

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany.

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

METRICAL PARAPHRASE.

O God look down on our distress,
With pity from thy throne,
For all our dangers and our fears,
To Thee are fully known.

Whilst numerous foes, to work our fall,
Their force and art unite;
We cannot keep ourselves secure,
Nor always stand upright.

Be thou, O Lord! our sure defence,
Our want of strength supply;
Around us throw thy guardian arm,
Whenever danger's nigh.

Our souls thus cheer'd by thy support
Shall suffer no dismay;
Nor in temptation's trying hour
Shall fall from thee away.

Collect for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany.

O Lord, we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace, may evermore be defended by thy mighty power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

METRICAL PARAPHRASE.

Lord, let the church, thy household prove
Thy guardian care, thy ceaseless love,
Whilst Satan and his host combine
To make it from thy truth decline.

Though thousands with malignant aim
Revile and scorn the Christian name;
Still let thy Church to Thee adhere,
In morals pure—in faith sincere.

Whilst others boast, misled by pride,
Reason their all sufficient guide;
Their hope and trust thy people place
In nothing but thy heavenly grace.

Lord! grant that these may ever find
The blessings of an humble mind,
And be, in each distressful hour,
Secure in thy protecting power.

Collect for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany.

O God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of God, and heirs of eternal life; Grant us, we beseech thee, that having this hope, we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure; that when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

METRICAL PARAPHRASE.

How wond'rous was thy love, O Lord,
To sinful man display'd,
Whom Satan had by treacherous wiles
His wretched captives made.

For this thy blessed Son from heaven
Came down, with power and grace,
From Satan's bondage, sin, and death,
To rescue Adam's race.

He came to banish all such works
As would our souls destroy,

To make believers sons of God,
And heirs of endless joy.

May this enlivening hope, O God,
To us such zeal impart
That we may strive to be like Christ
In purity of heart.

When he shall come with awful pomp,
And splendor from the skies,
May we, in his blest image found,
With him to glory rise.