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**D<sup>R</sup> HILL**  
*OF DAILLY'S*  
**PRAYERS**

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# PRA Y E R S

FOR THE

USE OF FAMILIES AND PRIVATE  
CHRISTIANS.

WITH

A PRELIMINARY ADDRESS  
TO HIS PARISHIONERS.

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## CONTENTS.

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PRELIMINARY ADDRESS, . . . . .	PAGE 5
FAMILY PRAYERS FOR WEEK DAYS, . . . . .	15
————— FOR THE LORD'S DAY, . . . . .	41
————— FOR A FAST DAY, . . . . .	54
————— FOR A COMMUNION SABBATH, . . . . .	63
————— FOR NEW-YEAR'S DAY, . . . . .	73
MEDITATIONS FOR A PARENT WHEN ABOUT TO APPLY FOR BAPTISM TO HIS CHILD, . . . . .	79
PRAYER FOR A PARENT BEFORE THE BAPTISM OF HIS CHILD, . . . . .	90
PRAYERS FOR PARENTS IN BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN, . . . . .	92
PRAYERS FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN, . . . . .	99
————— FOR YOUNG PERSONS, . . . . .	104
————— FOR SERVANTS, . . . . .	116
————— BEFORE READING THE SCRIPTURES, . . . . .	121
PRAYER BEFORE THE LORD'S SUPPER, . . . . .	125
PRAYERS AFTER THE LORD'S SUPPER, . . . . .	130
PRAYER ON OCCASION OF SICKNESS IN A FAMILY, . . . . .	141
————— OF RECOVERY FROM SICK- NESS, . . . . .	146
————— OF DEATH IN A FAMILY, . . . . .	149
PRAYER FOR CHILDREN ON THE DEATH OF A PARENT, . . . . .	151
PRAYER UNDER A SENSE OF SIN, . . . . .	153
————— IN THE EXPERIENCE OF SPIRITUAL COM- FORT, . . . . .	156
————— FOR THOSE IN ADVANCED LIFE, . . . . .	159





## PRELIMINARY ADDRESS.

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PARISHIONERS OF DAILLY! whom God has committed to my care that I may watch for your souls, let me entreat of you to avail yourselves of the following Prayers, which I have written principally for your use. They are not intended to prevent you from employing prayers of your own, or from expressing in your own language your desires unto God. Far from it. It is most important that every one should make his requests known unto God in the manner that is natural to him. And every one has requests to make that are peculiar to himself. Others cannot always suit the expression of them exactly to his case. The heart knoweth its own bitterness; and it is only between the heart, and Him that looketh on the heart, that there can be real and actual interchange of sentiment.

I am aware that many of you pray; and that some of you have considerable facility in using the language of prayer. But I am also painfully aware, that many of you do not pray at all; that some of you repeat for prayer the words which you were taught to employ in your childhood; and that some, and especially some who have become heads of

families, labour under a difficulty of clothing in any sort of language the wants which they feel, and are afraid lest, in attempting the exercise of Family Worship, they should speak what is unbecoming in so solemn an act; or, by the mode in which they express themselves, should disturb, rather than raise, the devotional sentiments of those who hear them.

The purpose for which the following Prayers are written, is, by any influence which I possess, to lead the prayerless to pray; to help those who want sufficient boldness to speak out in prayer in words of their own; and to suggest both thoughts and simple language to those who need to be directed in their devotional exercises. I wish to supply them all with forms of prayer, which they may use in the meantime, till, after trial and serious consideration, they ascertain whether other petitions and other modes of expression would not be more suited to their circumstances, and more in unison with the desires of their hearts. My great object is, that all of you should pray; that every one should pray by himself, and out of the abundance of his heart; and that every head of a family should assemble the members of his household, and unite with them regularly in religious exercises. With proper attention on the part of individuals, and especially of heads of families, I do not doubt that this most important result may very speedily be effected.

Some step like that which I am now taking, appears to be absolutely necessary. From my earliest acquaintance with you, I have inculcated the duties both of private prayer and of family worship. Young communicants, and parents coming for baptism to their children, know well how earnestly I pressed these duties, not only as important in their circumstances, but as of paramount importance at all times. They are enjoined in Scripture with peculiar urgency. They arise from our condition as dependent and sinful creatures, which all of us are. A neglect of them indicates both a woful ignorance of our actual state, and a want of right religious feeling, and it is invariably attended by unfruitfulness in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. What you hear from me will profit you little, if you do not meditate upon it, and make it a subject of prayer. And what you meet with in the course of God's providence, will be generally overlooked and unimproved, if it is not regarded as a groundwork for thanksgiving, or confession of sin, or earnest supplication for divine grace to sustain and direct you.

With the variety of forms of prayer which I now put within your reach, you will no longer be able to plead inability to perform this necessary and most important duty; and I fondly hope that there is not an individual among you, who does not acknowledge both the obligation and the importance of the duty. To satisfy yourselves upon

these points, consider not only how expressly and repeatedly it is enjoined in Scripture, but how utterly helpless you are in yourselves, as regards both this life and that which is to come. Your breath is in the hand of God. You know not what a day shall bring forth. You have no power over passing events. Your ordinary comforts are the gifts of God, and it depends upon Him, whether you prosper and are in health, or whether you are afflicted and die. The sinfulness of our nature renders divine grace necessary to every human being. Without it there cannot be either faith in Christ or holiness of life; without it the Scriptures may be read, but will fail to enter the heart, and attendance on the ordinances of religion will be only the bodily exercise which profiteth little. Is it fitting then to live without due recognition of God, without asking in all humility that He would bestow those blessings which you daily, and hourly, and continually need? Who can stand acquitted of most unseemly and offensive arrogance and pride, who will not bow his knee and be a suppliant to God?

In the season of trouble, it is your first desire to send for me, that I may pray on your behalf. You thus bear unsolicited testimony to the value and importance of prayer at one particular time. You believe that prayer in trouble will be the means of obtaining for you strength to bear your trials, and grace to profit by them. But it is not in the time of trouble only that we need to

pray. We are never free from danger. Our spiritual danger is probably greatest in the time of ease, and health, and apparent security. There are blessings of the greatest moment to be sought for, and blessings of the greatest moment to be got at every season. Make it more your practice to pray, and you will find the importance of prayer at all times. Occasions are constantly recurring which call for the exercise of prayer. The opening and the close of every day ; the undertakings in which you engage ; the new situations in which you are placed ; the welfare of your friends ; their spiritual as well as their temporal concerns ; the sins which you commit ; the temptations to which you are exposed ; the instruction which you receive ; the state of your affections and thoughts ; your improvement in holiness ; the good of your neighbours ; the well-being of your country ; the advancement of religion ; all afford matter for prayer, I may almost say for continual prayer.

To heads of families, to parents in particular, how many and how deeply interesting are the subjects of prayer which their situation suggests ! Can they look upon the members of their household, with whom they are so closely and so nearly connected, whom they are bound to protect and instruct, and on whose welfare and conduct so much of their happiness depends, and not feel from their own weakness, and the uncertainty of time, and the dangers with which the objects of their affections are threatened, how incumbent

it is to carry them to the throne of grace, and to ask, not only that God would give them bread to eat and raiment to put on, but also that He would be with them, and keep them in the way that they go? Of all men, a parent who has the good of his children at heart, and who earnestly desires their welfare, should be the foremost to pray. For in what possible way can their welfare be better secured than by his commending them to God, and teaching them, by their kneeling around him, and listening to his prayers, that in the favour and blessing of their Father in heaven their happiness consists?

But it is not only parents and heads of families that should pray. True religion will have no place in the heart of any individual till a prayerful disposition be formed, (Acts ix. 11.) and never will you be filled with the fruits of righteousness, till your being made so has been the subject of prayer. (Phil. i. 9—11. Col. i. 9—11.) You may indeed continue to enjoy the outward privileges of Christians, and even to be respected and estimable members of society, although the only prayers which you offer are those which you hear at family worship, or in the house of God. Your conduct may not be incorrect or immoral; but how poor in this case will your Christian attainments be! how defective in point of principle must your characters be! how ignorant must you ever remain of the peace and joy of believing! And shall it be

the only fruit of my ministry among you, to give you a form of godliness, leaving you utter strangers to the power thereof? Are you so without understanding yourselves, as to suppose, that in regard to God or your eternal welfare, the possession, the mere possession of Christian privileges, without the heart to improve them, will be of the slightest avail? (Matt. iii. 8, 9, 10.—Isaiah, xxix. 13, 14.—Ezek. xxxiii. 31, 32.) The disposition to love and obey him, God alone can bestow; and for this, as the prophet Ezekiel says, he will be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them. If you think it at all advisable, or right, or important to be Christians, set about the accomplishment of this object in the only way in which it can be effected. Begin with humble and earnest prayer; continue in prayer; pray without ceasing. If you find that your success is not answerable to your wishes; if you find that your progress in the Christian life, or your experience of Christian joy, is not satisfactory to your minds, renew your supplications. Let them be more fervent than they were before. Let them be in no respect the language merely of your lips. Let them be the warm and genuine dictates of your heart. You will not long pursue this course in vain. (Psalm xxxiv. 4, 5, 6.) You have the Saviour's promise, that if you ask, it shall be given unto you. (Luke, xi. 9—13.) He does not pledge himself, that for one asking, or for any particular number of askings, the Holy Spirit

shall be given. But persevere in your petitions, and you will assuredly be heard.

The Prayers which I have written for your present use are not numerous, because, I repeat it, they are not intended to be substituted for your own prayers. I wish rather that they should be considered as helps, or hints, or specimens, by attending to which you may be enabled to pray for yourselves according to the dictates of your own hearts. In writing them, I have supposed myself in your circumstances, or in the circumstances in which some of you either may be, or were actually placed; and I have endeavoured to express, sometimes very shortly, the sentiments and desires, which in these circumstances I conceived it likely that you would cherish, or which I thought it would be becoming and right for you to cherish. If the Prayers are prayers which you can offer, because they speak your mind, use them by all means. But do not think yourselves tied down to them as they are. Make any alterations on them which appear to be necessary, in order to fit them better for yourselves. Leave out whatever does not go with your heart. If petitions are omitted which you wish to offer, introduce them for yourselves. And when you know distinctly what you desire from God, throw aside the trammels of any particular form of prayer, and pour out your heart before Him.

The grand requisite for prayer is acquaintance with your state as fallen creatures, to



whom a great salvation has been sent. If you have not deep convictions of sin, you will never pray. And you will be afraid to pray, you will have neither confidence nor hope in praying, if you do not believe in Christ. The more that these subjects press upon your mind, the more powerfully will you be impelled to prayer, both for yourselves and for others. Your heart will be hot within you. While you muse on the condition of men without Christ, and on the hope set before them in the Gospel, the fire will burn. Then will you speak with your tongue. (Psalm xxxix. 2—8.)

Acquaintance with Scripture you will also find of the utmost importance to assist you in praying. It abounds in the language of prayer. It explains your real condition, and the grounds of your hope. It speaks the sentiments of men in every possible situation of life. It is full of the choicest expressions for conveying to God the aspirations of humble, devout, and thankful minds; and the more that you enter into the import of these expressions, the more readily will they occur to your thoughts when you engage in prayer.

But neither acquaintance with your condition, nor acquaintance with Scripture, will enable you to pray, unless you are also moved thereto by the Spirit of God. You read of God pouring out the Spirit of grace and of supplication, (Zech. xii. 10,) and of Christians praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. (Ephes. vi. 18.) And hence it

is not to any gifts, or talents, or exertions of your own that you must look for ability to pray, but exclusively to God. In this, as in every Christian duty, commit your way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.

Desiring to make this little Work as generally useful as possible, and being aware that there are few situations in which parents labour under greater anxiety, or are more afraid of being found deficient than when they are about to apply for baptism to their children, I have prefixed to a prayer to be used by them on that occasion, a few meditations respecting their duties in connection with the ordinance, which it may be useful for them to consider. I have not done the same to the prayers to be used before approaching the Lord's Table; because the views which communicants should entertain are already pointed out in an address to them which I published some years ago. I have written four different Prayers for communicants after they have been at the Lord's Table, in the hope of expressing in one or other of them the sentiments which fill their minds.

On these efforts to promote your spiritual good, I now humbly implore the blessing of God, in so far as they are agreeable to his will, and conducive to his glory. And to Him, brethren beloved in the Lord, I earnestly and affectionately commend you all.

ALEX. HILL.

## FAMILY PRAYERS.

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O THOU, who art infinitely holy and pure, we sinful mortals cannot venture to approach thee, except through the mediation of Him, who took away sin by the sacrifice of himself, and who ever liveth to make intercession. Look upon the family now before thee, in the face of thine Anointed.

We bow with reverence at the footstool of thy throne. Who is like unto thee, O Lord, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders both of power and of love? We confess that we are sinful, and that our sins make us unworthy to come into thy presence, and deserving only of thy righteous judgments. But we praise and bless thee that Thou hast pitied us in our

lost condition, and directed us to Christ as the way in which we shall be cleansed from sin, and brought to the enjoyment of thy favour. We believe in him as the divinely appointed and all-sufficient Saviour, who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. For his sake we beseech thee, O Lord, to shew us thy mercy, and to grant us thy salvation.

Gratefully do we acknowledge that our outward comforts are many, and our domestic enjoyments are great. For these we desire to thank thee with our whole hearts. But what, O Lord, are earthly blessings compared with that favour of thine, which is better than life! and how short-lived and insecure would our happiness be, were we to build it only upon them! For the love which we bear to one another,

and the interest which we take in each other's welfare, we pray that, whatever may be our portion in this life, the Lord may bless us, and keep us, and lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace.

Grant, O Lord, to all the inmates of this family, whether old or young, O grant in thine infinite mercy the benefits of that redemption which was purchased by Christ. Justify them freely by thy grace, and give them peace with thee. Adopt them into thy family, and bestow upon them the privileges of thy children; place them under the guidance and the government of thy Holy Spirit; and let them be renewed after the image of thyself, and enabled more and more to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness. May the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, appear in our lives. May the duties of our several stations and relations be done from the heart, in obedience to Thee, who hast given to all of us our place upon earth. And while we

avoid all slothfulness in regard to these duties, may we also think of the vocation wherewith we are called as Christians; and looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, may we give all diligence that we may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless. Pardon all our short-comings, and omissions, and sins; and whatever be thine appointments in regard to us, prepare us for them; sanctify them to us; and teach us so to consider and improve them, that they may promote our eternal welfare.

We beseech thee also to make thy face to shine upon all who are objects of love or of interest to us. Lead them in the paths of righteousness for thy name's sake; and bestow upon them largely whatever is essential to their spiritual good. Bless our neighbours, and make them zealous of good works. Give to the ministers of Christ, and especially to our own minister, the wisdom that cometh from above. For all our fellow Christians we implore increase

of grace. May the afflicted experience the consolation that is in Christ. And do Thou, gracious God, pity the ignorant and the wicked, and bring them to the knowledge of thyself, and of Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. [Let thy presence go with us throughout the day,] [*Let thy kind providence watch over us through the night,*] and keep us from evil. Hear, O Lord, our prayers, and do exceeding abundantly above what we ask or think, for the Saviour's sake. Amen.

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O LORD, we adore thee as the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Thou hast bestowed on us the powers of our bodies and the faculties of our minds. By thee they are preserved in healthful exercise. Thy watchful care [has kept off evil from our dwelling during the silence of the night,] [*has guided and upheld us throughout another day,*] and thou art continuing to supply us with the bounties of thy providence, and the means of grace.

Thankful, O Lord, it becomes us to be, when we consider how manifold are thy mercies, and how utterly we are unworthy of the least of them. Sinful is our nature. We come short in all our duties. We cannot conceal from ourselves that there is sin in our conduct, in our words, in our thoughts. How much more must our sin be visible to thee, O holy God, who searchest the heart, and triest the reins of the children of men, and who art acquainted with all our ways! Yet notwithstanding our sins, how abundant are thy blessings to us! If we should count them, they are more in number than the sand. We have been the objects of a love which passeth knowledge. Thou hast commended thy love to us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. And along with the gift of thy Son, how many and how precious are the blessings which thou hast bestowed; pardon of sin, and peace with



thee; instruction to guide us in duty, and the grace of thy Holy Spirit to enable us to perform it; the<sup>n</sup> privileges of thy children upon earth, and the glories of heaven as our portion through eternity! Oh, if the blessings of this life were to be entirely withheld, or if thou wert pleased, in thine adorable providence, to lessen the measure of our earthly enjoyments, and to give us the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, how immense would still be the claims which, as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, thou wouldest have to our gratitude and love! and how entire and unmurmuring should be our submission to the all-merciful Being, who is in Christ reconciling us to himself!

Give us, we beseech thee, thankful hearts, when now thou art prolonging our life in soundness of mind and health of body, and art ministering to our outward comforts, bearing with<sup>us</sup> also in our sins, not executing sentence speedily against our evil works, but inviting us all to partake of the grace of the gospel. May a sense

of our temporal and our spiritual blessings animate our obedience, and make us eager to shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives. May we go to our several duties upon every occasion with the earnest desire of giving glory to God; and whatever be our circumstances, may we be enabled by thy grace to serve thee with singleness of heart, and to do what is pleasing in thy sight.

We humbly acknowledge our dependence upon thee, O God, and [we would begin this day with imploring thy blessing, without which no duty can be successfully performed, and no enjoyment should afford us pleasure.] [*we would conclude this day with committing ourselves, both soul and body, to thee.*] Forgive our sins for the sake of thy dear Son; and lead us so to repent of sin, that we may walk in newness of life. Let the light of thy countenance be lifted upon all in this family, whatever be their station or their age. May they be interested in the covenant of grace, and kept by thy power through faith unto

salvation. May all with whom we are in any way connected, be united to thee by faith in Christ. May our afflicted brethren experience those comforts which delight the souls of thy people; and to them and to all men may we ever cherish those benevolent affections which Christians are particularly called to exercise. We pray, also, for the welfare of our country, for the peace and prosperity of our Church, and for the universal establishment of the kingdom of Christ, that all men may be blessed in Jesus, and may call him blessed.

Accept of our thanks, O Lord, and hear our prayers, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

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HUMBLY, O Lord, do we desire to express our reverence for thy majesty, and our gratitude for thy goodness. There is none like unto thee in heaven or in earth. All power is thine. Thou dost whatso-

ever pleaseth thee, and thou dost only what is right. Clouds and darkness are round about thee; but justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, mercy and truth go before thy face. Angels and archangels bow in devout adoration before thee, when they contemplate thy glorious majesty. How much more should godly fear possess our minds when we lift our thoughts to God, and lead us to exclaim with solemn awe, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come!

We acknowledge, O Lord, that in ourselves we have no reason to look for any favour from a Being so infinitely exalted as thou art, and so unspeakably glorious in holiness. For who among us can say, I am clean from sin? But thy thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are thy ways our ways. Thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Thy delights are with the children of men. Thou retainest not thine anger for ever. In wrath thou rememberest mercy. Thou

hast no pleasure in the death of a sinner. Although acquainted with our ways, thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. Thou waitest to be gracious. Thou hast sent thy Son to call sinners to repentance, and to give them, in his death as a sacrifice for sin, the strongest proof of his love for their souls. Thou hast permitted us to hear the tidings of his salvation. O let them come into our hearts, that we may be the blessed people who know the joyful sound. They walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name do they rejoice all the day, and in thy righteousness are they exalted.

Many, O Lord, are thy temporal mercies, and we desire to bless the Lord for them, and to forget none of his benefits. But the richness of thy grace demand our special acknowledgments; and we praise and magnify Thee, that thou didst so love the world as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Unto

him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. We believe that there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. It is our comfort and joy to think of his sufficiency as the Saviour, and we pray that we may be enabled to receive and honour him in all his offices, as our Prophet, Priest, and King. O raise our conceptions of the value and importance of the spiritual blessings which flow to us through him. May we learn by experience how precious it is to have peace with thee, how large are the privileges of thy people, how stable are their joys. Above all, O Lord, may we obtain the earnest of the Spirit, whereby we shall be sealed unto the day of redemption. May his sanctifying grace be poured out upon us, that there may be no inconsistency between our professions and lives, that our wills may be conformed to thine, that we may increase and abound in love one

toward another and toward all men, and that our hearts may be established unblameable in holiness before God, even the Father.

For every token of thy grace which thou hast bestowed, and for every means of obtaining it with which we are favoured, we give thee unfeigned thanks. Behold us here as suppliants still for thy grace. Vain are our attempts to go forward to duties, or to encounter temptations, unless thou dost uphold us. Have compassion on our weakness, pardon our sins, and help us according to our need. May our relations and friends be partakers with us of thy excellent gift, that they also may be built up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation. And now, Lord, [during the business and engagements of the day,] [*during the silence of the night,*] we commit ourselves to thee, who hast all power to guard us from evil, and hast taught us to believe that, as thou didst not spare thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for us all, thou wilt with him freely give

us all things. Grant us, we beseech thee, an answer in peace; and unto thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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INFINITE, O Lord, are the perfections of thy nature, and deep is the humility with which we, sinful dust and ashes, should approach the great and the holy God. But to whom else shall we go? Thou hast all power to protect and uphold us. Thou art wise in counsel, and excellent in working. Thou art gracious, and full of compassion; and in Christ, thou art reconciling us to thyself. We have no title to thy favour, but that which arises from him. And we thank thee, that through him, we can come boldly to the throne of grace. We thank thee that he, who was in the beginning with God, and who was God, undertook our redemption; that he was made flesh in order to carry it into effect; and that he said, when he bowed



his head and gave up the ghost, "It is finished." We thank thee that in him we have an Advocate with the Father, and that, sinners as we are, we may yet hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

On the strength of the Saviour's merits, and the Saviour's intercession, we come, O Lord, to cast ourselves on thy mercy, and to pray that thou wouldest guide us with thy counsel, and afterward receive us to glory. Look on us in the face of thine Anointed, in whom thou seest no iniquity in Jacob, and no perverseness in Israel. May our sins be forgiven for his sake, and may thy grace be made in all things sufficient for us. May the power of sin over our hearts be broken. May we be enabled to resist temptation to sin; and may our duties to thee and our fellow-men be actively and faithfully performed.

Keep us, O Lord, in the humble frame of mind which becomes us as sinful creatures. Make us habitually watchful against that corruption of our nature which leads

continually to actual transgressions. Make us attentive to the means by which we may be guarded from evil, and incited to a patient continuance in well-doing. May we set thee always before us. May we study the example of our Lord. May we meditate much on the truths, and the precepts, and the promises, and the threatenings of thy word. May we walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. May our eyes be on the faithful of the land, and may we shun all fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Sanctify to us whatever events thou art pleased should befall us; that whether our comforts be continued or withdrawn, whether we are blessed with outward enjoyments, or visited in any way with the rod of affliction, improvement in holiness may be obtained by us from all thy dealings, and our path may be as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

As every day is an additional step to the close of our earthly pilgrimage, and as we know not what a day shall bring

forth, or when the period shall come, which will be to us as the day when God shall judge the world in righteousness, by that Man whom he hath ordained, may we be diligent in attending to the things that belong to our peace. May we cleave with growing earnestness to that Divine Saviour, who alone can enable us to live to thy glory here, and alone can bring us to thy presence in heaven. May we labour to correct and subdue in ourselves the love of the world, by ever bearing in mind, that in the world there is none abiding, and that the fashion of it passeth away, and that if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. May the kingdom of God and his righteousness be at all times our first concern. May the hope set before us in the Gospel be that which awakens our strongest interest. May the cultivation of Christian graces be to all of us the object of supreme importance. May our life be hid with Christ in God, that when he who is our life shall appear, we also may appear with him in

glory. [Be with us this day, O Lord, in our out-goings and our in-comings, and in all that we put our hand to.] [*O Thou who dost neither slumber nor sleep, be thou our keeper through the night.*] Give thy blessing to all whom we bear on our hearts before thee, or for whom our prayers should be offered; and let not our sins prevent the communication of thy favour to ourselves and to others; but deal graciously with us all, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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WE unite, O Lord, at the footstool of thy throne, in acknowledging our dependence upon thee, and offering thanks for thy manifold mercies. [They are new every morning. Thou hast brought us to the light of another day, and to the continued enjoyment of outward comforts and of Christian privileges.] [*Thou hast added another day to our mortal existence, and hast continued us in the enjoyment of outward comforts, and of Christian privileges.*]

We unite, O Lord, in seeking thy

favour. In thy favour is life, and thy loving-kindness is better than life. Upon ourselves, upon all who are objects to us either of interest or of tender affection, we implore thy blessing. Under thy protection we are safe. Thou canst put gladness in our heart. Thou canst cause light to spring out of darkness. Thou canst strengthen us for duties, and deliver us from evil, and carry us forward in our progress to heaven.

We seek thy favour, O Lord. But there are no deservings of our own that entitle us to obtain it. We acknowledge our sins, and we humble ourselves on account of them. How many are the sins over which it behoves us to lament with a godly sorrow ! sins against thee the God of our life, and the God of our salvation — sins in respect of one another, to whom we should ever be helpful, and kind, and forbearing — sins in respect of our duties, which we have been too apt to neglect and which have never been perfectly performed — sins in respect of our outward enjoyments, which we have often abused, and for

which we have not been sufficiently thankful —sins in respect of our spiritual advantages, which we have valued too little and been at too little pains to improve. O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, because we have sinned against thee.

We seek thy favour through the worthiness of thy dear Son, for whom we bless thee as thine unspeakable gift, and whom we desire ever to regard as the one Mediator between God and man, as the way, and the truth, and the life, who alone gives us access to the Father. We seek it earnestly through him. We seek it as essential to our good. What shall it profit us, if we gain the whole world, and withal be estranged from Thee? To whom shall we go for blessings, if Thou dost withhold them? In whom but in thee shall we find security from danger, and the power to advance us to glory? If thou art for us, who can be against us? Let our prayer, O Lord, come with acceptance before thee, that the light of thy countenance may be lifted on us all, whether old or young,

parent or child, master or servant. In our different capacities, let it appear to ourselves and to others, that we are under the guidance of thy Spirit—that the corruption of our nature is subdued, and that we are growing to a conformity with the image of thy Son. May we be enabled to carry our religious principles into the practice of life. Whatsoever we do, may we do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto man. Whatsoever we suffer, may we bear it as the chastening of thy hand; and by the exercise which it gives to our Christian graces, may we find it productive of the peaceable fruits of righteousness. May the remembrance of the Saviour never depart from our minds. Cherishing a sense of his love to our souls, and of our absolute dependence upon him, may our hearts be filled with grateful admiration of his sufferings and death. May we live by the faith of the Son of God. May we follow the holiness which he inculcates in his gospel, and which he taught by his example; and

may the God of hope fill us with all peace and joy in believing.

To every member of this family give grace according to his need. May our comforts be continued, if agreeable to thy will. May our afflictions be sanctified to us. May our spiritual advantages be valued and improved. May all who are endeared to us be objects of love to Thee. May the interests of religion flourish greatly among them. And may our brethren of men throughout the world be enlightened with the knowledge of divine truth, and brought under the power of divine grace.

[Give us this day our daily bread. Order our steps in thy word. Let no iniquity have dominion over us.] [*Give us this night the refreshment of sleep; and grant, O Lord, that whether we wake or sleep, we may live together with Christ.*] Hear our prayers, and be gracious to us, for the Saviour's sake. Amen.



O THOU, who art the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy, thou dwellest in the high and holy place; with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Give to us the lowliness of mind, and the sorrow for sin, and the dependence upon Jesus Christ, which will obtain for us, in all our approaches to thee, thy favour and blessing. Whatever be our outward circumstances, may we have such views of our spiritual estate, as will cause us to regard an interest in the great salvation as our chief concern. And when we unite, as at present, in thanksgiving and praise to thee, may our thoughts be occupied not only with the care and kindness of thy preserving providence, but also with the riches of thy grace in Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the desire of our hearts be not only for the continuance of worldly comforts, in so far as their continuance is agreeable to thee, but still more, for the

enlargement of our spiritual blessings; the enlightening of our minds—the increase of our faith and hope—the peace, even the peace of God, which passeth understanding, to our souls; and the help of his Spirit amidst our numberless infirmities.

Behold us, O God, in mercy, when we bow as a family before thee, and present our acknowledgments for unnumbered temporal blessings, and commit our concerns in this world to thy keeping, and beseech thee, for the sake of thy Son, to hide thy face from our sins—to correct what is amiss in our dispositions and habits—to confirm the good purposes which by thy grace we have been enabled to form, and to make us faithful in duties, and zealous of good works. To any good thing from thee, we have no claim in ourselves. But worthy is the Lamb that was slain. We believe in him, as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. We thank thee that he was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification, and is exalted

by thine own right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour. And we come, O Lord, in reliance on the righteousness of Christ, to ask that we may experience thy favour. May we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of our sins; and may thy loving-kindness be shewn in blessing our temporal comforts, and disposing us to use them without abusing them; in sanctifying to us what we are called to suffer—in sweetening our tempers, and giving us more of the meekness and gentleness of Christ—in animating us with unabated diligence in all our duties—in making holiness the object of our love and our pursuit—in causing the love of thyself to prevail in our hearts, and in maintaining within us a lively interest about spiritual and divine things. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in thee. The character of Christians thou alone canst enable us to support. Keep us from being only intent on exhibiting it when we are to be seen of men. In our most private moments, in all our

domestic intercourse, as well as on solemn occasions, and in the view of the world, may we have grace to act upon Christian principles. May we help one another to be holy and without rebuke before thee; and when any member of the family is overtaken in a fault, may it be our aim to restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted.

For our relations and friends we implore thy favour. May goodness and mercy follow them. Wherever distress prevails, let it be instrumental in quickening and increasing faith in Christ. May his religion be widely and universally spread over the earth, and may its enlightening, comforting, and sanctifying influence, become more and more manifest among the children of men. [Be our protector and guide through the day,] [*Be our watchful guardian through the night,*] and may all our sins be pardoned, and our prayers be heard and answered in peace, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

## MORNING PRAYER FOR THE LORD'S DAY.

Most gracious God! who hast appointed one day in seven expressly for religious services, we thank thee that thou hast brought us to the beginning of this holy day. May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's day. May we have grace to spend it so as to glorify thee, and to profit our own souls.

We adore thee as the Almighty God, by whom all things were created, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. Angels and souls of men derived their being from thee. Every creature that exists upon earth was framed by thy hand. The heavens are the work of thy fingers. In them hast thou set a tabernacle for the sun. The moon and the stars thou hast ordained. How manifold, O Lord, are thy works! They are great

and marvellous. In wisdom hast thou made them all.

We desire to contemplate them with the deepest reverence, as exhibiting thy glorious perfections. We thank thee that thou hast made us capable of tracing the invisible things of God, even his eternal power and Godhead, in the objects that surround us. We lament that, from the corruption of our nature, we are so little alive to the information which is furnished respecting thee by the things that are made. Do thou remove or restrain this corruption, that we may see with our eyes, and hear with our ears, and understand with our heart, what the heavens with all their host, the earth and all things that are therein, the seas and all that are therein, proclaim to us of the glory of thy name. And may all that we observe of thy doings in creation, exalt our conceptions of the majesty and the excellency of God, and fill our souls with reverence and godly fear, and holy admiration, and unaffected gratitude to Thee.

On the morning of this day we come before thee, not only as the creatures of thy hand, but also as a people who have obtained mercy through Christ, and have all the information respecting thy nature and thy will, which the marvellous light of Revelation affords. We thank thee that, in the Gospel of thy Son, thou hast manifested thy love towards us, and declared thy righteousness, and made known thy manifold wisdom, and the exceeding greatness of thy power. Do thou, O gracious God, who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Ignorant are we in ourselves, and little disposed to receive the things of the Spirit of God; neither can we know them in our natural state, because they are spiritually discerned. But blessed be thy name, thou hast declared it to be thy purpose, in regard to those who were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants

of promise, to open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to thysself, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them that are sanctified, by faith that is in Christ. We come to thee, O Lord, under a deep sense of the insufficiency of our own powers, and the coldness and indifference which we are too apt to shew towards spiritual things; humbly praying that the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, may give us a wise and understanding heart, and may prepare us to embrace the truth as it is in Jesus.

In the return of this day, which we hail as the memorial to thy people of the glorious resurrection of Christ, thou art still permitting us to think of the importance of his Gospel, and of the security which we have for every hope that is built upon him. O Lord, suffer us not to neglect his great salvation. May we have deep impressions of our sinful state, that we may anxiously



consider what we shall do to be saved. May it be borne in upon our minds, even with the demonstration of the Spirit, that Christ is all our salvation; that he is the way, and the truth, and the life; and that it is only through Him that we can come to the Father. May the righteousness of Christ be that in which we seek to be clothed. May our faith in him as the Redeemer of a lost world be strengthened, by considering the glory which thou hast given him in his resurrection from the dead, and his exaltation to thine own right hand. May the spiritual blessings which he bestows out of his inexhaustible fulness, the quickening, enlightening, comforting, and sanctifying influences of the Holy Ghost, appear to us in all their magnitude, and in all their preciousness to man, that we may long to possess them, and may thankfully improve them. May we cherish a lively gratitude to him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests to God and his Father; and

may it be our heart's desire to learn his will, and to testify our love to him by keeping his commandments.

Bless us this day in our preparations for engaging in the services of the sanctuary, and in our meditations and religious exercises when we return from it. Fulfil to all thy people, who have the privilege of assembling in the courts of thy house, thy gracious promise, that where two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou art in the midst of them. And may such members of this family, and of other families, as are prevented in thine adorable Providence from going with the multitude who keep thy holy day, have a comfortable sense of thy presence with their spirits, and find it good for them to draw near to thee in secret. More especially may those who labour under afflictions, or experience in any way the chastening of the Lord, be upheld by thy grace, and revived by the consolation that is in Christ.

May our pastor be instructed of thee, and enabled faithfully to make known to

his flock the whole counsel of God. May they receive with meekness the ingrafted word, which is able to save their souls. May the Church to which we belong be as a watered garden, in which the labours of those to whom thou hast committed the care of thy vineyard are unwearied, and the fruits of righteousness are gathered in abundance to thy glory and praise by Jesus Christ. May thy word have free course everywhere and be glorified, and may the number of those who disregard and oppose it be continually decreasing.

For all thy mercies, temporal and spiritual, we unite in giving thee humble and hearty thanks. Continue thy goodness to us, and to all our relations and friends. Vouchsafe the grace that is necessary for us; and let our shortcomings and sins be forgiven, for the sake of thy dear Son, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, be praise, and honour, and glory, for ever. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER FOR THE LORD'S DAY.

INFINITELY great and glorious God ! Angels and archangels are thy ministering servants. The host of heaven worshippeth thee. Universal nature proclaims the glory of thy name. In all the assemblies of the saints, thy praise has been heard this day. Accept of the homage which we also, as the members of a family to whom mercies abound, would now desire to offer.

Besides Thee there is no God. The gods of the nations are idols, the work of men's hand. But Thou, Lord, hast made the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. Thou didst speak, and it was done ; thou didst command, and it stood fast. Thou hast ordained all the manifold arrangements by which the present order of things is continued in beauteous and undisturbed regularity. Thou hast given to us, and all the creatures around us, properties and powers adapted to the

situations in which we are placed. Thou art continually furnishing us with supplies of our ordinary wants, and with large and varied means of enjoyment. Who in the heaven can be compared with the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord?

On thy pleasure all depends. When of old thou didst see that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, thou didst bring in the Flood upon the world of the ungodly, whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. And the heavens and the earth which are now, are kept in store by the same word which framed them at first, being reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

O thou great and dreadful God, who alone art to be feared, and whose favour it concerns us anxiously to seek, lead us to consider, and effectually to understand, what manner of persons we ought to be in all holy conversation and godliness. And as there is no man that liveth and

sinneth not, do thou enable us, to whom thou hast sent the good tidings of great joy that a Saviour is born, to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the Gospel. Thou didst not spare the angels that sinned. But in thy sovereign grace thou didst deliver man from going down to the pit. Thou didst find a ransom for his soul. Thou mightest have visited us with judgment, or left us to perish in our sins. But thou hast been pleased to open to us the way of salvation, and to give us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

What are we, O Lord, that thou hast been thus mindful of us? We bless and magnify thee, that, in the exceeding riches of thy grace, thou hast visited and redeemed us. We acknowledge that in ourselves we are altogether inefficient and without power to obtain the favour of God, or even to escape from merited wrath. We desire to hail with thankfulness the message of mercy, and recon-

ciliation, and peace, which, as the compassionate yet righteous Lord of all, thou hast sent to a guilty world. And believing with all humility, and with lively gratitude, that there is no other name but the name of Jesus given under heaven among men, whereby we must be saved, we pray that he of God may be made to us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

We thank thee that we have been brought up in the faith of Christ, that means of instruction are provided for us, and that we have ordinances of divine appointment to observe. We thank thee for the word which we are privileged to read for ourselves, and to hear expounded and preached. We thank thee for sacraments, and for prayer. We thank thee for the institution of the Sabbath; for the opportunity which some of us have had of joining in thy public worship; and for the rest which has been given to all of us from the business of life, that we may attend to the things that belong to our peace. Pardon,

O Lord, wherein we have failed to improve our precious privileges. Seal upon our souls whatever instruction in righteousness we have been permitted to receive, that if life be prolonged, we may go forth better prepared for our different duties. May our meditation upon Christ, and upon the obligations under which he has laid us, increase our love to him, and quicken our diligence in keeping his commandments. May our communion with Thee raise our affections and desires above worldly things; and may the holiness which becomes thy house, and without which no man shall see the Lord, be followed by us in all the private intercourse of life, and in every variety of our earthly condition.

Bless, O Lord, the neighbourhood in which we dwell, and the people with whom we joined this day in thy worship and service. Let peace and truth prevail among them. Be very favourable to our Zion. Let her be a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down, in which they that minister before thee are instructed



into the kingdom of heaven, and they that love thy name are found to dwell. May the interests of our country be upheld by thee. May our King be honoured by his subjects, and may he, and all that are in authority, look upon themselves as ministers of God. Spread, O Lord, over all the earth the religion of Christ. Give effect to the means which are used for conveying its truths to those who are ignorant of them, whether at home or abroad; and let all who labour under affliction experience the rich consolation which the Gospel affords.

O Father of mercies ! pardon wherein we have this day neglected our duties, or offended in our manner of performing them. Blot out all our iniquities. Accept of our thanks for our many temporal and spiritual blessings. Let thy kind providence watch over us through the night; and may grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be with us and our friends and fellow Christians, henceforth and for ever. Amen.

## DAY OF HUMILIATION BEFORE THE LORD'S SUPPER.

### MORNING PRAYER.

THOU, O Lord, fillest heaven and earth with thy presence, and no darkness or shadow of death can hide us from thy view. To thee the night shineth as the day. The secrets of all hearts are naked and open before thee. From the earliest period of our being thou hast marked our ways, and at thy judgment-seat we must ere long appear, to receive according to the deeds done in the body, whether they have been good or bad.

Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and thy displeasure with sin thou hast never ceased to display. How terrible have been the judgments with which, in every age, transgressors of thy law have been visited! The parents of our race thou didst banish from Eden; and their descendants, because of their sin, thou hast subjected to suffering and death. The

generations of men thou didst sweep by a deluge from the earth, when their wickedness was great. The cities of the plain, and their ungodly inhabitants, thou didst destroy with the fire of heaven. The people of Israel, because they were stiff-necked and rebellious, thou hast given to be scattered among the nations of the earth. The Son of thy love, when he came in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, thou didst deliver to be stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. And to this day, when the conscience of the wicked is awakened, and they suffer thy terrors, they are distracted. Greatly art thou to be feared, O Thou who art the high and lofty One, whose name is holy. Thy power is infinite, and thy nature is incapable of change.

We have sinned; and what can we answer for our sins? Justly mightest thou visit us with thy wrath. Long hast thou borne with us; and still have we provoked thee to anger by our renewed and aggravated guilt. As individuals, how manifold

are the mercies which we have received ! but how little have we rendered to the gracious God who bestowed them ! As a family, in how many respects have we been blessed ! but how often have we neglected or forgotten our duties to one another, and to Thee ! As professing Christians, how large have been our privileges, but how scanty is the improvement that we have made of them. Justly may it be said of us, that we still have need that one teach us the first principles of the oracles of God.' In many instances we have given way to the corruption of our nature, instead of resisting it; or have suffered ourselves to be led away with the error of the wicked; or have hardened our hearts against thy fear; or have been in the number of those who throw aside the restraints of religion, and say to themselves, Who is the Lord, that he should reign over us ?

With deep self-abasement, and in much apprehension of thy wrath, we humble ourselves before thee this day, confessing

our sins. To us belongeth confusion of face, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. There is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared. Thou hast spoken peace to us by Jesus Christ. Though the world be guilty before thee, and no flesh can be justified in thy sight by the deeds of the law, yet now the righteousness of God is manifested, even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe. Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief. Our hope of acceptance with thee is in him whom thou hast set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood. We account it a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And in the name of him, by whom it hath pleased thee to reconcile all things to thyself, we devoutly and earnestly pray for redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin.

In token of thy favour, may the earnest

of the Spirit be given in our hearts, and may his sanctifying influence appear in our lives. May the sorrow which we express for our sins be accompanied by much carefulness about our future conduct, and by a growing zeal in thy service; and may our dread of divine wrath be exchanged for holy confidence and joy. With child-like affection may we henceforth delight to obey thee; and in the exercise of Christian graces may we know the blessedness which belongs to thy people.

Prepare us, O Lord, for engaging with acceptance and with profit, in the services of thy house. May those who are to speak to us in thy name be anointed to preach good tidings to the meek; and may all our fellow-worshippers be clothed with humility, that they may obtain the favour of Him who resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.

For our temporal blessings, and our spiritual privileges, and more especially for the return of a communion season, we give thanks to God. Throughout the day, O Lord, be with us; be with every mem-

ber of the family; be with all in whom we are interested; and accept of us graciously, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O THOU searcher of hearts! before whom we have this day humbled ourselves, and unto whom we have made confession of our sins, look in mercy upon us when again we bow at the footstool of thy throne, and seek for an interest in thy favour through the one and only Redeemer.

We are less than the least of thy mercies. There is no worthiness in ourselves, or in our services. All our righteousnesses are as an unclean thing, and our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away. In our highest attainments we come short of thy glory, and there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not. Enter not, O God, into judgment with us; for in thy sight no flesh living shall be justified. Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

We thank thee that a fountain has been opened for sin and for uncleanness; and that we have been called to wash therein and be clean. We thank thee for all that assures thy people of the value and the efficacy of the sacrifice for sin that was offered on the cross; for the prophecies which foretold it; for the types and shadows which prefigured it; for the miracles which attested the commission that our Saviour received; for the signs and the wonders which accompanied his death; for his resurrection from the dead, which declared him to be the Son of God with power; and for his exaltation to thy right hand, that he may reign till he hath put all his enemies under his feet. But, above all, we thank thee that this great and glorious Redeemer is meek and lowly in heart; that he is sent to heal the broken-hearted, and to set at liberty them that are bruised; that he casts out none that come to thee by him; and that the poor in spirit, and mourners in Zion, are those for whom the blessings of his gospel are especially designed.



Blessed be thy name, that our wants have been considered, and that provision has been made for us in our destitute and helpless condition. We lift our hearts to thee, in grateful admiration of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich. We come to thee as suppliants, depending upon him, glorying in his cross, and desiring to be found in him, not having our own righteousness, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith. For his sake, O Lord, impart to us the blessings of the covenant of grace. Our sins and iniquities do thou remember no more. Let a new heart be put within us. Create us after thyself, in righteousness and true holiness. The hopes of thy children, let it be our privilege to entertain. And through thy mercy in the Saviour may it be our portion to enjoy their comforts while we live, and their felicity when we die.

Let the solemn season, which through

thy kind providence has returned, be blessed and improved, for the establishment of our faith. Fix our attention upon the views which have been opened of the sinfulness of man, and the excellency of Christ. Enable us diligently to employ the time which is given us to prepare for partaking worthily of the Lord's Supper. May we search and try our ways. May we meditate on the words, and the sufferings, and the love of the Saviour; and committing ourselves to thee, may we seek for thy grace to be made sufficient for us, that when we go to thy house, we may not give the sacrifice of fools.

Pardon, O Lord, whatever has been amiss in our services this day. Accept of the thanks which we now humbly offer for temporal and spiritual mercies. Let thy watchful care be exercised over the members of this family through the night. May thy favour be shewn to our friends. May the consolations of the gospel be administered to the afflicted and dying; and may the light of pure and undefiled

religion arise upon all, whether in Christian or in heathen lands, who are yet ignorant of its truths. While enjoying the ordinances of the gospel ourselves, and the blessings which they signify and seal, we compassionate the condition of those who are without Christ, and without God, and without hope in the world; and we pray that the efforts which are made by our own church, or by any who know the value of religion, for carrying to all men the good tidings of great joy, may be crowned with success.

Hear, O Lord, our humble prayer, and unto thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be praise and honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## COMMUNION SABBATH.

### MORNING PRAYER.

WITH grateful hearts, O Lord, we praise and magnify thee for preserving us to this holy day. This is the day which thou hast made. We will rejoice and be

glad in it. Thou art permitting us to hope for the enjoyment of a great and important privilege, in holding fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. Thou art inviting us to come to thy table to eat the flesh of the Son of man, and to drink his blood, that we may dwell in him, and he may dwell in us. Give us, O Lord, that saving faith in him, without which it is impossible to please thee, or to become partakers of the benefits of redemption. May convictions of sin humble our hearts before thee, and make us deeply aware that we cannot answer thee in judgment, and that we need a day's-man betwixt us and thee that will lay his hand upon us both.

We bless thee that He who came to redeem us from iniquity, and to be our peace, having made peace by the blood of his cross, is the Word, who was in the beginning with God, and who was God. Regarding him as thine eternal Son, thine elect, in whom thy soul delighteth, and upon whom thou hast put thy Spirit, may

we be willing to trust in him, and in him alone, as the propitiation for our sins. May our love to him be animated and increased by considering the humiliation to which he submitted, and the sufferings which he endured, and the great things which he has done, in reconciling us to God, and obtaining for us a heavenly inheritance. May we go this day to devote ourselves to him, and to seek in a holy union with him, for the means of that spiritual life, which will end in life eternal.

O Thou, who hast said to thy disciples, I am the vine, and ye are the branches, do thou engraft us into thyself, and let the spiritual nourishment, which thou alone canst supply, be imparted to our souls, to preserve them in fruitfulness and vigour. May it be borne in upon the mind and the heart of every one of us, that it is only by abiding in thee that we can live and bear fruit; and that if any man abide not in thee, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered. Let not this, O gracious God, be the hapless portion

of any member of this family. Plant us all in thy house; make us to flourish in thy courts; let the dew of thy grace descend upon us; may each of us bring forth his fruit in his season, even the fruit of the Spirit, in all righteousness, and goodness, and truth.

Prepare us this day for humbly and acceptably approaching thy holy table. Feed us, O Lord, with the food convenient for us. Give comfort where it is needed. Give encouragement to the young and unstable. Give increase of faith to all. Enlarge our views of redeeming love and of Christian duty. Bring down more effectually the pride of our hearts; and impart to us more of the character of little children, that we may hear what God the Lord will speak. O speak peace to our souls, and keep us from turning again to folly.

Be with our minister, and with those who assist him, in preparing to conduct the solemnities of the day, and in dispensing to thy people the word and the

bread of life. May they come to us in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Be with all our fellow-worshippers in their private and public devotions; and let it be given to them to experience the blessedness of those whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that they may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. Shew compassion, O Lord, to those who are denied the privilege of joining in the services of the sanctuary. May their thoughts be occupied with the Saviour's love, and may they know the value of his promise, I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.

Hear us, O God, in these our prayers, for the sake of our ever-blessed Redeemer. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER.

THOU art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Worthy is

the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. With every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and in the sea, we unite in saying, Blessing and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. All thy works praise thee, O Lord, and thy saints bless thee. Let there be no backwardness on our part to give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name. May our knowledge and our experience of redeeming love be ever increasing, that our hearts may be more entirely devoted to thy service, and that we may utter abundantly the memory of thy great goodness, and sing of thy righteousness.

To perishing sinners thou hast been infinitely gracious. Thou hast sent thine only-begotten Son to die for them. To us thy mercy has abounded. Thou hast shewn us thy salvation. Thou hast set forth Jesus Christ crucified before us.



Thou hast invited us to come unto thee, that our souls may live. Thou hast led us to thy banqueting-house, and spread a table before us, and promised to make an everlasting covenant with us, even the sure mercies of David.

O that we may be able to say that we sat down under thy shadow with great delight, and thy fruit was sweet to our taste. If comfort has been given to any of us amidst the distresses of life, or the sorrows of a wounded spirit; if clearer views have been opened to us of our condition as sinners, and of the power and the willingness of the Saviour to redeem us; if we have learned to think more highly of Christ, and to feel more deeply the obligations under which he has laid us; if the evil of sin, or the sinfulness of our conduct, has been pressed with greater force upon our minds; if the mercy of God, and the freeness and fulness of that salvation which he has wrought for us, have gladdened our hearts; if we have felt ourselves strong in the Lord, notwith-

standing the weakness which belongs to our nature, and have purposed, in reliance on his grace, to walk before him in righteousness and true holiness, we desire to thank thee, gracious God ; and we pray that the communion, which thou hast thus condescended to hold with us, may be continued, and that spiritual mercies according to our need, may from time to time be imparted to us. May it be our care to maintain an interest in Christ, through whom alone we can look for blessings from thee. May we dwell on the love which he has manifested to us, and the sufferings to which he voluntarily submitted to redeem us from sin. May we think of the glory to which he is raised, and the power which he possesses, and the office which he holds as our Advocate and Intercessor, and the authority which has been given him to execute judgment. May we ever bear about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our body ; and having taken on us the vows

of his people, may it be our constant aim to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

We pray for the aid of the Holy Spirit to enable us to fulfil such holy purposes as thou hast put it into our hearts to form. When we looked upon him that was pierced, thou didst lead us to think upon our ways, and the obedience which he is entitled to claim. O suffer us not to turn again to folly. Suffer us not, by the abandonment of Christian principle in any part of our conduct, or in the intercourse of social and domestic life, to crucify the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. Hide thy face, O Lord, from our sins. There is no part of even our best services, on account of which we have not cause to humble ourselves before thee, and to implore forgiveness. Wherein our faith has been weak, and our minds have wandered from the great subject of Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for sin, or wherein we have failed to apply to ourselves the lessons which his marvellous

love inculcates, O Lord, deal mercifully with us.

May the young in this family be impressed from early life with reverence for Christ, and gratitude to him; and may they long for the period when it shall be permitted to them to own him as their Saviour, and to join in the remembrance of his love. Make up for the want of ordinances to such of us as have been prevented from engaging in the public services of the day, and let them rejoice with the gladness of thine inheritance, in the assurance of thy love. If among us there are any who are indifferent about the truths of religion, or the salvation of Christ, leave them not, O Lord, in their unhappy condition. Have pity upon them. Have pity upon them. The access to their hearts is known to thee. Apply such means as may open their darkened understandings, and bend their stubborn wills. Let them not longer forsake their own mercy, or treasure up for themselves wrath against the day of wrath.

For the good of our friends and brethren who joined with us in the services of the day, we unite in fervent prayer. May their outward comforts be continued, and their outward trials be sanctified to them, and may they be blessed of thee with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. May peace be within the walls of our Zion, and prosperity within her palaces. May the pastor of our parish, and all who minister in holy things, be successful in upholding and promoting the interests of religion. May the Church of Christ be enlarged more and more. May our King rule in thy fear; and may all his people know the Lord, from the least to the greatest.

To thy kind and watchful care do we now humbly commit ourselves; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the everlasting God. Thou art the same yesterday,

and to-day, and for ever. One day is with thee as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Well may we say, what is our life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Thou art giving us this day another indication of the progress of time; and in the events of the year that is closed, thou hast furnished us with reiterated proofs of the uncertainty which hangs over every thing on earth. Sickness and health thou hast mingled in our own lot, and in the lot of our neighbours. Some thou hast withdrawn from the circle of our friends; and in regard both to life, and to the things which pertain to it, thou hast taught us again and again, that we know not what a day shall bring forth.

Amidst the changes which are ever occurring in ourselves and in the world

around us, we desire to lift our souls to thee who art the rock of ages, and the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations. Trusting in thee, may we be enabled to meet, and to bear as Christians the changes of the coming year. May we be among the number of those who love thee, and are the called according to thy purpose, that we may rest in the belief that all things, howsoever they affect our outward condition, will work together for our good.

What reason have we not to confide in thee, when we think of the mercies which have hitherto followed us? Every year has brought with it manifold tokens of thy goodness. We cannot recount the instances of thy loving-kindness in regard to our worldly circumstances, our bodily health, and our spiritual state. Accept, O Lord, of our grateful acknowledgments for the favour which thou hast shewn to us. Let the remembrance of it dwell upon our minds, that we may never cease to trust in thee, and that we may carry along with

us through life a sense of the obligations under which we lie to honour and obey thee.

Often have we failed to express our gratitude to thee ; and grievously have we sinned in the years that are past. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed ; because his compassions fail not. Thy forbearance and long-suffering have indeed been great. Thou hast spared us in all our abuse of the bounties of thy providence, and our neglect of opportunities of improvement, and our indulgence of unchristian tempers, and our actual transgressions of thy law. We have cause to bless thee that thou hast not taken us away in our sins, or cut short to us the acceptable year of the Lord. Keep us, we beseech thee, from despising the riches of thy grace, or presuming upon them. May the progress of time, and the greater nearness of eternity, rouse us to consider our ways, to examine ourselves whether we are in the faith, and to add to our diligence in learn-



ing the truth as it is in Jesus, and applying it to our hearts and lives. May our ignorance of what is about to befall us, and the precarious tenure by which all enjoyments are held upon earth, lead us to set our affections upon the things which are at thy right hand, and to build our happiness on the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for them who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

We thank thee that the means of grace continue to be vouchsafed to us. May our experience of our own weakness, and of our instability in what is good, engage us habitually and zealously to employ them ; and may our increased acquaintance with the power which the world possesses over our hearts, and the wickedness which prevails in it, render us more watchful and

circumspect, and more earnest in prayer, that the faith which purifieth the heart may be established within us, and that love to thee, awakened and maintained by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, may be the great principle of our conduct.

Our temporal interests, and the temporal interests of our friends, we commit to thy disposal. Whatever be the appointments of thy providence in regard to them, let them be sanctified to us, and made instrumental for our spiritual welfare. We beseech thee to promote the good of our country in all its concerns. May the stability of our Church, and the usefulness of her ministers, and the growth of her members in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, be objects of thy special care. May the influence of religion be extended every where; may a greater interest be taken by all in its progress; and may a visible advancement be made to that important result, when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted

above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

Hear our prayers, most gracious God, for the sake of thy beloved Son, our only Saviour. Amen.

## MEDITATIONS

FOR A PARENT WHEN ABOUT TO PRESENT  
HIS CHILD TO BE BAPTISED.

God has made me happy. He has given me a child. May he add to the blessing by preserving my infant! Already I feel my heart bound to the tender babe; and it shall, by divine grace, be my earnest endeavour to do every thing I can for its welfare. Care must be taken, and exertion must be made, to cherish and maintain it. I have now, in the birth of my child, an additional reason for diligent attention to my worldly calling, and for prudence in the management of my worldly affairs. May the Lord prosper me, and provide for both me and my family!

But the health and the temporal welfare of my child are not all that I must think of. I have been the means of beginning to him [*or her*] a life that is never to end; a life, that shall be either unspeakably and eternally blessed, or inconceivably and eternally wretched. What a solemn thought! O my child! To me by nature, by the express command of God, has the care of training thee been given. It is a serious, it is an awful charge, when I look to the dreadful consequences which may attend the neglect of it. May God enable me, with all fidelity and tenderness, to commence it from the earliest time; and should it please him to remove me from thee before thou hast attained to wisdom and maturity, may he dispose thee to cry to himself, My Father! thou art the guide of my youth.

I look forward to much enjoyment in fondling my child, and receiving his caresses in return, watching the unfolding of his powers, and aiding him to use them. But never may I forget that he is an im-

mortal being, to whom the formation of a character that will fit him for heaven, is supremely important. To this great object I desire to direct my mind. And with a view to farther it, I will search the Scriptures more than I have done, that I may be better fitted to explain them to my child. I will seek to raise my own ideas of Christian duty, that I may place before him a high and holy standard. I will watch more narrowly over my words and actions, that my example may not be the means of misleading him. I will pray to God for grace to us both, that I may rightly instruct him, and that he, like blessed Jesus, may increase in wisdom as well as in stature, and in favour with God and man.

I am deeply sensible, at the same time, that all my efforts to train up my child in the practice of holiness, will not suffice to give him a meetness for heaven, and that in order to qualify him for the glory and the happiness of heaven, he must be brought to the knowledge and the faith of the Son of God, as the only Saviour of

sinful creatures. I will not conceal from myself that even my babe, being a child of Adam, is an heir of sin, and cannot of himself please God. To train him properly, it is necessary to bear in mind the sinfulness of his nature, which must give him from the first an inclination to evil, and will make it incumbent upon me, besides explaining his duty, to employ every means for guarding him against falling into sin. But even if I could succeed in restraining his natural tendency to sin, how could he, who is born in sin, be accepted in himself by a holy God? He must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. I believe that it is only through the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ to the will of God upon earth, and through the atonement for sin which he offered on the cross by shedding his precious blood, and through the intercession which he now makes at the right hand of God, that I myself can be accepted of God; and I do not know from Scripture any other way in which my dear child, inheriting from

me the same sinful nature which has estranged me from God, can be received into his favour. To Christ, therefore, I must make it my chief business to bring him.

I will gladly avail myself of the advantage given by our Church to have baptism administered to him even in his infancy. I am happy to think that he will be thereby admitted as a member of the visible Church of Christ, and will have access, as he grows up, to the privileges of Christians. And I hope and pray that much more than this may attend his baptism. I do not indeed believe that his being baptized will secure his being saved. But I am fully persuaded that the great Head of the Church has connected spiritual mercies with the appointments or ordinances, which he has instituted for his people. These spiritual mercies the Catechism calls the benefits of the covenant of grace, or the blessings which God freely bestows through the redemption that is in Christ. And the Catechism

farther says, that baptism signifies or sets forth, and seals or makes sure, a partaking of these blessings. I know that without these blessings, particularly the grace that justifies, and the grace that sanctifies, my child never can be holy here, or happy hereafter. And, therefore, when I present him to be baptized, in obedience to the Saviour's command, it will be also in humble reliance on his faithfulness and truth, and in the anxious hope that my child may be engrafted into Christ, or so united to him as to share in the benefits which he has purchased for his people. It is only on his people, or on those who are actually engrafted into him, that he bestows these benefits. May this be the portion of my dear offspring; and thus will the Saviour himself provide for him, and guard him from evil, and preserve him to eternal life!

But with reference to the baptism of my child, what is it that devolves upon me personally? What duties have I to perform in consequence of it? My child



cannot make a profession of faith. He cannot make an engagement to be the Lord's. Both, I trust, he will make hereafter. In the meantime, I must act as his sponsor. I must undertake that he shall be brought up in a Christian manner. Upon this head very solemn vows will be laid upon me. Do I understand their nature? Am I qualified to take them on myself? Let me seriously reflect on this deeply interesting subject.

Baptism is a washing with water, says the Catechism, in the very words of our Lord, (Matt. xxviii. 19,) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. I am thus carried back at once to what the Catechism tells me of the three persons of the Godhead. There is one God, and there is only one God. Yet the Scriptures speak not only of the Father as God, but also of the Son as God, and of the Holy Ghost as God. These three, therefore, are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. This is a deep and solemn subject,

and it requires a humble mind to apprehend it. May the Lord enlarge my understanding, and make me attentive to what he reveals respecting himself! I desire to be thankful for the information which he has given me in regard to the divine nature as connected with the salvation of men. I feel the importance of knowing that Christ is God, because believing him to be so, I cannot doubt that he is able to save me. And in like manner I feel the importance of knowing that the Holy Ghost is God, because his power to renew and sanctify those in whom he dwells, must also be supreme. He will perfect that which concerneth them.

The washing with water must be in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, that is, in humble acknowledgment of the existence and attributes of the three persons of the Godhead, and in humble dependence upon all and each of them for the blessings of salvation. I must acknowledge God

the Father, to whose rich and free and sovereign grace these blessings all are owing. I must acknowledge God the Son, through whom, as made flesh, and offering himself a sacrifice to take away the sin of the world, the mercy of God is conveyed to sinful creatures. I must acknowledge God the Holy Ghost, by whose working in men both to will and to do of his good pleasure, the mercy of God is applied to their souls.

The washing with water plainly refers to our being in a defiled and sinful state, out of which we need to be brought; and out of which we can be brought only in consequence of what Christ has done according to the appointment of the Father, and of what the Holy Ghost does in fulfilment of his purpose. The work both of the one and of the other, is understood to be signified, or brought into view by this washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. And in conformity with this, the Scripture speaks both of a cleansing from sin, or a

taking away the guilt of sin, by the blood of Jesus Christ, and of a clean heart being given, or a holy character being imparted, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

What a variety of deeply important subjects is thus set before me as demanding my attention ! I shall be required to declare my belief of them, and to undertake to educate my child in an intimate acquaintance with them. How much do I need myself the instruction of my minister, and the teaching of the Spirit of God in regard to them !

One thing they all of them are very obviously fitted to impress upon my mind, namely, the absolute necessity of holiness to my child. The washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, being the first step to admission into the Church of Christ, is itself significant that the defilement of sin should in no respect attach to a Christian. He who is baptized is given up to the service of the Father, and the

Son, and the Holy Ghost. He must be brought up in the belief that his obligations to God the Father, for the riches of his grace, are unspeakably great; that it was to deliver him from sin that God the Son was made flesh, and became obedient to the death of the Cross; and that the power of the Holy Ghost is employed to subdue the corruption of his nature, and establish him in holiness. He ought not, therefore, he must not be the servant of sin. And how much, consequently, is it a Christian parent's business to be holy himself, and to inculcate holiness upon his child! His duties are truly of the most serious and momentous kind. May the God of all grace be with me in mine! I have no sufficiency for them in myself. But the more that I feel their magnitude and importance, the more humbly and devoutly will I trust in Him. I will seek the Lord, and his strength. I will seek his face evermore.

## A PARENT'S PRAYER

BEFORE THE BAPTISM OF HIS CHILD.

O THOU, who art the giver of life, and who hast been pleased to place me in the interesting relation of a parent to his child, I offer my unfeigned thanks for thy great goodness upon this occasion, and I pray that thou wouldst enlighten me with regard to my duties to my child, and wouldst enable me diligently and faithfully to perform them.

In the belief, O Lord, that he [*she*] partakes of a sinful nature, and that it is only through Jesus Christ that sin can be taken away, and the enjoyment of thy favour be obtained, I desire to bring him to the Saviour in the holy ordinance of baptism. I bless thee, gracious God, that the benefits of the covenant of grace are represented and sealed to believers in this divinely appointed institution, and that, by its administration, the outward privileges of a Christian will be secured to my

child from his earliest years. O may I look beyond the external application of water to the cleansing from sin by the blood of Jesus Christ, and to the washing of regeneration by the Holy Ghost, which are thereby signified. May it be the desire of my heart, that my child may be effectually, as well as outwardly, joined to the Saviour; and that, whether thou art pleased to spare him long, or to take him speedily away, he may, throughout all his existence upon earth, be under the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit. Add, O Lord, to the blessing of life, which thou hast already bestowed. Make it truly valuable to my child, by conferring on him also that spiritual life which will end in life eternal. And may all my best endeavours be employed to maintain this spiritual life in him in healthful vigour. May I be deeply impressed with the importance of faith and of holiness to my child, that my instructions and example may be fitted to bring him to the belief of the truth and the practice of righteousness.

Dispose and enable me to attend to the counsels that will be addressed to me when I present my little one to be baptized; and bless thy ministering servant who is solemnly to admit him as a member of the visible Church of Christ, that he may speak to me a word in season, and that his prayers may express the desires of my heart, and find acceptance with thee.

Take away all my sins, O Lord, and hear me for the Saviour's sake.

Genesis, xviii. 19; Deut. vi. 6, 7; 1 Sam. iii. 13; 1 Chron. xxviii. 9; Job, i. 15; Psalm li. 10, 11; Matt. xxviii. 18, 19, 20; Acts, ii. 38, 39; Ib. xix. 2—5; Ephes. vi. 4; Titus, iv. 4—7; 1 John, i. 7.

## PRAYERS FOR PARENTS IN BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN.

O THOU, who didst breathe into our nostrils the breath of life, and didst awaken in our breasts the love which has bound us together; we are indebted to thee for all the happiness which we enjoy in each



other's society. Thou hast united us still more closely to one another by the pledges which thou hast given us of our mutual affection. Thou dost bless us every day in the offices which we are called to perform to our children, in the opening and enlargement of their powers, and in all the endearing returns which they make for our kindness. Accept of our gratitude and praise. Undeserving are we of the many blessings which we enjoy. Often have we been forgetful of thee, and unmindful of duties. Amidst the expressions of our thankfulness, it becomes us to implore the forgiveness of our sins. We pray for one another, that our sins may be taken away. Be merciful, O Lord, to us both, for the sake of thy beloved Son. May he be to both of us the chiefest among ten thousand. May we help one another to exercise a lively faith in him, as our only and our all-sufficient Saviour. May we be united in his service upon earth, and may we be united for ever in the enjoyment of his glory in heaven.

Hear us, O Lord, in behalf of our children. Whatever is for their good, do thou largely bestow upon them. Suffer us not to injure them by ill-directed affection. May our care for them extend to their souls as well as their bodies. May we regard them as trusts which we have received from our heavenly Father, and of which we must render an account. Having given them life, may we remember that they are born for eternity, that they inherit the corruption which belongs to human nature, and that their only salvation, the holiness of their character in this life, and their happiness in that which is to come, arises from Him who took away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

May we bear also in mind how precarious is the tenure by which they hold their existence; and while we watch over their bodily health with parental solicitude, may our diligence in acquainting them with Christ, and accustoming them from the dawn of their powers to believe and obey him, be quickened by considering the

uncertainty which attends both their life and ours. May our example and our instruction be such as to impress them early with reverence for thee, and a sense of dependence upon Christ, and a regard for the things that are lovely and of good report.

Aid us, O Lord, in all our duties to our children; and do thou form our children for thyself. Let their hearts be moulded by thy grace. Make them not only amiable and attractive to us, but obedient to thee. Spare them to us, O Lord, if consistent with thine adorable Providence. But whatever be thine appointments in regard to them, O give us the comfort of thinking that they are among the lambs of the Saviour's flock, which he gathers into his arms, and carries in his bosom.

To thy kind and watchful care do we commit them. Let not evil come near our dwelling. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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INFINITELY great and glorious God, whose ear is ever open to the supplications of thy creatures, and who permittest us to make our requests known unto thee, accept of the tribute of our thanks for the kindness which thou hast shewn to our house, for our own and our children's health, for the enjoyment which their progress in life and their attainments afford us, and for every domestic blessing that adds to the comfort of our lot. We beseech thee, O Lord to forgive wherein we have failed to render to thee according to the multitude of thy mercies, or wherein we have failed in performing our duties to our children. We plead for pardon for the sake of Jesus Christ the righteous, in whom we trust, as able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him, and for whom we bless thee as thine unspeakable gift.

O let not any neglects, or omissions, or sins of ours, be visited upon our beloved children, and wherein they have sinned

in thought, word, or deed, do thou hide thy face from their sins, and blot out all their iniquities. May they be justified freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Touch their hearts with contrition for sin; subdue, by thy grace, the corruption that is in them; and let them become as trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

We yearn over them, O Lord, and desire their good in all things. Prosper them in their worldly callings, if consistent with thy will. Bless them in preparing to pursue them. May they grow up to be useful and respected members of society. And whatever be their trials, may their moral and religious principles never fail them. Under all their disappointments, or reverses, or ailments, may they be supported by a gracious God, and may his sanctifying grace enable them to learn wisdom and righteousness from every doing of his Providence. Whatever be their condition in this world, we

beseech thee to give them an interest in Christ, and in that everlasting covenant of which he is the Mediator and Surety. Let them be partakers of the precious blessings which he has purchased for his people, and the enjoyment of which constitutes their happiness in every situation of life, and their eternal felicity in heaven.

O Thou, who didst so love the world as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life, let these our children be established in the faith, that what our Saviour said of his sheep may apply to them,—They shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. May his shield be extended over them to guard them from the enticements of sinners, and from the fiery darts of the wicked. May his power enable them to hold fast their integrity. May his Spirit break down the pride of their hearts, and bring their thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and breathe into them holy desires, and holy

purposes, so that they may flee youthful lusts, and follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Keep them, O Lord, from neglecting the great salvation. May they look upon themselves as members of the body of Christ, whose ability to act, whose very existence, depends on their union with him. May they be given to prayer, and self-examination, and searching of Scripture. And whether their days shall be many or few, may love to the Saviour, and the hope of eternal life, so animate their breasts, that to them to live may be Christ, and to them to die may be gain.

Hear our prayers for the Saviour's sake. Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN.

### MORNING.

I THANK thee, O Lord, for preserving me in health, and refreshing me with

sleep. Keep me this day from doing or saying what is sinful. Make me attentive to what my parents teach me, or wish me to learn. Bless them, and all my dear friends. Bless me also with whatever is for my good. Forgive my sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died for sinners. Make me truly sorry for offending thee as I have often done; and put it into my heart to think of thee, and to take delight in doing thy holy will. Hear my prayer, O God, for Christ's sake.

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#### EVENING.

I THANK thee, O Lord, for every good thing which I have had this day. Thou art



the Giver of all good. Watch over me while I sleep, and then I shall be safe. I desire to commit my soul to the blessed Saviour of sinners. For although I am a little child, yet I need to be saved from the anger of God. I have done and said much that is evil. Forgive my sins, and make me a holy child, for the sake of thy beloved Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Whether I wake or sleep, may I live together with him. Bless all my dear relations and friends ; and be a gracious God to me, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## MORNING.

O LORD, thou art the Maker of heaven and earth. Thou hast made me, and all living creatures. Thou art always doing us good. I thank thee that all my bodily wants are provided for, and that I have kind parents and friends to care for me. I thank thee for giving me the Holy Bible, to tell me of thee, and of thy beloved Son, who came from heaven, and died upon the cross to save sinners.



Help me to attend to the Scriptures, that I may be wise unto salvation. May I be as one of thy children. May I love thee with all my heart. May I believe in Christ as my Saviour. May I never wilfully do what is evil. Forgive me, O Lord, for Christ's sake ; for I have done many things which I ought not to have done. Let it be my constant desire to do what thou hast commanded. And as I am helpless and sinful myself, do thou enable me to follow peace with every one, and holiness, without which I cannot see the Lord. Bless my parents, and all my friends. Bless me also, O God, and hear my prayer, for Christ's sake.

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come ; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil ; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## EVENING.

THOU hast brought me, O Lord, to the end of this day ; and I praise thee for all thy goodness and tender mercy. I know not if I shall live to see another day. If thou art pleased to keep me still in this world, teach me to think how short and uncertain is life. Let me not waste my time, or do what is sinful. Enable me to live to thy glory, to believe in Christ, and to do thy holy will. If thou art pleased to take me out of this world, let me not be afraid to die. Forgive all my sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, and our Saviour. Make me a new creature in Christ, that I may be fit for going to heaven, and dwelling with a holy God, and serving him for ever and ever. I commit myself, O Lord, to thee. Thou art able to preserve me from all evil, and to bring me at last to thy heavenly kingdom. Bless my parents and friends, and accept of us all, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR YOUNG PERSONS.

I THANK thee, O Lord, that thou hast given me life, and health, and kind parents and friends. I thank thee that thou art continuing to preserve and to bless this family. Thou art the giver of all that I have. All the kindness that I meet with is owing to thee. I am not worthy of thy goodness, for I have a sinful heart, and often do what is evil. Forgive my sins, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, who died and rose again; and make me thankful for thy great mercy in sending him to save sinful creatures, by laying down his life as a ransom for their souls. Help me to know Christ as my Saviour, and to love and serve him continually. And as I am weak in myself, and more ready to sin than to do what is pleasing in thy sight, create a clean heart, renew a right spirit within me, that I may delight only in what is good, and have no

inclination to evil. Let it be impressed upon my mind at all times, whether by day or by night, that thou seest me ; and in all my employments and pursuits, let it be my great desire to obtain thy favour, which is better than life. May I ever think of thee, as my Father in heaven, the object of my reverence and love. May I be dutiful and obedient to my earthly parents, and do thou bless them with thy choicest blessings, and enable me to be a comfort to them. May I walk in love to my brothers and sisters, and do thou train them up, as well as myself, to be holy and without rebuke before thee. Make me attentive to the instructions of my teachers, and diligent in the employment of time, and ready to be useful to all around me. On every occasion may I carry myself humbly, as becomes a sinful creature, always remembering, that dependence upon Jesus Christ is my only security for acceptance with thee.

O thou who compassest my path and my lying down, [keep me from evil through

the day, and let thy fear be continually before me.] [*guard me from evil while I sleep, and let my sleep prepare me for my duties.*] Hear my prayers for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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O GOD, thou art my great Creator. Thou hast granted me life. Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. Thou hast taught me more than the beasts of the earth, and made me wiser than the fowls of heaven.

Thou art my gracious Preserver. Thou upholdest me in being. Thou feedest me with the food convenient for me. Thou hast guarded me from dangers, which I was too heedless to avoid, or which I had not the means of escaping. And how often also hast thou filled me with gladness!

Thou art my compassionate Redeemer, who hast pitied me in my miserable state as a sinner, and hast provided for my deliverance from it. Thou hast made

known to me the way of salvation by Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son, whom thou hast set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood.

While I live I will praise thee, O Lord, my Creator, my Preserver, and my Redeemer. Teach me to walk worthy of the gifts of thy providence and grace. May the powers which thou hast bestowed on me, whether of body or of mind, be diligently improved and employed for thy glory, and the benefit of my fellow-creatures. May I keep always in view, that I have a station to fill, and duties to perform, and a character to maintain. And may I prepare myself, cheerfully and zealously, from day to day, for the lot which thou art pleased to assign to me. Above all, O Lord, may I ever look upon the working out of my salvation as the great concern of my life, and seek to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May I have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of my sins; and under the influence of his Holy Spirit,

may I be a follower of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

These prayers I offer not only for myself, but also for all my dear relations. I commend them, O Lord, unto thee. May they be in the number of those whom thou hast given to the Saviour, and for whom he asks, that they may be with him where he is, that they may behold his glory.

Pardon my sins, O Lord. Let me obtain thy blessing [this day,] [*this night,*] and let me be accepted in my prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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O GREAT, and holy, and most merciful God, bless me, even me, for thy dear Son's sake. I am sinful, and deserve no good thing. But thou art in Christ reconciling the world to thyself. Give thy blessing, that my soul may be in health before thee. Thou art able to make me holy and like to thyself. O Lord, begin a good work in my heart, and perform it until the day of Jesus Christ, that while I am spared, I



may do what is acceptable unto thee, and that whensoever I die, I may be taken to heaven to dwell in thy presence. Let me not give way to sinful thoughts, or speak unholy words, or practise wicked works. Let me not conceal any evil that I do. May I be heartily sorry for whatever is amiss in my conduct, and from day to day may I become, through thy grace, more attentive to being blameless and harmless as a child of God.

Give thy blessing with my worldly comforts, that I may use them aright, and enjoy them with thankfulness.

Give thy blessing with any troubles which I may be called to bear, that I may submit to them patiently, and learn righteousness from them.

And now, O gracious God, I humbly commit myself to thee through [the day,] [*the night.*] To thee do I also commit those in whose welfare I am concerned. May blessings, even showers of blessings, come upon my beloved parents, and my dear relations and friends, from God the

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and may we all be accepted with thee, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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O God, thou didst breathe into my nostrils the breath of life, and thou hast watched over me from my earliest days. No power of my own could have preserved me in being, and humbly and heartily do I thank thee for the unwearied care with which thou hast ministered to my bodily necessities, and to my enjoyment of life. Manifold as are the bounties of thy providence, I have still greater reason to praise thee for the riches of thy grace. Thou hast placed me in a Christian land; thou hast given me from my childhood the privilege of knowing the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make me wise unto salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ; and by means of my parents and teachers thou art supplying me with instruction in righteousness.

Whilst thou art pleased to spare me

upon earth, withhold not from me the gift of thy Holy Spirit, without which I shall be merely a cumberer of the ground, unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. May my body be a temple of the Holy Ghost, and may I be habitually careful lest in any thing I resist or grieve him. May the fruit of the Spirit, in all righteousness and goodness and truth, appear in my life. Take from me, O Lord, the indifference about religion, which the young are too apt to feel, and by the enlightening influence of thy grace, convince me that it is the one thing needful, to which my best attention should be given, whether for the life that now is, or for that which is to come. Counteract the opposition which my sinful nature is ever ready to make to thy revealed will, and so change my heart, that as a new creature in Christ, even as a new born babe, I may desire the sincere milk of the word, that I may grow thereby. Let love to thee as the best of beings, who hast reconciled me to thyself, secure my devoted obedience to thy

laws; and let the hope of dwelling with thee, a pure and glorious God, lift me above all that is unworthy and sinful, and cause me in every action and thought to cultivate the holiness which will fit me for seeing thee as thou art, and making one of the blessed company on whom the light of thy countenance shines for ever and ever.

Pardon my shortcomings and sins, for the sake of thy beloved Son, in whom I desire to trust for time and for eternity. May the friends whom I love, and for whose welfare it behoves me to seek, be partakers with me in the blessings which he has purchased and promised. May their comforts in this life be continued and increased, if agreeable to thee; and may every change in their lot be overruled for the good of their souls.

In thy fear, O Lord God, and in thy strength, [I will now go to the business of the day, and in time of need may I be abundantly helped by thy grace.] [*I will now lay me down in peace and sleep; and do thou, Lord, make me to dwell in safety.*]

Hear, O gracious God, these my prayers, for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR A YOUNG PERSON

GOING FROM HIS FATHER'S HOUSE TO  
ENTER UPON BUSINESS OR STUDY.

O God, who didst put it into the hearts of my parents to train me up in the knowledge of religion, and in the observance of thy worship, let their pious instructions recur to my mind wherever I am. When I go from this roof, which has sheltered me in early life, and under which, through thy gracious providence, I have been tended and cared for with an affection which no toils could exhaust, may I carry with me not only a fond remembrance of my earthly friends, but also that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom, and that faith in Christ, which purifieth the heart, and overcometh the world. Away from those who have been accustomed to counsel and direct me, may I look up more

devoutly and more frequently to thee. And do thou guide and protect me. Teach me the way of thy statutes, that I may keep it unto the end.

I thank thee for my outward advantages, my prospects of success, my bodily health, and my means of improvement. But I desire to remember, that it is thy blessing alone which can enable me to prosper. O may I set thee always before me, and both begin, and carry on my undertakings, in dependence upon thee. May the principle upon which I enter into life be, to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work. Make me faithful in all that is committed to my care. May I never be guilty of the weakness and the sin of seeking my own gratification, while I have duties to perform ; but remembering that to me, as to others, a work is assigned, of the execution of which I must render an account, may I do with my might what my hand findeth to do. May I do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Mixing in a world that lieth in wickedness, and conscious that in myself there is a proneness to sin, may I walk circumspectly, and never cease to apply to the means of grace, by which I may be preserved blameless and harmless in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. Let me not, O Lord, be found among those who profane thy holy day, and forsake the assembling of themselves together. May I hide thy word in my heart, that I may not offend against thee. And do thou, Lord, shield me from every danger to my character, my principles, my faith. Save me from sins that easily beset me. Keep me from giving way to the fear of man, which bringeth a snare. If sinners entice me, impart to me firmness to retain my integrity. And though worldly occupations multiply upon me, let me not neglect the great salvation. In comparison with the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, may all things be counted even as loss; and while I give my attention to the business

of my station upon earth, may it still be my chief concern to have an interest in Christ.

O God, I commit myself to thee. Whatever be the events that await me, prepare me to meet them aright. Let not my conduct be such as to occasion a pang to my dear and honoured parents. Make them, I beseech thee, the objects of thy special care. Enrich them with every spiritual blessing. May comforts attend the renewal of our intercourse upon earth. If in this world we shall meet no more, may the hope set before us in the Gospel cheer our souls; and in the exercise of patience and faith, may we be brought to that exalted state, where neither suffering nor death shall interrupt the enjoyment of thy people.

Hear, O Lord, my earnest prayer, for Christ's sake. Amen.

### PRAYERS FOR SERVANTS.

Most gracious God! who dost humble thyself to behold the things that are upon



the earth, and art near to all that call upon thee in truth, I desire, as a dependent and a sinful creature, to worship before thee. I commit myself to thy protection, as the God in whom I live, and move, and have my being. I offer thanks for the constant care with which thou hast watched over me. I implore forgiveness of my sins through Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of sinners. I pray for grace to help in time of need.

I adore thee as the God who hast appointed my condition in life, and I beseech thee to enable me diligently to perform the duties which belong to that condition. I thank thee that thou art no respecter of persons, and that to servants, as to others, the promises, and the privileges, and the hopes of the gospel are conveyed. O may it ever be my care to walk worthy of them, and in my humble station to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

I thank thee for thy great condescension in specially considering the situation of servants, and addressing particular instructions to them in thy holy word. O may I

ponder the counsels and commands which thou hast given us, and may I be careful to apply them to myself. May I go to my duties this day, and every day, in the fear of God. May it be my desire to glorify thee by the manner in which I discharge them. May I be active and exact in attending to the commands and wishes of the earthly master whom I have engaged to obey. May I be respectful and willing in the service which I yield to him, and may I never think of overlooking his interest, and preferring what may be deemed my own. If I give satisfaction, unto thee, O Lord, be all the praise, for enabling me to serve my earthly master aright, and for disposing him to look with a favourable eye on my doings. If I meet with reproach, give me grace to bear it patiently; teach me to think of my blessed Saviour, who pleased not himself, but bore the reproaches of them that reproached thee; and let it ever be my study to shew, by the general correctness of my conduct, that it is my wish to please well in all

things. In all my difficulties may I seek for support from thee; and whatever be my circumstances, may it be my first concern to serve the Lord Christ.

Bless the family with which I am connected. Continue their outward comforts. Sanctify their distresses to them. Enrich them with spiritual mercies. Bless my fellow-servants. May we live in peace, and encourage one another in that which is good. Bless my kindred and friends. May they prosper in this life; but, above all, may they be kept by thy power through faith unto salvation. Pardon my sins, O Lord, and hear my prayer, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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O LORD, I humbly desire to offer my unfeigned thanks for the health with which thou hast continued to bless me, and for all the support which I have received in the performance of duties. I beseech thee to forgive wherein I have been careless or negligent; wherein I have failed to set thee before me, or have sinned against

thee in thought, word, or deed. In many things I offend; in all I come short of thy glory. Great is thy forbearance toward me. I mourn over my sinful nature, and my actual transgressions, and I cast myself on thy mercy in Christ. Look upon me in the face of thine Anointed; and renew me in the spirit of my mind, that being made free from sin, and become a servant to God, I may have my fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Amidst the manifold cares and engagements of the world, may I never forget my Saviour, or neglect his great salvation. O let not the labours of the day, or any fatigue which I may have to bear, prevent me from thinking of the things which belong to my peace; and may my meditations of thee, as reconciling me to thyself by Jesus Christ, be ever sweet to my soul. Relying upon him, I now commit myself to thee. O, if this night my soul shall be required of me, be merciful, most gracious God, to thy sinful creature. May the blood of Jesus

Christ cleanse me from sin ; and may the Spirit of holiness descend upon me in all his sanctifying influence, to renew me after the image of thyself. If still my life shall be prolonged, may sleep refresh me for the duties of another day. May my faith be strengthened, that I may be better able to maintain a truly Christian character. May grace be given me to repent of sin, to guard against what I have learned to be amiss in my conduct ; and to come more nearly unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Over all in this family, O Lord, extend thy watchful providence ; and do thou bless and accept of me for Christ's sake. Amen.

Ephesians, vi. 5—8. Colossians, iii. 22—25.  
Titus, ii. 9—14. 1 Peter, ii. 18—25.

## PRAYERS BEFORE READING THE SCRIPTURES.

O God, from whom every good gift cometh down, I thank thee that thou hast

given me the Holy Scriptures, which testify of Christ, and are able to make me wise unto salvation by faith that is in him. May I ever look with the deepest reverence upon that sacred book, which has all been given by inspiration of God. Regarding its contents as a message from thee, may I consider them with the seriousness and solemnity which are due to thy word. And now that I am about to read a portion of it, do thou fix my attention on its truths; let the eyes of my understanding be opened, that I may behold the wondrous things of thy law; and let my purpose be, like David's, to hide thy word in my heart, that I may not sin against thee. Hear, O Lord, my humble prayer, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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O THOU, who didst appoint the things that were written aforetime to be written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope, take from us every thing that savours

of an evil heart of unbelief; pride of understanding, worldly-mindedness, sinful thoughts, indifference about spiritual things, that when we read thy holy word, we may find it profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. May we be advanced in our knowledge of thee the only true God, and of Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. May we acquire larger views of our sinful state, and of the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. May our reverence for thy law, and our desire to keep it, be increased; and may we prize more highly the exceeding great and precious promises of the Gospel, that by them we may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Hear us, O God, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

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ENABLE me, O Lord, to remember that it is as a little child that I must

receive the kingdom of God ; that even as a new-born babe, I must desire the sincere milk of the word, that I may grow thereby. And do thou give me the humble and believing mind, which will make my reading of Scripture profitable to me. Repress all vain thoughts within me. Dispose me to count all things but loss for the excellency of Christ Jesus my Lord. Incline me, like Mary, to sit at his feet and hear his word. And, O thou, who art the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, to whom it belongs to glorify the Saviour, and to guide his people into all truth, do thou take of the things of Christ, and shew them unto me. Make me able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge ; and cause the word of Christ to dwell in me richly in all wisdom, that I may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work. Amen.



Psalm xix. 7—11. cxix. 9, 11, 18, 97—105. 129—133. Jer. xxxi. 33, 34. Luke, xxiv. 45. John, v. 39; xvi. 13—15. Rom. xv. 4. 2 Tim. iii. 14—17. 1 Peter i. 24, 25. Rev. xxii. 16—20.

## PRAYER BEFORE THE LORD'S SUPPER.

O THOU! with whom is the preparation of the heart in man, have mercy upon me on this solemn occasion, when I am about to remember the Saviour in his own holy ordinance, and to declare before many of my fellow men, and before thee the great Searcher of hearts, that I believe him to be all my salvation, and that I give myself up to be his disciple.

Deeply do I humble myself before thee, under a sense of my sinful nature, and my many and great transgressions of thy holy law. I acknowledge myself deserving of thy righteous judgments. But I render praise to a gracious God, who sent his beloved Son to bear our sins in his own body on the tree. And on the all-suffi-

cient sacrifice of Christ, the eternal Word, who was made flesh, and was set forth by thee as a propitiation through faith in his blood, I desire at this time openly to build my hopes of pardon and acceptance with thee. Remember not the sins of my youth, and my transgressions. According to thy mercy remember thou me, for thy goodness sake, O Lord. O visit me with thy salvation, that I may see the good of thy chosen. Let not my unworthiness, or my ignorance, or the coldness of my affection for the Saviour, cause thee to withhold the spiritual blessings which are suited to my case, and for which I earnestly plead through the righteousness of Christ.

Though oppressed with the consciousness of my aggravated and often repeated sins, and with that awe of God, which a sense of his holiness and his terrible majesty inspires, let my faith in Christ, in whom thou art reconciling the world to thyself, bring me with a believer's boldness to the throne of grace, that I may

obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. If my thoughts wander, through the corruption of my nature and the weakness of my faith, O cause them to return to Christ, and as thou didst to Lydia of old, do thou open my heart, that I may attend unto the things which are spoken of him. Give me a deep insight into my own state as a sinful creature, and into the great love wherewith thou hast loved me in Christ, that seeing my need of his salvation, and knowing the riches of his grace, I may embrace him yet more heartily, and feel myself constrained to abide in him, and to walk in him. Let me experience the blessed fruits of communion with him. May I derive from him strength for every duty, and support under every trial, and light to direct me in the paths of righteousness. May he dwell in me by his Spirit, and order my steps in thy word, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity

every thought to the obedience of Christ. May he enable me humbly, and patiently, and thankfully, to wait upon thee in all the varieties of my earthly lot. If worldly distresses come upon me, may I regard them as his appointment, and may I be wiser and better by enduring them. If anxious fears respecting my spiritual state assail my mind, and those comforts of thine, which delight the souls of thy people, are not vouchsafed to me, O may grace so check my fears, and sustain my faith, that I may never distrust thy goodness, or doubt the power and the willingness of my Saviour to heal the broken-hearted, and to set at liberty them that are bruised. Still may I hope in God, and hope that I shall praise him as the health of my countenance, and my God.

But, oh, send me not away empty from thy presence, when, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, I come to the feast which thou hast prepared. Shew me a token for good. Let the peace and the joy of believing enter my soul. Unworthy

as I am, a prodigal as I have been, having no claim whatever of my own to forgiveness or favour, for the Saviour's sake, reject not my prayer. Speak to me in love; adopt me into thy family; let me know the privileges and the blessedness of those who are the children of God, and if children then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.

May thy ministering servants who conduct the solemnities of this deeply interesting season, have much of thy presence and blessing; and glowing with love to the Saviour, may they be enabled to feed his sheep and his lambs. May all who approach the table of the Lord be under the influence of thy Holy Spirit. May their faith be strengthened. May they increase and abound in love to thee, and to one another. May the sins which mingle in their services be forgiven; may their prayers ascend as sweet memorials before thee; and may these prayers, which I offer in humility and faith, obtain an answer in peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

PRAYERS AFTER THE LORD'S  
SUPPER.

BLESSED Saviour! whose marvellous love to the souls of men I have remembered according to thine own command, let me never forget thee, or bring reproach upon thy name by a sinful or regardless life. Thou hast redeemed me to God by thy blood. Thou hast purchased for me, by the sacrifice of thyself, pardon of sin, and peace with God, and the renewal of my nature in the likeness of God, and a glorious inheritance in heaven. How, O Lord, shall I sufficiently express my gratitude to thee! Poor is every tribute that I offer, and from the corruption that is in me, I have often to make the humbling acknowledgment, that when I would do good evil is present with me. O thou, who art touched with a feeling of thy people's infirmities, and wast tempted in all points like as they are, yet without sin, have compassion upon me, a sinful

creature, who mourns over his inability to serve thee aright, and desires to have his ways directed to keep thy statutes. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe ; and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually. Enable me to retain and exercise love to thee, my most merciful Redeemer ; and cause this love so to prevail in my heart, that the advancement of thy glory, and the keeping of thy words, may be my earliest and my latest thoughts. Amen.

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Most gracious God, I thank thee that thou hast allowed me to join in commemorating the death of Jesus Christ, thine eternal Son ; and to think of him as wounded for my transgressions, and bearing my sins in his own body on the tree. I thank thee that thou hast allowed me to sit under thy shadow, to eat and drink at thy holy table, and, in the exercise of faith, to hold fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. Who am I, O Lord, that a privilege so great should

be conferred upon me? How does the grace, which thou hast manifested to me, shine forth in its freeness and its fulness, when I consider my unworthiness and guilt!

May the enjoyment of this privilege be as an earnest to me of better things to come. May it be a means of preparing me for higher services and purer pleasures, where there shall be no more curse, and the servants of God shall serve him in his immediate presence, and shall see his face, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. From the contemplations in which I have been engaged, may I acquire larger views of the love of Christ, and of the obligations under which he has laid me. May I become more active and uniform in expressing my gratitude to him, and more decided and constant in resisting temptation to evil. Having openly declared that I glory in nothing save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that my dependence is wholly upon him



for acceptance with thee, and for ability to keep thy commandments, may the life which I now live in the flesh be by the faith of the Son of God. And may the conviction of my need of his salvation, and my utter helplessness and misery if left to myself, keep me ever lowly in mind, circumspect in all my behaviour, and attentive to every means by which my regard for Jesus Christ may be quickened and increased.

Wherein I have failed or offended against thee, in approaching thy holy table, do thou mercifully forgive me; and may the solemn act of remembering the Saviour in his most holy ordinance be blessed to me and to all my fellow-communicants. Hear me, O gracious God, in these and all my supplications, for the Saviour's sake. Amen.

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O THOU who art infinitely holy, solemn indeed and awful have I felt it to enter thy sacred presence, and to sit at that table

where thou dost preside, and from the enjoyments of which all are excluded who have not on the wedding garment. I am a sinful man, O Lord, laden with iniquities. How wonderful and rich is thy grace to one so undeserving as me, in that thou hast shewed me all those things respecting thy mercy in Christ, of which it has been my privilege to be informed, and hast told me, as at this time, of the Saviour's marvellous love ! Gladly, O Lord, do I hear, and often do I think, of the preciousness of his blood, and the efficacy of his death as an atonement for sin, and the riches of his grace, which no time can exhaust, and of which every creature is invited to partake. O that I may experience the blessedness of believing in him, and the power of his gospel in my soul ! I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord. I wait for it more than they that watch for the morning. The good of thy chosen ! how does my heart pant to enjoy it ! Remove, I beseech thee, whatever hindrance exists in my mind to my being truly thine. If

it be pride, or self-dependence, that keeps me from exercising the cordial faith in Christ, which is followed by peace and joy, O enable me to root out sentiments which I have so little ground to entertain. I mourn over the weakness of my faith, which causes me to be anxious and fearful, and prevents me from receiving and resting upon Christ alone for salvation, as he is offered to me in the Gospel.

Thou hast led me to think of the Saviour's love and the Saviour's power. Thou didst arrest my attention when he was set forth crucified before me, and the symbols of his body and blood were placed in my hands, and those gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth were spoken to me, This is my body, which was broken for you; this is my blood, which was shed for many, for the remission of sins. O let me not continue to apprehend and lament that I have not thrown myself wholly on this all-sufficient Redeemer to be saved by him, and that I know but little of the consolation that is

in Christ. May I be able to say with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, I am thine, save me; my mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.

Most merciful God! forgive wherein the dedication that I have made of myself this day has been defective. Thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I desire to reverence and love the Lord Jesus; and that even as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so thirsteth my soul after him.

Pity my weakness, thou gracious Saviour, who didst shed thy blood to cleanse me from sin. Intercede for me with God, that he may count me worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power. May the views which have been set before me of the extent and freeness of redeeming love, become familiar to my mind. May the convictions under which I labour prove

for my good, by humbling me, and quickening me in coming unreservedly to thee. May I remember and meditate on the lessons which I have heard, that it is not to any worthiness in myself, but only to the worthiness of the Lamb that was slain, that I must look for acceptance with God; and that in working out my own salvation, and attending to my duties, it is on his grace alone that I must continually rely. Blessed Jesus, who hast said, I will not leave you comfortless, send to me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of thyself. Hasten the time when disquieting doubts and fears shall be removed from my mind, and with gladness and singleness of heart I shall be able to serve thee. O say to thy servant, who yet walks in darkness, as thou saidst by thy prophet to the Church, Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. The Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Amen. Amen.

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LORD, I am thine. Thou art my Creator, Preserver, and King. I was early devoted to thee in baptism, and now I have united myself to thee in a covenant, which I pray that thy grace may enable me never to forget. Justly art thou entitled to the warmest affections of my heart, and the most active exertions of my life. How gracious and merciful hast thou been in redeeming me from guilt and from misery, and in providing for my spiritual and eternal welfare, by the death of thine only-begotten Son. O Lord, truly I am thy servant. I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid. Thou hast loosed my bonds.

Deepen, O deepen on my soul, the impression of my Saviour's love, that I may be constrained to live, not unto myself, but unto him that died for me, and rose again. Lead me to the garden in which his agony was borne, and the cross on which he was smitten of God and afflicted. Lead me to contemplate him in

the glory of his divinity, as the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, and in the deep humiliation to which he submitted, when he bore our sins in his own body on the tree. Lead me to think of the discouragements and opposition that he met with, and the unchanging love to human souls, with which he endured the contradiction of sinners against himself, and carried on his benevolent work, till he knew that all that was required for our redemption was accomplished, and in bowing his head, and giving up the ghost, he could say, It is finished. And may the fruit of all my meditations on that glorious and compassionate Saviour, who gave himself for us, be a more complete surrender of myself to him. To me to live may it be Christ. My body and my spirit, which he has bought with his own precious blood, may I heartily and wholly devote to the advancement of his glory.

And do thou enlighten me with regard to the character, which, as a servant of Christ, and a member of his family, it

behoves me to maintain. Enable me to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, to guard against the sins that easily beset me, and to be fruitful in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God.

I have too much reason to distrust myself, and in the view of sacramental engagements, and of Christian duties, to be apprehensive that I shall come short, and add to the multitude of my transgressions. But, O gracious God, wilt not thou, who hast delivered my soul from death, deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before thee in the light of the living? In thee do I put my trust. I thank thee for thy promise, My grace is sufficient for thee. I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. In the time of temptation be thou near, to deliver me from it. Let holy desires spring up within me. Let the love of God be shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost given unto me; and let his sanctifying influence so prevail over my



corrupt nature, that, being made free from sin, and become a servant to God, I may have my fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Amen.

PRAYERS ON OCCASION OF  
SICKNESS IN A FAMILY.

We are dependent, O Lord, upon thee. The issues of life are in thy hands. Thou woundest, and thou healest. We desire to acknowledge thy hand in the affliction with which thou hast visited this family at present, and we pray that, as the chastening of the Lord, it may be for our profit, that we may be partakers of thy holiness.

May he [*she*] who is particularly affected by it be enabled to bear it with submission to thy will. May it be a means of leading him to a searching examination of himself, and a cordial acceptance of the truth as it is in Jesus. May it be so sanctified to him, that, like David, he may say,

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes.

Relieve him from trouble, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, and let his health be re-established. While trouble continues, let thy comforts be his delight. May his meditation of thee be sweet to his soul, and looking unto Jesus, may he have large and refreshing views of that love of Christ which passeth knowledge.

Direct us to the means whereby we may minister to his temporal and spiritual good. Support us in attending upon him, and amidst all the anxiety which his state occasions. May we prepare for trials to ourselves, by storing our minds with the truths and promises of Scripture; and believing in the love wherewith thou hast loved us in Jesus Christ, and the care which he never ceases to take of his people, and the power which he possesses to make all things to work for their good, may we be enabled to be patient in our present distress, and to commit our afflicted relative to thy wise and gracious disposal.

Look upon him in the face of thy beloved Son, that his' sins may not be remembered against him. Heal his backslidings, O Lord, and love him freely. Speak peace to his soul, and whatever be his outward condition, give him everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace.

Hear our humble prayer, for thy dear Son's sake, in whom is all our trust for every blessing to ourselves or to others. Amen.

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O THOU, who art a very present help in trouble, and whose mercy in Christ gives us confidence to address our supplications to thee, let thine ear be open to our prayers, in the trying circumstances in which thou hast been pleased to place us.

Look with compassion on the afflicted member of this family; and lessen, if it be thy holy will, O lessen the severity of his sufferings; sustain him under them; sanctify them to him. Vain are all our efforts to

relieve or preserve him, unless thou dost prosper and bless them. We desire to commend him to thee, in whose hand is his breath, and who art able even yet to rebuke his trouble, and to give him the enjoyment of health. Supply him largely, O Lord, with the consolations of thy Spirit. May his sufferings cause him to think, with all lowliness of mind, of sin as the source from which suffering flows; and conscious of his unworthiness and guilt, may he cast himself wholly on thy mercy in Jesus Christ.

O may his sins be forgiven, that no impediment may exist to his obtaining thy favour, which is better than life. May he be numbered with those who are washed, and sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Soothe his troubled mind by shewing him the freeness and the fulness of thy grace, and remove the opposition which the pride of his heart, and the sinfulness of his nature, would make to his submitting himself to its saving power.

For whatever comfort he experiences from his acquaintance with the truth as it is in Jesus, and whatever hope he entertains of acceptance with thee, we give thee thanks. O brighten his prospects of the future; strengthen his faith in that infinitely great and gracious Redeemer, who has ransomed his people from the power of the grave, and is preparing a place for them in heaven; and enable him, in all his trials, to raise his thoughts to that blissful state, where there shall be no more death, or sorrow, or crying, or pain.

If the time, O Lord, is at hand, when he shall be withdrawn from us here, prepare him, we beseech thee, for dwelling with thyself in the fulness of joy, which is at thy right hand for ever; and help us to bow under thy chastening hand; to derive from the truths and the promises of Scripture, our comfort in bereavement; and to learn, from the present visitation of thy providence, an instructive lesson to prepare for eternity.

Be merciful to our unrighteousness, O

God, and let an answer in peace be given to our prayers, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

PRAYER ON OCCASION OF RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

O THOU, who hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit, and art restoring me to health, accept of my humble and grateful acknowledgments. Thou art permitting me again to behold the beauty of thy works, and to taste the bounties of thy providence, and to enjoy the society of those whom I love, and to read and to hear of the things that belong to my peace. Enable me ever to cherish a thankful mind. Let me not abuse the mercy of which I have been the undeserving object. May the life which thou hast spared be employed to the glory of thy name. With returning health may I carry the principles of a Christian into all my

duties, being not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Thou hast shewn me that there is but a step between me and death. Let me never lose the recollection of my precarious and uncertain state, so that I may number my days, and apply my heart to wisdom. Let the views which I have been led to entertain of an approaching futurity, and a judgment to come, often recur to my thoughts. May I be deeply humbled by those convictions of sin, which pressed themselves upon me when I lingered in sickness, and contemplated my being carried, at no distant period, to the immediate presence of a holy God; and may the importance which I then felt to belong to the religion of Jesus, engage my earnest attention to it all the days of my life. To Jesus Christ as alone able to reconcile me to God, and to give me an inheritance among them that are sanctified, may I habitually look; and living by the faith of the Son of God, may I experience the peace of God which passeth understanding,

and cherish the blessed hope of eternal life through him, which proves in all situations an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast.

May recovery from sickness be followed by repentance from dead works. Free me, O Lord, from every spiritual disease under which I have laboured. Let my tastes and inclinations henceforth be holy. Let my progress be continual to a meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light.

For all the kindness which I have met with from my dear and valued friends, and for all the support which they received in their affectionate attendance upon me, I desire to give thee thanks. Pardon, I beseech thee, wherein I have been impatient or fretful, or have not profited as became me by the discipline of thy providence; and grant to my prayers an answer in peace, for my blessed Saviour's sake. Amen.



PRAYER ON OCCASION OF DEATH  
IN A FAMILY.

WITH sorrowing hearts, O Lord, do we bow before thee. Thou hast been pleased to take from us a beloved member of our family. We adore thy sovereignty in removing him. Thou hast a right to dispose of every one of us as seemeth good in thy sight. But bear with us, O most merciful God, who knowest our frame, and hast bound us to one another by cords of love, while we lament the breach which thou hast made in our circle. Help us to acquiesce in what thou hast done, and to be dumb, opening not our mouths to murmur, because thou didst it.

May the melancholy change which thou hast made in our state, lead us to reflect, that in this world no enjoyment, even of the purest kind, is lasting; and that the time will come when another and another from among us shall go the way whence they shall not return. May it lead us to prepare for our own departure from this earthly house of our tabernacle, by seeking

for thy protection and support, that when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, thy rod and staff may comfort us, and thy presence, as our reconciled God, may cause us to fear no evil. May it lead us to prepare one another for eternity. May our mutual affection engage us to help one another in the way to Zion, that having lived by the faith of the Son of God, we may sleep in Jesus, and awake with those whom God shall bring with him.

In our present affecting circumstances, when our minds are subdued, and we feel how little the world can do for man, may the truths of religion come home with power to our souls. And may it be our comfort to know and believe that thou art love; that thou hast commended thy love to us, in that while we were sinners Christ died for us; and that the same Jesus who gave himself for us, is gone to prepare a place for his people, that where he is, there they may be also.

Our sins, O Lord, we cannot but remember when thou art visiting us with thy rod. Often have we provoked thee to anger, and heavy are the judgments which we

have deserved. Yet thou hast mingled mercies with thy chastening. For all the support which thou hast given us in the time of our trial, for all the enjoyment which we had in the society of our departed relative, for the length of time during which thou wert pleased to spare him to us, for the favour shewn to himself, we give thee hearty thanks. May our sins be forgiven for the sake of thy Son, and may the Spirit of holiness give effect to the circumstances in which we are placed, so that our sorrow may not be like the sorrow of those who have no hope, and repentance unto life may be the fruit of that chastening which we are now receiving at thy hand.

Father of mercies, hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### PRAYER ON THE DEATH OF A PARENT.

OUR Father who art in heaven! to whom can we go but unto thee in our bereavement and distress? O let the cry of the orphan come up before thee, and for thy mercy's sake in the ever blessed

Saviour of sinners, fulfil to us thy gracious promise, I will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters.

Our hearts are sore pained within us. We grieve for the dear and honoured parent who watched over our infancy, and guided our youth, and in whose smiles we were happy. O teach us to submit to thee, thou infinitely wise and gracious Being, who hast seen meet to remove him from us, and support us under all the feeling of desolation and distress which his death occasions. We mourn over the loss which we have sustained. We mourn to think that the opportunity is past for shewing our respect and affection for him. O how often have we wounded his heart by the inconsiderateness of our conduct, and our neglect of his counsels !

Forgive, O Father of mercies, wherein we have failed in our duty to our departed parent, and let his pious instructions be embalmed in our memories, and act with tenfold power upon our hearts. Forgive us also, O most gracious God, wherein we have failed in our duty to thee, and in the lifetime of our earthly parent have sought for support and direction from him, with-

out casting our care upon thee. Thou art shewing us now how vain is confidence in man, whose breath goeth forth. Give us grace to profit by the painful lesson. May we seek unto thee by Jesus Christ, through whom thou art reconciling the world to thyself. And for his sake do thou receive us graciously, and comfort our hearts, and strengthen us for our duties at this mournful season, and make us at all times followers of them, who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hear our earnest prayers for Christ's sake. Amen.

#### PRAYER UNDER A SENSE OF SIN.

HAVE mercy upon me, O Lord, according to thy loving-kindness. Have mercy upon me, for I am weak. O save me for thy mercies' sake. My heart is not right with thee. My own heart, sinful as it is, condemns me, and thou art greater than my heart, thou knowest all things. But, O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. O my God, my soul is cast down within me. My iniquities are gone over my

head; as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. In me dwelleth no good thing. I mourn over my inward corruption and my estrangement from thee. Thou hast loaded me with benefits, and art still blessing me with outward comforts and spiritual privileges. But how cold are the affections of my heart towards thee, thou best of Beings, whom all men should love, and whose glory it should be their happiness to promote! Thou hast given me numberless opportunities of observing the wonders of redeeming love, and of learning the great things of thy law. But how small has been the profit that I have made of them! how fickle have I been in my attention to the all-important concerns of eternity! how weak is my faith in Christ! how imperfectly are my duties performed!

O Thou compassionate Being, who didst send Jesus Christ, to seek and to save that which was lost, let the Shepherd and Bishop of souls turn his eye in mercy upon me, who have gone astray like a lost sheep. O thou blessed Saviour of sinners, who in all their afflictions wast afflicted, and in thy love and in thy pity didst redeem them, where is the sounding of

thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained? What is there but the blood which thou didst shed upon the cross, that can cleanse me from sin? O let it be applied to my conscience. Help me to believe in thyself, that the wrath of God may not abide on me for ever. Let the power of divine grace be employed to subdue my perverse and rebellious heart, that evil may be no longer present with me, but being renewed in the spirit of my mind, I may grow to a conformity with the image of God, and experience the peace which belongs to those that love his law, and be able to cherish the blessed hope of everlasting life.

Let thy grace be magnified in plucking me even as a brand from the burning, and establishing me in the faith, and the hope, and the holiness of the Gospel. Have mercy upon me, in my endeavours to do things acceptable to thee. Leave me not in darkness and doubt as to the attainment of thy favour. Let me not labour under painful uncertainty of my being grounded and settled in the faith. May Christ be in me, the hope of glory. May I be able to rest upon him for salva-

tion, and heartily to believe, that if, when an enemy, I was reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more being reconciled, I shall be saved by his life. May the earnest of the Spirit be given in my heart. May the fruit of the Spirit appear in my life. May I be strengthened to struggle with the corruption of my nature, and delivered from the spirit of bondage which leads to fear, and endued with the spirit of adoption, whereby I may cry Abba, Father. God be merciful to me a sinner! I have no refuge but in the unsearchable riches of thy grace. Let me find in my own experience, that there is no limit to its exercise through Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

Psalm xxv. xxxviii. xlii. li. lxxxvi. cxxx. Isaiah, l. 4—10. lvii. 15—21. Daniel, ix. 3—19. Matt. ix. 10—13. Romans, vii. 21—25. 2 Cor. v. 18—21. 1 Tim. i. 14—17.

## PRAYER IN THE EXPERIENCE OF SPIRITUAL COMFORT.

WHAT shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me? Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. I will extol



thee, O Lord. Unworthy as I am, thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. In the day when I cried, thou answeredst me and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul. Thou hast enabled me to say of the Lord, He is my refuge, my fortress, my God, in him will I trust. In the assurance of thy love in Jesus Christ thou hast opened to me a well-spring of joy. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. Thanks be unto God for the knowledge which he has given me of the truth as it is in Jesus, and the measure of faith which he has enabled me to exercise in this divine Saviour, and the confidence in his love and the willingness to serve him with which he has inspired me.

O thou gracious God ! who dost perfect that which concerns thy people, and dost perform until the day of Jesus Christ, whatever good work thou hast wrought in them, take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Let me not fall from my steadfastness. Let the light which thou hast caused to arise upon me, shine more and more into my heart. Let the grace which has guided and upheld me, sustain, and com-

fort, and renew me more and more. Continue to shed abroad thy love in my heart. Let my love to thee become every day stronger and purer. Let the joy of the Lord be my strength, and the power of his might my shield and buckler.

O let me never forget, that by thy grace alone I am what I am ; that I am poor, and helpless, and sinful in myself, and that every advance which I make in the knowledge and the observance of thy will, and every hope which I entertain, and every spiritual blessing which I enjoy, is thy free and unmerited gift. May I walk before thee in all humility and thankfulness. May I be stirred up to serve thee zealously. Conscious of my weakness and continued proneness to sin, may I take heed lest I fall, and set a watch over myself, and look habitually unto Jesus, and make diligent use of the means of grace. Forgive, O Lord, my shortcomings and sins, and let me be found among those who go from strength to strength, and appear, every one of them, in Zion before thee. Let my prayers and thanksgivings come up with acceptance in thy sight through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE IN ADVANCED  
LIFE.

ALMIGHTY GOD! who hast sustained me in all my pilgrimage, I desire to thank thee for thy unwearied and most gracious care. In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust for the time to come. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. Chequered as my lot has been, the tokens of thy goodness have never been withheld. In the very sorrows of life, thy mercies have often been the most abundant. The more that I have depended upon thee, the more that I have dwelt upon the love which thou hast manifested to sinful creatures in Jesus Christ, the more largely hast thou visited me with thy favour.

Well may I say from my own experience, that thou givest to all men liberally, and upbraidest not. Unprofitable have I been to thee, doing many things which I ought not to have done, and neglecting much which it was my duty to do. O

Lord, I humble myself before thee when I think of the sins which testify against me. I am a sinful man. Mine iniquity is great. I cast myself wholly on thy mercy in Jesus Christ thy Son, whom thou didst send to be the propitiation for our sins. It is my comfort to know, that thou art in him reconciling the world to thyself, and that he is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto thee by him. In the belief of this, thou hast supported and cheered me amidst all my trials; and now when I am warned by advancing age, that my days are like a shadow that declineth, and that my power to join in the pursuits and enjoyments of the world must fail, I desire to cling more closely to that gracious Saviour, whose blessings outward circumstances cannot affect, and who is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

I adore thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank thee for the encouragement which thou hast given me in him, to exercise filial trust in thee. As a member of his body, let me share, I beseech thee, in the love which thou bearest to him. Give me, through him, a right to the privileges of thy children.

Let me be renewed in the spirit of my mind, that I may be like him in holiness, and may be fitted for glorifying thee while I live, and for enjoying thee for ever. While thou art pleased to preserve me in health of body and vigour of mind, may thy grace enable me to fulfil the duties of my station, and to be an example of the believers. When infirmities increase, or troubles assail me, give me patience to endure them. May the hope set before me in the Gospel, and the assurance of thy love in Jesus Christ, remove all anxiety from my mind, and make me cheerful and resigned. May I often contemplate the change that awaits me, and be daily preparing to meet my God. May dependence upon him who liveth, and was dead, and is alive for evermore, induce me to think of death without dread, and to anticipate the joys which he has purchased for his people, and secured for them in heaven. In the prospect of these joys, may my affections be fully and permanently set on things above. Let me not cling to the world from which I must expect, ere long, to be removed. May my conversation and my heart be in

heaven. And when I cease to have a portion in any thing that is done under the sun, may it be my portion to join that great multitude, which thou hast redeemed to thyself, and to dwell in the light of thy countenance for ever.

Look, O Lord, with thy favour upon those who are dear to me upon earth. May they love the Lord Jesus, and walk in him, rooted and stablished in the faith, abounding therein with thanksgiving. May the changes which they meet with in this world prepare them for appearing before thee, and bind them more closely to one another in Christian love. May they be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, and may they and I be accepted of thee, through the same Jesus Christ, who is over all God blessed for ever. Amen.

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