

Prayer Points for Sunday Service

These prayer points for Sunday service are for pastors, worship teams, prayer teams and church members who pray before the service begins: at a Saturday night prayer meeting, in a huddle before the doors open, or on the drive to church. They cover our own hearts, the worship, the preaching of God's Word, the people in the room, and the giving and sending at the end.

A song of ascents. Of David. I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Psalms 122:1 (BSB)

Before a service, pick one or two points from each section; ten minutes is enough. Read the verse aloud, pray the short prayer, then pray by name for the preacher, the musicians and the people you expect. A prayer team can split the sections and pray in pairs around the building.

Preparing our hearts

1 Clean hands and a pure heart

Holy God, who may stand in Your holy place? Only those You have cleansed through Jesus. Before we gather, wash away the sins of this week and give us clean hands and pure hearts that come to You with nothing to hide.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear deceitfully.

Psalms 24:3-4 (BSB)

2 Drawing near to God

Lord, as we draw near to You this Sunday, draw near to us. Quiet our rushed and scattered hearts on the way in, and let us come expecting to meet You, not just to attend a service.

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8 (BSB)

3 An undivided heart

Teach us Your way, O LORD, and give us undivided hearts this morning. Keep our minds from wandering to phones, schedules and worries, so that we can worship and listen with all our attention.

Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth. Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name.

Psalms 86:11 (BSB)

Worship

4 Worship in spirit and in truth

Father, You are seeking true worshipers. Let our worship today be in spirit and in truth: not a performance and not empty words, but honest hearts singing true things about You.

But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him. God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

John 4:23-24 (BSB)

5 Songs full of joy and thanks

Lord, Rock of our salvation, as we enter Your presence with thanksgiving, fill us with joy that sings out. Bless the musicians, singers and sound team; keep them focused on You, and lift the voices of the whole church in praise.

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout to the Rock of our salvation! Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him in song.

Psalms 95:1-2 (BSB)

6 All the glory to God

Our Lord and God, You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things. Let everything in this service point to You, and keep every one of us from seeking glory for ourselves.

"Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things; by Your will they exist and were created."

Revelation 4:11 (BSB)

The preaching of the Word

7 An open door and a clear message

Lord, open a door for Your word this Sunday. Help our pastor proclaim the mystery of Christ clearly, as it should be proclaimed, with a rested mind, a ready heart and a steady voice.

as you pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may declare it clearly, as I should.

Colossians 4:3-4 (BSB)

8 Jesus at the center

Lord Jesus, let the sermon proclaim You as Lord, not the preacher and not our church. Keep the message centered on Your cross and resurrection, and humble every servant who speaks in Your name.

For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:5 (BSB)

9 Hearts like good soil

Father, make our hearts good soil this morning. Let us hear Your word, cling to it and, by persevering, produce a crop, long after the service ends and the parking lot empties.

But the seeds on good soil are those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, cling to it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:15 (BSB)

10 Doers of the word

God, keep us from hearing a good sermon and walking away unchanged. Make us doers of the word and not hearers only, and show each of us one thing to obey this week.

Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.

James 1:22 (BSB)

The people in the room

11 Open hearts for our guests

Lord, as You opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message, open the hearts of the guests who come today. Help them feel welcome, hear the gospel plainly and meet Jesus.

Among those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

Acts 16:14 (BSB)

12 A warm welcome for everyone

Lord Jesus, You accepted us. Help us accept one another and every newcomer the same way: noticing the person sitting alone, learning names and making room, so that our welcome brings glory to God.

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring glory to God.

Romans 15:7 (BSB)

13 Children and their teachers

Lord Jesus, You said, "Let the little children come to Me." Bless our nursery and children's classes today. Keep every child safe, give the teachers patience and joy, and let each child learn that You love them.

But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and told them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Mark 10:14 (BSB)

14 The brokenhearted among us

LORD, You are near to the brokenhearted. Someone will walk in today carrying grief, fear or hidden shame. Meet them in this service, save those who are contrite in spirit, and let them leave knowing You are near.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted; He saves the contrite in spirit.

Psalms 34:18 (BSB)

15 Volunteers who serve

Father, bless everyone serving this morning: greeters, parking team, tech, coffee and kids' teachers. Keep them steadfast when the work goes unseen, and remind them that their labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (BSB)

Giving and going out

16 Cheerful givers

God, everything we have comes from You. As we give our offering today, free us from regret and pressure, and make us cheerful givers who trust You to provide.

Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (BSB)

17 Safety for all who gather

LORD, watch over our coming and going today, in the parking lot, in the building and on the roads home. Keep everyone who gathers safe, and give wisdom to those who look after our security.

The LORD will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore.

Psalms 121:8 (BSB)

18 Light for the week ahead

Father, when the service ends, send us out. Let our light shine at work, at school and at home this week, so that people see our good deeds and glorify You.

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 (BSB)

Equipped to do Your will

God of peace, who brought our Lord Jesus back from the dead, equip us with every good thing to do Your will this week, and work in us what is pleasing in Your sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever.

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with every good thing to do His will. And may He accomplish in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (BSB)

A closing prayer

Lord, thank You for this day set apart to worship You together. Meet us in every song, speak to us through Your Word, and draw the weary and the searching to Jesus. Keep us safe, make us one, and when the service ends, send us out to love our neighbors and serve You all week long. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.