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**ORATIO.**

S. AMBROSII.

*(Spes mea, Christe Deus, hominum tu dulcis amator.)*

The following is a very literal translation of the above hymn by Ambrose of Milan, a celebrated father of the Latin Church. He was called by the voice of a child, in a popular assembly convened for the election of a bishop, over which he, as governor of the province of Milan, presided, to occupy the office himself, and the multitude at once responded with cries of “Ambrose for Bishop.” After a vain resistance, he distributed his property among the poor, was baptized, and became one of the most exemplary of the fathers of the Church. His firmness, and indifference to persons were notably exhibited in his conduct towards the Emperor Theodosius the Great, whom he compelled to do public penance for the massacre in Thessalonica. He died A.D., 397, greatly bewailed and lamented.

**PRAYER OF AMBROSE OF MILAN.**

My hope, O Christ my God, dear lover of lost men,  
 Light, way, life, safety, peace, glory of all Thine own,  
 Once here, poor souls to save, what load oppressed Thee then!  
 Flesh, bonds, cross, wounds, death, grave, by these didst Thou atone.