

The Confession of Cursed Sinners

These prayers are based on "A Commination or Denouncing of God's Anger and Judgements against Sinners" in the *Book of Common Prayer* (1662), which I have updated and amended. Please feel free to use these words either privately or corporately, and do let us know if you find this liturgy useful or have any suggestions.

A wider selection of Old Testament verses (from Proverbs, Jeremiah, and Malachi) has been added to those from Deuteronomy which were in the 1662 service, and several New Testament texts (from 1 Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians) which speak of God's wrath and being cut off from his kingdom have been added. An eschatological note has been given to the confession with an allusion at the end to Revelation 22:3, and a reference to Galatians 3:13 is now made in the absolution. New preparatory words have been added, with some particular reference to disease in the world and disorders in the church.

The longer, stand-alone Commination service in the *Book of Common Prayer* also includes a reading from Psalm 51 and further words of exhortation from the Minister. But in this shortened form below, these prayers could perhaps be used as part of a church or small group prayer meeting, or as part of an ordinary church service, or indeed as part of private devotions.

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The Confession of Cursed Sinners

Minister

Brothers and sisters: in his word, the Lord our God has made known to us himself and his ways, to the end that we may find out what pleases or displeases the Lord and walk in the light of truth.

At a time when we are suffering most grievously from death and disease in our nation, and from disorder and division in our church, it is right that we submit ourselves to the judgment of God's holy word; with the intent that, being warned of the great indignation of God against sin, we may be moved to true and earnest repentance, and may walk more warily in these dangerous days, fleeing from such vices as we affirm with our own mouths are cursed by God.

Hear then, what the Holy Spirit says:

“Cursed is anyone who makes an idol—a thing detestable to the LORD.”
(*Deuteronomy 27:15*)

All **Amen.**

“Cursed be anyone who dishonours his father or his mother.”
(*Deuteronomy 27:16*)

All **Amen.**

“Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless, or the widow.” (*Deuteronomy 27:19*)

All **Amen.**

“Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.” (*Proverbs 28:27*)

All **Amen.**

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.” (*Jeremiah 17:5*)

All **Amen.**

“If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed!”
(*1 Corinthians 16:22*)

All **Amen.**

Cursed are those who preach a false gospel. (*Galatians 1:8-9*)

All **Amen.**

“Cursed is anyone who leads the blind astray.” (*Deuteronomy 27:18*)

All **Amen.**

“Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of God’s law by carrying them out.” (*Deuteronomy 27:26*)

All **Amen.**

“I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.” (*Malachi 3:5*)

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

“Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

(*1 Corinthians 6:9-10*)

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

“The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (*Galatians 5:19-21*)

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.” (*Ephesians 5:3-6*)

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Minister

Now, seeing that all those who go astray from the commandments of God are accursed and cut off from his kingdom, let us remember the dreadful judgment hanging over our heads, and return to the Lord our God with all contrition and meekness of heart, bewailing and lamenting our sinful lives, acknowledging and confessing our offences, and seeking to bring forth the fruits of repentance and faith. Let us pray:

All **O Most Mighty God, and merciful Father,
who has compassion upon all,
and hates nothing that he has made;
who desires not the death of a sinner,
but that we should rather turn from our sin, and be saved:
Mercifully forgive us all our sins;
receive and comfort us,
who are grieved and wearied with the burden of them.
Spare us, good Lord,
spare your people, whom you have redeemed;
enter not into judgment with your servants,
who are but dust, and pitiable sinners;
but so turn your anger from us,
who meekly acknowledge our wickedness,
and truly repent of our faults,
and so make haste to help us in this world,
that we may ever live with you in the world to come,
where there will no longer be any curse,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Minister

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. And so we pray, O Lord, that you would mercifully hear our prayers, and spare all those who confess their faults, that those whose consciences by sin are accused, may by your merciful pardon be absolved, through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The LORD bless us, and keep us;
the LORD lift up the light of his face upon us,
and give us peace, now and for evermore.

All **Amen.**