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Epilogue: A Litany for Faithful Engagement with Artificial Intelligence

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Epilogue

A Litany for Faithful Engagement with Artificial Intelligence

Bruce D. Baker

A litany is a thoughtfully organized prayer for use in public worship by the church, or as a personal devotional practice by individuals. This seems a fitting way to close our reflection on AI, faith, and the future. Prayer will be essential to our faithful response to the new opportunities and challenges AI brings. Our hope is that this litany will serve as a practical guide to thoughtful invocation of the Holy Spirit in prayers for wisdom and discernment, and in the daily disciplines of spiritual growth.

The litany is structured as a set of short paragraphs followed by short sentences (in bold), to facilitate responsive reading in a worship service. However, this versatile structured prayer is suited for use in both public worship and private prayer, with or without responsive reading. The themes addressed by each paragraph offer a survey of seminal ideas regarding the spiritual dimensions of our engagement with AI. We hope this prayer offering will be edifying and worshipful. Lord God, hear our prayers . . .

A LITANY FOR FAITHFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH AI

Heavenly Father, you have created the heavens and earth, and the fullness thereof. All good gifts come from you. We praise you for the bounty of creation, and for the gifts of energy, imagination, and skill to create technologies and bring them into existence. Open the eyes of our hearts to see how you are at work in us, as we develop, deploy, and use these creative gifts.

Lord, grant us wisdom, grant us courage, and bless the work of our hands.

Lord Jesus, you have invited us into relationship with God the Father and with our sisters and brothers throughout humanity. You have saved us from our sins and invited us into eternal life. Help us to see the effects of our technologies on our neighbors, ourselves, and our relationships. Let us be guided by your commandment to love one another, so that you will be our guide to wise use of AI.

Lord, grant us wisdom, grant us courage, and show us the way of love.

Holy Spirit, you are closer than the air we breathe. You discern our thoughts from far away. You intercede with sighs too deep for words when we do not know how to pray. You illumine our minds with understanding. Give us hope and assure us as we walk by faith that you will guide us in paths of righteousness. Holy Spirit, we need your help in the face of mystery, to see the spiritual impact of our engagement with AI.

Lord, grant us wisdom, grant us courage, and illumine our minds.

Heavenly Father, we lift our eyes to you. You are our help and strength. You lift us up and keep us from stumbling. We will trust you always, in all things. Let us not be distracted from your saving grace by the power of our technology. For you alone are God.

Great is your faithfulness. Your mercies are new every morning.

Lord Jesus, you call us to the ministry of reconciliation. Be at work in us so that the time we spend engaging with AI and other emerging technologies may bear fruit in mending and healing our wounds, our relationships, and the hurts of the world. Forgive us our sins and help us use the creative power of technology to restore and protect nature according to your creation mandate.

Great is your faithfulness. Your mercies are new every morning.

Holy Spirit, be at work in us and in the unforeseeable paths of our engagement with AI. Be at work in the designers and coders, that your purposes may shine in their thinking. Be at work in the lives of those touched by the AI we develop, that your wisdom may guide and protect.

Great is your faithfulness. Your mercies are new every morning.

Lord God, where evil threatens to twist the powers unleashed by our AI-driven machines and platforms, may your strong arm protect those in harm's way. Give us eyes to see through the cloak of injustice and expose the error of our ways. Then guide us in paths of wisdom to heal and restore. Let us direct the power of AI in doing justice, and let your will be done.

Lord, you are our rock and redeemer. We put our trust in you.

Lord Jesus, you are the vine, and we are the branches. Where the glitter of convenience and self-serving desires shine brightly in our AI applications, guard us against temptation. Hold us close and let us find our life and meaning in you. We desire the joy of communing with you. Let us not be fooled into searching anywhere else for the deepest desire of our heart.

Lord, you are our rock and redeemer. We find our life in you.

Holy Spirit, be our wisdom. Breathe life into our hopes that we may bear witness to you in creating and using AI. Give us restraint where needed to avoid destructive influences. Give us energy and strength to walk with you, and channel the power of our minds and our technologies toward righteousness. Give us the mind of Christ in the defining moments of our engagement with AI.

Lord, you are our rock and redeemer. Help us to love as you have loved. Amen.