

## WORK

God will transform us over time through corporate and private worship, prayer, and Bible reading; fellowship with God's people; pursuit of holiness of life; witness toward those who do not know Christ; and acts of love toward all. The first Christians set this pattern as they 'devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.' (Acts 2:42).

As we are able, we should earn our own living so that we may set aside offerings for worship, give alms to the poor, and care for our dependents; and we should use all of our possessions, gifts and abilities to glorify God, better the state of the creation, and love our neighbors. A tithe, which is ten percent of our income, is the minimum standard and goal of giving for the work of God.

The people of God are the chief agents of the Mission of the Church to extend the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people everywhere will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The effective ministry of the Church is the responsibility of the laity no less than it is the responsibility of Bishops and other Clergy. It is incumbent for every lay member of the Church to become an effective minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, one who is spiritually qualified, gifted, called, and mature in the faith.

The Christian life of holiness, in which obedience to Christ is central, is rooted in the bond that believers have with the Son and the Father through the Holy Spirit. For Jesus, acts are only right insofar as the attitude of mind and heart that they express is right.

## REST

The Fourth Commandment is: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Sabbath is from the Hebrew *shavath*, which means 'rest.' God commanded Israel to set apart each seventh day following six days of work for rest and worship (Exodus 19:8-11).

We rest because God rested on the seventh day from his work of creation. The Sabbath rest brings rhythm to life, work and worship; freedom from slavery to unending labor; and awareness that God is Lord of all time.

In creation, through the sun, moon, and stars; in the law, through Israel's sacrificial calendar and in the Church's liturgy, patterned after Temple worship, we learn that time belongs to God and is ordered by Him.

Jesus offers himself as the source of our true rest—from the slavery of sin, from the wasteland of human striving, and from Satan's legacy of futile toil, pain, disease, and death.

The Church worships on the first day of the week in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ on the first day of the week.

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"Canons and Constitution of the Anglican Church in North America, Canon 10 Of the Laity, Section 2 - Concerning Duties of the Laity 3 "

# A Rule of Life

“Thus we prepare  
for eternal life in  
God.”

Pray

Read

Work

Rest

## It shall be the duty of every member of the Church:

1. To worship God, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, every Lord's Day in a Church unless reasonably prevented;
2. To engage regularly in the reading and study of Holy Scripture and the Doctrine of the Church as found in Article I of the Constitution of this Church;
3. To pray regularly for their needs and those of others, for the Church and its mission, and for the concerns of the world;
4. To observe their baptismal vows, to lead an upright and sober life, and not give scandal to the Church;
5. To present their children and those they have led to the Lord for baptism and confirmation;
6. To give regular financial support to the Church, with the biblical tithe as the minimum standard of giving;
7. To practice forgiveness daily according to our Lord's teaching;
8. To receive worthily the Sacrament of Holy Communion as often as reasonable;
9. To observe the feasts and fasts of the Church set forth in the Anglican formularies;
10. To affirm and follow the biblical standards of sexual morality and ethics in Canon II.8;
11. To continue his or her instruction in the Faith so as to remain an effective minister for the Lord Jesus Christ;
12. To devote themselves to the ministry of Christ among those who do not know Him, utilizing the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives them, for the effective extension of Christ's Kingdom.

## PRAY

The Gospel is God's invitation to all people to come to know him, to spend this present life getting to know him better, and to love and serve him as members of his redeemed family. Thus we prepare for eternal life with God. For all Christians, therefore, communing with God becomes life's central activity. Prayer is our God-given way of responding to the knowledge of God and his desires and purposes for us: entering through prayer into direct fellowship with him.

Christian prayer is best understood as our personal response to God's Word. Just as Anglican worship begins with the reading of Scripture followed by prayers, so our daily rule of life is to be patterned on Bible reading and prayer.

Prayer takes two primary forms. On the one hand, we speak to God on our own, apart from human company, as our Savior directed in his Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 6:6). On the other hand, we also pray in company, as part of a worshipping congregation, in any group that meets for prayer, and ideally also with family and friends. Two proven patterns of prayer are Morning and Evening Prayer and ACTS—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

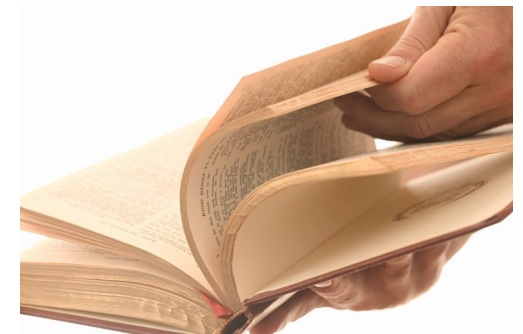
Benefit will also come from constant silent utterance throughout the day of the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.," and, of course, The Lord's Prayer.

## READ

We read and pray Scripture daily, that we may know God's truth and proclaim it clearly to the whole world.

Just as Holy Scripture was not given through private interpretation, so it must also be translated, read, preached, taught, and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the Church's historic and consensual teaching of it.

"Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*"



*Holy Scripture is 'God-Breathed'*