

■ PRAYER SERVICE ■

Prayers of  
*Leaders*

*Among the goals of the leadership formation program at Ascension Health, St. Louis, is this: that participants will be able to create workplace environments conducive to prayer and that they will be comfortable in leading prayer. At a recent leadership formation retreat, executives from throughout the system practiced composing and leading prayers. Below are some examples from that workshop. These prayers were shared on an Internet e-learning site used by the program participants. Thanks to Bill Brinkmann, Ascension's director, leadership formation, for sharing these prayers with Health Progress readers.*

**Good Morning, God:**

Sometimes the demands of our daily lives are such that we forget to invite you to guide us and to work through each of us as your instruments. Today, as we gather to discuss our operating performance, we ask you to be present in each of us. Help us to deliberate with openness, wisdom, and thoughtfulness. Guide us as stewards of your ministry. Amen ☛

**Great and loving God:**

Thank you for the guiding hand you placed upon each of us as we prepared for and stood tall during our recent Joint Commission survey. Your love and wisdom are apparent here, as it was and is reflected in the work of all of us who serve the needs of the patients you entrust to us. Thank you for the gifts of each other and the support and encouragement that were offered unflinchingly among all of your servants. We need to be joyful in our prayers of thanksgiving to you to celebrate our accomplishment for these events. Remind us that you are indeed a loving God who encourages joy in the workplace. Amen. ☛

**Dear God:**

I have great tasks ahead of me today, and I know they are far beyond my understanding or capability. So I must rely on you to give me the strength and ability to perform that which needs to be done. I know that your grace is with me and that whatever my need, your grace is sufficient to provide for this day. Amen. ☛

**Creator God:**

We are all gathered here today with saddened, heavy hearts. We have lost a dear friend and co-worker. We

know she is happy, healthy, and singing with you. We miss her greatly, her smile, the twinkle in her eye, and the caring way she took care of others. God be with each of us as we continue our journey here without her. Help us to carry her memories in our hearts. Be with each of us, her family, and friends, and help us to feel your love and comfort during this difficult time. Amen. ☛

**Gracious and loving God:**

Grant to us the gift of self presence, so that we may also remember to take at least a few minutes each morning to quietly remember you, and to prune our tendencies toward over commitment and over involvement. Through this reflection grant us sufficient perspective that we may see clearly how you would like us to interact with each other, so that we bring our gifts of service, reverence, integrity, wisdom, creativity, and dedication in a spirit of openness and compassion, leaving behind our anxieties, our stress, our need to be right, our angers, and our fears. Amen. ☛

**Loving God:**

We ask you for guidance during this difficult transition that our ministry is undertaking. With the sweet balm of your love, soothe the pain of those who are suffering at this time. Let them know that their own ministry will continue to thrive as you guide them to a new institution. Renew in us who remain the ability to carry on. And lastly, help us to remember that every event has a season, and that, in time, we will fully understand how this loss will aid the mission of our ministry. Amen ☛