The Four Woods morning prayer

The Kingdom never left.
We left the Kingdom behind.

We were never forgotten.
We forgot.

At 2 AM, I clung to You for peace.
At 7 AM, I began to walk with You in purpose.

Tomorrow morning, the invitation still stands.

Wake up.
Seek first His Kingdom.
Take on His yoke.
Pick up my cross.
Abide as His branch.
Train beneath His throne.

And then walk with the King on a path
into a world that still does not know
the King and His Kingdom are at hand.

[Can you imagine how apprentices would lead our lives and how the world would become people who treat others the way they want to be treated if this was the daily prayer of millions of humans around the globe?]

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The Four Woods Fearless & Loved prayer

Lord Jesus,
without fear because our Father gives me His Kingdom,
fully loved as you have loved me,
may Your love form me to bear fruit through me
That I may…
Rest under Your Yoke,
Surrender at the Cross,
Remain in You, the Branch,
and train to reign with You on Your Throne.
Forever and ever, amen.

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The Four Woods Prayer (Spoken Flow)

1. REST (Yoke) — Release *"Jesus, I come to You."*

Cantor Release control
- Lay down anxiety
- Receive presence

Breath prayer "Jesus, I rest in You."

2. SURRENDER (Cross) — Yield *"Not my will, but Yours."*

Cantor Die to self
- Let go of being right, in control, first
- Trust His way

Simple prayer "Jesus, I surrender this to You."

3. ABIDE (Branch) — Walk *"Show me how to live this with you."*

Cantor Obey in small moments
- Practice goodness
- Live the Sermon on the Mount

Action prayer "Jesus, what does it look like to follow You here?"

4. REIGN (Throne) — Rise *""Jesus, live Your life through me."*

Cantor Act with Kingdom authority
- Love, serve, lead
- Participate in restoration

Identity prayer "Jesus, let me take part in what You are doing."

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The Four Woods Experientially

The Shepherd's Prayer (Psalm 23 + Lord's Prayer) + Four Woods
Psalm 23 — The Shepherd's Presence
Lord's Prayer — The Shepherd's Kingdom
Four Woods — The Shepherd's Formation
Emmaus — The Shepherd's Companionship

Psalm 23 says: You are with me.
Matthew 11 says: Come to Me.
John 15 says: Abide in Me.
Luke 24 says: Walk with Me.
Revelation 22 says: Reign with Me.
The Woods name the terrain of that companionship.

"The Door Marked Surrender" prayer

Colossians 1:12–17, Philippians 2:6–8, Galatians 2:20, Luke 9:23

The door is marked surrender on both sides.

Lord Jesus, God of all creation —
for all things are created by you, for you,
and held together in you.

Kenosis… you emptied the fullness of reigning,
that we might know the richness of reigning in life.

You vacated your vocation as ruling King,
taking on the Cross as a humiliated criminal.

Kenosis… the key that opens God's Kingdom.

Your unsearchable riches from your unfathomable sacrifice.
Your emptying becomes our filling.

You did not enter the fullness of humanity
without first denying the vastness of deity.
No one can enter the fullness of the Kingdom,
without first denying the vastness of self.

As you were lifted up, all bowed.
Only when bowed are we lifted up.
With surrendered self-will,
I rummage for words and works yet to pay homage.

I kneel to heal,
I bow to rise,
for kneeling is the path into your Kingdom.

The door is marked surrender on both sides.

Amen and amen.

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A Whispered Daily Rhythm

a 20-second morning breath prayer. Simple spiritual oxygen.

Yoke… I receive Your rest.
Cross… I surrender what is not love.
Branch… I abide in Your life.
Throne… I act under Your reign.

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The Emmaus Connection (Luke 24)

Yoke — Walk beside Him.
Cross — Let misunderstanding die.
Branch — Feel your heart burn.
Throne — Run back with authority and joy.

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Anyone Can Pray the Four Woods

It scales because it's simple.
A child can pray it.
A pastor can preach it.
A mother in Brazil can whisper it.
A young believer in Pakistan can memorize it.
An exhausted executive can breathe it between meetings.
It does not require theological vocabulary. It requires presence.

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The Four Woods Daily Prayer

Soul at rest.
Will surrendered.
Life remaining in Him… bearing fruit.

"Apart from Me you can do nothing."
So today I ask a different question: What can I do as a part of You?

Lord, give me eyes—Emmaus eyes, a yoked soul—to see Your Kingdom at work.

A surrendered will—to trust You in what I see.

Show me what part I can play in it—as a branch abiding in You,

however small that part may be,
before the King whose Kingdom I serve.

The Four Woods Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

- "Our Father" → Yoke
- "Your will be done" → Cross
- "Give us…" → Branch
- "Yours is the Kingdom…" → Throne

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Makes Us Your Woods [cohort 4 - The Throne]

In the Yoke we hear, "Be at rest o my soul
At the Cross we receive, "Be found my lost child."
As the Branch we know, "Be fruitful in love."
On the throne, we rise, "Be faithful in power."

Lord, where there is burden, make us a light yoke.
Lord, where there is broken, make us a selfless cross.
Lord, where there is barren, make us stay in love.
Lord, where there is beholden, makes us reigning sons & daughters.

Keep us with you, makes us like you, lead us after you.

In the name of the vine to whom we cling, amen.