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FAMILY PRAYERS

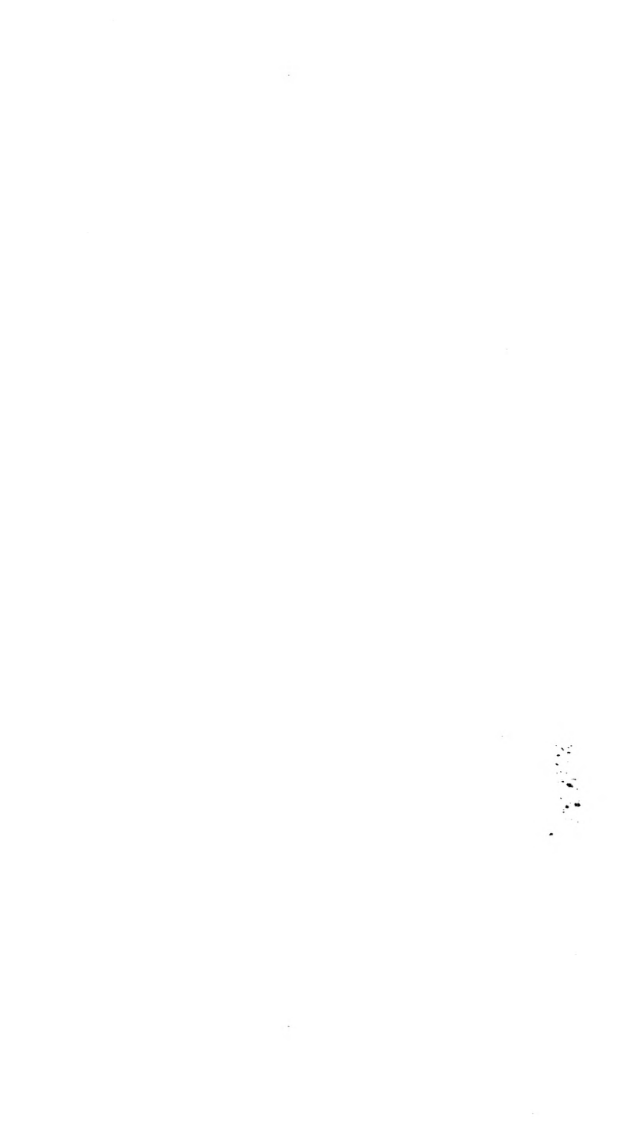
LYMAN P. POWELL

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Family Prayers



Family Prayers

BY
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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
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IT would be vain to ignore the warning voices which tell us . . . of a certain decadence in the definitely religious life of the ordinary home—a falling off, that is, in the very force which gave its distinctive inspiration and its distinctive power to so much of our grandsires' life.—*The Archbishop of Canterbury at the General Convention, Oct. 6, 1904.*

“Our duty it is, who are your Fathers in Christ, to entreat you, brethren, that you rebuild the family altar, and begin the nurture of your children with that teaching in which your mother, the Church, bids you to train them.”—*The Pastoral Letter of the House of Bishops, 1904.*

Foreword

HAPPINESS in the home—or out—is an achievement. It comes to homes in which the spirit's life, in spite of many a fault and failure, is lived in prayer—insistent and persistent.

And yet family prayer is far from common. Men and women whose earliest and tenderest memories gather round the family altar, omit to set up in the home they make a family altar to which their children may in years to come look back with earnest longing and with pious pride.

Times have changed. Simplicity is passing from the home. In many a quarter individualism has loosened family ties. Parents and children equally, each in their own way, leave the home to find diversion and up-

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lift. The habit of doing things together seems to be breaking up. How can a family find time to pray together every day when the only time in the whole week they all are together is Sunday,—and then the growing fashion is to have a house party?

Everything today makes against family worship. But the need of it remains. Divorce legislation, in Church or State, can do no more than keep together those whom man's laws may have made one flesh, but God's will never made one spirit. What is wanted is conversion from the thought of the family as a starting point from which to go out in search of pleasure, to the thought of the family as a social unit in which and

Foreword

through which by prayer and prayerful service to come "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Else it may be that by and by the home which saint and sociologist today would save will not be worth the saving.

The family altar ought to be at once set up—or put back—in every Christian home. How to set it up—or put it back—is the first question. Extempore prayer is beyond the reaches of most people. It puts too great a strain on the self-consciousness of husband and father. Besides, after the first week or two family prayer is likely to lose its extemporaneousness. The same form is apt to be invoked every day, and the con-

Foreword

tents varies less and less as weeks go by.

A book is needed equal to the test of brevity, inclusiveness, orderly arrangement, and inexpensiveness. Some books are brief but not inclusive; some inclusive but not brief; some well arranged, but too costly to be widely used.

This little book goes forth ambitious to meet, measurably at least, these tests. At any rate, it is brief, and it is possibly as inclusive as could be expected of a mere booklet. Each service has been so constructed as to make it unnecessary, save for special needs, to open any other book except the Bible.

The scriptural passages that head each service have been chosen with

Foreword

respect to brevity and pertinence, and are supplemented by a lectionary on page 113 which provides eight weekly series of daily readings covering the entire Bible.

Half the prayers, perhaps, are taken outright from the Prayer Book. A few are Bright's. The bedtime prayer of the prayerful Kemper Bocock will be found on page 104, and on page 107, the old age prayer in verse of the late Bishop Huntingdon. Robert Louis Stevenson's well-known prayer, on page 96, ought of course to be in every family prayer book. The prayers of my own, adapted to those occasions for which I could find no other prayers that seemed to suit, will perhaps prove not altogether useless

Foreword

if the prayerful soul is slow to find them out.

Hoping that this little book may find its way to many a home, I send it out in prayer.

LYMAN P. POWELL.

St. John's Rectory,
Northampton, Mass.
Eastertide,
1905.

Acknowledgment is gratefully made of the kindness of the Rev. Elwood Worcester, Robert Ellis Jones, and Frederick A. Wright in reading the manuscript, and of Professor Joseph French Johnson in revising the proof.

L. P. P.

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Introduction

EVERY one who really prays knows that praying deepens the sense of the nearness and goodness of God. It heightens every joy, and elevates every desire. It relieves the loneliness of life, and brings strength to bear its burdens.

Family prayer does all this, not only for the members as individuals, but for the family as a body. It unites more closely husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters. It strengthens the union of each with the other, and tends to blend their separate lives into a harmonious whole.

If in every Christian household the practice of family prayer should become firmly established, it would be impossible to measure the benefi-

Introduction

cial results which would follow. It would unify, to a large degree, the aims and interests of all the families of which society is made; it would quicken the consciousness of relationship and responsibility to God; it would tend to purify and ennoble the national life.

Whatever, therefore, is likely to encourage and promote the habit of family prayer should be welcomed; and because this little volume of prayers seems so well adapted to exert such an influence, I am glad to commend it. The prayers cover a wide range, and are expressive of almost every right emotion and desire. They are simple in structure, easy to understand. They are real and earnest, and thoroughly Christian.

Introduction

May the blessing of God, Who hears our prayers, rest upon him who has prepared this volume, and upon all the families and individuals to whom it may come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O. W. WHITAKER.

The Lord's Prayer

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. And forgive us our tres-
passes, As we forgive those who tres-
pass against us. And lead us not into
temptation; But deliver us from
evil; For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, for ever
and ever. *Amen.*

(To be used before the prayers at every
service.)

Morning and Evening Prayers

Sunday Morning

LESSON

Psalm 122 *or* Colossians 3: 1-7

PRAYERS

O GOD, Who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious Resurrection of Thy Son our Lord; Vouchsafe us this day such a blessing through Thy worship that we may spend the days to follow in Thy favour; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Send today upon all Bishops, O Lord, especially the Bishop of this Diocese, and upon all ministers, especially our own, Thy heavenly blessing. Help them fearlessly and lovingly to preach Thy Word and faithfully and reverently to admin-

Sunday Morning

ister Thy Sacraments, and both by their life and doctrine to set forward every cause of Thine. Bless our country and give to our President and all in authority, purity of purpose, right understanding, constant courage, and all other blessings which Thou seest they need. Look in mercy upon all who suffer pain of mind or body and relieve them in Thine own good time and way. Heal us in the Church of all disunity and in the world be pleased to bring war to a speedy end. Bless all who are dear to us by nature's or affection's bonds, whether near or far away. And grant that all our doings, being ordered by Thy governance, may be righteous in Thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sunday Morning

Help us, O God, so to spend this holy day as to please Thee. Make us eager to attend the services of Thy Church. Preserve us from irreverence, indifference and wandering thoughts. Raise our spirits high above all fret and pettiness and worldliness, that we may fervently join in the prayers and praises of Thy people and listen to our duty with honest hearts, in order to practice it throughout the week; for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

Sunday Morning

the Holy Ghost, be amongst us and remain with us always. *Amen.*

HYMN*

“O day of rest and gladness.”—24.

“O what the joy and the glory must be.”
—397.

*The hymns are taken from the standard Hymnal of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Sunday Evening

LESSON

Genesis 28: 10-22 or St. Luke 24: 13-32

PRAYERS

WE thank Thee, heavenly Father, for all the privileges of this day; for its sacraments, its services, its gospel preached for our upbuilding. Forgive, we pray Thee, whatever Thou hast seen unworthy in our thoughts and words and deeds. Pardon us the wanderings of our minds and the coldness of our hearts, and give us of Thy mercy every blessing which Thou knowest we shall need throughout the week, to live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. *Amen.*

O Lord, by all Thy dealings with us, whether of joy or pain, of light

Sunday Evening

or darkness, let us be brought to Thee. Let us value no treatment of Thy grace simply because it makes us happy or because it makes us sad, because it gives us or denies us what we want; but may all that Thou sendest us bring us to Thee, that knowing Thy perfectness we may be sure in every disappointment that Thou art still loving us, in every darkness that Thou art still enlightening us, in every enforced idleness that Thou art still using us, and in every death that Thou art giving us life, as in His death Thou didst give life to Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O Lord, our God, Who alone makest us to dwell in safety, we beseech

Sunday Evening

Thee to keep us this night safe from every peril and to raise us up tomorrow disposed and strengthened for Thy service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.”

—12.

“Tarry with me, O my Saviour.”—642.

Monday Morning

LESSON

Psalm 42 or Ephesians 4: 1-13

PRAYERS

UNTO Thee, O merciful Father,
we commend ourselves for
the week that lies before us.

Teach us to hate sin and every day
to shun it, to remember Thee in all
our tasks and trials and to continue
steadfast in the faith of Thy dear
Son whatever the experiences we
meet, until we at last attain unto the
measure of the stature of His full-
ness, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, make us humble without
hypocrisy, cheerful without careless-
ness, serious without melancholy,
trustful without presumption. Help
us so to love Thee, as to fear and

Monday Morning

avoid whatever would part us from Thee. Make our souls watchful against temptation, strong against evil desires, and patient amid the trials of this life. Grant us to know Thee with our minds, to love Thee with our hearts, to please Thee by our deeds, to use Thy blessings here by grace and to enjoy Thy presence hereafter in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Monday Morning

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst us, and remain with us this week and always. *Amen.*

HYMN

“New every morning is the love.”—I.

“Work, for the night is coming.”—583.

Monday Evening

LESSON

Isaiah 40: 1-11 *or* St. John 20: 19-23

PRAYERS

ALMIGHTY God, Who neither slumberest nor sleepest, watch this night, we beseech Thee, over us and ours and all whom Thou hast made, with Thine eyes of love and mercy. Comfort those who have no comfort save in Thee. Remember in Thy boundless pity the homeless and forsaken everywhere. Uplift those who are cast down; befriend them that suffer wrong in ignorance; cheer with hope all who are discouraged and unhappy; and by Thy grace preserve from falling those whom extreme poverty would tempt to sin. Though they be troubled on every side, suffer them not

Monday Evening

to be distressed; though they be perplexed, save them from despair; and give them this night the peace which passeth understanding, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

O God, from Whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, do proceed; give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and

Monday Evening

dangers of this night; for the love of Thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Unto Thy gracious mercy and protection we commit us. The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin.”—674.

“Saviour, breathe an evening blessing.”
—17.

Tuesday Morning

LESSON

Isaiah 35 *or* Philippians 2: 5-11.

PRAYERS

O GOD, the King Eternal, Who dividest the day from the darkness, and turnest the shadow of death into the morning, drive far from us all wrong desires; incline our hearts to keep Thy law; and guide our feet into the way of peace, that having done Thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night cometh, rejoice to give Thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Make us, Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee, honest with ourselves and others in all things today. Compensate the losses that the day may

Tuesday Morning

bring and sanctify its gains; sustain us in adversity and control us in prosperity. Give us grace to neglect no duty, and despise no privilege. Help us to be true to ourselves, kind to our neighbors, patient with the stupid, considerate of the weak, fair to the unjust, and faithful unto Thee. Let it never be that we think more of being happy than of doing good or that we fail to share what we have with those that lack. Grant us every hour the disposition to make the people round us happier and the whole world better; and thus to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

O Almighty Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, to

Tuesday Morning

direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of Thy laws, and in the works of Thy commandments; that, through Thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Almighty and Merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, bless and preserve us, this day and for evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve.”
—503.

“Rise, my soul, and stretch thy wings.”
—512.

Tuesday Evening

LESSON

Isaiah 9: 1-7 *or* Romans 13: 8-14

PRAYERS

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than we either desire or deserve; pour down upon us the abundance of Thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

Into Thy hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our souls and bodies, beseeching Thee to keep us this night without fear and to raise us up to-

Tuesday Evening

morrow, strong to serve Thee and to follow in the footsteps of Him Who lay down in the grave and rose again for us, Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Bless, O Lord, our kindred and our friends, and have mercy on Thy people everywhere. Forgive their sins, support them in their trials and temptations, educate them by experience, and keep for all who look with steadfast faith to Thee "Thy morning pledge—'At evening time it shall be light.'" For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

The Lord bless us, and keep us. The Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon

Tuesday Evening

us, and give us peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“Softly now the light of day.”—13.

“Holy Father, cheer our way.”—9.

Wednesday Morning

LESSON

Joel 2: 12-17 or St. Matthew 18: 21-35

PRAYERS

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Who hatest nothing that Thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God, Who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our

Wednesday Morning

souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, Whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive; receive our humble petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of Thy great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

The Lord preserve our going out and our coming in this day and for evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“Christian! dost thou see them.”—81.

“O for a closer walk with God.”—660.

Wednesday Evening

LESSON

Psalm 51 *or* Ephesians 4: 25-32

PRAYERS

WE come to Thee, our Father, at the close of day, grateful for its mercies, sorry for its sins.

Forgive them all, we pray Thee, here and now; the sins of our soul and the sins of our body; our secret and our open sins; the sins that we have sinned to please ourselves and the sins with which we thought to please or appease others; the sins of cowardice and the sins of over-confidence; the sins we mourn and the sins we do not mourn because we know not, though Thou knowest, what they are—forgive them, one and all, and bring us to the morning light, brave to achieve, strong to en-

Wednesday Evening

pure, prompt and purposeful to live more nearly as we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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.*

Almighty and everlasting God, Who dost govern all things in heaven and earth; mercifully hear the supplications of Thy people, and grant us Thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Wednesday Evening

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“Jesus, lover of my soul.”—335.

“All praise to Thee, my God, this night.”
—18.

Thursday Morning

LESSON

Ecclesiastes 12 or St. Mark 10: 6-9; 13-15

PRAYERS

LOOK graciously, we pray Thee, Heavenly Father, on this home of ours. Let faith abound and hope prevail, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee. Grant this for Thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, Who settest the solitary in families, and makest Thyself households like a flock of sheep; we commend to Thy continual care the

Thursday Morning

homes in which Thy people dwell the whole world over. Put far from them, we beseech Thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vain-glory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those in holy wedlock, made one flesh. Turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers; and so kindle charity among us all, that we may be evermore kindly affectioned with brotherly love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, Who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance

Thursday Morning

in asking; we beseech Thee to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us, for the worthiness of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord preserve our going out and our coming in this day and forevermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“Love divine, all love excelling.”—432.

“I think when I read that sweet story of old.”—562.

Thursday Evening

LESSON

Psalm 90 or I Peter 4: 7-11

PRAYERS

WE humbly beseech Thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of Thy name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in Thy mercy, and evermore serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living, to Thy honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord of all power and might, Who art the Author and Giver of all good things; graft in our hearts the love

Thursday Evening

of Thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Thou Eternal One, Who needest not to slumber or to sleep, we humbly pray that Thou wilt let Thine eyes of love watch over us the long night through. Graciously forgive the sins of the whole day, defend us from all perils, and bring us to the morning light with new zest to love that which Thou dost command and renewed power to play the man whatever may befall; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the

Thursday Evening

fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, this night and forevermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“The King of love my Shepherd is.”—
412.

“God, that madest earth and heaven.”—
19.

Friday Morning

LESSON

Isaiah 53 *or* St. Matthew 27: 35-54

PRAYERS

ALMIGHTY God, we beseech Thee graciously to behold this Thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross; Who now liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Have mercy, Heavenly Father, on all who are hardened through the deceitfulness of sin; vouchsafe them grace to come to themselves, the will and the power to return to Thee, and the loving welcome of Thy forgive-

Friday Morning

ness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

O Lord, raise up, we pray Thee, Thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, Thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of Thy Son our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve and keep us; the Lord mercifully with His favour look upon us, and fill us with all grace; that we may so live

Friday Morning

together in this life, that in the world
to come we may have life everlasting.

Amen.

HYMN

“O Jesu, crucified for man.”—5.

“Lord, as to Thy dear Cross we flee.”—
346.

Friday Evening

LESSON

Lamentations 3: 22-33 *or* St. Matthew 27:
57-66

PRAYERS

WE beseech Thee, O Lord, pour Thy grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the incarnation of Thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by His cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Saviour of the world, Who by Thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us, remember in Thy love this night the sick and dying everywhere; look upon them with the eyes of Thy mercy; give them comfort

Friday Evening

and sure confidence in Thee; defend them from depression and despair; and grant, when earth is done, that they may find the way to heaven, led by Thee. *Amen.*

O God, Whose days are without end, and Whose mercies cannot be numbered; make us, we beseech Thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let Thy Holy Spirit lead us through this vale of misery, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives; that, when we shall have served Thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the catholic Church; in the confidence of

Friday Evening

a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope; in favour with Thee our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Thou, Who alone makest us to dwell in safety, visit with Thy healing sleep us who are wearied with the burdens of the day and mercifully shield from harm Thy children everywhere; that lying down in peace to take our rest, we may make haste to give ourselves with quiet mind into Thy holy keeping. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The God of peace, Who brought

Friday Evening

again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant; make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight; through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

HYMN

“There is a green hill far away.”—544.

“The shadows of the evening hours.”—

15.

Saturday Morning

LESSON

Psalm 1 or St. John 16: 5-15

PRAYERS

GRANT, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of Thy blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with Him; and that through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for His merits, Who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, Who didst teach the hearts of Thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of Thy Holy Spirit;

Saturday Morning

grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, Who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with Thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by Thy governance, may be righteous in Thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Saturday Morning

The Lord preserve our going out
and our coming in this day and for
evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“My faith looks up to Thee.”—345.

“Jesus, the very thought of Thee.”—434.

Saturday Evening

LESSON

Psalm 23 *or* Revelation 21: 1-4; 22-27

PRAYERS

O GOD, as our days pass away, draw us, we pray Thee, closer to Thyself. We are in Thy hands, for Thou art Almighty; and we trust Thee in Thy goodness, for Thou art our Father. Give us true sorrow for our sins, a humble and lively faith, honesty of purpose, and peace of conscience; and help us so to love and serve Thee in this world that we may ever live with Thee in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Have mercy, O Lord, we beseech Thee, on our relatives and friends, our neighbors and acquaintances; on

Saturday Evening

the poor and afflicted, the sick and sorrowful; on the young and ignorant, the weak and fallen; on all for whom we ought to pray. And be pleased to supply all their needs, according to the riches of Thy mercy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sustain us, O Lord, all the day long of this mortal life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and life's fever is over. Then in Thy love and mercy grant us, we beseech Thee, a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the

Saturday Evening

fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN

“I heard a sound of voices.”—404.

“Sun of my soul, Thou Saviour dear.”

—II.

“**L**ET us not be content to pray morning
and evening, but let us live in prayer
all day long.” —*Fénelon*.

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On Entering Church

TAKE away from us, O Lord, as we begin Thy service, the spirit of irreverence and indifference, the distractions of the mind and burdens of the soul, and give us godly fear and true devotion, that we may worship Thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In Preparation for the Holy Com-
munion

GRANT, we beseech Thee, O
God, as we this day approach
the table of our Lord to par-
take of the Holy Sacrament which
was instituted in the night in which
He was betrayed, that preparation of
heart which is most acceptable to
Thee, and by the inspiration of Thy
Holy Spirit, so purify our thoughts
that we may be worthy partakers of
that holy mystery; through the same
Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

“Christ it was that spake it,
He took the bread and brake it,
And what His word doth make it,
So I believe and take it.”

To Open any Parish Meeting

DIRECT us, O Lord, in all our doings, and especially in the doings of this hour, with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For use at any Woman's Meeting

O BLESSED Jesus, Who for thirty years didst dwell in Thy humble home at Nazareth, bless, we beseech Thee, the homes of these Thy servants. Drive from them all selfishness and impurity, all unkindly tempers and ungracious words, and keep their members ever kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving, even as Thou art ever ready to forgive them all their sins. Make them prompt and diligent in their work in home and church alike; let no sloth or thoughtlessness lead to neglect of the home duties, no vain pretext or coldness keep them from the work and worship of the Church. Dwell in their hearts and make them and all they love entirely Thine in this world and give them in the world to come eternal life. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

For the Parish

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, Who art the fountain of all good, grant, we beseech Thee, to this parish all things needful to its highest interests; give its pastor grace and wisdom; give its people piety and zeal; comfort the comfortless; heal the sick; confirm the faithful; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of Thy truth and make all to be of one heart and one mind in Thy holy Church; to the honor and the glory of Thy ever-blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In the Vacancy of a Cure of Souls

SEND, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to this Thy flock un-shepherded a pastor of such grace and wisdom as may make his ministrations pleasing unto Thee and helpful unto us; that walking the way of Thy commandments, minister and people may in loving and in prayerful fellowship labor to Thy liking here for the upbuilding of Thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Bishop of the Diocese

LOOK down in mercy, we beseech Thee, upon Thy servant our Bishop, to whom Thou hast given charge over this Diocese; fill him with Thy grace and goodness; direct, defend, and comfort him in all his arduous labors; give him a people responsive to his leadership, loyal and loving, whatever may befall; and grant that he and all of us committed to his care, may at the last attain to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

On Removing to a New Home

O LORD, Who by Thy servant Elisha didst bless the Prophet's Sons in the building of their habitations, bless us, too, we pray, as we begin in this new place to build us up a home. Give us grace, O God, to keep it free from discord and from discontent, from worldly-mindedness and all else that would part us from Thy love. Be patient with us and help us to be patient with ourselves and with each other when we make mistakes; keep us ever loyal to our best ideals however often we may fail to live up to them; and when the summons comes to leave our earthly home, may it be to dwell forever "in an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens;" through the mercy and the merits of Thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

On the Birth of a Child

ALMIGHTY God, Who hast taught us that children are the gift of Thine abounding love, we offer Thee our heartfelt thanks for this little one newly born into our home. Preserve *him* by Thy goodness. Give *him* a sound mind in a sound body. And grant that, being made Thy child, *he* may abolish the whole body of sin and live through all *his* days a Christ-like life; for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

For the Children of the Home

O GRACIOUS Saviour, Who on earth loved little children and called them unto Thee, bless now, we pray Thee, the children of this home. May they grow up in Thy fear and love. May they live ever as members of Christ, children of God, and heirs of heaven; and thus be Thine forever in this world and in the next; for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

On a Birthday

ALMIGHTY God, of Whose goodness it cometh that another year is added to the life of this Thy servant, we thank Thee for Thy mercies past to *him* and humbly ask for their continuance in the year which *he* begins to-day. Pardon in *him* whatever has had need of pardon in the past. Increase in *him* in the year to come faith, hope and charity. Enable *him* by Thy good will to love the things which Thou commandest, and to desire that which Thou dost promise, so that, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world *his* heart may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Hoonday Prayer

BLESSED Saviour, Who at this hour didst hang upon the cross stretching forth Thy loving arms; grant that all mankind may look unto Thee and be saved; through Thy mercies and merits, Who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For a Person or Persons on a
Journey

O GOD, Who art present in all places, and Who hast shown us in Thy Holy Word that though we dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth, even there Thy right hand shall uphold us; preserve, we beseech Thee, Thy *servant* now journeying, whom we commend to Thy Almighty care. Guard *him* by Thy good providence from sickness, and from all the dangers of the way; deliver *him* from the temptations to which *he* may be exposed, and conduct *him* in safety to the place where *he* would be, with a grateful sense of Thy mercies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Patience Under Pain

ALMIGHTY God, Whose Blessed Son went not up to joy but first He suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified, mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

For Freedom from Worry

O MOST loving Father, Who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of Thee, and to cast all our care on Thee Who carest for us, preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which Thou hast manifested unto us in Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer for Advancing Years

O GOD, our Heavenly Father,
Whose gift is length of days,
help us to make the noblest
use of mind and body in our advancing
years. According to our strength,
apportion Thou our work. As Thou
hast pardoned our transgressions, sift
the ingatherings of our memory that
evil may grow dim and good may
shine forth clearly. We bless Thee
for Thy gifts and especially for Thy
Presence, and for the love of friends
in heaven and earth. Grant us new
ties of friendship, new opportunities
of service, joy in the growth and hap-
piness of children, sympathy with
those who bear the burdens of the
world, clear thought and quiet faith.
Teach us to bear infirmities with
cheerful patience. Keep us from

Prayer for Advancing Years

narrow pride in outgrown ways, blind eyes that will not see the good of change, and impatient judgments of the methods and experiences of others. Let Thy Peace rule our spirits through all the trial of our waning powers. Take from us all fear of death, and all despair and undue love of life, that with glad hearts at rest in Thee, we may await Thy Will concerning us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Friends in the Other World

O GOD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, in Whose embrace all creatures live, in whatsoever world they be; we plead for those whose names and dwelling-place and every need Thou knowest. Lord, vouchsafe them light and rest, peace and refreshment, joy and consolation, in Paradise, in the companionship of saints, in the presence of Christ, in the ample folds of Thy great love. Grant that their life (so troubled here) may unfold itself in Thy sight and find a sweet employment in the spacious fields of eternity. If they have ever been hurt or maimed by word or deed of ours, we pray Thee of Thy great pity to heal and restore them, that they may serve Thee without hindrance.

For Friends in the Other World

Tell them, O gracious Lord, if it may be, how much we love them and miss them and long to see them again; and, if there be ways in which they may come, vouchsafe them to us as a guide and guard, and grant us a sense of their nearness, in such degree as Thy laws permit.

If in aught we can minister to their peace, be pleased of Thy love to let this be; and mercifully keep us from every act which may deprive us of the sight of them as soon as our trial-time is over, or mar the fulness of our joy when the end of days hath come.

Pardon, O gracious Lord and Father, whatsoever is amiss in this our prayer, and let Thy will be done; for our will is blind and erring, but

For Friends in the Other World

Thine is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

On New Year's Eve

MAY it please Thee, Almighty God, Who hast blessed us this year past, to forgive us all that we have done amiss; to turn all our sufferings and sorrows to good account; to guide us, love us, and preserve us through the coming year; and permit us, when the last year of our life is come, to leave the world of time in peace and confidence for that better world where time shall be no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Country

ALMIGHTY God, Who in the former time leddest our fathers forth into a wealthy place and didst set their feet in a large room; give Thy grace, we humbly beseech Thee, to us their children, that we may always approve ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will.

Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Defend our liberties, preserve our unity. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Fashion into one happy people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endue with the spirit of wisdom those whom we entrust in Thy name

For the Country

with the authority of government, to the end that there be peace at home, and that we keep our place among the nations of the earth.

In the time of our prosperity temper our self-confidence with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in Thee to fail. All which we ask for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

Stevenson's Bedtime Prayer

WE beseech Thee, O Lord, to behold us with favor, folk of many families and nations gathered together in the peace of this roof, weak men and women subsisting under the covert of Thy patience. Be patient still; suffer us yet a while longer with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavors against evil; suffer us a while longer to endure and (if it may be) help us to do better.

Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day comes when these must be taken, brace us to play the man under affliction. Be with our friends, be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns, re-

Stevenson's Bedtime Prayer

turn to us, our Sun and Comforter, and call us up with morning faces and with morning hearts—eager to labor—eager to be happy, if happiness shall be our portion—and if the day be marked for sorrow, strong to endure it. *Amen.*

Private Prayers

A Child's Morning Prayer

FATHER, we thank Thee for
the night,
And for the pleasant morning
light;
For rest, and food, and loving care,
And all that makes the world so
fair.

Dear Saviour, make me holy:
Let me be gentle, mild,
Obedient, loving, lowly,
A truly Christlike child.

A Child's Evening Prayer

JESUS, tender Shepherd, hear
me;
Bless Thy little lamb to-
night;
Through the darkness be Thou near
me,
Keep me safe till morning light.

Now I lay me down to sleep;
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take.

An Adult's Prayers

O THOU Whose love hast brought me in safety to another day, be pleased to purify my purpose and to sanctify my every thought this day that I may neither begin any action without a pure intention, nor continue it without Thy blessing. Through the help of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, take my life, for I cannot give it to Thee, and when Thou hast taken it, keep it, for I cannot keep it for Thee; and save me in spite of myself. *Amen.*

O my God, I believe in Thee, because I believe in my own soul. I believe that Thou, being all good, wouldest want to reveal Thyself to me, and being all powerful couldest

An Adult's Prayers

reveal Thyself, and being all love hast revealed Thyself in Jesus Christ, Very God and Very Man, Thine only Son, our Elder Brother, truest Friend and only Lord. In this faith I would have grace to live. In this faith I pray Thee, give me grace to die. *Amen.*

O Lord, Thou knowest what is best for me ; give me what Thou wilt, as Thou wilt, when Thou wilt, only give me Thyself. *Amen.*

O merciful Father, to Whose house of many mansions Thy child shall one day approach alone, by lying down to sleep ; let Thy gentle renewing hands be upon me, and Thy loving eyes behold me, as I go to

An Adult's Prayers

sleep this night. Thou Who givest Thy beloved sleep, grant that I may rest at peace with Thee, and with all Thy creatures. Renew my body, and cleanse my heart and soul, by Thy recreative power, and grant that the morning light may make me rejoice alike in rendering new service to Thee, and in being one day nearer to the vision of Thy face; for His sake Who died for us, and rose again, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Priest's Prayer

O GOD, the Pastor and Governor of all Thy faithful people, look down in mercy upon Thy servant whom Thou hast been pleased to appoint to the office of priest, and to the charge of this parish; grant, I beseech Thee, that I may profit those over whom I am set, both by my doctrine and my example; that I, together with the flock committed to my charge, may come at last to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

An Aged Christian's Prayer

FAR on, from hill to hill, my
road runs, O my friendliest
Friend.

Less free my plodding feet, less sure
my step, less keen my sight,
Yet in the fading west keep for me
to the end

Thy morning pledge—'At evening
time it shall be light.'

Grace Before Meals

For Children

BLESS the food this day we take,
And keep us safe, for Jesus'
sake.

We thank Thee, Father, wise and
good,
For home and friends and daily food.
Bless to our use the food we take,
And keep us all, for Jesus' sake.

For Adults

BLESS, O Lord, this food to our
use and us to thy service.
Amen.

Bless to our use, O Lord, these
gifts of Thy abounding love and give
us hearts to love and serve Thee ever.
For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT

		History	Prophets	Psalms
SUNDAY	Morning	Genesis, 1-2:3	Isaiah, 1:11-20	2
	Evening	" 15	" 6	8
MONDAY	Morning	Exodus, 3:1-14	Jeremiah, 23:1-8	11
	Evening	Deut., 6:1-13	Ezekiel, 18:20-32	14
TUESDAY	Morning	Joshua, 3:9-17	" 34:11-16	15
	Evening	Judges, 16:23-31	Hosea, 14	19
WEDNESDAY	Morning	I Sam., 12:20-25	Joel, 3:9-21	29
	Evening	II Sam., 23:13-17	Amos, 3	37:1-11
THURSDAY	Morning	I Kings, 8:12-21	Jonah, 3	46
	Evening	I Kings, 17:10-24	Micah, 6:6-16	63
FRIDAY	Morning	II Kings, 20	Nahum, 1	82
	Evening	Ezra, 8:31-36	Habakkuk, 3	103
SATURDAY	Morning	Daniel, 6:11-23	Zephaniah, 3:14-20	121
	Evening	Job, 27	Malachi, 4	139

NEW TESTAMENT

Life of Christ	His Teachings	Parables	Apostolic History	Epistles
John, 1:1-18	Luke, 12:22-32	Mat., 13:1-9, 18-23	Acts, 1:23-26	Rom., 7:14-25
Luke, 2:1-20	" 17:20 Mat. 13:44-52	" 18:23-35	" 2:1-18	" 15:1-7
Mat., 3:13-17	John. 3:1-21	" 20:1-16	" 4:13-37	I Cor., 9:19-27
" 4:1-11	Mat., 5:3-12	" 21:33-45	" 6:1-7	I Cor., 13
Mark, 1:16-20	Mat., 5:13-48	" 25:1-13	" 7:54-60	II Cor., 11:16-31
John, 2:12-32	Mat., 6	" 25:14-30	" 9:1-18	Gal., 5:16-26
Mat., 4:23-25	Mat., 7	Luke, 10:25-37	" 10:21-48	Eph., 6:1-20
John, 6:26-71	Rom., 13:8-10	" 12:13-21	" 14:1-7	Philippians, 3:7-14
Mat., 11:20-24	Mark, 8:27-32	" 14:16-24	" 17:15-34	Col., 1:21-29
Luke, 9:28-36	John, 17	" 15:11-32	" 20:17-38	I Thess., 5:16-28
Mark, 11:1-11	" 14:15-27	" 16:1-13	" 21:27-39	II Tim., 2:1-19
" 15:24-40	Mat., 28:16-20	" 16:19-31	" 24	Hebrews, 12:1-13
Mat., 28:1-8	Luke, 22:14-20	" 18:1-8	" 28:1-10	James, 1:16-27
Acts, 1:9-12	Mat., 16:18	" 18:9-14	" 28:16-31	I John, 1:5-9

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