

### **Invocation<sup>1</sup>**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the presence of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and glorify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God our Father, You have commanded the light to shine out of darkness and awakened us again to praise Your goodness and to ask Your favor. Accept now the sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving. Make us to be children of the light and of the day, heirs of Your everlasting inheritance. Remember, O God, Your whole church and all our bothers (and sisters) who stand in need of Your favor on land or sea, in air or space. May our lives ever praise Your wonderful and holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ever loving and Eternal God, Source of the light that never dims and of the love that never fails, Light of our lives, Father of our spirits, draw near us, and by the remembrance of Your ancient mercies, by the ministry of Your church, teach us and lead us nearer to You. By all our conflicts, by all our aspirations, by all our fears, by all our joys and sorrows, by life and death itself, teach us and lead us nearer to You. **Amen.**

O God, who put into our hearts such deep desires that we cannot be at peace until we rest in You: mercifully grant that the longing of our souls may not go unsatisfied because of any unrighteousness of life that may separate us from You. Open our minds to the counsels of eternal wisdom; breathe into our souls the peace which passes understanding. Increase our hunger and thirst for righteousness, and feed us, we beseech You, with the bread of heaven. Give us grace to seek first Your Kingdom, and help to grow as You add all things needful. **Amen.**

**(Advent)** Lord, You have given us the great hope that Your Kingdom shall come on earth, and Your Son has taught us to pray for its coming. Make us ready now to give thanks for the signs of its dawning, and to pray and work for that perfect day when Your will shall be done on earth as it is in Heaven. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**(Christmas)** Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks that in the fullness of time the Light dawned on a dark world and Your Son was born in Bethlehem. We praise You that He came and that He shall come again. We confess that the doors of our hearts are too low to receive the King of Glory. We are too indifferent to go meet Him. Come, we pray, and by Your Holy Spirit banish from us all that resists His entrance into our hearts. Make us, O God, a people who watch and pray for the day of His appearing. Even so, come, Lord Jesus; come quickly! **Amen.**

**(Epiphany)** O God of the guiding star which brought the Gentile kings to worship the Christ-child: strengthen and encourage us who follow the star, and lead us into all dark places of the earth, and let the light of Christ shine through us. May that day come when all men shall pay due homage to the King of kings, even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> from: *“Book of Worship For United States Forces”, 1974*

**(Palm Sunday)** O Lord Jesus Christ, as on this day we recall Your triumphal entry into Jerusalem, enter our hearts, we pray, and subdue them wholly unto Your will. O King of grace and glory, come into our lives with all Your strength, gentleness, and goodness. We acknowledge You as Savior and redeemer, give You our joyous homage, and pledge never-dying loyalty. **Amen.**

**(Lent)** O God, by the example of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, You have taught us the greatness of true humility, and now have called us to watch with Him in His suffering. Help us to take the towel and basin and in humbleness of spirit to wash the feet of those who most need our ministry. Give us the graciousness to serve one another in all lowliness and thus fulfill the law of love on the Name of Your Servant, even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**(Passion)** Almighty God, You have revealed to us in the life and teaching of Your Son the true way to a good life may lead to the cross, and the reward of faithfulness and obedience to Your will may be a crown of thorns. Give us the grace to learn these hard lessons. May we take up our cross and follow Christ in strength of patience and constancy of faith; may we have such fellowship with Him in His sorrow that we may know the secret of His strength and peace, and see, in our darkest hour, the shining of Eternal Light. **Amen.**

**(Easter)** Almighty God, Source of all life, by whose power our Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead; we praise You, we give You thanks for this great victory over sin and death. The resurrection of Your Son, our Savior, has opened to us the door of abundant and everlasting life. Our despair is changed to triumph, our fears to hope. We are grateful. Accept our thanks, O Lord, and may we prove our gratitude by selfless service in behalf of all those who need our love and care. May we show them the Risen Christ in all we do. In His living Name we pray. **Amen.**

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