

The Dismas Prayer

Dear God,

In your mercy remember me and forgive me for the wrongs I've done.

Set me free of my deep fear and resentments.

Melt the hard places of my heart, and

Allow me the grace to

Surrender this day to your loving care. Amen

The Dismas Fellowship Values

1. We welcome and celebrate one another, regardless of religious or criminal convictions, knowing that we are all “offenders”.
2. We encourage everyone to give of themselves in some way – cooking meals, setting and cleaning up, sharing our truth or reaching out to others.
3. We are committed to paying our way by sharing the costs of food and accommodation.
4. In the Circle everyone is given the opportunity to speak or to pass.
5. We will treat each other's story with confidentiality and love. Each story is sacred.
6. We are committed to being a safe and responsible fellowship with accountability to the church where our meetings are held.
7. We are committed to ministering to each other as if they were Christ.

The Dismas Fellowship Vision

To provide a safe and welcoming place where ex-prisoners and friends can experience Christian community.

The Story of St. Dismas

St. Dismas, also known as the Good Thief, is the apocryphal name given to one of the two thieves (Matthew 27:38) who was crucified alongside Jesus, repented of his sins, and asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom. According to the Gospel of Luke 23:39-43 the story of Dismas and Jesus is told as follows:

“Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.” The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, “Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

1. Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fear relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secure.
He will my share and portion be
as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we've first begun.

John Newton Traditional American Melody

2. Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fear relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Chorus:
My chains are gone, I am set free.
My God my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns;
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secure.
He will my share and portion be
As long as life endures.

Chorus:

The earth will soon dissolve like snow;
The sun forbear to shine
But God Who called me here below
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine,
You are forever mine.

Chorus:

3. As the Deer

As the deer panteth for the water,
so my soul longeth after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

Chorus:

You alone are my strength and shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.

Chorus:

You're my friend and You are my brother
even though you are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

4. Because He Lives

God sent His Son; they called Him Jesus.
He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon;
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.

Chorus:
Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone.
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives,
But greater still the calm assurance;
this child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Chorus:
And then one day I'll cross the river.
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

Chorus:

5. (Bless the Lord) 10,000 Reasons

Chorus:

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus:

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus:

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Chorus:

6. Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your Name in-the-land that is plentiful
Where-Your-streams of abundance flow; blessed be Your Name.

And blessed be Your name when-I'm-found in the desert place
Though-I-walk through the wilderness; blessed be Your Name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
And when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say....

Chorus:

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name.

Blessed be Your name when-the-sun's shining down on me,
When-the-world's "All as it should be"; blessed be Your name.

And blessed be Your name on-the-road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering; blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
And when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say....

Chorus:

You give and take away, You give and take away,
My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be Your name.

Chorus:

7. Blowin' In the Wind

How many roads must a man walk down,
Before you can call him a man?
Yes, 'n how many seas must a white dove sail,
Before she sleeps in the sand?
Yes, 'n how many times must the cannon balls fly,
Before they're forever banned?

Chorus:
The answer my friend blowin' in the wind.
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

How many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
Yes, 'n how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes, 'n how many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died?

Chorus:

How many times must a mountain exist
before it is washed to the sea?
Yes, 'n how many years can some people exist
before they're allowed to be free?
Yes, 'n how many times can a man turn his head
and pretend that he just doesn't see?

Chorus:

8. Forever

Give thanks to the Lord, our God & King;
His love endures forever.
For He is good, He is above all things;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise.

His mighty hand & outstretched arm;
His love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise.

Chorus:
Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us, forever.

From the rising to the setting sun;
His love endures forever.
By the grace of God we will carry on;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise.

Chorus:

9. Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son. x2

Chorus:

And now let the weak say "I am strong!"
Let the poor say "I am rich because
of what the Lord has done for us!" x2

Henry Smith c1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

10. He's Got the Whole World

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the big round world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He's got the sun and the moon in His hands,
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,
He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got everybody here in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

Anonymous

11. How Great Thou Art

O, Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, my saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Chorus:

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die - I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Chorus:

When Christ shall come with sudden acclamation,
to take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

Chorus:

12. Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong

Chorus:

Yes Jesus loves me,
yes Jesus loves me,
yes Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way;
Wanting as a friend to give
light and life to all who live.

Chorus:

13. Lean On Me

Sometimes in our lives, we all have pain,
we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise we know that there's,
always tomorrow.

Chorus:

Lean on me, when you're not strong and I'll be your friend.
I'll help you carry on.
For it won't be long, 'til I'm gonna need,
somebody to lean on.

Please swallow your pride, if I have things
you need to borrow.
For no one can fill, those of your needs
That you don't let show'.

Chorus:

If there is a load, you have to bear.
that you can't carry.
I'm right up the road, I'll share your load,
If you just call me.

So just call on me brother, when you need a hand,
we all need somebody to lean on.
I just might have a problem that you'd understand,
we all need somebody to lean on.

Chorus:

14. Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift Your Name on high.
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life.
I'm so glad You came to save us.

Chorus:

You came from heaven to earth to show the way.
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord I lift Your name on high.

15. Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall, on the first grass.
Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet garden,
Sprung in complete-ness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
born of the one light, Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

Words: Elenor Farjeon (1881-1965) Arranged: Cat Stevens

16. Not For A Moment (After All)

You were reaching through the storm
Walking on the water
Even when I could not see
In the middle of it all
When I thought You were a thousand miles away
Not for a moment did You forsake me
Not for a moment did You forsake me

Chorus:
After all You are constant
After all You are only good
After all You are sov'reign
Not for a moment will You forsake me

You were singing in the dark
Whispering Your promise
Even when I could not hear
I was held in Your arms
Carried for a thousand miles to show
Not for a moment did You forsake me
Not for a moment did You forsake me

Chorus:

And ev'ry step ev'ry breath You are there
Ev'ry tear ev'ry cry ev'ry prayer
In my hurt at my worst when my world falls down
Not for a moment will You forsake me
Even in the dark, even when it's hard
You will never leave me

Chorus:

17. Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

You call me out upon the waters,
the great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery,
in oceans deep my faith will stand

Chorus:

And I will call upon Your name,
and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace.
For I am Yours and You are mine.

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,
Your sovereign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now.

Chorus:

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander,
and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Saviour (Repeat)

Chorus:

18. On the Wings of a Dove

Chorus:

On the wings of a snow white dove,
He sends His pure sweet love;
A sign from above
On the wings of a dove.

When troubles surround us; when evils come,
the body grows weak, the spirit grows numb.
When these things beset us God doesn't forget us.
He sends down his love on the wings of a dove.

Chorus:

When Noah had drifted on the flood many days,
he searched for land in various ways.
Now troubles he had some but wasn't forgotten.
He sent him his love on the wings of a dove.

Chorus:

When Jesus went down to the waters that day,
He was baptized in the usual way.
When it was done, God blessed His Son,
He sent him His love on the wings of a dove.

Chorus:

Michael Barson, Mark Beford, Chris Formean, Graham McPherson, Carl Smyth, Lee Thompson, Daniel Woodgate © Warner/Chappell Music, Inc. For non-commercial use only.

19. Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You, I want to see You.

Chorus:
To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing, holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
I want to see You.

Paul Baloche c1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP

20. Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of Your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring Your love;
where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt true faith in You.

Chorus:

O master, grant that i will never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
where there is darkness - only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Chorus:

Make me a channel of Your peace,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
in giving to all men that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Chorus:

21. Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God,
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Chorus:
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Allelu, Alleluia!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word,
that proceeds from the mouth of God,
Allelu, allelu...ia!

Chorus:

Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find;
Knock and it shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, allelu...ia!

Chorus:

22. This Is the Day

This is the day, this is the day,
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day,
That the Lord has made.

Open to us, open to us,
The gates of God, the gates of God.
We will go in, we will go in,
And praise the Lord, and praise the Lord.
Open to us the gates of God,
We will go in and praise the Lord,
Open to us, open to us,
The gates of God.

You are our God, You are our God,
We will praise Your name, we will praise Your name.
We will give thanks, we will give thanks,
For Your faithfulness, for Your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise Your name,
We will give thanks for Your faithfulness.
You are our God, You are our God,
We will praise Your name.

23. This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

I took Jesus for my Saviour, you take Him too.
I took Jesus for my Saviour, you take Him too.
I took Jesus for my Saviour, you take Him too.
Let your little light shine.

24. We Are Marching In The Light Of God

We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, ohhhh,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, ohhhh,
We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the love of God.....

We are moving in the power of God.....

25. What A Friend We Have In Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.
O, what peace we often forfeit, O, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations; is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden; cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus only is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take & shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Charles Converse

26. When The Saints Go Marching In

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in.
Lord, I want to be in that number,
when the saints go marching in.

O, when the trumpets sound their call

O, when the sun begins to shine

O, when the new world is revealed

O, when they crown Him Lord of all

O when they sing the Saviour's praise

Christmas Songs

1. Huron Carol ('Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime)

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim
And wondering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark, the tender babe was found.
A ragged rope of rabbit skin, enwrapped His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves grew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime, is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before Him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria. In excelsis gloria.

2. Joy To The World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ.
While fields and flood, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth & grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

George Frederick Handel

3. Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way.
Bells on bob-tails ring, making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight, oh...

Chorus:

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride on a one horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride on a one horse open sleigh.

A day or two ago, I thought I'd take a ride
And soon Miss Fanny Bright was seated at my side.
The horse was lean & lank, misfortune seemed his lot.
He got into a drifted bank and we, we got upsot, oh...

Chorus:

Rev. James Pierpoint c1857

4. O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.

Chorus:

O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the lord.

God of God light of light
Lo He abhors not the virgin's womb
Very God begotten not created.

Chorus:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God, in the highest.

Chorus:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

5. Silent Night

Silent night! Ho..ly night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Ho..ly night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Ho..ly night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Franz Xavier Gruber

6. The Twelve Days of
Christmas

On the first day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
A Partridge in a Pear
Tree

On the second day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the third day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the fourth day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves

and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the fifth day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the sixth day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the seventh day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens

2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the eighth day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the ninth day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the tenth day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:

10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the eleventh day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:

11 Pipers Piping
10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the twelfth day of
Christmas
my true love sent to
me:

12 Drummers
Drumming
11 Pipers Piping
10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree