

Yes, it is so!

50 Call-and-Response Prayers from

**THE MESSAGE<sup>®</sup>**

Catholic/Ecumenical Edition

for Gatherings, Meetings, and Small Groups



**YES, IT IS SO!**

**50 Call-and-Response Prayers from  
THE MESSAGE: CATHOLIC/ECUMENICAL EDITION  
for Gatherings, Meetings, and Small Groups**

Cover image © KsanasK, under license from Bigstock

Published by ACTA Publications, 4848 N. Clark St.,  
Chicago, IL 60640, (800) 397-2282, [actapublications.com](http://actapublications.com)

Copyright © 2015 by ACTA Publications

Scripture taken from *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*  
Copyright© 2013 by Eugene H. Peterson all rights reserved. Licensed  
with permission of NavPress. Represented by Tyndale House  
Publishers Inc. Carol Stream, Illinois 60188.

*The Message* and *The Message* logo are registered trademarks of  
NavPress. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Up to twenty-five (25) copies of any single Yes, It Is So! prayer may be  
copied free of charge for use in a meeting, study group, or family.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or  
transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, digital, or me-  
chanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information  
storage and retrieval system, including the Internet, without permis-  
sion from the publisher. Permission is hereby given to copy use short  
excerpts with proper citation in reviews and marketing copy, newslet-  
ters, bulletins, class handouts, and scholarly papers.

Library of Congress Number: 2015947215

ISBN: 978-0-87946-546-9

Printed in the United States of America by Total Printing Systems

Year 20 19 18 17 16 15

Printing 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

 Text printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	5
FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES	
GOD REIGNS! .....	9
CONFESS HIM FOR ALL HE'S WORTH .....	10
KEEP YOUR EYE ON ME .....	11
THE PERFECT GETAWAY .....	12
WORSHIP OPENS DOORS TO GOD'S GOODNESS .....	13
I'M CALLING THIS MEETING TO ORDER .....	14
AFFIRM OUR WORK .....	15
RAISE THE ROOF FOR THE GOD! .....	16
GOD WILL MAKE EVERYTHING RIGHT .....	17
NEVER OUT-OF-DATE, NEVER OBSOLETE .....	18
WHOLE AND HOLY .....	19
REASSURING PRESENCE, COMING AND GOING .....	20
LET ME LIVE ALWAYS WITH YOU .....	21
A FRESH START TO THOSE READY TO QUIT .....	22
PUT YOUR HOPE IN GOD .....	23
NO LIMITS TO THE WHOLENESS HE BRINGS .....	24
DON'T BE AFRAID .....	25
GOD HAS ROLLED UP HIS SLEEVES .....	26
LAVISH WITH FORGIVENESS .....	27
WAKE UP .....	28
RIGHTEOUSNESS IN FULL BLOOM .....	29
KEEP YOUR COOL .....	30
GOD'S MERCY NEVER QUILTS .....	31
SHOWERS OF WORDS TO REFRESH YOUR SOUL .....	32
FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES	
SHINE! .....	35
YOU'RE BLESSED .....	36
SET THE WORLD RIGHT .....	37
STEEP YOUR LIFE IN GOD-REALITY .....	38

BURSTING WITH GOD-NEWS .....	39
SELF-SACRIFICE IS THE WAY .....	40
THE LIFE-LIGHT .....	41
REMEMBER THE ROOT COMMAND .....	42
RIGHT WHERE I AM .....	43
SIN CAN'T TELL YOU HOW TO LIVE .....	44
ALERT SERVANTS OF THE MASTER .....	45
LIVING AND LOVING IN THE INCOMPLETE .....	46
NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME TO LISTEN .....	47
YOUR CREATIVE BEST .....	48
BOUNDLESS ENERGY, BOUNDLESS STRENGTH .....	49
GOD WILL FINISH THE WORK .....	50
CHRIST WILL DISPLACE OUR WORRY .....	51
LEADING THE RESURRECTION PARADE .....	52
A LIVING, SPIRITED DANCE .....	53
GOD DOES NOT GIVE UP .....	54
LET'S DO IT .....	55
ACT ON WHAT YOU HEAR! .....	56
YOU'LL HAVE IT ALL .....	57
BE DOWN TO EARTH .....	58
GREATER THAN OUR WORRIED HEARTS .....	59
GOD HAS MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD .....	60
SCRIPTURE INDEX .....	63

## A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Sometimes it is great to start an event by saying a prayer that everyone knows: the Our Father, Grace before Meals, the Prayer of St. Francis. Other times, it is inspiring to have someone say a prayer composed for the occasion, either ahead of time or on the spot. Or perhaps to ask someone to read a Bible passage.

Another great tradition is to use an “antiphonal” prayer, that is, one that is set up as a call-and-response, back-and-forth prayer between a leader and a group or between a group that is divided into two “voices.” Sometimes such prayer is meant to be sung; other times it is meant to be spoken. This is the kind of prayer experience provided by *Yes, It Is So!*

These 50 prayers are meant to be used in a variety of situations, from a family meal to a public convocation. They are all adapted from *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition* by Presbyterian minister Eugene H. Peterson. Prayers come with permission for purchasers to copy and hand out at no charge for use in churches, schools, and other not-for-profit organizations. The prayers are presented in the order they appear in the Bible, and there is a scriptural index in the back. Each prayer has also been given a title that captures its spirit and content.

For those not familiar with *The Message*, it is a fresh, compelling, challenging, and faith-filled translation of the Scriptures from the ancient texts into contemporary language that is easily accessible to everyone, even those not especially familiar with all the books of the Bible. The “Catholic/Ecumeni-

cal Edition,” published by ACTA Publications, contains the deuterocanonical books used by Catholics, Orthodox, and some Protestant denominations, as translated by William Griffin, a Catholic layman and a friend and colleague of Rev. Peterson. So, for example, you will find prayers in this collection from the deuterocanonical books of Tobit, Judith, and Daniel, as well as from the Psalms and other more familiar books of the Bible.

Each of the prayers ends with a unison proclamation, “Yes, it is so! Amen. Yes, it’s so. Amen. Amen.” This is a contemporary rendering of the ancient word “Amen.” It can be spoken or, for more adventurous groups, sung to the tune of the famous African-American spiritual “Amen,” recorded in June 1948 and released in January 1949 by the Wings Over Jordan Choir and later used in the Academy-Award-winning movie *The Lilies of the Field* starring Sydney Poitier, as arranged and dubbed for Poitier in the film by composer, singer, and actor Jester Hairston. “Amen” was then popularized by Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions and other groups.

I thank Patricia Lynch for her inspired work in choosing the passages from *The Message* and designing and arranging them into call-and-response prayers.

Gregory F. Augustine Pierce  
ACTA Publications  
Chicago, Illinois

## GOD REIGNS!

A: Sing to GOD, everyone and everything!

B: Get out his salvation news every day!

A: Publish his glory among the godless nations,

B: his wonders to all races and religions.

A: Shout Bravo! to GOD, families of the peoples,

B: in awe of the Glory, in awe of the Strength: Bravo!

A: Shout Bravo! to his famous Name,

B: lift high an offering and enter his presence!

ALL: Stand resplendent in his robes of holiness!

A: God is serious business, take him seriously;

B: he's put the earth in place and it's not moving.

A: So let Heaven rejoice, let Earth be jubilant,

B: and pass the word among the nations,

“GOD reigns!”

A: Give thanks to GOD—he is good

B: and his love never quits.

A: Say, “Save us, Savior God,

B: round us up and get us out

of these godless places,

A: So we can give thanks to your holy Name,

B: and bask in your life of praise.”

A: Blessed be GOD, the God of Israel,

B: from everlasting to everlasting.

ALL: Yes, it is so. Amen. Yes, it's so. Amen. Amen.

From 1 Chronicles 16, © *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*

## CONFESS HIM FOR ALL HE'S WORTH

A: Bless the living God forever,

B: Bless all his kingdom.

A: When you turned toward him  
by doing the right thing,

B: he turned toward you,  
becoming totally yours,  
face-to-face once more.

A: Just look at what he's done for you;

B: shout it from the rooftops!

A: Bless the Lord of Justice,

B: exalt the King of Eternity!

A: A captive on this earth, I confess him.

B: A sinner among sinners, I praise him.

A: Change your lives, stop your sins,  
do the just thing.

B: Who knows, he may do the just thing  
back to you.

A: My soul and I, we sing joyful things  
to the Lord of Heaven;

B: my soul rejoices all the days of my life.

A: Bless the Lord, you chosen ones,  
all praise his majesty!

B: Confess him for all he's worth!"

ALL: Yes, it is so. Amen. Yes, it's so. Amen. Amen.

From Tobit 13, © *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*



## KEEP YOUR EYE ON ME

A: Listen while I build my case, God,  
B: the most honest prayer you'll ever hear.

A: Show the world I'm innocent—  
B: in your heart you know I am.

A: Go ahead, examine me from inside out,  
B: surprise me in the middle of the night—

A: You'll find I'm just what I say I am.  
B: My words don't run loose.

A: I'm not trying to get my way  
in the world's way.

B: I'm trying to get your way,  
your Word's way.

A: I'm staying on your trail;  
I'm putting one foot  
In front of the other.

B: I'm not giving up.

A: Keep your eye on me;

B: hide me under your cool wing feathers

A: From the wicked who are out to get me,

B: from mortal enemies closing in.

A: And me? I plan on looking  
you full in the face.

B: When I get up,  
I'll see your full stature  
and live heaven on earth.

ALL: Yes, it is so. Amen. Yes, it's so. Amen. Amen.

From Psalm 17, © *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*

## YOU'RE BLESSED

A: You're blessed when you're  
at the end of your rope.

B: With less of you there is more  
of God and his rule.

A: You're blessed when you feel  
you've lost what is most dear to you.

B: Only then can you be embraced  
by the One most dear to you.

A: You're blessed when you're content  
with just who you are—no more, no less.

B: That's the moment you find yourselves proud  
owners of everything that can't be bought.

A: You're blessed when you care.

B: At the moment of being “care-full,”  
you find yourselves cared for.

A: You're blessed when you get your inside world—  
your mind and heart—put right.

B: Then you can see God in the outside world.

A: You're blessed when you can show people  
how to cooperate instead of compete or fight.

B: That's when you discover who you really are,  
and your place in God's family.

ALL: Yes, it is so. Amen. Yes, it's so. Amen. Amen.

From Matthew 5, © *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*

## SET THE WORLD RIGHT

A: Our Father in Heaven,

B: Reveal who you are.

A: Set the world right;

B: Do what's best  
as above, so below.

A: Keep us alive with three square meals,

B: Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

A: Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.

B: You're in charge!

A: You can do anything you want!

B: You're ablaze in beauty!

ALL: Yes, it is so. Amen. Yes, it's so. Amen. Amen.

From Matthew 6, © *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*

## STEEP YOUR LIFE IN GOD-REALITY

A: If God gives such attention

to the appearance of wildflowers—

B: most of which are never even seen—

A: don't you think he'll attend to you,

B: take pride in you, do his best for you?

A: What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax,

B: to not be so preoccupied with getting,

so you can respond to God's giving.

A: People who don't know God

and the way he works

B: fuss over these things,

A: but you know both God

B: and how he works.

A: Steep your life in God-reality,

B: God-initiative,

A: God-provisions.

B: Don't worry about missing out.

A: You'll find all your everyday human concerns

B: will be met.

A: Give your entire attention

to what God is doing right now,

B: and don't get worked up about what may

or may not happen tomorrow.

A: God will help you deal with whatever hard things

come up when the time comes.

ALL: Yes, it is so. Amen. Yes, it's so. Amen. Amen.

From Matthew 6 © *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*