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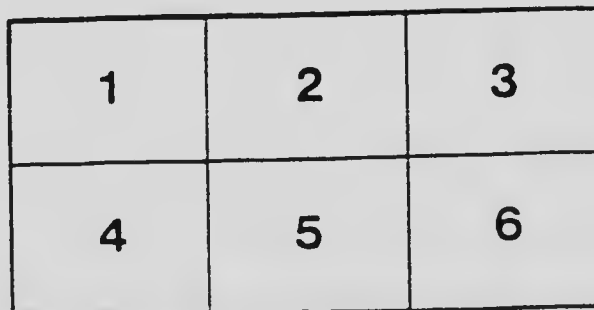
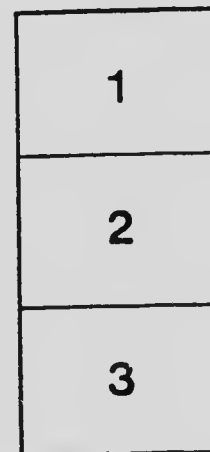
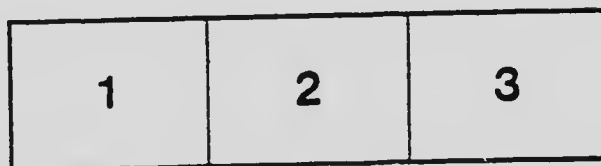
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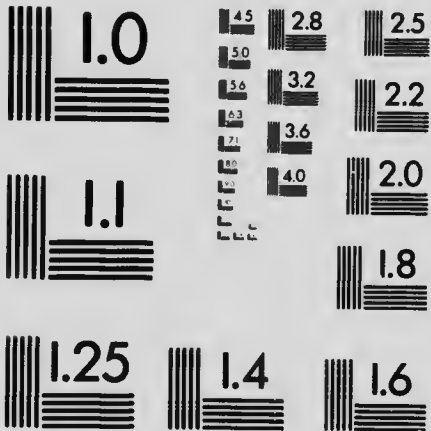
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Home Prayers

**A Prayer a day for four weeks
together with Prayers for
special occasions in
the home.**



Compiled and arranged by
REV. R. W. DICKIE, D.D.

With an introductory note by
REV. PROFESSOR R. E. WELSH



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Compiled and arranged by
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With an introductory note by
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This bouquet of family prayers needs no bush; its spiritual fragrance gives it all the recommendation it needs. Dr. Dickie's workmanship requires no introduction. But I seize the opportunity, given me by his invitation to write an introductory note, to say, as convener of the General Assembly's committee on "Public Worship and Aids to Devotion," that this little collection of family devotions is not intended to take the place of the "Book of Family Devotion" which has come from that committee.

It is issued under the auspices of the Church Worship Society, which seeks, by the publication of Occasional Papers and otherwise, to promote the cultivation of worship.

This booklet, moreover, is unique; it has a place of its own to fill. It is intended for use at the family board in homes where a more extended form of worship seems, under the pressure of time and circumstances, to be impracticable. For this purpose it is brief, direct, simple. Its prayers, I may add, are richly woven in Scriptural phrases, reminding one in this respect of Matthew Henry's "Method of Prayer," which some of us long ago employed for our aid in leading in prayer. It has the instinctive sense of fitting prayer-expressions, a healthy tone, a quiet, devotional spirit, with singularly apt and happy combinations and turns of hallowed phraseology. Nothing of the kind can be produced without long training, however easily it may read.

R. E. WELSH,

(President of the Church Worship Society.)

PREFACE

This little collection of prayers is sent forth in the hope that it may help in nourishing the spirit of godliness in our homes.

We fail so often in maintaining family worship because of the practical difficulties incident to the busy life so many of us lead. Perhaps many more would succeed if they attempted, to begin with, something simpler and less difficult by way of acknowledging God in family worship.

These short prayers are suggested as suitable for use instead of, or in addition to, grace at the morning or evening meal.

The following counsels are offered to the heads of families who wish to use them:—

Regularity is of the first importance. If we are to have family prayers they must become the habit of the home.

Let the person who leads in the prayer first become familiar with its words and thoughts, and then repeat or read them clearly, deliberately and reverently.

Kneeling is the most reverent attitude, but if the prayers are said in place of grace they may be said at table with bowed heads.

On Sunday and special days longer portions may be read from Holy Scriptures, together with the singing of a psalm or hymn, and the Lords' Prayer said in unison.

These prayers are not original; they belong to the historic church, and breathe her spirit and thought. They are merely rearranged for this special purpose.

Indebtedness is acknowledged to the Church of Scotland's "Family Prayers" and "A Book of Family Worship" by the Presbyterian Board of Publications of Philadelphia.

R. W. DICKIE.



SUNDAY (First Week)

O God, we bless Thee for the spiritual privileges which have been secured to us in Jesus Christ our Lord; for revealing to us in Thy Word all it is necessary for us to know, believe and practise for our eternal salvation; for our consolation under the ills of life, and for our hopes of a heavenly inheritance beyond death and the grave.

Direct our thoughts to those things which belong to Thy glory and to our own everlasting peace.

To Thy special care and guidance we commit ourselves and all who are dear to us.

Graciously hear us for the sake of Thy beloved Son, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be glory and maejsty, dominion and blessing, world without end. Amen.

MONDAY (First Week)

O God, our Creator and Preserver, we thankfully acknowledge Thy goodness, and yield ourselves anew to Thy service.

Pardon our unsteadfastness and give us grace that we may be enabled constantly to walk with Thee.

O Lord, without whom we can do nothing as we ought, help us in all our actions to take heed unto Thy Word, and to abstain from every form of evil.

Grant us Thy guidance and protection. Aid us in our appointed tasks. Support us in any trials or dangers that may befall us. Help us to endure as seeing Thee who art invisible; and while we are diligent in seeking the things that are needful for this present world, may it be our chief concern to lay up treasure in heaven.

Graciously hear our supplications for the sake of Thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY (First Week)

Almighty God, cause us to know the way wherein we should walk; for we lift up our souls unto Thee.

Assist us in the duties of our calling. Grant that while we are not slothful in business, we may also be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, and enable us, while laboring for the life that now is, to look ever beyond it to the heavenly life which Thou hast promised to Thy children.

Defend us, O God, in soul and in body, from all evil. Guard us against the snares of the world, and the sinful desires of our own hearts. Continue and increase Thy grace within us.

Remember in Thy great mercy the poor, the suffering, and those appointed soon to die. Relieve and comfort and sustain them, O God, by Thy heavenly grace, and grant that finally they may rest with Thee.

Graciously hear our humble supplications, according to the riches of Thy mercy in Jesus Christ, our Lord and only Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY (First Week)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we thank Thee for the bounties of Thy providence; for health and strength; for food and raiment; for manifold social blessings and domestic comforts; for seasonable help in our times of need; for consolation in hours of sorrow; and for all the care and kindness Thou hast shown us from our birth even until now.

Grant us, in all our occupations, the aid of Thy strength and the guidance of Thy wisdom. Teach us in all our ways to acknowledge Thee, and do Thou direct our steps.

Look with compassion on the whole world. Hasten the time when repentance and remission of sins shall be preached in the name of Jesus to all nations; and grant that wherever Thy gospel is already known its holy and blessed fruits may be more and more abundant.

Hear our prayers, O God, and accept our praises for the sake of Thy beloved Son our Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY (First Week)

O God, we humble ourselves in Thy most holy presence, acknowledging our unworthiness in Thy sight. We remember how often we have forgotten Thee, and how many have been our sins. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree, grant us Thy forgiveness, and lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us.

Teach us to redeem the time, because the days are evil; to give diligence to make our calling and election sure, and to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Strengthen us for the right discharge of every duty. Cause us to overcome in every temptation, and to persevere to the end; and having lived soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, may we be prepared for the next.

Prepare us, O God, for every trial. As our days so let our strength be. Guide us by Thy counsel

while we live, and afterwards receive us into glory, for the Lord Jesus 'sake. Amen.

FRIDAY (First Week)

O God, who hast appointed to every man his duty, teach us in all our ways to acknowledge Thee. Enable us to do our work with diligence and to guide our affairs with discretion.

Teach us in our dealings with our fellow men to walk in truth and uprightness before Thee; rendering unto all their dues and doing unto others as we would that they should do to us.

Help us by Thy grace to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. Suffer us not to be overburdened with its cares, ensnared by its pleasures, corrupted by its riches or led astray by its follies.

Teach us to live above it, and to look beyond it, as pilgrims and strangers on the earth, as all our fathers were.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and only Saviour. Amen.

SATURDAY (First Week)

O Lord, who hast called us to be holy because Thou art holy, fulfil in us, we beseech The, all the good pleasure of Thy goodness, and stablish us in every good work. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Deliver us from evil thoughts, unholy passions, and uncharitable tempers; from pride and vanity, from malice and revenge, from envy and discontent, from covetousness and worldliness. Cause us to abound more

and more in faith, and love, and temperance, and godliness. Strengthen us in all holy desires and good purposes, all kind and brotherly affections, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in Him. O God of peace sanctify us wholly, and grant that we may be established in holiness before Thee, and preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and for whose sake we ask it. Amen.

SUNDAY (Second Week)

O God, who art light, and in whom is no darkness at all, shine into our hearts, we beseech Thee, by Thy Holy Spirit, and enable us in Thy light to see light. Deliver us from ignorance, error and unbelief; dispose us to renounce the hidden things of shame, and by the purity of our lives to commend ourselves to every man's conscience in Thy sight. May our fellowship be with Thee, the Father, and with Thy Son Jesus Christ; and when the shadows of this life have passed away, grant that we may enjoy the vision of Thy heavenly glory and have a part in Thy heavenly kingdom forever and ever.

This we ask in the name of Jesus, Thy beloved Son, to whom with Thee and with the Holy Spirit, be honour and praise, dominion and blessing forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY (Second Week)

Father of mercies, receive our thanks for all Thy benefits, temporal and spiritual; and enable us to show our gratitude by the cheerful obedience of our hearts and lives.

Give the protection of Thy presence to this home. Grant unto us all health of body and of soul, that we may truly love and serve Thee.

We pray for our friends and kindred, that it may please Thee to remember them for good, and to visit them with Thy salvation; for those who are in adversity and affliction, that they may be blessed with the comforts of Thy Word and Spirit; and for all men that they may be brought to the knowledge, faith and obedience of Thy gospel.

Graciously answer these our humble supplications for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY (Second Week)

O God, who knowest our wants, grant us such earthly blessings as Thy wisdom seeth to be good for us, and make us to be content with Thy blessed will. Suffer us not in prosperity to forget Thee or in adversity to think ourselves forgotten of Thee. Teach us to thank Thee for all Thy gifts; and when earthly comforts fail, to rejoice the more in the God of our salvation. Above all, grant that our spiritual wants may be abundantly supplied out of the fulness of Thy grace.

We pray for our brethren that it may please Thee to succour them according to their several necessities. Give food to the hungry, instruction to the ignorant, comfort to the sorrowful, health to the sick, and hope to the dying.

Hear us, O God, and grant an answer in peace, for the sake of Thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY (Second Week)

O God, fill us, we beseech The, with the knowledge of Thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we may walk worthy of Thee unto all pleasing, and may be fruitful in every good work, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Guide and strengthen us by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful in all our responsibilities, honest in all our dealings, and gentle in our communications with all men.

Bestow Thy blessing on the members of this home. Keep us all from the evil that is in the world; help us to love Thee and Thy kingdom, and bring us at last to the heavenly home.

Bless all in authority over us, extend thy favor and protection to our country. Bless Thy Church throughout the world, and may Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY (Second Week)

Almighty God who givest power to the faint and increasest strength to them that have no might, we look to Thee for aid in all our duties and trials. Fulfil to us, now and always, Thy promise, that as our days so shall our strength be. Arm us with might to resist every temptation, and stablish our hearts in every good word and work.

Bestow Thy favor, we beseech Thee, on our friends and kindred. Extend Thy pity to the sick and the afflicted. Comfort the mourners. Prepare the

dying for death, and give them assurance of their safety in Jesus Christ.

O God, let Thy Word everywhere have free course and be glorified; and hasten the time when all the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY (Second Week)

O God, we bless Thee for the defence of Thy providence and for the provision Thou hast made for our bodies and for our souls. We lament our shortcomings and transgressions. Open our eyes that we may see our infirmities; make us watchful against them; enable us to overcome them, and help us to walk in the way of life. Dispose us to be faithful and diligent in our several callings; cheerful and zealous in duty; patient in trial; charitable in temper; pure and sincere in speech; and ready to every good work; and whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, enable us to do all to Thy glory.

Regard with Thy favor this home. Prosper our country. Bless the Church universal. Unite the hearts of Thy people in the belief and love of Thy truth, and hasten the coming of Thy kingdom among all nations. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY (Second Week)

O Lord, we return thanks for Thy many blessings which are more than we can number. May it please Thee to give us a deep and abiding sense of

the love of Christ which passeth knowledge; and grant that it may constrain us to walk in love, as Christ also loved us. Dispose us to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Make us kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving, even as Thou for Christ's sake forgivest us.

We implore Thy blessing on all the members of this family. May they know how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

We pray for the peace and prosperity of our country, and for the speedy enlightenment and conversion of all nations.

Bless with the help of Thy providence and the comforts of Thy grace all who are in distress of body, mind, or estate. For Christ's sake. Amen.

SUNDAY (Third Week)

Father of mercies, receive our humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness. We bless Thy name, that Thou hast provided for us not only such things as are serviceable for the body, but such also as are needful for the soul. We thank Thee for the holy rest of Thy day, for the instructions of Thy Word, for the ordinances of Thy worship, for the promised grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and, above all, for Jesus Christ. Forbid, O God, that the privileges we enjoy should rise up against us to our condemnation.

Be present this day in all the assemblies of Thy people. Let Thy Word have free course and be glorified. Increase everywhere the number of true worshippers; and hasten the time when throughout the whole world Thy name shall be honored, and

Thy Word believed. We ask it in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY (Third Week)

O Lord, give us grace that we may live as becometh Thy children. Keep us mindful that Thou art calling us to serve Thee in whatsoever place Thy providence has assigned to us. Make us faithful in that which is least as well as in that which is greatest.

Forgive, O Lord, our proneness to forget Thee amidst the engagements of the world. Strengthen us to withstand temptation; guard us against the deceitfulness of our own hearts; and enable us, by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, to acknowledge Thee in all our ways. As we live by Thy mercy, may we live to Thy praise. Whatsoever our hand findeth to do, may we do it with our might, remembering that the night cometh when no man can work.

Graciously hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY (Third Week)

O God, pardon our lack of faith; and teach us to trust Thee with all our heart. Dispose us to cast upon Thee all our care, and to look to Thee for the supply of all our need. Above all, teach us unfeignedly to rest on the merits and grace of Thine only begotten Son, who bore our sins in His own body on the tree, and who ever liveth to make intercession for us.

Grant that, receiving and embracing the many promises of Thy Word, we may confess that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth, desiring a better country, that is an heavenly.

Direct our minds by Thy gracious presence and guide us by Thy counsel that at last we may have a portion in Thy everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY (Third Week)

O God, who art very pitiful and of tender mercy, dispose our hearts to acknowledge Thy goodness, and trustfully to commit ourselves to Thy care.

Continue towards us, notwithstanding our unworthiness, the bounties of Thy providence and the riches of Thy grace; and teach us to show our gratitude for Thy benefits, by cheerful obedience to Thy holy will.

Bless our friends; forgive our enemies, and enable us from the heart to forgive them.

Regard the young with Thy favor, and satisfy them early with Thy mercy, that they may rejoice and be glad all their days.

Sustain those who are bowed down with age or infirmity, and bring us all at last to the heavenly home through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY (Third Week)

O God, who hast called us to be followers of Jesus Christ, give us grace that being conformed to His image on earth, we may be prepared for dwelling with Him in heaven, where we shall be like Him, for

we shall see Him as He is. Make us willing to take His yoke upon us, and learn of Him, who was meek and lowly of heart. Teach us, after His example, to walk in love; to go about doing good; to bear patiently all evil treatment, and to do Thy will and finish the work Thou hast given us to do.

And now, O God, we humbly commit ourselves and all whom we love to Thy guidance and protection. Shield us from danger, keep us from sin, aid us in our lawful occupations, and whatsoever we do, in word or deed, dispose us to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

FRIDAY

(Third Week)

Father of mercies, we give Thee hearty thanks for all the benefits which it hath pleased Thee to bestow upon us. Pardon, for Christ's sake, wherein we have offended Thee by forgetting or abusing them, and enable us henceforth, by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, to acknowledge Thy gifts, and to use them for Thy glory.

O God, the source of all goodness, we cast ourselves on Thy fatherly care and humbly ask Thee for Christ's sake to supply our need.

Bless us with health of body and soundness of mind. Endue us with knowledge and prudence, and direct us in all our labors. Further our lawful undertakings with Thy help and blessing, and grant us such success as seemeth good in Thy sight.

May the blessing of the Lord that maketh rich and addeth no sorrow, rest upon this home, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY (Third Week)

O God, who hast taught us to ask, and we shall receive, enable us with the confidence of Thy children, to utter before Thee the desires of our hearts.

For the Redeemer's sake, pardon our sins, purify our hearts, help our infirmities, and work in us that which is well pleasing in Thy sight.

Give us grace, O God, as we pass through the world, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among the things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide.

Keep all the members of this household in Thy fear and love. Give grace to all. Make us kindly affectioned one to another.

Graciously hear us, O God, and have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

SUNDAY (Fourth Week)

Almighty God, have mercy on us according to Thy loving kindness, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions.

O Son of God, Redeemer of the world, who hast loved us and given Thyself for us, grant unto us Thy salvation. Wash us from our sins in Thy precious blood, and through Thine intercession save us to the uttermost.

O blessed Spirit let Thy grace be shed abroad in our hearts. Enlighten our minds in the knowledge of Thy truth, that we may be filled with joy and peace in believing, and abound in hope.

Let Thy presence be with all Thy worshipping people; and enable Thy servants to faithfully declare Thy blessed Word. Give success to all missionaries of the cross. May Thy kingdom come over all the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY (Fourth Week)

O God of all grace, help us in all our ways to acknowledge Thee, that our steps may be guided aright. Help us to live near to Thee. Be with us, O Father, everywhere, and at all times, in health, or in sickness, in prosperity or in trouble, that Thy presence may sweeten and sanctify whatever befalls us. And cease not to guide and uphold us on our way, until Thou hast safely brought us to Thy heavenly kingdom, where we shall see Thee and dwell with Thee forever.

Extend Thy favor, we pray Thee, to all for whom we should pray. Hide not Thy face from those who are in trouble. Reclaim the erring, and bring men evrywhere to know Thee, love Thee, and trust in Thee with all their heart. We ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TUESDAY (Fourth Week)

O God, who desirest truth in the inward parts, fill our hearts, we pray Thee, with Thy love and Thy truth. Save us from error, impenitence and unbelief. Deliver usc from pride, envy, covetousness and all uncharitableness. Inspire us with unfeign-

ed love to Thee and to our fellow men. Enable us with all diligence to keep our hearts, out of which are the issues of life.

Let Thy blessing rest on this home. Give grace to all of us to discharge our several duties with good will.

We commit ourselves to Thee, O God. Show us Thy ways; lead us in Thy truth, and teach us. Graciously hear us, and grant an answer in peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY (Fourth Week)

O God, grant that peace may abide in this home, and that all the members of it may dwell together in unity. Bestow Thy favor on our relations and friends.

Have pity on those who are in adversity. Enable them meekly to submit to Thy will.

We pray for the peace and welfare of Thy Church. Grant that all divisions therein may cease; that its errors may be corrected, and all its members stand fast in one spirit, striving together for the faith of the gospel.

We pray for the peace and prosperity of our native land; and for the enlightenment and conversion of all nations. Bless those who influence the thoughts and actions of men. Teach them, O God, to think and speak aright, and hasten the time when the Prince of Peace shall reign over the whole earth. Graciously hear our petitions which we offer to Thee in the name of Thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY (Fourth Week)

O God, who knowest how prone we are to abuse Thy bounty to our hurt, give us grace that we may so use the blessings that Thou hast given to us that they may not in any wise be hurtful to the soul. Restrain us from intemperance of every kind. Help us to repress all inordinate desires for the riches, honors, and pleasures of this life, and may we ever remember that if we live after the flesh we shall die; but if through the Spirit we mortify the deeds of the body, we shall live.

Forgive our sins, and give us grace, that henceforth we may deny ourselves to all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and may lead a godly, righteous and sober life.

Let Thy presence go with us, and let Thy grace in all things be sufficient for us.

Graciously hear and answer us, O God, according to Thy promises made unto us in Christ Jesus, to whom with Thee and with the Holy Spirit, be glory everlasting. Amen.

FRIDAY (Fourth Week)

Almighty God, who workest in us both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, strengthen us with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man, that we may be ready for every good word and work. Fill our hearts with such love to Thee that nothing may seem to us too hard to do, or too grievous to suffer for Thy sake. Above all, grant that our souls may be brought under the constraining power of redeeming love, so that we may live no longer unto our-

selves, but unto Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

Giver of all good, we look to Thee for the supply of our daily wants. Bestow upon us needful sustenance and contentment therewith. Bless us in all the work of our hands and aid us in our several duties.

Graciously hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SATURDAY (Fourth Week)

O God, may it please Thee to endue us with a right judgment in all things, that we may know the things that are true, and approve the things that are excellent, and grant that Thy truth may so richly dwell in us, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that by it we may be built up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

Send forth the light of Thy gospel throughout the world, to enlighten and reclaim the nations that are in darkness. Arrest the progress of infidelity and ungodliness. Pour out Thy Holy Spirit upon all flesh, that all men may know Thee, from the least unto the greatest.

Succor and relieve all those in distress, and grant that their present affliction may work out for them a more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for Special Seasons

NEW YEAR'S DAY

O Thou who art from everlasting to everlasting, replenish us with Thy heavenly grace at the beginning of this year, that we may be enabled to accept all its duties, to perform all its labors, to welcome all its mercies, to meet all its trials, and to advance through all it holds in store for us, with cheerful courage and a constant mind. O Lord, suffer us not to be separated from Thee, either by joy or sorrow, or any sin or weakness of our own; but have compassion upon us, and forgive us, and keep us from all evil, that as Thou hast called us to immortality through Jesus Christ, so we may pass the residue of our years in the power of an endless life, and to Thy name shall be all the praise. Amen.

EASTER DAY

Almighty God, who hast brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, grant us power, we beseech Thee, to rise with Him to newness of life, that we may overcome the world with the victory of faith, and have part at last in the resurrection of the just, through the merits of the same risen Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Father in heaven, whose mercy we praise in the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thy beloved Son; grant that He may be formed in us, the hope of glory, and that His presence may bring peace and joy to our hearts and to our homes. Help us to keep this day, in humility and gratitude, in unselfish love and cheerful service, that it may be a blessing to our souls, a memorial of Christ, and a thanksgiving unto Thee for the gift of a Saviour. Amen.

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Almighty God, we magnify and praise Thy holy name for having so loved the world as to give Thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

What shall we render unto Thee, O Lord, for all Thy benefits towards us? We will take the cup of salvation and call upon Thy name, and pay our vows to Thee in the presence of Thy people. Thou hast delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Help us to walk before Thee in the land of the living, seeking our rest in Thee, and presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ON ENTERING A NEW HOME.

O God, who setteth the solitary in families, we pray Thee to bless our new home. We enter its gates with praise, and here erect the altar of our

family worship. Receive, O God, the vows of our dedication of ourselves to Thy service and consecrate this house by Thy presence, that it may become a happy home and a temple of the Holy Spirit. Encircle our household with the everlasting love and protect us with Thy fatherly might, for Christ's sake. Amen.

AFTER THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

O God, who art the author and preserver of life, we thank Thee for Thy good providence which watches over us, and especially for Thy mercy vouchsafed in the birth of this little child. We would receive him (or her) as a trust from Thy hand, to be named with Thy name and trained for Thy service. We commend him (or her) to Thy gracious fatherhood, beseeching Thee to protect him (or her) from all harm both of body and of soul, to guide him (or her) during the days of this life, and finally to save him (or her) by Thy mercy in the kingdom of Thy dear Son; in whose name we ask these things. Amen.

ON A BIRTHDAY

O God, who gavest Thy Son to be born of woman and to number his sinless years, we pray that on this day, and every birthday celebrated in this household, the light of Christ may rise with healing in its wings; that it may lift from our hearts the shadow of past sins, and may shine anew upon those paths which once were trodden by His blessed feet. Lord, give us grace to follow Him. We ask it in His name, who hallowed by His presence

our human festivals; who shared our human sorrows and infirmities; and bore our human sins in His own body on the tree; even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE YOUNG

Eternal Father, who out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, reveal Thyself unto our children we beseech Thee, and grant them an entrance into Thy heavenly kingdom, that being born again of the Spirit, and taught by the Lord Jesus, they may grow up before Thee in purity of heart and innocency of life, until they come unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, in whose name we ask it. Amen.

FOR THE ABSENT

Almighty God, who art not far away from any one of us, we commend unto Thy fatherly care and keeping the absent one (or ones). Let these our loving thoughts come up before Thee as prayers and supplications; defend our beloved from all danger and harm, in body and in soul, enrich him (her or them) with all blessings both for this life and for that which is to come; and grant that we may soon meet together, with joy and not with grief, to thank Thee for all Thy mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

FOR A SICK PERSON

Most wise and loving Father, look down from heaven, behold, visit and relieve this Thy servant in sickness. Look upon him (or her) with the eyes of

Thy mercy, give him (or her) comfort and sure confidence in Thee, defend him (or her) from the danger of the enemy, and keep him (or her) in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR ONE NEAR TO DEATH

Eternal God, to whom belong the issues of life and death, we implore Thy mercy for Thy servant afflicted. With Thee there is nothing impossible, and Thou canst raise him (or her) up and prolong his (or her) earthly pilgrimage, if it be Thy will; but if not, O God, be gracious unto him (or her) and prepare his (or her) spirit to return to Thee. Give unto him (or her) true faith, abundant forgiveness, and a heavenly hope. Let Thine everlasting arms be underneath him (or her), and grant unto him (or her) a peaceful departure and a happy entrance into eternal rest, through the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

FOR ONE RESTORED FROM SICKNESS

O God, who art the giver of life and of health, we bless Thy name that Thou hast delivered Thy servant from sickness. Gracious art Thou, O God, and full of compassion to the children of men. May our hearts be duly impressed with a sense of Thy merciful goodness, and may we devote the residue of our days to an humble, holy and obedient walking before Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFTER A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

Almighty and most merciful God, the consolation of the sorrowful, and the support of the weary, look down in tender love and pity, we beseech Thee, upon us; whose joy has been turned into mourning, so that while we mourn we may not murmur or faint under this burden of sorrow; but remembering all Thy mercies, Thy promises, and Thy love in Christ, may resign ourselves meekly into Thy hands, and be taught and disciplined by Thee. Turn us wholly to Thyself, fill our hearts with Thy love, that we may cleave more closely to Thee, who bringest life out of death, and who canst turn our grief into eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Almighty and everlasting God, we bless Thy holy name for all Thy servants departed in Thy faith and fear. Suffer not our love for them to grow cold in the time of our separation; and help us to have them in continual remembrance before Thee. Give us grace to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate. Amen.

FORMS OF GRACE BEFORE MEAT

The Lord make us grateful for all His mercies and add His blessing for Christ's sake. Amen.

The Lord bless this food to our use and us to Thy service. Amen.

Lord, help us to receive all good things from Thy hand, and to use them to Thy praise. Amen.

Heavenly Father, make us thankful to Thee, and mindful of others, as we receive these blessings, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Father in heaven, sustain our bodies with this food, our hearts with true friendship, and our souls with Thy truth, for Christs' sake. Amen.

