

Prayer: The experience of corporate or individual nearness with God, through words, acts, or silence. Any act or activity offered to God in a spirit of dedication may be prayerful. This nearness may take the form of addressing God, as in prayers of petition, praise, and thanksgiving; or the form of listening, as in contemplative and meditative prayer. Both forms assume a relationship between God and the one who prays. Prayer is the opening of the direct relationship between God and humanity. The Catechism states, “Christian prayer is response to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.” (BCP, p. 856)

- *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians*. Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors. (1999, p. 409).