

## OPENING PERIOD PRAYERS FOR MEDIEVAL CHURCH CLASS

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### **Week 2 Opening Prayer from Augustine of Hippo (354-430)**

“O Lord our Savior, You have warned us that You will require much of those to whom much is given. Grant that we, whose lot is cast in so godly a heritage, may strive together the more abundantly to extend to others what we so richly enjoy, and as we have entered into the labors of others, so to labor that others may enter into ours, to the fulfillment of Your holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

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### **Week 3 Opening Prayer from Eastern Orthodox Liturgy**

“Set our hearts on fire with love to Thee, O Christ our God, that in its flame we may love Thee with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so that keeping Thy commandments we may glorify Thee, the giver of all good gifts. Amen”

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### **Week 4 Opening Prayer from Gregory the Great (540-604)**

“O Christ, our King, Creator, Lord, Savior of all who trust Thy word, to them who seek Thee ever near, now to our praises, bend Thine ear. Thou didst create the stars of night; yet Thou hast veiled in flesh Thy light, hast designed a mortal form to wear, a mortal’s painful lot to bear. When Thou didst hang upon the tree, the quaking earth acknowledged Thee; when Thou didst there yield up Thy breath, the world grew dark as shades of death. Now in Thy Father’s glory high, Great Conqueror, nevermore to die, us by Thy mighty power defend, and reign through ages without end. Amen”

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### **Week 5 Opening Prayer from Alcuin of York (732-804)**

“Eternal light, shine into our hearts. Eternal goodness, deliver us from evil. Eternal power, be our support. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal pity, have mercy upon us, that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength we may seek Your face and be brought by Your infinite mercy to Your holy presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

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**Week 6 Opening Prayer from Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)**

“O Lord, come quickly and reign on Thy throne, for now often something rises up within me and tries to take possession of Thy throne; pride, covetousness, uncleanness, and sloth want to be my kings; and then evil speaking, anger, hatred, and the whole train of vices join with me in warring against myself and try to reign over me. I resist them, I cry out against them, and say, ‘I have no other king than Christ.’ O King of Peace, come and reign in me, for I will have no king but Thee! Amen”

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**Week 7 Opening Prayer from Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)  
Bishop of Chichester (England) during first half of 13<sup>th</sup> century**

“Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which Thou hast given to me, for all the pains and insults which Thou hast borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, friend, and brother, may I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly, day by day. Amen”

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**Week 8 Opening Prayer from Stephen Langton (1150-1228)  
Archbishop of Canterbury from The Golden Sequence – a Poem to the Holy Spirit  
(Also known for our chapter divisions of the Bible)**

“Our strength renew, On our dryness pour Thy dew. Wash the stains of guilt away, bend the stubborn heart and will. Melt the frozen, warm the chill. Guide the steps that go astray. Amen.”

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**Week 9 Opening Prayer from Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)**

“Grant me grace, oh merciful God, to desire ardently all that is pleasing to Thee, to examine it prudently, to acknowledge it truthfully, and to accomplish it perfectly. For the praise and glory of Thy name, Amen”

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**Week 10 Opening Prayer from Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498)**

“Lord, we pray not for tranquility, nor that our tribulations may cease. We pray for Your Spirit and Your love, that You grant us strength and grace to overcome adversity. Through Jesus Christ. Amen”