

Prayers for Pilgrims

- Pilgrimage is traditionally a journey to a holy place — a place where saints have walked, a place where God has met people and blessed them.
- People through the ages have journeyed with God on pilgrimage — to perform a penance, to ask for healing, to pray for places where there is war or national disaster, to pray for friends.
- Pilgrimage is an opportunity to travel lightly, to walk free of daily routines, to meet people, to make friends, to enjoy and celebrate God's creation. An opportunity, too, in the traveling, the conversations and the silences to reflect on the journey of our lives and on our journey homewards to God.
- Pilgrimage is ... a sign of contradiction, and of resistance to our prevailing value system, that of the market. Pilgrimage, after all, has no function other than itself; its means is as important as its end, its process as its product. Its utility value is small, and its benefits cannot be quantified or costed. Its value is intrinsic. It is something that is good to do because it is good to do. It states clearly that the extravagant gesture (because it is extravagant in terms of time and commitment) is an irrepressible part of what it means to be human and to walk on the earth. And whether the context for pilgrimage is solitude or community, we will be drawn deeper into the mystery of God and the care of creation. (*Kathy Galloway*)
- Pilgrimage is feet-on-the-ground spirituality. (*Jan Sutch Pickard*)

Prayers before setting out on a pilgrimage

God of the guiding star, the bush that blazes

SHOW US YOUR WAY

God of the stormy seas, the bread that nourishes

TEACH US YOUR TRUTH

God of the still, small voice, the wind that blows where it chooses

FILL US WITH LIFE

God of the elements, of our inward and outward journeys

SET OUR FEET ON YOUR ROAD TODAY.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH A SAFE JOURNEY

MAY THE ANGELS AND SAINTS TRAVEL WITH US

MAY WE LIVE THIS DAY IN JUSTICE AND JOY. AMEN.

Bless to us, O God,
the earth beneath our feet.

Bless to us, O God,
the path whereon we go.

Bless to us, O God,
the people whom we meet. Amen.

To finish

Pilgrim God,
our shoes are filled with stones,
our feet are blistered and bleeding,
our faces are stained with tears.
As we stumble and fall

may we know your presence
in the bleeding and in the tears
and in the healing and the laughter
of our pilgrimage. (Kate McIlhagga)

Pilgrimage

Pray for all pilgrims and seekers
and companions on the way;
for all travellers.
Christ, may I walk together with you,
in solidarity with the poor and
with all of God's creation.

Follow truth wherever you find it.
Even if it takes you outside your preconceived ideas of God or life.
Even if it takes you outside your own country
into the most insignificant alien places like Bethlehem.
Be courageous. But concentrate on your search.
Truth is one. All roads lead to home.
(George MacLeod)

The World Peace Prayer

Selected from This is the Day: Readings and Meditations from the Iona Community, Neil Paynter, ed., Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2002

Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe. Amen.

Angharad's prayer (written on arriving in Santiago)

Creator God, on the palm of whose hand we journey,
Hold and guide you gently.

Incarnate God, whose earthly pilgrimage is our inspiration,
Walk with you every step.

Companion God, whose wisdom kindles our hearts,
Give you strength and courage.
Amen

Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Amen

Prayer for the Camino

This is an ancient prayer from the Codex Callixtinus that comes at the end of the Pilgrim Mass said along the Camino de Santiago:

O God, who brought your servant Abraham out of the land of the Chaldeans, protecting him in his wanderings,
who guided the Hebrew people across the desert,
we ask that you watch over us, your servants, as we walk in the love of your name to Santiago de Compostela.
Be for us our companion on the walk,
Our guide at the crossroads,
Our breath in our weariness,
Our protection in danger,
Our albergue on the Camino,
Our shade in the heat,
Our light in the darkness,
Our consolation in our discouragements,
And our strength in our intentions.
So that with your guidance we may arrive safe and sound at the end of the Road and enriched with grace and virtue we return safely to our homes filled with joy.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
Apostle Santiago, pray for us.
Santa Maria, pray for us.

A prayer for Pilgrims

Taken from caminodesantiago.me

Teach us, O God, to view our life here on earth as a pilgrim's path to heaven,
and give us grace to tread it courageously in the company of your faithful people.
Help us to set our affections on things above,
not on the passing vanities of this world,
and grant that as we journey on in the Way of holiness
we may bear a good witness to our Lord,
and serve all who need our help along the way,
for the glory of your name. Amen

A Camino prayer

May I walk this day
in the realm of grace,
walking with You
my feet firmly on your earth-path,
my heart loving all as kindred,
my words and deeds alive with justice.

May I walk as blessing,
meeting blessing at every turn
in every challenge, blessing,
in all opposition, blessing,
in harm's way, blessing.

May I walk each step in this moment of grace,
alert to hear You
and awake enough to say
a simple Yes.

Robert Corin Morris

Taken from caminodesantiago.me

God be with thee in every pass, Jesus be with thee on every hill
Spirit be with thee on every stream, headland and ridge and lawn;
Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
Each lying down, each rising up,
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,
Each step of the journey thou goest.

Carmina Gadelica

Taken from Prayers for Pilgrims, St Paul's Beaconsfield, Australia

A prayer for pilgrims

Guardian of my soul
Guide me on my way today.
Keep me safe from harm,
Deepen my relationship with you,
your earth, and all your family.
Strengthen your love within me
that I may be a presence of
your peace in our World. Amen

Joyce Rupp and Tom Pfeffer

Pilgrim's prayer from La Faba - on the Camino to Santiago (found at O Cebreiro)

Although I may have travelled all the roads,
crossed mountains and valleys from East to West,
if I have not discovered the freedom to be myself,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have shared all my possessions
with people of other languages and cultures;
made friends with Pilgrims of a thousand paths,
or shared albergues with saints and princes,
if I am not capable of forgiving my neighbour tomorrow,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have carried my pack from beginning to end
and waited for every Pilgrim in need of encouragement,
or given my bed to one who arrived later than I,
given my bottle of water in exchange for nothing;
if upon return to my home and work,
I am not able to create brotherhood
or to make happiness, peace and unity,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have had food and water each day,
and enjoyed a roof and shower every night;
or may have had my injuries well attended,
if I have not discovered in all that the love of God,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have seen all the monuments
and contemplated the best sunsets;
although I may have learned a greeting in every language
or tasted the clean water from every fountain;
if I have not discovered who is the author
of so much free beauty and so much peace,
I have arrived nowhere.

If from today I do not continue walking in your path,
searching and living according to what I have learned;
if from today I do not see in every person, friend or foe
a companion on the Camino;
if from today I cannot recognize God,
the God of Jesus of Nazareth
as the one God of my life,
I have arrived nowhere.