

COLLECT PRAYER FORM

A **collect** (“call’ ect”) is a short thematic prayer that begins with an ascriptive address followed by an affirmation of God’s nature and a petition, with a standard ascription of praise at the end through or for the sake of Jesus Christ and God’s glory.

There are two basic forms:

- 1) **Simple**, which consists of
 - a) an address
 - b) a petition
 - c) a conclusion

- 2) **Complete**, which consists of
 - a) ascriptive address
 - b) the antecedent reason, a relative or participial clause referring to some attribute or saving act of God which forms the basis for the petition,
 - c) the petition
 - d) the desired result or benefit from the granting of the petition,
 - e) the doxological conclusion.

A ludicrous example to help you remember:

Sweet God, (ascriptive address that serves as invocation)
giver of chocolate, (affirmation of who God is/what God does)
Help us to taste and see that you are good (petition)
that we may trust and share the richness of your love for us (desired result)
through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen (doxological conclusion naming Christ as Lord)

The thematic is God’s goodness as seen through the gift of chocolate (yes, ludicrous). In keeping with the theme, the adjectival ascriptive is “sweet,” the affirmation of who God is is “giver of chocolate.” The petition is related to the goodness and richness of taste. Standard “through Jesus Christ” ending.

Now a real prayer:

**Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom:
Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn,
that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth,
they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**