

PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

The 15 Prayers of St Bridget (the Fifteen Oes)

Attributed to St Bridget of Sweden (c. 1303–1373)

Fifteen meditations on the Passion, prayed in the Middle Ages with an Our Father and a Hail Mary

LATIN

I. Domine Iesu Christe, aeterna dulcedo te amantium, iubilus excedens omne gaudium et omne desiderium, salus et amator omnium vere paenitentium peccatorum, qui delicias tuas attestatus es esse cum filiis hominum, propter hominem homo factus es in fine temporum: memento omnis praemeditationis et intimi maeroris quem in humano corpore sustinuisti, instante saluberrimae passionis tuae tempore, in divino corde ab aeterno praeordinata. Memento tristitiae et amaritudinis quas in animo, teipso attestante, habuisti, quando in ultima cena discipulis tuis corpus et sanguinem tuum tradidisti, pedes eorum lavisti, ac dulciter eos consolando imminentem passionem tuam praedixisti. Memento omnis tremoris, angustiae et doloris quos in tuo delicato corpore ante passionem crucis tuae pertulisti, quando post trinam orationem et sanguineum sudorem a tuo discipulo tradebaris, ab electa gente capiebaris, a

ENGLISH

I. O Lord Jesus Christ, eternal sweetness of those who love thee, joy surpassing all gladness and all desire, salvation and lover of all truly penitent sinners, who didst declare that thy delight was to be with the children of men, and for man's sake wast made man in the last of times: remember all the foreknowledge and the inward sorrow that thou didst endure in thy human body as the time of thy most saving Passion drew near, foreordained from eternity in thy divine Heart. Remember the sadness and bitterness which, as thou thyself didst testify, thou hadst in thy soul when at the Last Supper thou gavest thy disciples thy Body and Blood, didst wash their feet and, sweetly comforting them, didst foretell thy coming Passion. Remember all the trembling, anguish and pain that thou didst bear in thy delicate body before the Passion of the Cross, when, after thy threefold prayer and thy sweat of blood, thou wast betrayed by thy disciple, seized by the

falsis testibus accusabaris, a tribus iudicibus iniuste iudicabaris, in electa civitate, in paschali tempore, in florida corporis tui iuventute innocenter condemnabaris, veste propria exuebaris et veste aliena induebaris, colaphizabaris, oculis et facie velabaris, alapis caedebaris, ad columnam ligabaris et flagellabaris, spinis coronabaris, arundine in capite feriebaris, et innumerabilibus aliis calumniis lacerabaris. Da mihi, quaeso, ob memoriam harum ante crucem tuam passionum, veram ante mortem meam contritionem, puram confessionem, dignam satisfactionem et omnium peccatorum meorum remissionem. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

chosen people, accused by false witnesses, unjustly judged by three judges and condemned though innocent in the chosen city, at the Paschal time, in the flower of thy youth; stripped of thine own garments and clothed in another's, struck with fists, thine eyes and face veiled, buffeted, bound to the pillar and scourged, crowned with thorns, struck on the head with a reed, and torn by countless other outrages. Grant me, I beseech thee, in memory of these sufferings before thy Cross, true contrition before my death, a pure confession, worthy satisfaction and the remission of all my sins. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

II. O Iesu, vera libertas angelorum, paradisus deliciarum, memento terroris et horroris quos sustinebas quando inimici tui, quasi leones ferocissimi, te circumstiterunt, et colaphizationibus, conspuitionibus, ungulationibus ceterisque inauditis poenis te molestaverunt. Et per omnia verba contumeliosa, dira verbera durissimaque tormenta, Domine Iesu Christe, et per poenas quibus te omnes inimici tui afflixerunt, deprecor te ut liberes me ab omnibus inimicis meis visibilibus et invisibilibus, et dones me sub umbra alarum tuarum protectionem salutis aeternae invenire. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

II. O Jesus, true freedom of the angels, paradise of delights, remember the terror and horror thou didst endure when thine enemies, like most savage lions, surrounded thee and tormented thee with blows, spitting, scratching and other unheard-of pains. By all the insulting words, the cruel stripes and the most grievous torments, O Lord Jesus Christ, and by all the pains with which thine enemies afflicted thee, I beseech thee to deliver me from all my enemies, visible and invisible, and to grant me to find, under the shadow of thy wings, the protection of eternal salvation. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

III. O Iesu, mundi fabricator, quem nulla dimensio vera in termino metitur, qui terram palmo concludis: recordare amarissimi doloris tui quem sustinebas, cum suavissimas manus tuas ad crucem Iudaei obtusis clavibus primo crudelissime affixerunt, et perforando delicatissimos et sacratissimos pedes tuos, cum

III. O Jesus, maker of the world, whom no true measure can bound, who holdest the earth in the hollow of thy hand: remember the most bitter pain thou didst suffer when the Jews first nailed thy most gentle hands to the Cross with blunt nails and, piercing thy most delicate and sacred feet, since thou didst not fit their will,

non esses conveniens voluntati eorum, dolorem super dolorem addiderunt vulneribus tuis, et ita te crudeliter detraxerunt et extenderunt in longum et latum crucis tuae, ut dissolverentur compagines membrorum tuorum. Deprecor te per huius sacratissimi et amarissimi in cruce doloris memoriam, ut des mihi timorem et amorem tuum.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

added pain upon pain to thy wounds, and so cruelly dragged and stretched thee to the length and breadth of thy Cross that the joints of thy limbs were loosed. I beseech thee, by the memory of this most sacred and most bitter pain upon the Cross, to give me thy fear and thy love.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

IV. O Iesu, caelestis medice, recordare languoris, livoris et doloris quos in alto crucis patibulo levatus passus es in omnibus dilaceratis membris tuis, quorum nullum in suo statu recte permanserat, ita ut nullus dolor similis tuo dolori inveniretur, quia a planta pedis usque ad verticem capitis non fuit in te sanitas; tunc, quasi omnium dolorum immemor, Patrem pro inimicis exorasti dicens: Pater, ignosce illis, quia nesciunt quid faciunt. Per hanc misericordiam, et ob memoriam illius doloris, concede ut haec memoria passionis tuae amarissimae sit omnium peccatorum meorum plena remissio. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

IV. O Jesus, heavenly physician, remember the faintness, the bruises and the pain thou didst suffer, raised on the high gibbet of the Cross, in all thy torn limbs, none of which had kept its right place, so that no sorrow was found like unto thy sorrow, for from the sole of the foot to the top of the head there was no soundness in thee; and then, as though forgetful of all thy pains, thou didst pray to the Father for thine enemies, saying: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. By this mercy, and in memory of that pain, grant that this remembrance of thy most bitter Passion may be the full remission of all my sins. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

V. O Iesu, speculum claritatis divinae, memento terroris et maeroris quos habuisti quando nudus et miserabilis in cruce pependisti, et omnes amici et noti tui adversum te steterunt, et nullum consolantem inveniebas, sed solummodo dilectam genitricem tuam in amaritudine animae tibi fidelissime astantem, quam dilecto discipulo tuo commendasti dicens: Mulier, ecce filius tuus; et ad discipulum tuum: Ecce mater tua. Rogo te, pie Iesu, per gladium doloris qui tunc eius animam pertransivit, ut compatiaris mihi in omnibus tribulationibus et afflictionibus meis corporalibus et spiritualibus, et da mihi

V. O Jesus, mirror of the divine brightness, remember the dread and sorrow thou hadst when thou didst hang naked and wretched upon the Cross, and all thy friends and acquaintance stood against thee, and thou didst find none to comfort thee but only thy beloved Mother, standing by thee most faithfully in bitterness of soul, whom thou didst commend to thy beloved disciple, saying: Woman, behold thy son; and to the disciple: Behold thy mother. I beseech thee, O loving Jesus, by the sword of sorrow that then pierced her soul, to have compassion on me in all my tribulations and afflictions of body and soul,

consolationem in omni tribulationis tempore. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

and to give me comfort in every time of trouble. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

VI. O Iesu, Rex amabilis et amice totus desiderabilis, memento illius maeroris quem habuisti quando in speculo serenissimae maiestatis tuae conspexisti praedestinationem electorum tuorum per merita tuae passionis salvandorum, et reprobationem malorum in multitudine damnandorum; et per abyssum miserationis tuae, qua nobis perditis et desperatis peccatoribus tunc condoluisti, et praecipue quando latroni in cruce exhibuisti dicens: Hodie mecum eris in paradiso: rogo te, pie Iesu, ut facias mecum misericordiam tuam in hora mortis meae. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

VI. O Jesus, lovable King and Friend wholly to be desired, remember the sorrow thou hadst when, in the mirror of thy most serene majesty, thou didst behold the predestination of thine elect, to be saved through the merits of thy Passion, and the reprobation of the wicked, to be lost in great numbers; and by the abyss of thy compassion, with which thou didst then pity us lost and despairing sinners, and above all when thou didst show it to the thief upon the Cross, saying: This day thou shalt be with me in paradise, I beseech thee, O loving Jesus, to deal mercifully with me in the hour of my death. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

VII. O Iesu, fons inexhaustae pietatis, qui ex intimo dilectionis affectu in cruce dixisti: Sitio, scilicet salutem humani generis: accende, quaesumus, nostrum desiderium ad omne opus perfectum, et sitim carnalis concupiscentiae et aestum mundanae delectationis in nobis penitus refrigera et exstingue. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

VII. O Jesus, unfailing fountain of loving-kindness, who out of the inmost affection of thy love didst say upon the Cross: I thirst, that is, for the salvation of mankind: kindle, we beseech thee, our desire for every perfect work, and wholly cool and quench in us the thirst of fleshly lust and the heat of worldly pleasure. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

VIII. O Iesu, dulcedo cordium ingensque sanitas mentium, per amaritudinem aceti et fellis quam pro nobis sustinuisti et degustasti in hora mortis tuae, concede nobis corpus et sanguinem tuum digne percipere ad remedium et consolationem animarum nostrarum. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

VIII. O Jesus, sweetness of hearts and great health of souls, by the bitterness of the vinegar and gall which thou didst endure and taste for us in the hour of thy death, grant us worthily to receive thy Body and Blood for the healing and comfort of our souls. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

IX. O Iesu, regalis virtus iubilusque mentalis, memento doloris et angustiae quam passus es, quando prae mortis amaritudine et Iudaeorum insultatione cum magna voce te a Deo Patre derelictum clamasti dicens: Deus meus, Deus meus, ut quid dereliquisti me? Per hanc angustiam peto te ut in angustiis mortis nostrae ne derelinquas nos, Deus noster. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

IX. O Jesus, royal strength and joy of the soul, remember the pain and anguish thou didst suffer when, in the bitterness of death and amid the insults of the Jews, thou didst cry with a loud voice that thou wast forsaken by God the Father, saying: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? By this anguish I beg thee not to forsake us in the anguish of our death, O our God. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

X. O Iesu, alpha et omega, vita et virtus, in omni tempore recordare quod a summo capitis usque ad plantam pedis te pro nobis in aqua passionis demersisti: propter latitudinem et magnitudinem vulnerum tuorum, doce me per veram caritatem custodire latum mandatum tuum nimis, in peccatis demersum. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

X. O Jesus, Alpha and Omega, life and strength, remember at all times that from the crown of thy head to the sole of thy foot thou didst plunge thyself for us into the waters of the Passion: by the breadth and greatness of thy wounds, teach me, sunk as I am in sins, to keep by true charity thy commandment, which is exceeding broad. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

XI. O Iesu, abyssus profundissimae misericordiae, rogo te propter profunditatem vulnerum tuorum, quae transierunt carnem tuam et medullam ossium ac viscerum tuorum, ut me submersum in peccatis emergas, et abscondas in foraminibus vulnerum tuorum a facie irae tuae, Domine, donec pertranseat furor tuus. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

XI. O Jesus, deepest abyss of mercy, I beseech thee, by the depth of thy wounds, which went through thy flesh to the marrow of thy bones and thine inmost parts, to draw me up, drowned as I am in sins, and to hide me in the clefts of thy wounds from the face of thy wrath, O Lord, until thy fury pass. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

XII. O Iesu, veritatis speculum, unitatis signum et caritatis vinculum, memento innumerabilium vulnerum tuorum, quibus a summo capitis usque ad imum pedis vulneratus fuisti et ab iniquis Iudaeis laceratus fuisti, et sanctissimo sanguine tuo rubricatus: quam magnitudinem doloris in virginea carne tua pertulisti pro nobis! Pie Iesu, quid ultra facere debuisti, quod non fecisti? Scribe, quaeso, pie Iesu, omnia vulnera tua in corde

XII. O Jesus, mirror of truth, sign of unity and bond of charity, remember the countless wounds with which thou wast wounded from the crown of thy head to the sole of thy foot, torn by the wicked Jews and reddened with thy most holy Blood: how great a sorrow thou didst bear for us in thy virginal flesh! O loving Jesus, what more oughtest thou to have done that thou hast not done? Write, I beseech thee, O loving Jesus, all thy wounds upon my heart

meo pretiosissimo sanguine tuo, ut in illis legam dolorem et amorem tuum, ut in gratiarum actione usque in finem vitae meae iugiter perseverem. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

with thy most precious Blood, that in them I may read thy sorrow and thy love, and may persevere continually in thanksgiving to the end of my life. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

XIII. O Iesu, leo fortissime, rex immortalis et invictissime, memento doloris quem passus es, cum omnes vires cordis et corporis tui penitus defecerunt, et inclinato capite: Consummatum est, dixisti. Per hanc angustiam et dolorem miserere mei, cum anima mea in ultima consummatione exitus spiritus mei anxiata fuerit et conturbata. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

XIII. O Jesus, most mighty lion, immortal and invincible King, remember the pain thou didst suffer when all the strength of thy heart and body utterly failed, and bowing thy head thou didst say: It is consummated. By this anguish and pain, have mercy on me when my soul, at the last hour, as my spirit goes forth, shall be in anguish and distress. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

XIV. O Iesu, unigenite altissimi Patris, splendor et figura substantiae eius, memento illius obnixae commendationis qua Patri spiritum commendasti dicens: Pater, in manus tuas commendo spiritum meum. Et lacerato corpore ruptoque corde, cum valido clamore, patefactis visceribus misericordiae tuae pro nobis redimendis, exspirasti: per hanc pretiosam mortem tuam deprecor te, Rex sanctorum, conforta me ad resistendum diabolo, mundo et carni, ut mortuus tibi vivam; et in novissima hora exitus mei suscipe ad te revertentem spiritum meum exsulem et peregrinum. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria.

XIV. O Jesus, only-begotten Son of the most high Father, brightness and figure of his substance, remember that earnest commendation with which thou didst commend thy spirit to the Father, saying: Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit; and with thy body torn and thy heart broken, with a loud cry, opening the bowels of thy mercy to redeem us, thou didst give up the ghost. By this precious death I beseech thee, King of Saints, strengthen me to resist the devil, the world and the flesh, that being dead I may live to thee; and at the last hour of my going forth receive my spirit, an exile and a pilgrim, returning to thee. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary.

XV. O Iesu, vitis vera et fecunda, memento supereffluentis et abundantis effusionis sanguinis tui, quem tu, sicut de botro expresso, copiose effudisti, quando in cruce torcular solus calcasti, et ex lancea militari percusso latere nobis sanguinem et aquam propinasti, ita ut pauca vel minima gutta in te remaneret; et

XV. O Jesus, true and fruitful Vine, remember the overflowing and abundant outpouring of thy Blood, which thou didst shed so plentifully, as from a pressed cluster of grapes, when on the Cross thou didst tread the winepress alone, and, thy side being pierced by the soldier's lance, didst give us blood and

demum, quasi myrrhae fasciculus, in altum suspensus fuisti, et delicata caro tua evanuit, et liquor viscerum tuorum exaruit, medulla ossium tuorum emarcuit. Per hanc amarissimam passionem tuam et pretiosi sanguinis tui effusionem, o dulcis Iesu, vulnera cor meum, ut paenitentiae et amoris lacrimae sint mihi panes die ac nocte; et converte me totaliter ad te, ut cor meum tibi sit perpetuo habitabile, et conversatio mea tibi placita sit et accepta semper, ac finis vitae meae ita laudabilis, ut post huius vitae terminum te merear laudare cum omnibus sanctis tuis in aeternum. Amen.
Pater noster. Ave Maria. Credo.

water to drink, so that little or nothing remained in thee; and at last, like a bundle of myrrh, thou wast hung on high, and thy delicate flesh wasted away, the moisture of thy body dried up and the marrow of thy bones withered. By this most bitter Passion and the outpouring of thy precious Blood, O sweet Jesus, wound my heart, that tears of penance and love may be my bread day and night; and turn me wholly to thee, that my heart may be thy dwelling for ever, that my conversation may be pleasing and acceptable to thee always, and that the end of my life may be so praiseworthy that after this life is ended I may deserve to praise thee with all thy Saints for ever. Amen.
Our Father. Hail Mary. I believe in God.

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