



Prayers for the working day

I arise today
Through a mighty strength:
God's power to guide me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's eyes to watch over me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to give me speech,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to shelter me,
God's host to secure me.

[Bridgid of Gael c.451-525]

Lord God, bless the labour of our hands,
whether in the office or in the kitchen;
on the farm or in the garden;
on the hospital ward or with an unwell friend;
in the school or the world of business;
on the phone or on the computer;
when holding our children or our grandchildren.
May all we do this day be done to your glory.
So, Lord, bless the labour of our hands.

[Brian Hudson (adapted)]
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God, you have set before us a great hope that your kingdom will come on earth, and have taught us to pray for its coming; make us ever ready to thank you for the signs of its dawning, and to pray and work for the perfect day when your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

[Traditional]

O Christ, the Master Carpenter, who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand. We ask it for your own name's sake. Amen

[Traditional]

Listen to the exhortation of the dawn:
Look well to this day! For it is life;
The very life of life.
In its brief course lie all the verities
And the realities of your existence;
The bliss of growth
The glory of action
The splendour of beauty:
For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is just a vision;
But today well lived
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to this day!
Such is the salutation of the dawn.

[From the Sanscrit]

Lord, teach me to find space
even in the hubbub and turmoil of daily life,
to discover moments of tranquillity
in the most unlikely places.
Help me to transform
the frustration of the traffic queue,
standing at the checkout
and waiting for my turn in the doctor's surgery
into an oasis of stillness within
as I allow Christ
to be all things
and in all places
to me. Amen

[David Clowes – from *500 more prayers for Special Occasions* (2008) Kingsway]

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A Psalm of work

- 1 I enjoy my work, for you have given it to me:
you are a God who works, and I work with your
blessing.
- 2 You are there when I go to work in the morning:
I meet you in my friends as we greet one another;
- 3 as we prepare for the day, you speak to me
through others: you are in new ideas and the
training we share.
- 4 My concentration reflects your loving care:
your creative power inspires my thoughts and
actions.
- 5 When I help another it is you that I meet;
as I serve a customer, I am serving you;
- 6 when I am called to give account to my superiors:
it is your judgment I face and you will judge in
fairness.
- 7 If others treat me harshly, I am only your servant:
Jesus was also the servant of others;
- 8 his work was to make your love visible:
in my successes I too am completing your work of
creation.
- 9 Long ago monks were told that to work is to pray:
help me see my task today as part of your
purpose.
- 10 My achievements I offer to you;
exhausted I give you my life.

[John Hammersley]

Come, God of the city, into my city
Put up a sign – 'Danger – God at work'
Build places of welcome – places to play – riotous
sound and colour
Build homes for celebration with friend and stranger
Build places of worship – places to pray, spaces to
listen and rest in quietness
Illuminate with your energy
Add your wine to my parties
Bring generosity to my economy
And offer hospitality through my openness

[Janet Corlett]

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Creator God, you have called us to do your will in
the world, in the name of Jesus.

You have called us to be
shop assistants and social workers
truckers and teachers
carpenters and chemists
engineers and evangelists
labourers and lawyers
and much else besides.

We pray with all people in their daily life and work:
enjoying fulfilment in a purposeful job or challenging
vocation,
staring at the uncertainty of redundancy or dismissal,
holding immense responsibility and facing testing
decisions,
feeling exploited by injustice in trade,
caring for others, unpaid and unsung.

And we pray with people for whom time passes
slowly:
seeking employment, frustrated by repeated refusals,
unable to work through illness and incapacity,
retired, now wondering where they are still wanted,
finding their work a drudge, dreading each new day,
still listening for God's call.

Enabling God,
we commit to you the insights of our minds,
the labour of our hands,
and the love of our hearts,
as we share in daily community life
and shape the future of your created world.

Amen

[John Bell]

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