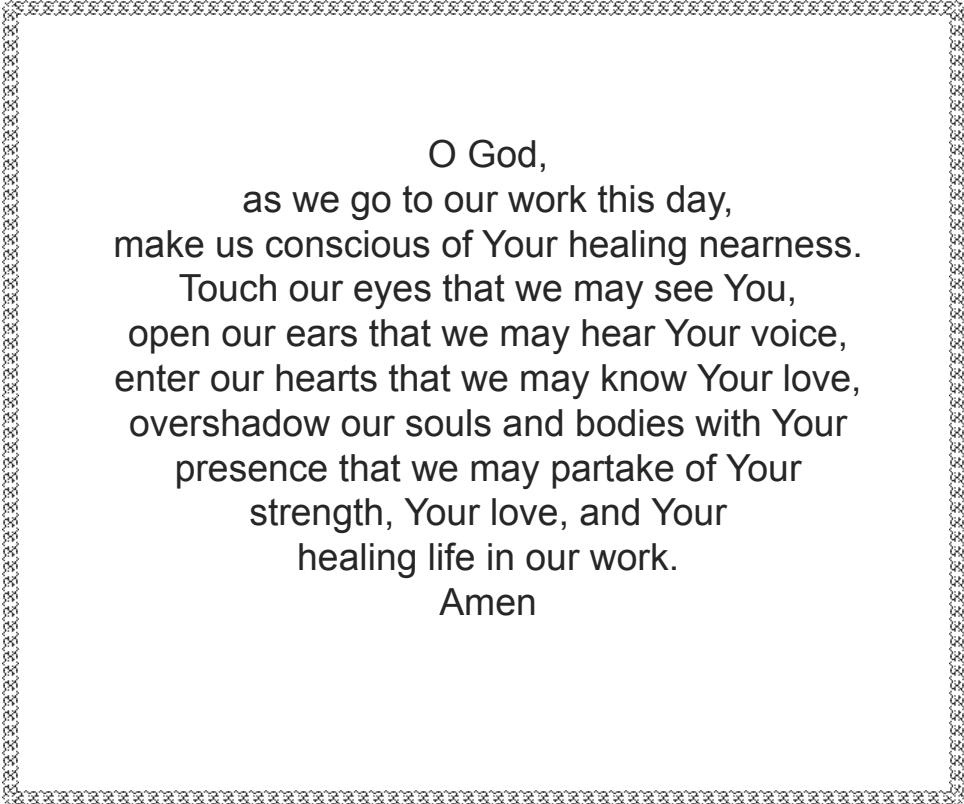
Stewardship

**We wisely employ the talents,
resources and relationships
entrusted to us.**

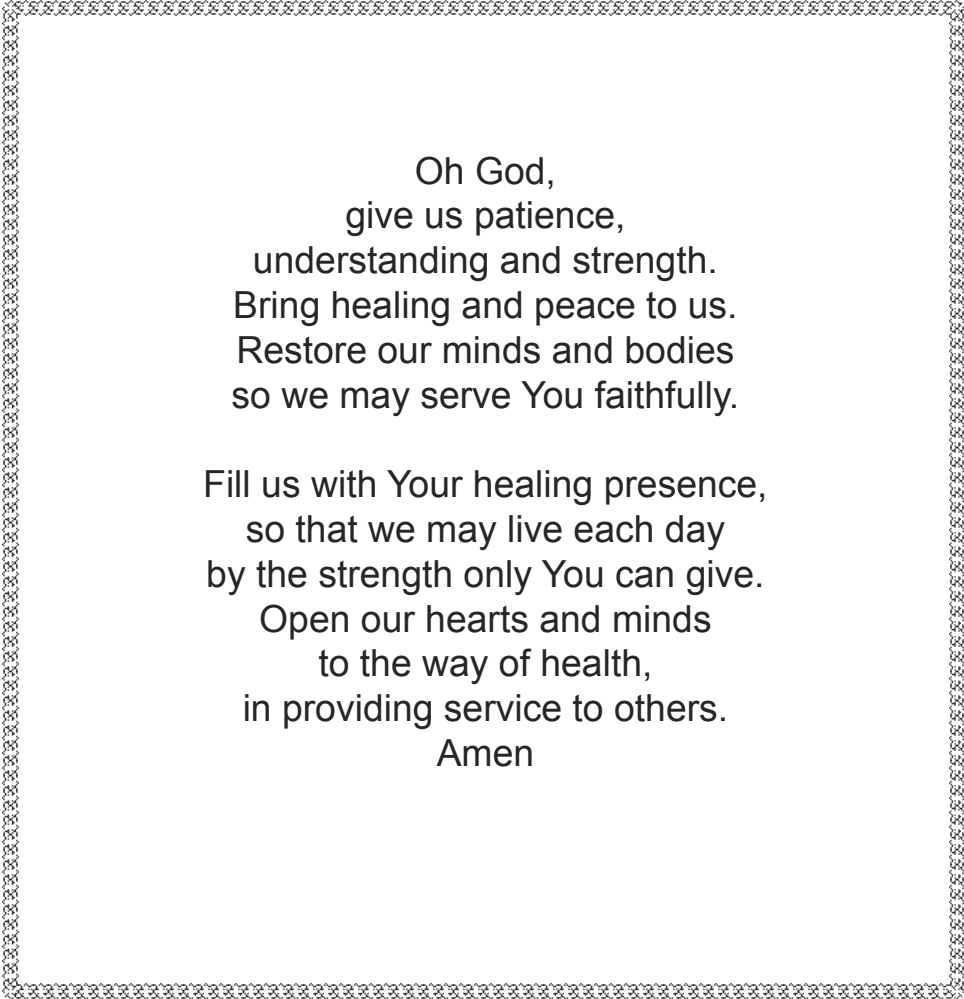


O God, Creator of all living things,
we thank You for the breathe of life.
You called us by name before we were born,
and called us Your children.
You have called us to serve our brothers
and sisters. You have called us to live
and work together in Your world.

Help us to hear Your voice
so that we might show our love for You
and Your people, not just with our words,
but with actions of mercy and justice.
Give us the courage to do Your will
and equip us to do whatever You ask.
Amen

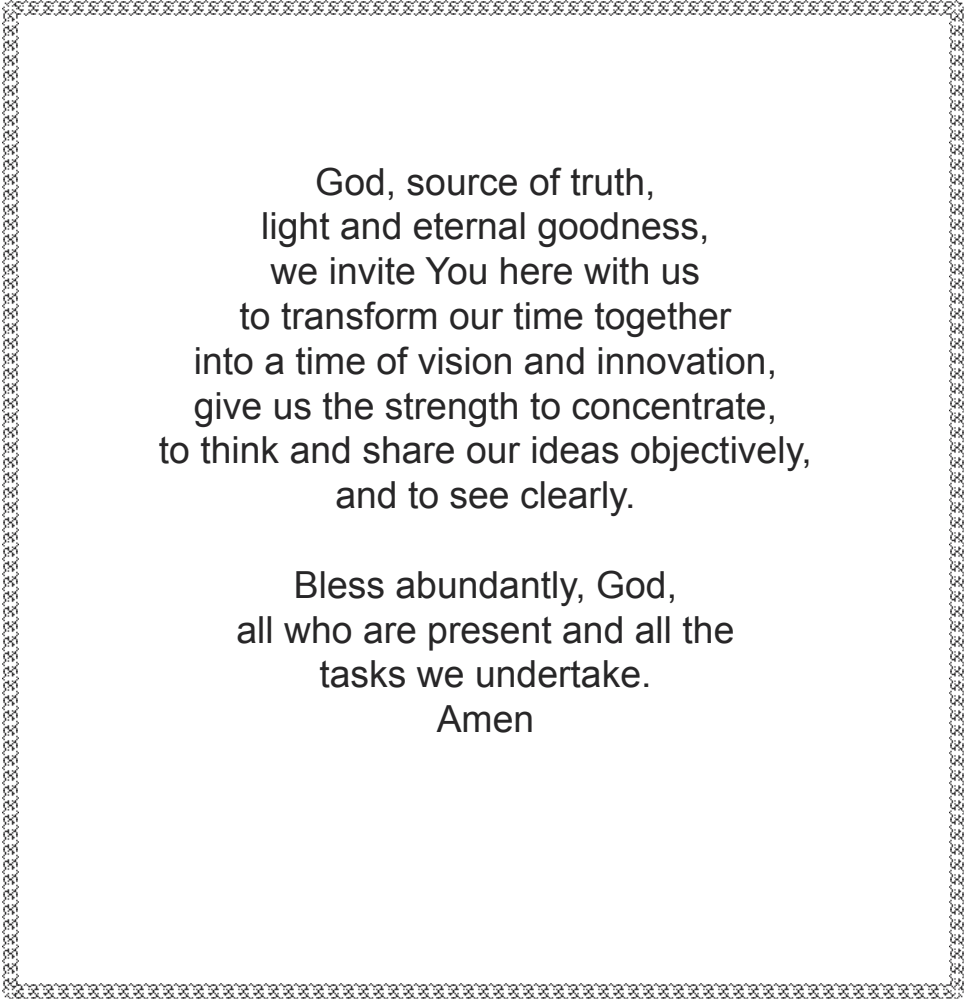


O God,
as we go to our work this day,
make us conscious of Your healing nearness.
Touch our eyes that we may see You,
open our ears that we may hear Your voice,
enter our hearts that we may know Your love,
overshadow our souls and bodies with Your
presence that we may partake of Your
strength, Your love, and Your
healing life in our work.
Amen



Oh God,
give us patience,
understanding and strength.
Bring healing and peace to us.
Restore our minds and bodies
so we may serve You faithfully.

Fill us with Your healing presence,
so that we may live each day
by the strength only You can give.
Open our hearts and minds
to the way of health,
in providing service to others.
Amen

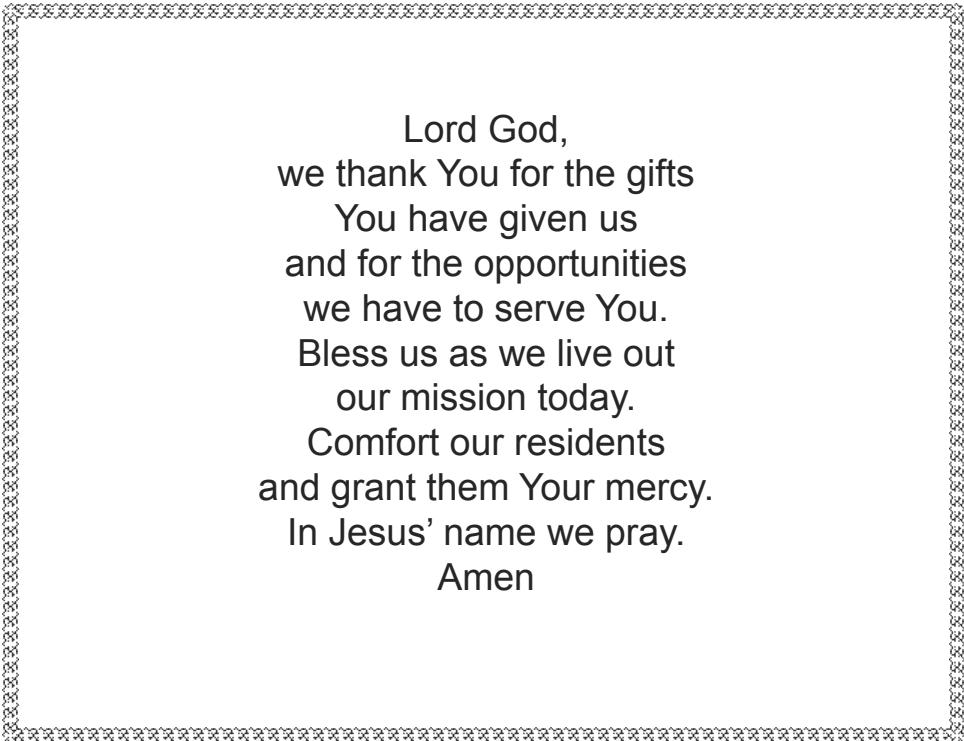


God, source of truth,
light and eternal goodness,
we invite You here with us
to transform our time together
into a time of vision and innovation,
give us the strength to concentrate,
to think and share our ideas objectively,
and to see clearly.

Bless abundantly, God,
all who are present and all the
tasks we undertake.
Amen



Compassionate God,
we ask that each person be touched
by Your loving presence today.
May we be open
to Your wisdom and guidance.
Direct our activity this day,
O merciful God,
that we may reflect Your goodness
and love by using our talents
for the good of all.
We come together in our diversity
and we ask You to guide us
and keep us in Your care.
Amen

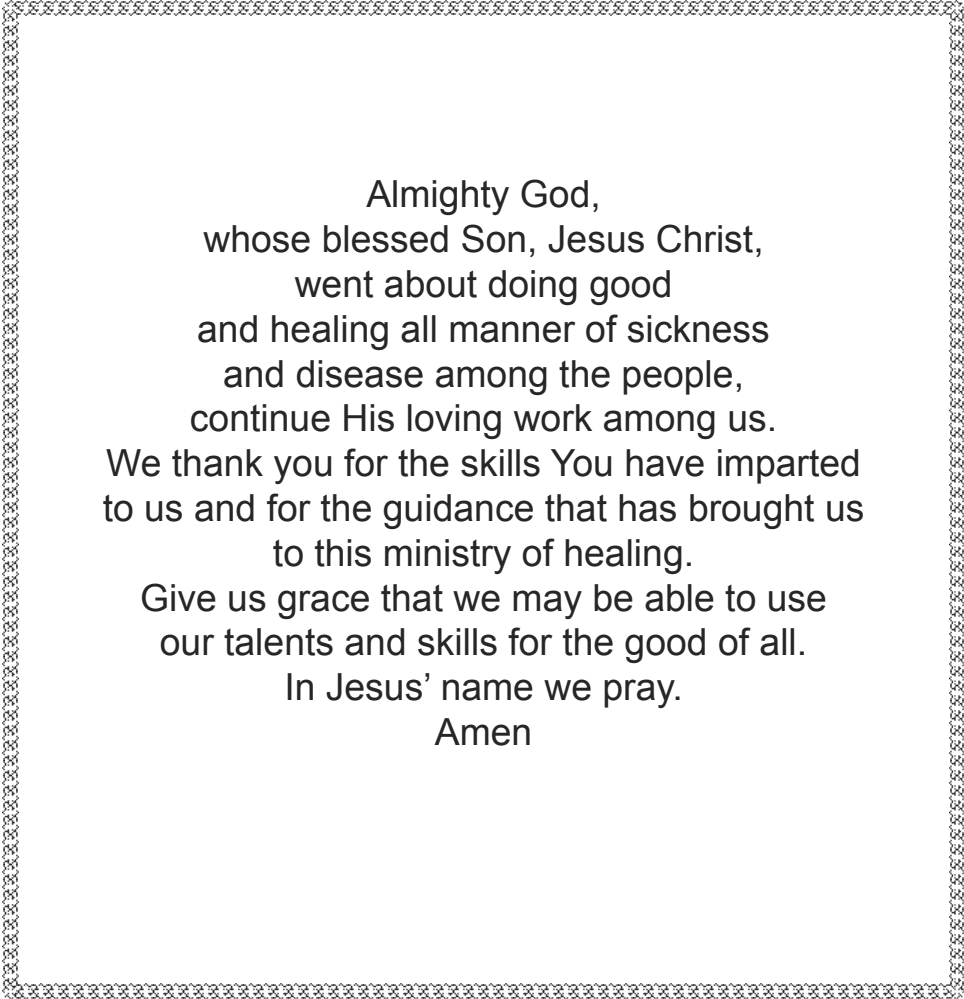


Lord God,
we thank You for the gifts
You have given us
and for the opportunities
we have to serve You.
Bless us as we live out
our mission today.
Comfort our residents
and grant them Your mercy.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

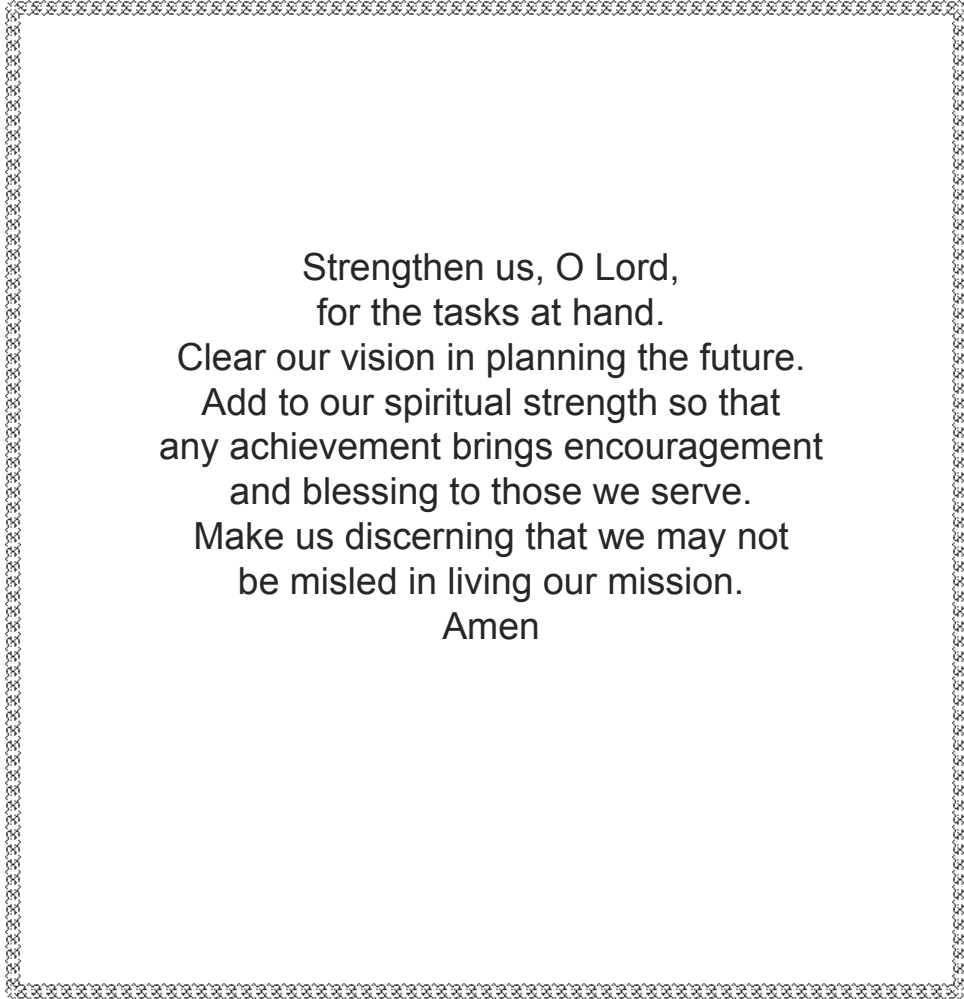
Dear God, our Creator,
we thank You
for all You have given us
and especially for Your presence
with us this day.

For those ill in health,
we ask for grace, mercy and wholeness;
for those with troubled minds,
we ask for strength and courage
and for those troubled at heart,
we ask for peace and comfort.

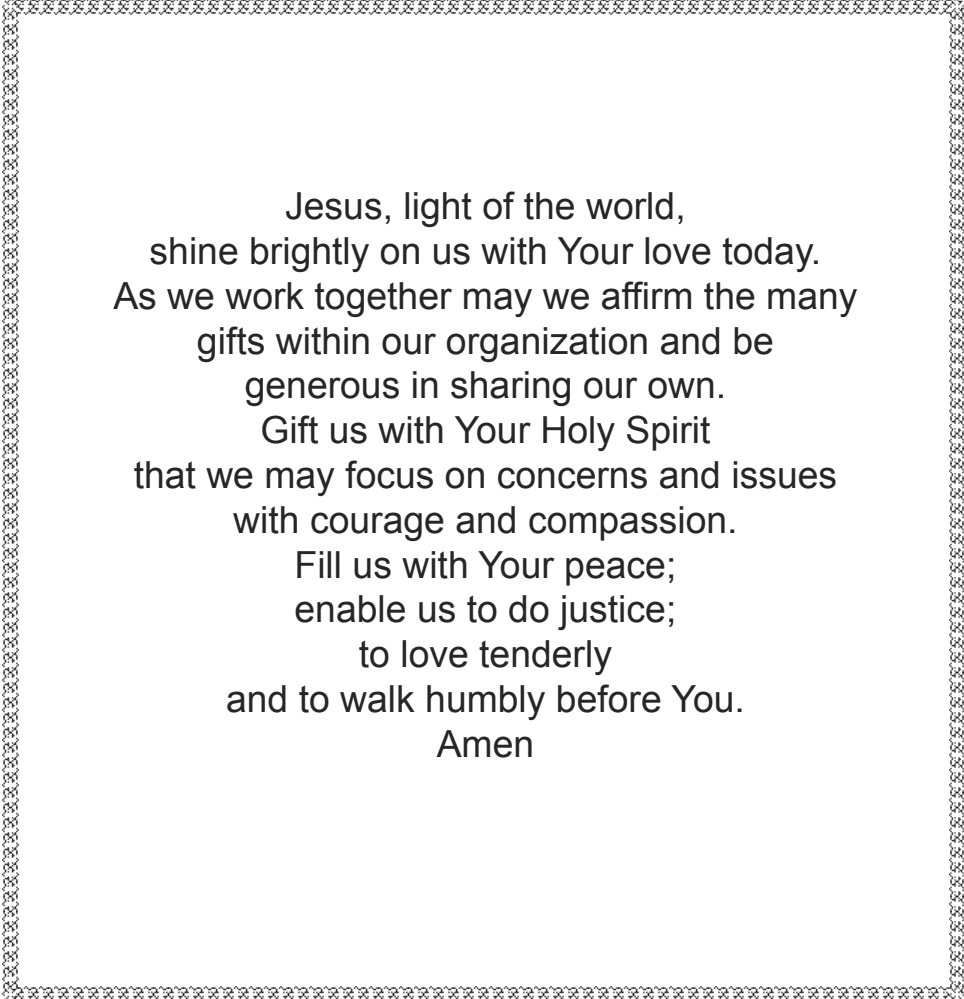
May Your abiding love
be with each one of us this day.
Amen



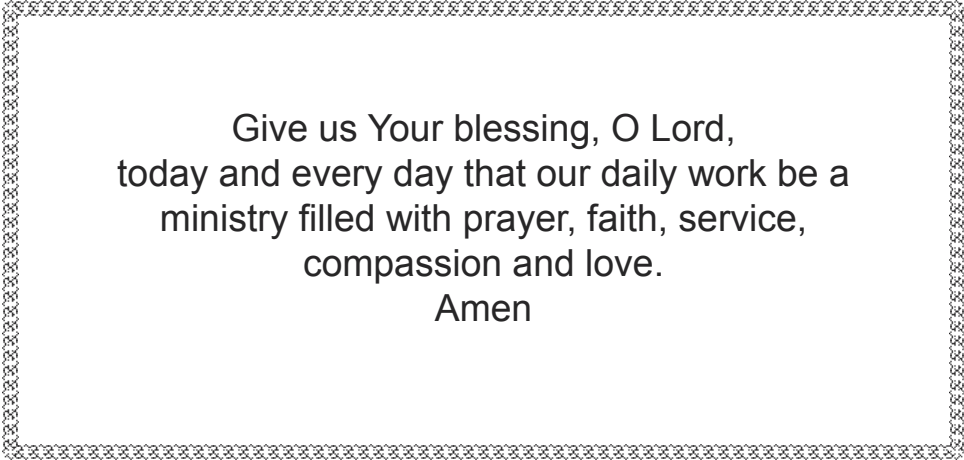
Almighty God,
whose blessed Son, Jesus Christ,
went about doing good
and healing all manner of sickness
and disease among the people,
continue His loving work among us.
We thank you for the skills You have imparted
to us and for the guidance that has brought us
to this ministry of healing.
Give us grace that we may be able to use
our talents and skills for the good of all.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen



Strengthen us, O Lord,
for the tasks at hand.
Clear our vision in planning the future.
Add to our spiritual strength so that
any achievement brings encouragement
and blessing to those we serve.
Make us discerning that we may not
be misled in living our mission.
Amen



Jesus, light of the world,
shine brightly on us with Your love today.
As we work together may we affirm the many
gifts within our organization and be
generous in sharing our own.
Gift us with Your Holy Spirit
that we may focus on concerns and issues
with courage and compassion.
Fill us with Your peace;
enable us to do justice;
to love tenderly
and to walk humbly before You.
Amen



Give us Your blessing, O Lord,
today and every day that our daily work be a
ministry filled with prayer, faith, service,
compassion and love.
Amen

Dear Lord,
Help us as we gather here
in Your name to be mindful
of our responsibilities.

Help us to bring forth to this table
the strengths that You have so generously
given us. Help us to be kind and gentle
with each other when we disagree.

Guide us to make our decisions
acceptable to You.

In your name we pray.

Amen



*Bible
Passages*



To everything there is a season;
a time for every purpose under the sun;
a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant
and a time to pluck up that which is planted.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)

We give thanks for the life of (name),
We pray that God would comfort all friends,
family members and coworkers.
In our grief, may the memories that we share
of (name) warm our hearts.

“Glory be to God whose power,
working in us, can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.”
(Ephesians 3: 21)

“Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all.
The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.
And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:4-7)

“The world and its desires pass away,
but the man who does the will of God
lives forever.”
(I John 2:17)



*Inspirational
Prayers &
Readings*



Praise to You, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for sending Your only Son to be our Savior.
Through his death and resurrection, He is the
gift of Your peace for all times and peoples.
In his most sacred name, we ask You to unite
Your Church and to preserve it in the bonds of
peace. Guide our leaders to work for harmony
and peace within our country and among all
nations on earth. Bring conflicts to an end and
rescue the victims of human hatred. Shield
those who serve and protect us, and preserve
them from all harm. Remove from our hearts
all that threatens peace within our families and
communities. Fill us with zeal for justice and
peace, and deepen our respect for all human
life. Keep us in peace and help us to be
peacemakers in our words and deeds.
We ask these blessings through your Son,
the Prince of Peace; whose kingdom is with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.

Amen

John F. Kinney
Bishop of St. Cloud

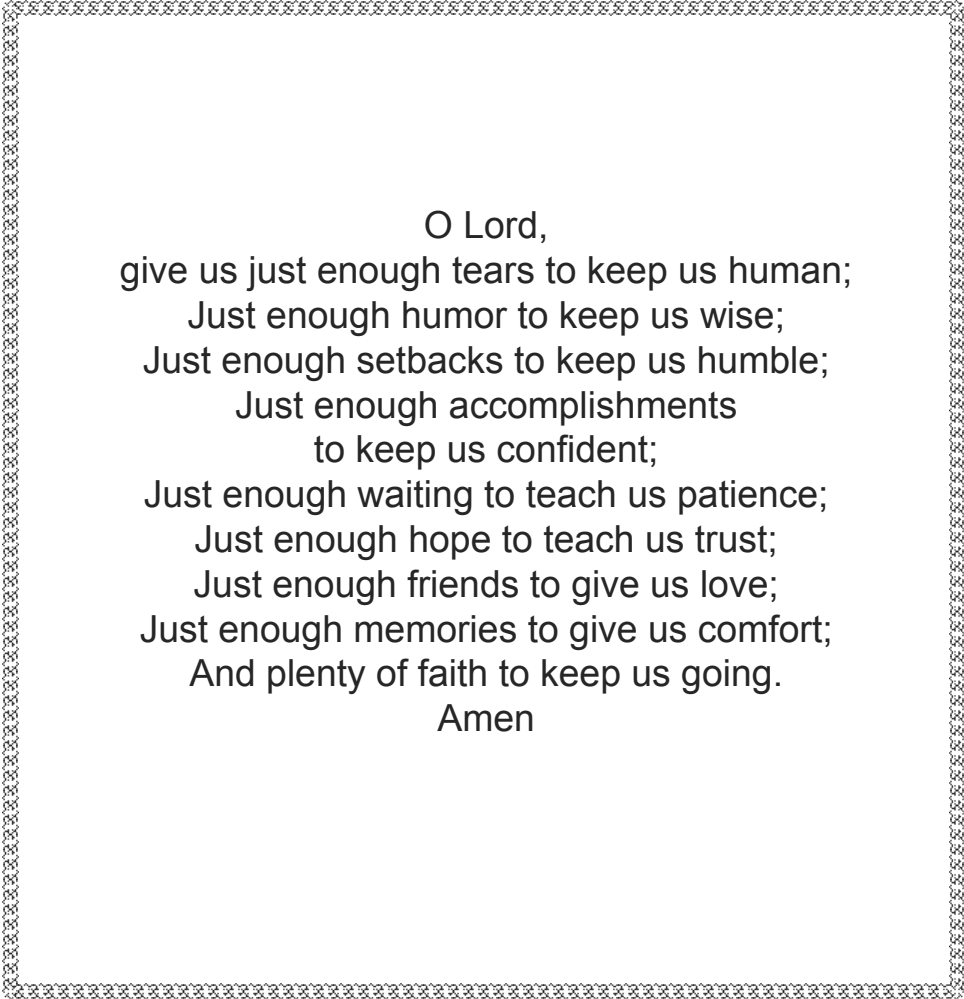
God, grant us Your calm strength
to accept the things we cannot change,
courage to change the things we can,
and wisdom to know the difference.

God, grant us Your calm strength
to live one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time,
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace.

God, grant us Your calm strength to take,
as Jesus does, this sinful world as it is,
not as we would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
and in Your own time.

God, grant us Your calm strength so that
we may share it with others in good times,
yet more importantly, in bad times.

Amen



O Lord,
give us just enough tears to keep us human;
Just enough humor to keep us wise;
Just enough setbacks to keep us humble;
Just enough accomplishments
to keep us confident;
Just enough waiting to teach us patience;
Just enough hope to teach us trust;
Just enough friends to give us love;
Just enough memories to give us comfort;
And plenty of faith to keep us going.
Amen

It Matters to This One

As I walked along the seashore
this young boy greeted me.
He was tossing stranded starfish back to the
deep blue sea. I said, "Tell me why you
bother, why you waste your time this way.
There's a million stranded starfish;
does it matter, anyway?"

And he said, "It matters to this one.
It deserves a chance to grow.
It matters to this one.
I can't save them all, I know.
But it matters to this one,
I'll return it to the sea.
It matters to this one.
And it matters to me."

Do it Anyway

People are often unreasonable,
illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you
of being selfish, having ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some
friends and some true enemies.
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank,
people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building,
someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,
they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today,
people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,
and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis,
it is between you and God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

Beatitudes of a Leader

Blessed are the leaders who have not sought the high places, but who have been drafted into service because of his/her ability and willingness to serve. Blessed are the leaders who know where they are going, why he/she is going, and how to get there.

Blessed are the leaders who know no discouragement, who presents no alibi. Blessed are the leaders who know how to lead without being dictatorial; true leaders are humble. Blessed are the leaders who seek for the best for those he/she serves. Blessed are the leaders who lead for the good of the most concerned and not for the personal gratification of his/her own ideas. Blessed are the leaders who develop leaders while leading. Blessed are the leaders who march with the group, interpreting correctly the signs on the pathway that lead to success. Blessed are the leaders who have his/her head in the clouds but his/her feet on the ground. Blessed are the leaders who consider leadership an opportunity for service.

Service is Compassion in Action

Mother Theresa wrote these words
about the quality of compassion:

“We must love one another
as God loves each one of us.
To be able to love, we need a clean heart.
Prayer is what gives us a clean heart.
The fruit of prayer is a deepening of faith,
and the fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service,
which is compassion in action.
Religion has nothing to do with compassion;
it is our love for God that is the main thing
because we have all been created
for the sole purpose to love and be loved.”

Beatitudes for Co-Workers

Blessed is the community of co-workers who know their limitation and accept them. Like a growing plant, fragile but tenaciously strong, they depend upon someone greater than themselves. In this faith, they bring hope to one another.

Blessed is the community of co-workers who can stand quietly in the midst of confusion and contradictions and believe that it takes all – sunshine, lightning, fire, rain and snow – to bring life to its fullest.

Blessed is the community of co-workers who are empty of resentment or guilt; people with a single heart who remain faithful to God and to each other.

Blessed is the community of co-workers who know how to cry; people who can be with each other in sorrow and pain; people extending strong arms outward and heavenward, praying and caring enough to bring balance to all things.

Beatitudes for Co-Workers (cont.)

Blessed is the community of co-workers who show mercy, who stand compassionate with those who face their own weakness and need for each other; people who let go of opinions that block the light of truth so as to better listen to one another.

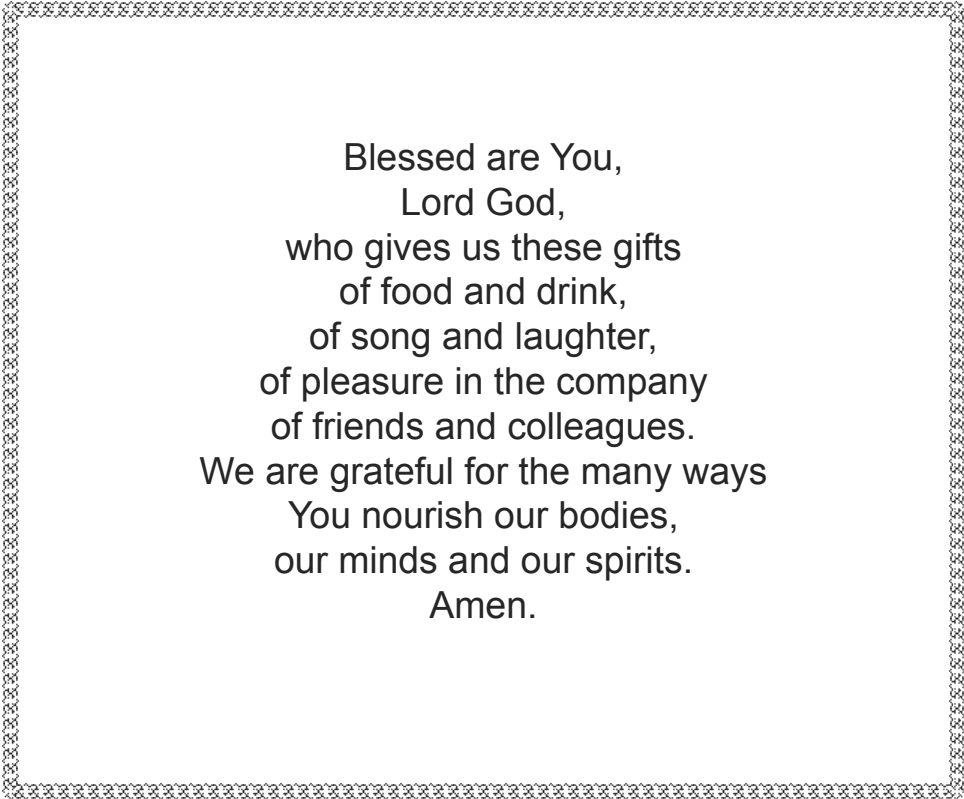
Blessed is the community of co-workers who are joyful. Their laughter and sense of humor bring a gentle light over everything. They know the wisdom of never taking themselves too seriously because they live out of a God who is greater than the whole world.

These are the women and men whose presence takes the chill off the air, warms the atmosphere, brightens the room and radiates peace and oneness. May we be such a community of co-workers

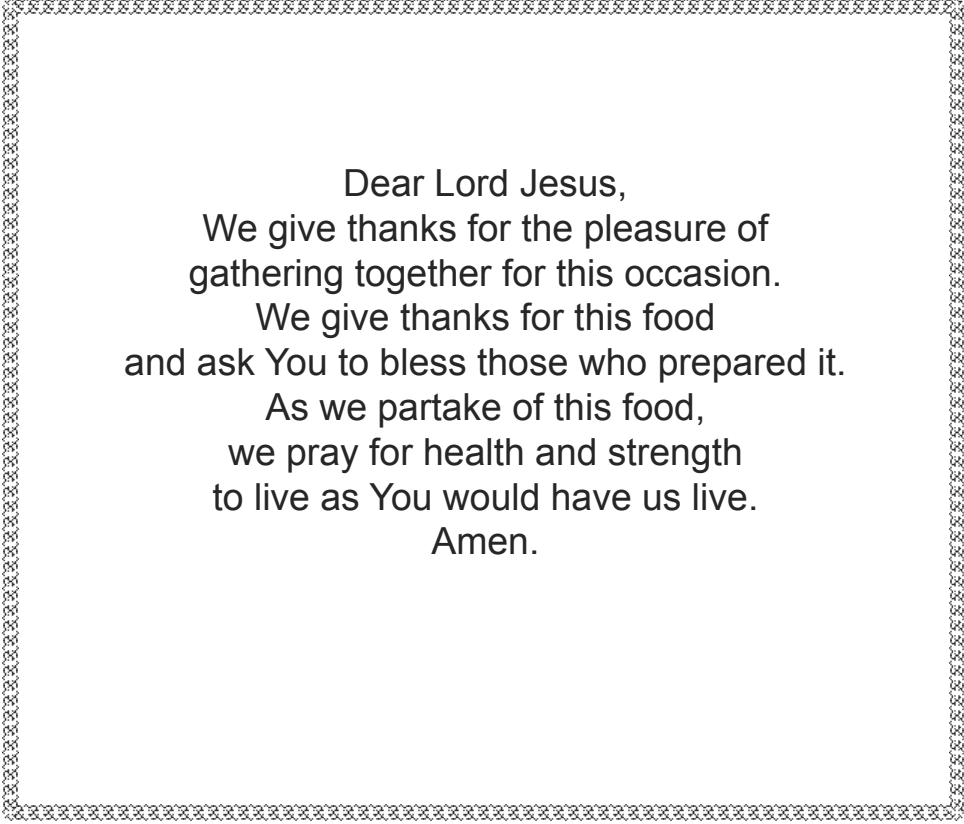


Meals





Blessed are You,
Lord God,
who gives us these gifts
of food and drink,
of song and laughter,
of pleasure in the company
of friends and colleagues.
We are grateful for the many ways
You nourish our bodies,
our minds and our spirits.
Amen.



Dear Lord Jesus,
We give thanks for the pleasure of
gathering together for this occasion.
We give thanks for this food
and ask You to bless those who prepared it.
As we partake of this food,
we pray for health and strength
to live as You would have us live.
Amen.



Psalms



Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for
His name's sake. Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the
house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
give way and the mountains fall into the heart
of the sea, though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God, the holy place where the Most
High dwells. God is within her, she will not
fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations
are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts his voice,
the earth melts. The LORD Almighty is with
us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come
and see the works of the LORD, the desola-
tions He has brought on the earth. He makes
wars cease to the ends of the earth;
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear, He
burns the shields with fire. "Be still, and know
that I am God; I will be exalted among the na-
tions, I will be exalted in the earth."

The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.



*Responsive
Readings*



All: Lord, sustain us with Your Spirit.

Leader: Give us love,

Response: that we may love all we are called to serve.

Leader: Give us joy,

Response: because Your promises are forever.

Leader: Give us peace,

Response: to quiet our minds and to free us from bitterness.

Leader: Give us patience,

Response: to be obedient to You, even when it is hard.

Leader: Give us kindness,

Response: to reach out to our neighbor and to all who need Your love.

Leader: Give us goodness,

Response: to give with a generous heart and with out ulterior motive.

Leader: Give us affection,

Response: to recognize and respect the value and dignity of every person.

Leader: Give us strength,

Response: to see our weaknesses and overcome them in Your strength.

All: Lord, sustain us with Your Spirit.

Faithful God,
You have lavished us with love.
Keep us ever mindful that
You keep Your promises.

All: Keep us mindful, Lord.

On our difficult days, help us to
remember that You are a refuge for
those who need shelter,
a comfort for those who feel empty
and poor in spirit.

All: Keep us mindful, Lord.

On our joyful days,
fill us with a deep sense of thanksgiving
as we experience Your everlasting love.

All: Keep us mindful, Lord.

Help us to share Your graciousness
with all those who need a touch
of generous love.

All: Keep us mindful, Lord.

Gracious God, thank You for these hands and
the tasks You have given them to do.
They chart, give medicines
and feed those we care for.
They push wheelchairs, give enemas
and take vital signs.
The list is endless.

All: Thank you for these hands.

Let them hold a dying hand, touch a bereaved
family member in desperate need,
Calm a frightened resident
and reach out to friends.

All: Thank you for these hands.

Teach us to lift our hands in prayer to You,
in praise for Your creation,
in sorrow for our shortcomings,
in thanksgiving for an endless list of blessings,
and in supplication for the needs of others.

All: Thank you for these hands. Amen

Lord,
You invite all who are burdened
to come to You.
Allow Your healing hand to heal us.
Touch our souls with
Your compassion for others.
Touch our hearts
with Your courage and infinite love for all.

All: Lord, we come to You.

Touch our minds with Your wisdom,
that our mouths may always
proclaim Your praise.
Teach us to reach out to You in our need,
and help us to lead others to You
by our example.

All: Lord, we come to You.

Most loving heart of Jesus,
bring us health in body and spirit
that we may serve You with all our strength.

All: Lord, we come to You.

God our Creator, You are the source of strength and hope. Bless this place where we find ourselves that it may be not only a place of sickness and suffering but also a place of healing and caring.

All: May we find You in this place, Lord.

Bless us whom You have chosen to become instruments of Your healing, that we may be humble channels of Your grace. Where there is danger, may we protect life. Where there is weakness and pain, may we provide relief and comfort. Where there is anxiety and fear, may we offer gentle reassurance through our presence. And where all human efforts fail, may we be assured that we can rest secure with You.

All: May we find You in those whom we serve, Lord.

Bless all Your workers, O Lord, with gentle and compassionate hearts, for this is how we will find the door to peoples' hearts and treasures. Bless us, so that through this experience, we may strengthen our faith in You and give a deeper perspective to our lives.

All: May we find You in ourselves, Lord.

The leader shapes an achievable, clear and compelling vision which conveys where the organization is going, where the employees are heading, and why they should be proud of the direction. Central to the vision is the organization's mission.

All: Inspire us with the vision, Lord.

An effective mission should be right for the times, right for the organization, and right for the people who are working in it. The genius of a leader in articulating that mission is to make it simple enough to evoke commitment and credible enough to be accepted as realistic and attainable.

All: Inspire us with the mission, Lord.

Mission, values and determination add soul to the organization. Without them, organizations react but do not create; they forecast, but do not imagine; they analyze, but do not question; they act, but do not strive.

All: Inspire us with the spirit, Lord.

Leader: God bless us now, in all things good and human.

All: Amen

O God, throughout the ages,
we see Your overflowing blessings and graces
for the world. You are God, loving us through
all our worries and concerns,
our hopes and dreams.

All: We place our hope in You.

You created us in Your image.
Age after age, Your gift of inspiration invites
men and women to dream new dreams,
imagine new possibilities.

All: We place our hope in You.

This day, rekindle Your inspiration in each of
us. Warm our hearts with Your gentle spirit,
as we embrace our call to leadership.

All: We place our hope in You.

In the presence of Christ among us,
help us to offer You our worries and concerns
and give witness to the blessings
with which You have graced us.

All: We place our hope in You.

We ask this through the example of Jesus
Your Son, through the love of Your Spirit
and through the wisdom that is Yours,
one God, forever and ever. Amen

All: We place our hope in You.



St. Francis Health Services' Prayer Committee

Luverne Hoffman, CEO
Dennis Lindor, VP of Devlp. & Beh. Services
Twig Webster, Director of Marketing
Leah Nelson, Director of Human Resources