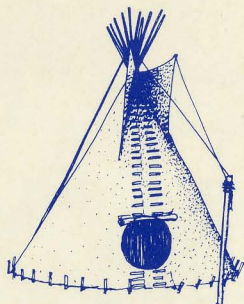


\$2⁵⁰



FAMILY PRAYER

by Sister Kevin Marie Flynn, SCL

FAMILY PRAYER

by

Sister Kevin Marie Flynn, SCL
Little Flower Parish, Browning

Dedicated to
THE BLACKFEET INDIAN PEOPLE
OF BROWNING, MONTANA

Sponsored by
the Diocese of Helena
and
the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

©1978 WestMont Word Publications, 530
N. Ewing Street, Helena, Montana 59601.
All rights reserved

First Printing, November 1978
Second Printing, May 1979

Table of Contents

Blessing of Our Home	3	Family Blessing	21
Hymn of Praise	4	Baptism	22
Facing North	5	Our Baptism	23
Memorare	6	God and His People	24
Summer Prayer	7	For Our Elders	25
Good Shepherd	8	Hymn of Praise	26
For God's Forgiveness	9	Facing West	27
Glory to God	10	Acts of Faith	28
For Parents	11	Facing South	29
Praise to the Lord	12	Act of Contrition; Beatitudes	30
To Preserve Our Culture	13	Facing East	31
Praise and Thanksgiving	14	Apostles Creed	32
For Meals	15	Blessing of the Night	33
Jesus Blesses Children	16	We Come from God	34
For a New Baby	17	For One Who Dies	35
Litany of Thanksgiving	18-19	Night	36
The Rosary	20		

Nihil Obstat: James H. Provost
Chancellor

Imprimatur: + Elden F. Curtiss
Bishop of Helena

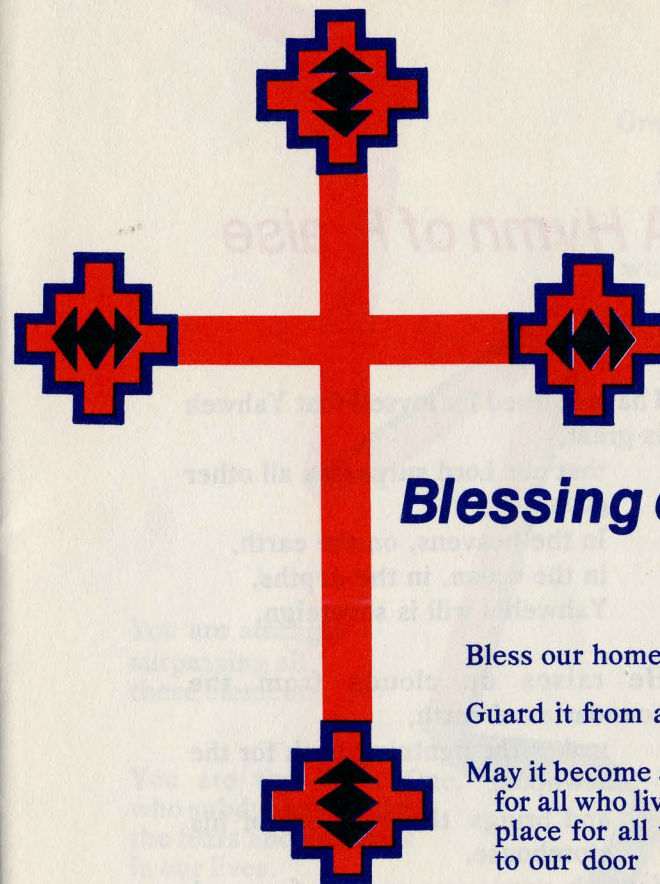
Helena, Montana
October 23, 1978

Excerpts from **The Jerusalem Bible**,
copyright © 1966 by Darton, Longman &
Todd, Ltd. and Doubleday & Company,
Inc.

Used by permission of the publisher.

Apostles Creed - Copyright © 1975,
International Consultation on English
Texts. Used by permission.

Excerpts from the English translation of
the Rite of Baptism for Children © 1969,
International Committee on English in the
Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL); excerpts from the
English translation of the Roman Missal ©
1973, ICEL. All rights reserved.



Blessing of our Home

Bless our home, Lord God our Father

Guard it from all evils

May it become a happy dwelling place
for all who live here and a peaceful
place for all who may come
to our door

May we find in it a true home
where we can all joyfully return
and happily gather together
at the end of the day

May it remind us and help us
to long for our heavenly home
with you in heaven.

AMEN



A Hymn of Praise

I have learned for myself that Yahweh
is great,

that our Lord surpasses all other
gods.

In the heavens, on the earth,
in the ocean, in the depths,
Yahweh's will is sovereign.

He raises up clouds from the
boundaries of earth,

makes the lightning flash for the
downpour

and brings the wind out of his
storehouse.

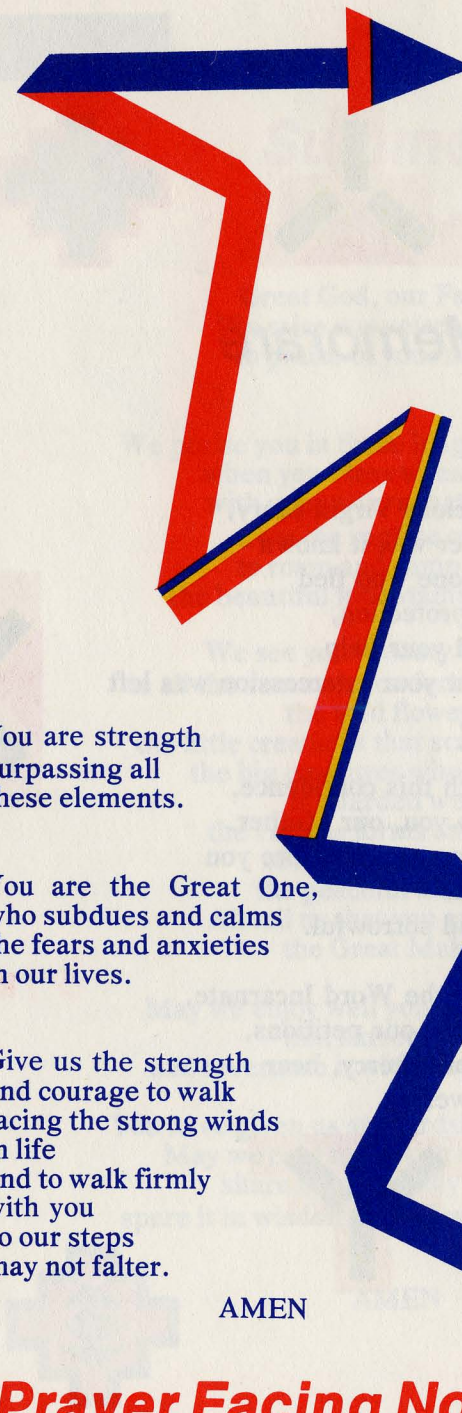
Yahweh, your name endures for ever!

Yahweh, your memory is always
fresh!

Since Yahweh vindicates his people,
and cares for those who serve
him.

AMEN

Ps. 135: 5-7,13-14



Great God, our Father,

Our eyes are turned
toward you
in the direction
where you speak to us
from the north.

You are the power
over the harshness
of our lives
the stormy winds,
the great winds,
the great snows.

You are strength
surpassing all
these elements.

You are the Great One,
who subdues and calms
the fears and anxieties
in our lives.

Give us the strength
and courage to walk
facing the strong winds
in life
and to walk firmly
with you
so our steps
may not falter.

AMEN

Prayer Facing North



The Memorare

Remember,

O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled
to your protection,
implored your help,
or sought your intercession was left
unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,
we fly to you, our Mother.
To you we come; before you
we stand,
sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not our petitions,
but in your mercy, hear
and answer us.

AMEN



Summer Prayer



Great God, our Father
We raise our voices to you
in praise of your name.

We praise you in these long summer days
when you bless us especially
with sunny days that free us
from the routine of work
to roam and camp about
the beautiful mountains and parks.

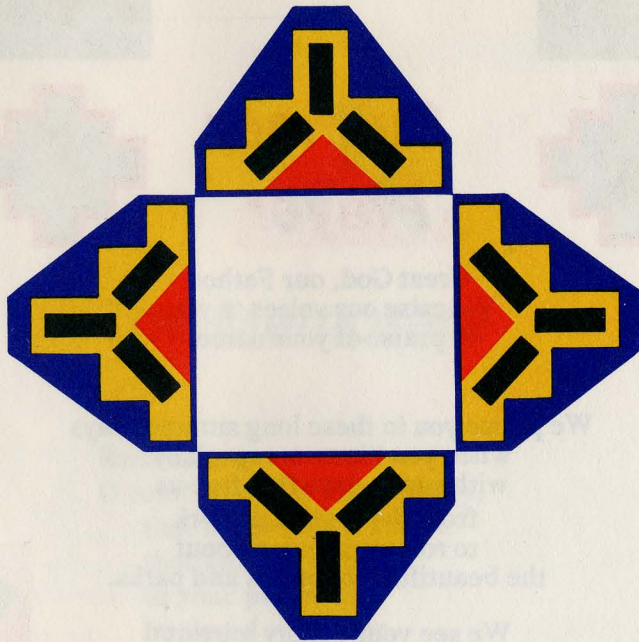
We see your beauty mirrored
in all the summer wonders of creation . . .
the wild flowers,
the little creatures that scamper around,
the big creatures whose domain
is guarded well,
the various forms and shapes
of leaves and plants,
the peaceful lakes . . .
All tell us that you are indeed
the Great Maker!

May we enjoy well your creative beauty
that surrounds us
and reverence it with respect and care.

You have given us stewardship of your earth.
May we care for it with a loving care,
share it generously with our neighbors,
spare it in wisdom for following generations.

AMEN

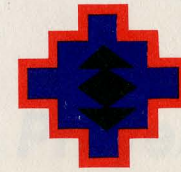




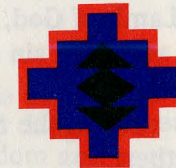
The Good Shepherd

“Tell me. Suppose a man has a hundred sheep and one of them strays; will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go in search of the stray? I tell you solemnly, if he finds it, it gives him more joy than do the ninety-nine that did not stray at all. Similarly, it is never the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.”

Mt. 18:12-14



O my Father, loving God,
We ask your pardon for straying from your path.
Bring us back to you and forgive our wrong doings



Send your Holy Spirit into our lives
to guide us along the right way.

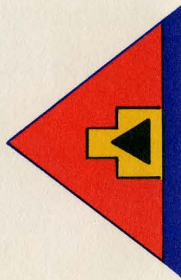
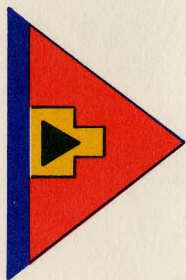
Listen to us, Father, as we plead with you
and express to you our sorrow.

We are your children.

We love you and believe in you.

AMEN





Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.

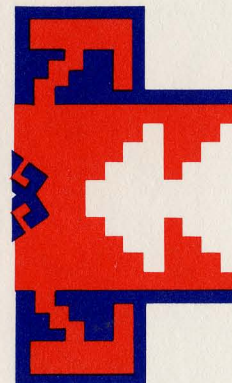
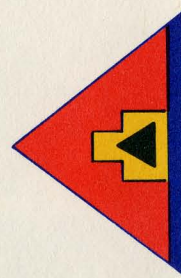
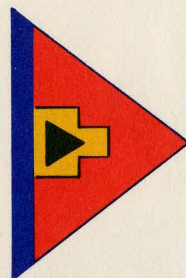
For you alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord

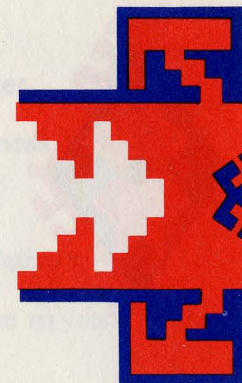
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

AMEN

Glory to God



Prayer for Parents



Lord, our God, you are Mother and Father
to us. We thank you for the gift
of motherhood and fatherhood.

You have made us fruitful by blessing us
with sons and daughters.

Give us wisdom and courage
to praise them when we should,
to know when to say "no",
to encourage them,
to smile with them,
to know when to say "yes"
to share our faith with them,
to impart our heritage to them,
to cry with them,
to listen to their stories,
to admonish them when necessary,
to be there when they need us.

With your help, Lord, we will
raise our children to manhood and womanhood
praising and living your ways.

AMEN



Praise to the Lord

Praise God in his Temple on earth,
praise him in his temple in heaven,
praise him for his mighty achievements,
praise him for his transcendent greatness!

Praise him with blasts of the trumpet,
praise him with lyre and harp,
praise him with drums and dancing,
praise him with strings and reeds,
praise him with clashing cymbals,
praise him with clanging cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise Yahweh!

AMEN

Ps. 150

Prayer to Preserve Our Culture

God, our great Creator and Maker,
We give you thanks for the richness
of our Indian culture.

We give you thanks for our forefathers
who have handed it on to us
and whose way of life was close to you.

Help us to imitate them in their reverence
for Mother Earth and all her dwellers.
May our spirit of generosity be like theirs,
Always helping our brother and sister in need -
a characteristic so becoming to our heritage.

Give us a just pride in our talents and skills
knowing that you have favored us richly
to create with our hands.

Help us to walk straight the sacred path of life,
hearing your voice and seeing your beauty
in creation and creatures alike.

AMEN

Father and Creator

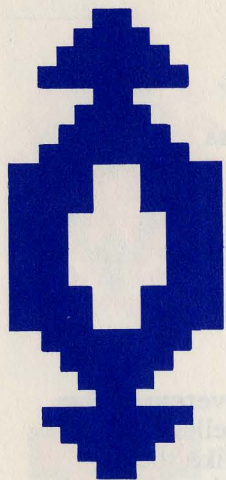
We are Indian because
you have made us so
and for that reason we are proud
of our heritage and culture,
knowing that it is the way in which
you speak to us and reveal yourself
to us each day.

Give us the strength and courage,
Father, God, to listen to you,
to learn more about who we are,
and to preserve our culture
in keeping alive the sacredness
of your name.

AMEN



Praise and Thanksgiving



Creator God
You visit the earth and water it,
you load it with riches;
God's rivers brim with water
to provide their grain.

This is how you provide it:
by drenching its furrows,
by leveling its ridges,
by softening it with showers,
by blessing the first fruits.
You crown the year with your bounty,
abundance flows wherever you pass;
the desert pastures overflow,
the hillsides are wrapped in joy,
the meadows are dressed in flocks,
the valleys are clothed in wheat,
what shouts of joy, what singing!

AMEN

Ps. 65: 9-13



O Father, You are the source
and end of everything.

You are the one who watches
over and sustains all life.

You have given us Mother Earth
to bear fruit
for our nourishment.

You strengthen our bodies
and also our spirits
as we gather
around this table.

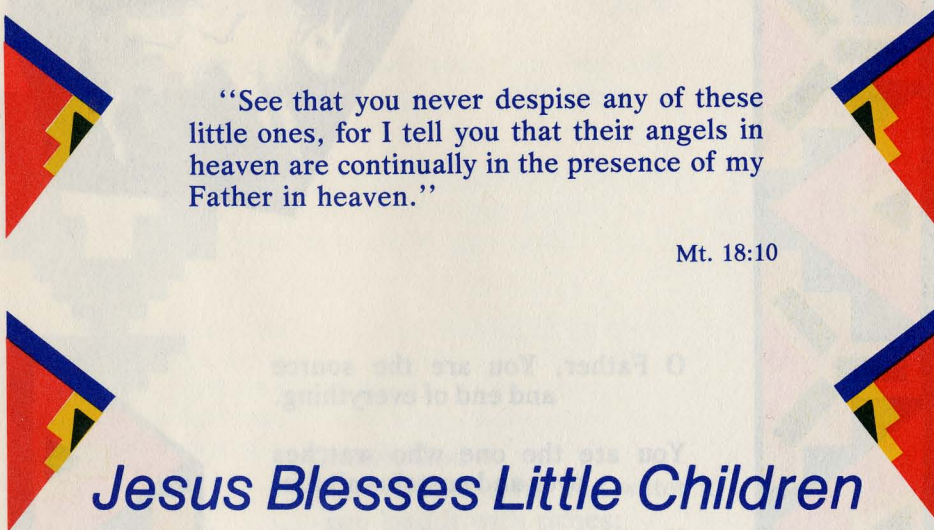
Bless all of us and help us
to share these good things
you have given us.

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

Blessing for Meals





“See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven.”

Mt. 18:10

Jesus Blesses Little Children

People even brought little children to him, for him to touch them; but when the disciples saw this they turned them away. But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

Luke 18:15-17



Blessing for a New Baby

We wish for this child...
a heart that can be beguiled
by a flower
that grows simple and pure
and as fresh
as a summer shower.

We wish...
a heart that has vision
beyond that of the eyes
for all the good things
that God holds for the wise.

When the storm breaks around him
and he wonders why,
may his friends
then surround him
as the blue of the sky.

And when he has walked
the red path of life,
content and happy
from the peace
he has found,

May God, Himself, then
reaching down,
carry him home to the
Happy Hunting Ground.

AMEN





For life and the gift
of living each day,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For calling us to be Christians
by our Baptism,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For our family and friends,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the great gift of Mother Earth,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the gift of our vision
to see and admire
your beautiful creation,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the sun that shines
and gives us warmth and light,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the soft wind and rain
that comes from the south,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

Litany of Thanksgiving



For the rays of the Rising Sun
in the east,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the brilliance as it set
in the west
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the shelter You provide for us
from the north winds,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the gift of every flower
that blooms and unfolds
and every leaf
that changes color,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the great bodies of water
that surround us,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For all the animals, great and small,
that roam our great plains
and delight us in our hunts,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

For the gift of voice
that we send up to you
to invoke your name and praise you,
We thank you, Great Spirit.

AMEN

The Rosary

Joyful Mysteries—Monday and Thursday

1. The Annunciation (Humility)
2. The Visitation (Charity)
3. The Nativity (Poverty)
4. The Presentation (Obedience)
5. The Finding in the Temple (Piety)

Sorrowful Mysteries—Tuesday and Friday

1. Agony in the Garden (Contrition)
2. Scourging at the Pillar (Purity)
3. Crowning with Thorns (Courage)
4. Carrying of the Cross (Patience)
5. The Crucifixion (Self-denial)

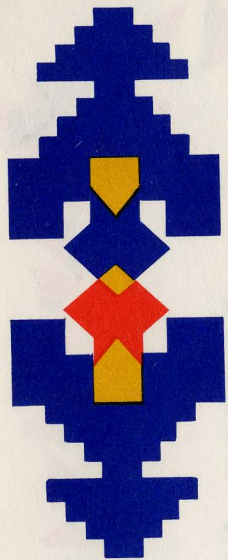
Glorious Mysteries—Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday

1. The Resurrection (Faith)
2. The Ascension (Hope)
3. Descent of the Holy Spirit (Love)
4. The Assumption (Eternal happiness)
5. Crowning of Mary (Devotion to Mary)

We ask your blessing on our family.
Keep us all close to You.
Help us to create a happy life
of peace and harmony
among ourselves.

We are grateful for the good things
you have given us to enjoy . . .
the sun and the mountains,
moon and stars.
Thank you, Father Creator,
for all of the things of this earth
that we enjoy.

A Family Blessing



Anointing with Chrism

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

AMEN

Clothing with a White Garment

(N.,) you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself with Christ.

See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

AMEN

Lighting the Candle

This light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly.

You have been enlightened by Christ to walk always as a child of the light. May you keep the flame of faith alive in your heart. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the holy nation.

AMEN

Our Baptism

Great God,
Father of our nation,
We come before you
to praise and honor you.

We are your children
through Baptism.
Unite us all in mind and heart
until we reach the end
of our journey
and there be with you
for all eternity!

AMEN

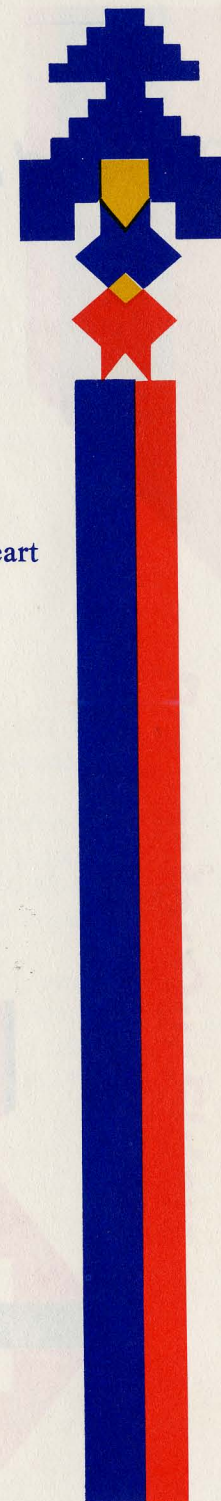
Father, God,

May some little root
of your sacrament of Baptism
still live within us.

Nourish it, we ask you,
so that it may leaf and bloom
and fill with singing birds.

So that each day and forever,
we will know that your life
fills us with great power.

AMEN



God and His People

Listen to this Law, my people,
pay attention to what I say;
I am going to speak to you in parable
and expound the mysteries of our past.

What we have heard and known
for ourselves, and what our
ancestors have told us,
must not be withheld from their
descendants, but be handed on by us
to the next generation;

that is: the titles of Yahweh, his power
and the miracles he has done.
When he issued the decrees for Jacob
and instituted a Law in Israel,

he gave our ancestors strict orders
to teach it to their children;
the next generation was to learn it,
the children still to be born,

and these in their turn
were to tell their own children
so that they too
would put their confidence in God,
never forgetting God's achievements,
and always keeping his commandments.

AMEN

Ps. 78: 1-7



God, Father Spirit,

Thank you for the lives
of our elderly people
to whom we look
for guidance and wisdom.

We are grateful
for their long lives
and for handing down to us
the richness of our culture.

Bless them, Lord, as they
advance in years.

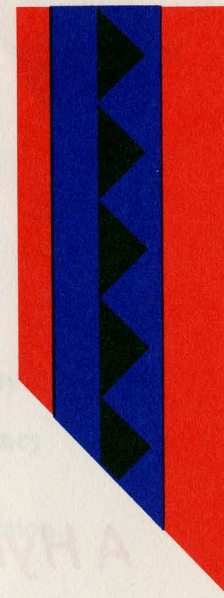
Protect their faltering steps
and their weak limbs.

As their eyes grow dim,
may we, their sons, daughters,
grandchildren
and great-grandchildren
be their eyes for them.

As their hearts grow slower,
may the courage, endurance and
faith that once was theirs
be lived and quickened
in the hearts of us their children.

May we always hold in great respect
their vision and dreams,
the rhythm of their song,
and the beat of their drums
in harmony with Mother Earth.

AMEN



Prayer for Our Elders

A Hymn of Praise

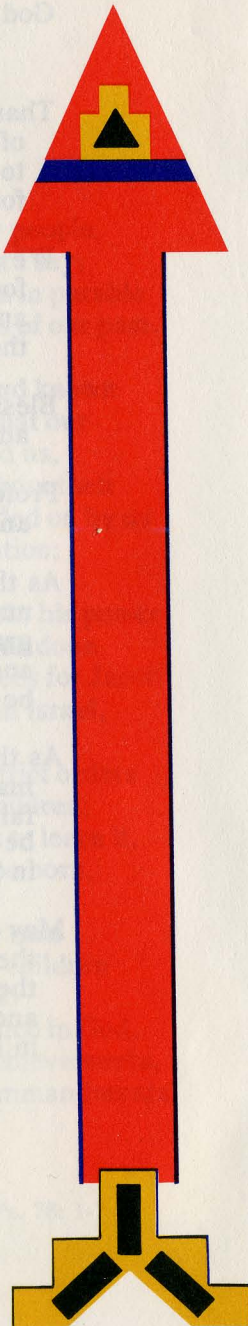
Sing Yahweh a new song,
let the congregation of the faithful
sing his praise!

Let Israel rejoice in his maker,
and Zion's children exult in their King;
let them dance in praise of his name,
playing to him on strings and drums!

For Yahweh has been kind to his people,
conferring victory on us who are weak;
the faithful exult in triumph,
prostrate before God they acclaim him.

AMEN

Ps. 149: 1-6



Facing West

Creator of the setting sun,
We send our voices up to you.
We gaze upon your splendor and beauty.
We thank you for the day spent,
from the moment the sun began its journey
from the East
and moved onward toward the West,
where it is now going down beyond our vision.

We pray, Great Spirit, that our journey
through life
may know the harmony and rhythm
of the setting sun.

We pray that we may look longingly
toward the sunset of our life
and feel your splendor and beauty within us.

AMEN





"Yes, Lord," she said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

John 11:27

"My Lord and my God!"

John 20:28



"But you," he said, "who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God."

Mt. 16:16

Prayer Facing South

O Good Father,

You send us the soft winds and rains
from the direction we are now facing.

Soften our troubles and cool them
with your refreshing breeze.

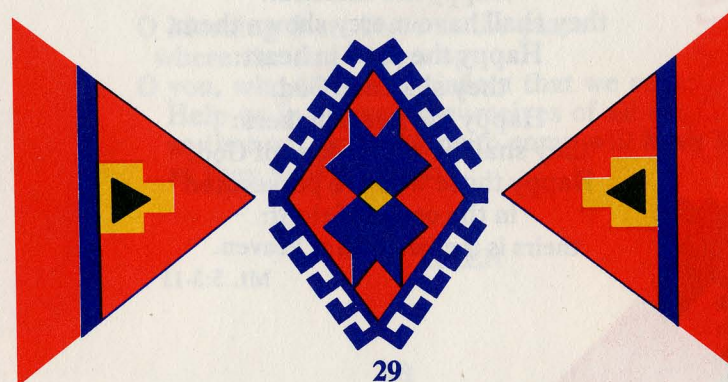
May goodness be always in our hearts,
mildness in our speech.

May our lives open and bloom at your bidding.

As we face you in the direction of the South,
we are reminded of the things that make us
happy in this life - friends and family,
and you, O Great Power and Source
of all Life!

We ask you to keep us close to you;
cleanse us with your refreshing rains
and help us to walk with you always.

AMEN



Act of Contrition

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

AMEN

“How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth
for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger
and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted
in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mt. 5:3-11

Prayer Facing East

O Great Father, Maker of all that is,
who always has been,
Behold us here standing facing you,
the source of our life.

May the rising sun remind us of you,
who gives us great wisdom and strength;
You who leads the dawn as it walks forth
and also the day which follows,
Listen to us, as we call upon you.

Be merciful to us, O Great Power of the East,
and help us, your people,
As we walk your sacred path and live
in a manner pleasing to you.

O Morning Star, there at the place
where the sun comes up;
O you, who have the wisdom that we seek;
Help us in cleansing ourselves of all sin,
so that our generations to come will have light
as they walk your path.

AMEN



I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

AMEN

The Apostles' Creed



O Father, Creator
Behold us here gathered at the end of the day
which began at the rising of your sun
and ends with its setting.

We ask for your blessing, as we send our voices
to you.

Be merciful to us! Help us!

We place ourselves in your care.

Help us to walk on the sacred path
of truth and love.

May your Spirit be among us as we rest
and restore our bodies in sleep.
Watch over our family and friends.

We pray in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

Blessing of the Night

We Come from God

The Lord fashioned man from the earth,
to consign him back to it.
He gave them so many days' determined
time, he gave them authority over
everything on earth.
He clothed them with strength like his
own, and made them in his own
image.
He filled all living things with dread
of man, making him master over
beasts and birds.
He shaped for them a mouth and tongue,
eyes and ears, and gave them a heart
to think with.
He put his own light in their hearts
to show them the magnificence
of his works.
He established an eternal covenant with
them, and revealed his judgments to
them.
Their eyes saw his glorious majesty,
and their ears heard the glory of
his voice.

Sirach 17:1-6, 8, 11-12



We Go to God

Lord, you have been our refuge age
after age.

Before the mountains were born,
before the earth or the world
came to birth,
you were God from all eternity
and forever.

You can turn man back into dust by
saying, "Back to what you
were, you sons of men!"

To you, a thousand years are a
single day, a yesterday now
over, an hour of the night.

You brush men away like waking
dreams, they are like grass
sprouting and flowering in the
morning, withered and dry
before dusk.

Teach us to count how few days we
have and so gain wisdom of
heart.

Relent, Yahweh! How much
longer do we have?
Take pity on your servants.

Let us wake in the morning filled
with your love and sing and be
happy all our days; make our
future as happy as our past was
sad, those years when you were
punishing us.

Let your servants see what you can
do for them, let their children
see your glory.

May the sweetness of the Lord be
on us!

Ps. 90:1-6, 12-17

Prayer for One Who Dies

An Older Person



A Young Person

Father, our Creator, _____ has come
to the end of her/his journey on your
sacred path of life.

We thank you for her/his long life
and the span of years you gave
her/him.

Be mindful of all the steps that
she/he walked with you.

When the sun rose long ago in the East
at her/his birth You accepted her/him
as your own in Baptism.

Now as her/his sun sinks deep in the
West
bring her/him back to yourself.

Her/his life has made us happy.

She/he has described the wonders of
of your deeds
and praised your Holy Name among
us.

It is with pride and honor that we return
her/his body to Mother Earth.

May her/his spirit seek communion with
you without shame.

May her/his eyes be filled with your
beauty and may her/his ears be
attuned to the beat of the drums
in praise of you and may her/his voice
blend well with all those in heaven
who constantly chant your praises.



God our Maker,
you give us life and you take it from
us.

You are everything and above
everything.

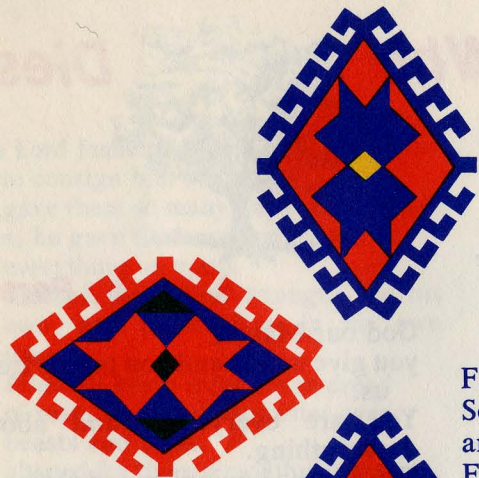
You are the beginning and the end.
We do not always understand your
ways but we trust you because
you are our God and we are your
people.

Hear us today, our groanings are
sad and mournful, our voices
shaky, our vision blurred and our
hearts heavy with grief because
one of our young ones has gone
from us.

Yet our faith is strong in you, God,
our Maker and because _____
is your child too, we know you
have prepared a sacred place for
her/him with you.

Just as the willow leaves die and
return to the earth in the Fall and
come to life again in the Spring
so we believe that _____
has gone back into the earth
only to come to a new life with
you, Father, Creator.

Every Spring when the trees are
shooting forth their young tender
leaves we will remember our
girl/boy, the young tender years
they were with us and now their
new happy life with you - Great
Spirit, God, Creator.



Night

Father,
Son,
and Spirit!
Fill us with your life.
Keep us on the right path that leads to
you.
Thank you for guiding us through this
day.
Bring us to daylight safely.
We praise you in all your beautiful
creation.
Be with us and lead us through the path
of life.

AMEN

Heavenly Father,
You are the Light that never fades.
Shine in the darkness of our night.

Forgive our sins, failings and
weaknesses.
Make known to us the path we must
walk.

May we be united with Christ, your Son,
And experience the power of His
resurrection.

AMEN





Printed by
COLOR WORLD OF MONTANA, INC.
201 E. Mendenhall, Bozeman, MT 59715