

¶ *Then let the People reverently bow down while the Minister leads them in prayer, using if he so desire one of the following as*

THE CLOSING PRAYER

O GOD, the Protector of all that trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; Increase and multiply upon us Thy mercy, that, Thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord. *Amen.*

(Gregorian usage 590.)

ALmighty God, who hast given unto us the good seed of Thy Word, grant that we may receive it into honest hearts: And so guard it by Thy grace from the wiles of Satan and the cares of this life, that the faith and hope and love which Thou hast begotten, may be in us the beginning of life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, who hast sounded in our ears Thy divine and saving oracles, enlighten the souls of us sinners to the full understanding of what has been spoken, that we may be not only hearers of spiritual words, but also doers of good works, following after faith unfeigned, blameless life and irreproachable conduct: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Liturgy of St. James, A.D. 200.)

MOST merciful God, we beseech Thee to grant unto us that we may earnestly desire, wisely search out, truly perceive, and perfectly fulfil those things which are well-pleasing in Thy sight, to the praise and glory of Thy name. *Amen.*

(St. Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1274.)

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us Thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in Thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Gelasius, 494.)

ALmighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee: and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name Thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

(A Prayer of St. Chrysostom, 400.)