

DAILY PRAYER

from the Methodist Worship Book

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Acknowledgements

Every effort has been made to ensure that the following list of acknowledgements is as comprehensive as possible, but the experience of those involved in the preparation of **The Methodist Worship Book** is similar to that of the compilers of the **Book of Common Order** of the Church of Scotland, who state:

Many sources have contributed to the compilation of this book, and not all of them are now traceable. Individual members of the Committee prepared drafts, which were revised more or less drastically by the Committee, often resulting in final versions which looked little like the original drafts. Among the casualties of this sometimes protracted process was the identity of many of the sources; they could not be recalled, nor did there seem to be any way to track them down. The Panel wishes to record at once both its indebtedness to any who may recognise in this book rhythms and patterns, expressions and phrases, ideas and images which are their own, and its regret that it became impossible to ask permission or seek consent for their inclusion...

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After the initial publication of the *Methodist Worship Book* it was discovered that the texts of *Benedictus* (page 11) and *Te Deum Laudamus* (pages 12-13) as approved by the Conference differ from the ELLC text in the following respects: line 20 of *Benedictus* should read 'on high' not 'heaven' and line 35 of *Te Deum Laudamus* should read 'we have put' not 'we put'. These errors are regretted but the text as approved by the Conference and printed in the previous edition(s) has been left uncorrected.

DAILY PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

From the time of the early Church, many Christians have followed the practice of offering daily prayer and praise to God, often at specified hours. In so doing we express the praise which is God's due from all creation and are united in worship with all God's people on earth and in heaven. In the Christian tradition daily prayer has taken many forms. In **The Book of Common Prayer**, the first version of which appeared in 1549, five of the eight daily acts of prayer, used in monasteries, were simplified and reduced to two, Morning and Evening Prayer.

Prayer in the Morning and ***Prayer in the Evening*** may be used for daily personal or corporate devotion but are not intended as the basis for public worship on Sundays. Hymns, prayers, psalms and scripture readings are suggested in the services, but ***Prayer in the Morning*** and ***Prayer in the Evening*** may be used in conjunction with other Bible reading schemes and devotional resources. Some may find objects such as a cross or candles helpful when saying Daily Prayer.

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Advent

Then will the glory of the Lord be revealed
and all will see it together.

Wait for the Lord; be strong and brave
and put your hope in the Lord.

Christmas

The Word became flesh; he lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.

Epiphany

From the rising of the sun to its setting
my name is great among the nations,
says the Lord of hosts.

Lent

Because Christ has passed through the time of suffering,
he is able to help those in time of trial.

Rend your hearts and not your garments.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful.

Passiontide

Jesus said:
'Anyone who wants to be a follower of mine
must renounce self,
and take up the cross and follow me.'

Easter tide

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Ascensiontide

Praise and honour, glory and might,
to him who sits on the throne
and to the Lamb, for ever.

Pentecost

God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Come, Holy Spirit,
and renew the face of the earth.

Trinity

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

John the Baptist

There appeared a man named John.
He was sent from God,
and came as a witness
to testify to the light.

Mary the mother of our Lord

Mary said:
'Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word.'

Apostles or Evangelists

We have seen for ourselves
and we are witnesses,
that the Father has sent the Son
to be the Saviour of the world.

All Saints (1 November) or any saint

You have come to Mount Zion
and to the city of the living God,
and to the assembly of the firstborn
who are enrolled in heaven.

You that are righteous, rejoice in the Lord
and praise his holy name.

At the time of or on the anniversary of a death

The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne
will be their shepherd
and will guide them to springs of the water of life;
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Times of trouble

God is our refuge and our stronghold,
a timely help in trouble.

Christian unity

There is one body and one Spirit,
just as there is one hope
held out in God's call to you;
one Lord, one faith, one Baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.

PRAYER IN THE MORNING

1 O Lord, open our lips,
and we shall praise your name.

2 **In Eastertide:**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In other seasons or on other occasions, an appropriate sentence from pages 2-4 may be said.

3 **One of these sentences:**

Sunday

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Monday

God has sent into our hearts
the Spirit of his Son, crying,
'Abba! Father!'

Tuesday

There is one body and one Spirit,
**just as there is one hope
held out in God's call to you.**

Wednesday

The Lord is in his holy temple;
let all the earth be silent in his presence.

Thursday

May the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my mind
be acceptable to you,
Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Friday

God was in Christ
reconciling the world to himself,
and has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation.

Saturday

Send out your light and truth to be my guide;
**let them lead me to your holy hill,
to your dwelling-place.**

- 4 Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

- 5 Prayers of penitence, if desired

- 6 EITHER **Venite** (Psalm 95)

Come, let us sing to the Lord
and rejoice in the Rock, our Saviour.
Let us come and give thanks in his presence,
and greet him with songs of praise.

**The Lord is a great God,
a king supreme over all;
in his hands are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain heights are his;
the sea is his – he made it –
and the dry land was formed by his hands.**

Come, let us kneel and adore,
let us worship the Lord our maker.

**He is our God and we are his people,
the flock he leads with his hand.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

OR *this or some other hymn:*

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine:
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.**

7 **The Prayer of the Morning**

This or some other prayer:

Blessèd are you, Lord our God,
Giver of life,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
At the opening of this day
you call us out of darkness
into your marvellous light.
Blessèd are you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

DAILY PRAYER

- 8 One of the following, or a Psalm selected freely or according to some other scheme:

Sunday	Psalm	8
Monday	Psalm	67
Tuesday	Psalm	98
Wednesday	Psalm	121
Thursday	Psalm	145
Friday	Psalm	146
Saturday	Psalm	148

OR Psalm 63: 1-4

**O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands
and call on your name.**

- 9 Either one of the following or a reading from scripture selected freely or according to some other scheme:

Sunday

Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Monday

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name.

Isaiah 42:5-8a

Tuesday

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
‘Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’

Ephesians 5:8-14

Wednesday

Jesus called his disciples and said to them, ‘You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’

Mark 10:42-45

Thursday

Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.
The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
by understanding he established the heavens;
by his knowledge the deeps broke open,
and the clouds drop down the dew.

Proverbs 3:13-20

Friday

Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

‘He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.’

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 2:21b-25

Saturday

Jesus said: ‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

John 13:34-35

10 One of the following, or some other canticle:

Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember his holy covenant.

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous before him,
all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from heaven shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Te Deum Laudamus (A Song of the Church)

We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as Lord;

**all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.**

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:

**Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.

**You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come to be our judge.

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.

Govern and uphold them now and always.

Day by day we bless you.

We praise your name for ever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy,

for we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope:

let us never be put to shame.

11 **These or some other prayers:**

Let us offer our prayer
with all God's people
through Jesus Christ our Lord
who ever lives to pray for us.

We pray for the needs of the world . . .

We pray for the Church . . .

We pray for all in trouble or distress . . .

We pray for all who make a new beginning today . . .

Other petitions may follow.

Silent prayer

God of compassion and mercy,
listen to our prayer.

May what we ask in Jesus Christ your Son
be done according to his word, who said,

'Ask, and you will receive,

seek, and you will find,

knock, and the door will be opened to you.'

To you, merciful God,

through your Son,

in the lifegiving Spirit,

be glory and praise for ever. **Amen.**

12 The Lord's Prayer

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in
heaven,
hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our
daily bread.
And forgive us our
trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into
temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

13 Lord our God,
as with all creation
we offer you the life of this new day,
give us grace to love and serve you
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

14 Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER IN THE EVENING

1 Be swift, O God, to save us.
Come quickly, Lord, to help us.

2 **In Eastertide:**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In other seasons or on other occasions, an appropriate sentence from pages 2-4 may be said.

3 **One of these sentences:**

Sunday

There is one body and one Spirit,
**just as there is one hope
held out in God's call to you.**

Monday

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

Tuesday

From the rising of the sun to its setting
may the Lord's name be praised.

Wednesday

God was in Christ
reconciling the world to himself,
and has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation.

Thursday

God has sent into our hearts
the Spirit of his Son, crying,
'Abba! Father!'

Friday

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Saturday

May my prayer be like incense set before you,
**and the lifting of my hands
like the evening offering.**

- 4 Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

- 5 This or some other prayer of penitence may be said:

**Most merciful God,
we confess to you
before the whole company of heaven
that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just,
and will forgive our sins,
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

6 EITHER **Jubilate** (Psalm 100)

Cry out to the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with songs of joy.

**Be assured that the Lord is God;
he has made us for himself.
We are his own, his people,
the sheep who feed on his pasture.**

Come into his gates with thanksgiving,
enter his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his name.

**Truly the Lord is good:
his love endures for ever,
and from age to age he is faithful.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

OR this or some other hymn:

**Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured
Who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest;
The lights of evening round us shine;
We hymn the Father, Son and Holy Spirit divine.**

**Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
With undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone;
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.**

7 The Prayer of the Evening

EITHER

A God and Father of all,
as this day ends
we offer up its hours in praise to you.
As we take our rest,
unite us, by your Spirit,
in praise of Christ our Lord,
the Alpha and Omega,
the First and Last,
in whom we make our prayer. **Amen.**

OR

B O God, in whom there is no darkness,
with whom the night is as the day:
enlighten us by your presence,
that waking or sleeping
we may dwell in your peace,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

8 One of the following, or a Psalm selected freely or according to some other scheme:

Sunday	Psalm	34
Monday	Psalm	84
Tuesday	Psalm	91
Wednesday	Psalm	96
Thursday	Psalm	103
Friday	Psalm	115
Saturday	Psalm	116

OR Psalm 134

**Come, bless the Lord,
all you, his servants,
who minister night after night
in the house of the Lord.
Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.
May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion!**

- 9 Either one of the following or a reading from scripture selected freely or according to some other scheme:

Sunday

A week later the disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:26-31

Monday

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord,
that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:6-9

Tuesday

Jesus said:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

Matthew 5:3-12

Wednesday

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

Thursday

Jesus said: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell

you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

‘Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep out the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

Luke 15:4-10

Friday

Jesus said: ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.’

John 15:12-17

Saturday

The angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of

lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:1-5

10 One of the following, or some other canticle:

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
who has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.**

God has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

**The Lord has shown strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

**My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:**

a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

11 **These or some other prayers:**

Christ, through whom all things were made,
sustain all creation.

Christ, exalted in the lowest and the least,
give us humility.

Christ, present in the poor and the oppressed,
fill us with compassion.

Christ, forsaken in the hungry and the homeless,
minister to them through our hands.

Christ, present where two or three are gathered,
be known among us.

Christ, present in word, sacrament and sign,
grant us your peace.

12 The Lord's Prayer

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in
heaven,
hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our
daily bread.
And forgive us our
trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into
temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

13 Lord our God,
at the ending of this day,
and in the darkness and silence of this night,
cover us with healing and forgiveness,
that we may take our rest in peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

14 EITHER

A We will lie down in peace and take our rest;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

OR

B Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

15 The following may be said:

May the souls of the faithful,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**