

# Prayers Inspired by Gregory of Narek

Gregory of Narek (951–1003) was an Armenian monk, poet, mystical philosopher, theologian and saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church and Catholic Church. He has been called “Armenia's first great poet.” His Book of Prayers is a long mystical poem in 95 sections. The English translation inspiring the prayers that follow is by Thomas Samuelian, St. Grigor Narekatsi. Speaking with God from the Depths of the Heart. Yerevan: Vem, 2001.

## Prayer for the Day

Son of justice,  
Ray of blessings, form of light,  
Cherished desire, exalted beyond understanding,  
King of glory, Christ Creator, life proclaimed,  
Finish, I pray the mere renderings of my voice with your own mighty words.  
Help me to polish up pleasing prayer to bring before you.  
You will bless all life, God of goodness,  
Who provides all things above and below.  
Prepare the earth to the light of day.  
Let your light dawn,  
And let the soil bloom and bring forth fruit.  
To the Creator, together with you, all glory,  
And with the Holy Spirit, praise and resounding thanks,  
Now, and always and forever.  
Amen.

## Call to Worship

L: The voice of assigning heart, its songs and cry,  
I offer to you, O Seer of Secrets.

C: **Be present in our worship today,  
and speak movingly to our hearts.**

L: You are the one who makes possible  
the miracle of life.

C: **Be present in our worship today,  
and speak movingly to our hearts.**

L: Adorn us with your grace Great God,  
and accept the praise of our hearts.

C: **Be present in our worship today,  
and speak movingly to our hearts.**

## A Prayer

You have made me in your glorious image,  
favoring a weak being like me  
with your sublime likeness,  
adorning me with speech,  
and burnishing me with your breath,  
enriching me with thought,  
Cultivating me with wisdom,  
establishing me with ingenuity,  
setting me apart from the animals  
endowing my character with the thinking soul,  
embellishing me with the sovereign individuality,  
giving birth to me as a mother,  
nurturing me as a nurse,  
caring for me as a guardian,  
you brought away word being in your courtyard,  
irrigate my being with the water of life,  
cleanse me with the dew of the baptismal fount,  
nourished me with heavenly bread,  
quenched my thirst with your waters,  
emboldened my earthly eyes to seek you,  
embraced me in your glorious light.  
You have blessed us beyond understanding  
and for this we give our thanks and praise.  
Amen

## Prayers from the Armenian Orthodox Church

Keep us in peace of Christ of God,  
under the protection of your holy and venerable cross;  
save us from enemies visible and invisible,  
give us strength in adversity and danger,  
and grant us worthy to glorify you with Thanksgiving,  
We praise the Creator, Son and Holy Spirit  
now and ever world without end, Amen.

O Mystery Deep, unsearchable, eternal,  
And powerfully present with us this day;  
Who has established the heavenly dominions with splendor,  
The legions of flaming spirits in the chamber of light unapproachable.  
With wonderful power you did create humankind  
And clothed us with grace and elegance.  
Through the sufferings of your Only-Begotten  
All creatures are renewed and clad in a garment none can take away.  
Creator God, preserve in peace all those that worship you this day.  
Strengthen their arms with power,  
Undergird them in adversity with your strength,  
Sustain all people who cry to you with your grace,  
And preserve them in a peace which is only yours to give.