

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

July 1, 2018

One: To You, God of grace, we come, to offer our prayers and our praise,
to open our hearts and our minds, to obey Your truth and follow Your way.

**ALL: In You, God of grace, the widowed find a companion,
the orphaned find a parent, and the fearful find a faithful friend.**

One: In You, Lord of love, the wounded find a healer,
the guilty find forgiveness, and the burdened find counsel.

**ALL: In You, Lord of love, the sad find laughter,
the despairing find hope, and the angry find peace.**

One: In You, Spirit of Power, the weak find strength,
the captive find freedom, and the proud find humility.

ALL: In You, Father Son and Spirit, we find all, and more besides.

And as we come before You,
some of us need to say, "I love You."
some need to say, "Save me!"
some need to say "Hold me."
some need to say "I'm listening."
and all of us need to say "I'm sorry. Forgive me."

**We have forgotten to say these things, and more, to You;
we have neglected to listen to Your voice and Your Word;
we have received so much without so much as a word of thanks to You;
we have held back kind words, thoughtful acts of service, courageous
convictions;
we have spoken harshly, sat back and stood by, and compromised too easily.
Lord God, we are sorry.**

Please forgive us; set us free from sin, and guilt, and despair, and hopelessness.
Restore us by Your grace to a right relationship with You and with one another.
And, Lord, please give us just one thing: a thankful heart.

We ask all of this in the powerful name of Jesus Christ, who has given us this
prayer: **OUR FATHER....**