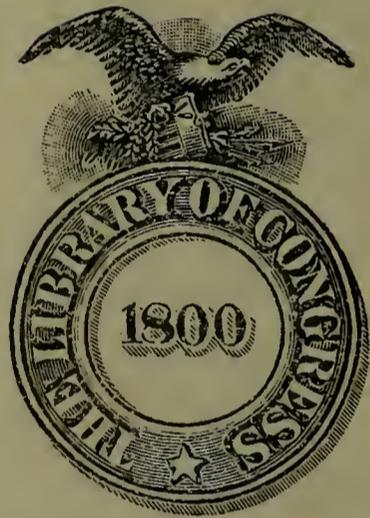


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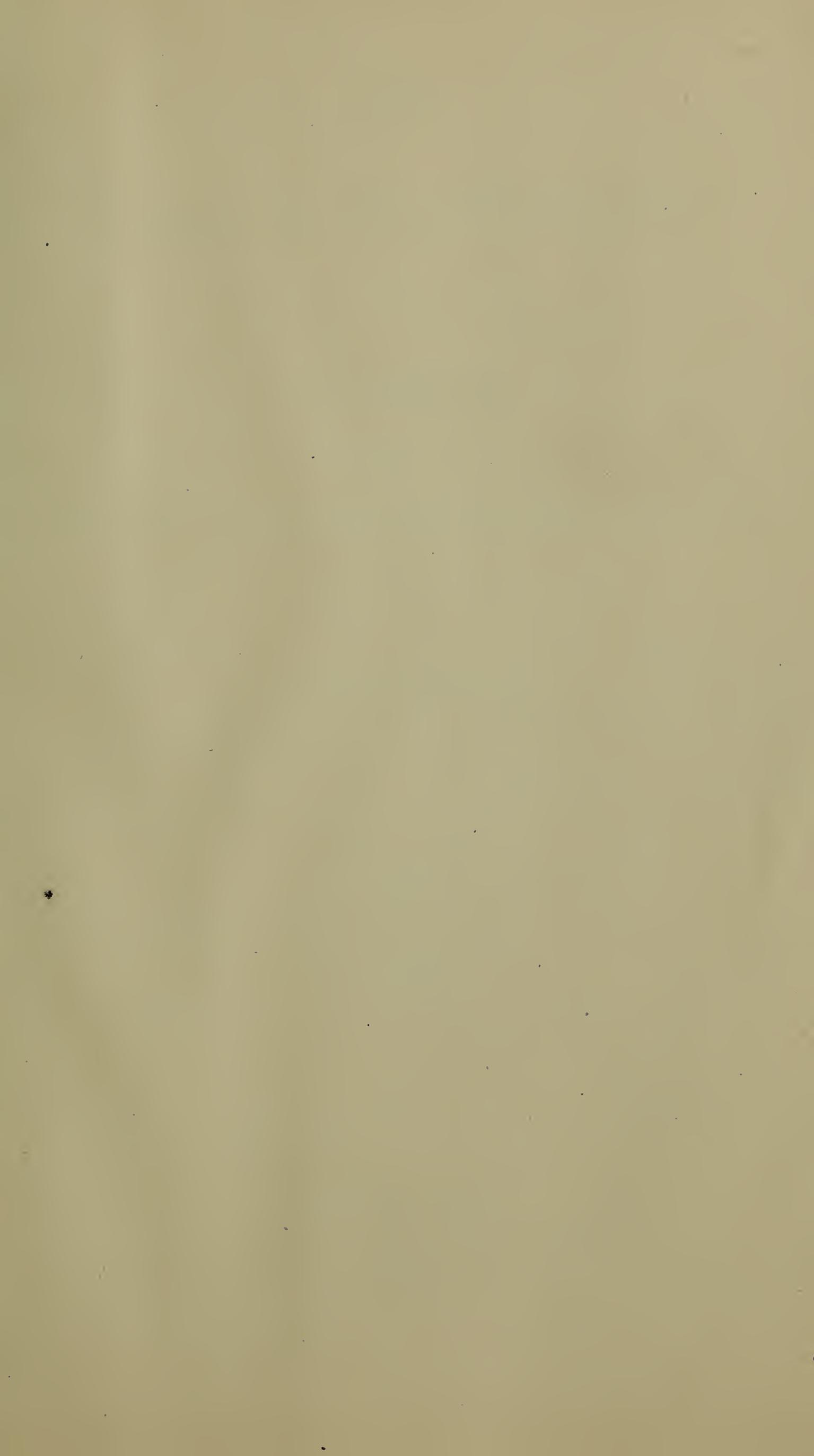
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# The Pastor in the Sickroom



A Handbook

of

Lessons and Prayers for the Visitation of the Sick



Compiled by C. A.

*Abbetmeyer, Charles D. A. F.*



St. Louis, Mo.

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## Preface.

The experienced pastor will probably in most cases dispense with a manual for the sickroom. From his Testament and Psalter he readily selects the texts needed, and adds to these appropriate exhortations and prayers. This manner of dealing with the sick is the least formal and, when enriched with the skill resulting from years of conscientious work, perhaps the most effective. The young pastor, however, called to minister to the sick and dying, finds himself sadly deficient in the skill requisite for the successful performance of the work dictated by sympathy and duty. It is to offer some assistance to those, therefore, who would equip themselves for doing fully and well their duty in the sickroom that this *Handbook* has been written. The pastor in the sickroom should be what he is at all times, one who recalls sinners to a sense of their sinfulness, and comforts the penitent with the abundant consolations contained in the forgiveness of sins through the all-sufficient merits of Christ. The plan of this book, accordingly, presenting, in its lessons and prayers, first, "admonition to repentance," and, secondly, "comfort in distress," is based upon the fundamental distinction in Holy Writ between the Law and the Gospel. It is hoped that the arrangement of the contents is sufficiently lucid to facilitate both detailed study and casual reference. The bulk of the prayers have been drawn

from the rich devotional treasures of the Church, on which for adequate utterance of the soul's perennial need it is hard to improve. The collection will not be considered too large when it is borne in mind that the aim of the book is not to be a merely mechanical aid, but to present ample preparatory material for efficient ministrations. The mind, imbued with the substance and form of these prayers, will experience little difficulty in producing from its store what each emergency demands. When the ability to do this has been acquired, the little book, having served its purpose and rendered itself superfluous, may be laid aside. — May the God of all consolations accompany its service with His blessing!

C. A.

St. Paul, Minn., March 31, 1912.

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# LESSONS.

## A. Admonition to Repentance.

### PSALMS.

6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143; — 39; 90.

### LESSONS.

Punishments: Gen. 6—8; 11, 1—9; 19; Ex. 7—12; Num. 16; 21; 1 Sam. 15; 2 Sam. 18, 9—17; 24; 1 Kings 21; 2 Kings 5, 20—27; Prov. 1, 24—31; Dan. 5; Jonah 1; Luke 12, 16—21; 16, 19—31.

Contemplation of Death: Job 14, 1—5; Eccl. 12, 1—7; Is. 40, 6—8; Matt. 25, 1—13; 2 Pet. 3, 8—14.

### SENTENCES.

#### **All Men's Works Are Sinful.**

There is not one that doeth good, no, not one. Ps. 14, 3.

Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret faults. Ps. 19, 12.

Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. Ps. 143, 2.

There is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not. Eccl. 7, 20.

We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Is. 64, 6.

I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing. Rom. 7, 18.

Whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. James 2, 10.

Turn Thou me, and I shall be turned; for Thou art the Lord, my God. Jer. 31, 18.

### **God's Displeasure at Sin.**

Thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness, neither shall evil dwell with Thee. Ps. 5, 4.

Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you. Is. 59, 2.

The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6, 23.

### **God's Call to Repentance.**

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. Ps. 34, 14. 15.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Ps. 51, 17.

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Prov. 28, 13.

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Eccl. 11, 9.

Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near! Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. Is. 55, 6. 7.

Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you; for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord, thy God. Jer. 3, 12. 13.

As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked may turn from his way and live. Ezek. 33, 11.

Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! Matt. 3, 2.

The times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent. Acts 17, 30.

Despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? Rom. 2, 4.

### **God's Anger at Man's Refusal to Repent.**

God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, He will whet His sword; He hath bent His bow and made it ready. Ps. 7, 11. 12.

Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver. Ps. 50, 22.

Ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh. Prov. 1, 25. 26.

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility. Prov. 18, 12.

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. James 4, 6.

## B. Comfort in Distress.

### I. FORGIVENESS OF SIN THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST.

#### PSALMS.

25; 40; 103.

#### LESSONS.

2 Sam. 12, 1—13; Jonah 3; Matt. 9, 1—8; Luke 7, 36—50; 15, 1—10. 11—32; John 14; 15; 16; 17; Rom. 3, 23—28; 5, 6—11; 10, 9—13.

#### SENTENCES.

The Lord, your God, is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away His face from you if ye return unto Him. 2 Chron. 30, 9.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Is. 1, 18.

A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench. Is. 42, 3.

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins. Return unto me, for I have redeemed thee. Is. 44, 22.

Surely, He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and

the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Is. 53, 4—6.

Thus saith the High and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend forever, neither will I be always wroth. Is. 57, 15. 16.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness. Is. 61, 10.

To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my Word. Is. 66, 2.

The just shall live by his faith. Hab. 2, 4.

He said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice; for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Matt. 9, 12. 13.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. 11, 28.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1, 29.

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3, 16.

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6, 37.

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me. John 14, 6.

This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. John 17, 3.

Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Acts 4, 12.

God commendeth His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5, 8.

Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Rom. 5, 20.

Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Rom. 10, 4.

God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. 2 Cor. 5, 19.

He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. 5, 21.

Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor that ye through His poverty might be rich. 2 Cor. 8, 9.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us. Gal. 3, 13.

When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Gal. 4, 4. 5.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 1 Tim. 1, 15.

There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all. 1 Tim. 2, 5. 6.

Forasmuch, then, as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Hebr. 2, 14. 15.

The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1, 7.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1, 9.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. And He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2, 1. 2.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God! 1 John 3, 1.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4, 9. 10.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Rev. 3, 20.

## II. GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE.

### PSALMS.

13; 23; 27; 30; 34; 42; 46; 62; 91; 103; 104; 121; 130; 143.

### LESSONS.

Job 1, 20—22; Eccl. 7, 1—4; Is. 49, 13—16; 54, 7—10; Jer. 29, 11—13; Lam. 3, 18—33; Matt. 7, 7—11; 8, 1—13; Luke 11, 1—13; John 5, 1—14;

10, 7—16; 19, 25—27; Rom. 5, 1—5; 8; 2 Cor. 12, 7—10; Hebr. 12, 5—12; James 1, 2—12; 5, 7—11; 1 Pet. 4, 12—19.

## SENTENCES.

### **1. Afflictions Are under God's Direction.**

Who hath made man's mouth, or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? Ex. 4, 11.

The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. 1 Sam. 2, 6.

I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I, the Lord, do all these things. Is. 45, 6. 7.

Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not? Lam. 3, 37.

Come, and let us return unto the Lord; for He hath torn, and He will heal; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. Hos. 6, 1.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Matt. 10, 29. 30.

### **2. Afflictions Are to Promote Man's Welfare.**

My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of His correction; for whom the Lord loveth He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Prov. 3, 11. 12.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God. Rom. 8, 28.

As many as I love I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent! Rev. 3, 19.

### SEEKING GOD.

Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now have I kept Thy Word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn Thy statutes. Ps. 119, 67. 71.

Lord, in trouble have they visited Thee; they poured out a prayer when Thy chastening was upon them. Is. 26, 16.

### FAITH UNDER TRIAL.

Be still, and know that I am God! Ps. 46, 10.

Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or Thy work, He hath no hands? Is. 45, 9.

Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. Is. 48, 10.

We glory in tribulation also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Rom. 5, 3—5.

I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Rom. 8, 38. 39.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations, that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. 1 Pet. 1, 6. 7.

### FOLLOWING CHRIST IN SUFFERING.

Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Matt. 16, 24.

As the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. 2 Cor. 1, 5.

Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebr. 12, 1. 2.

### SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD.

When we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 1 Cor. 11, 32.

Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor. 4, 17. 18.

Forasmuch, then, as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 1 Pet. 4, 1. 2.

### 3. Afflictions Serve to Glorify God.

This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. John 11, 4.

None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord. Rom. 14, 7. 8.

#### 4. God's Gracious Presence and Help in Affliction.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Ps. 23, 4.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. Ps. 33, 18—20.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. Ps. 34, 19.

He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death. Ps. 68, 20.

My flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Ps. 73, 26.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation. Ps. 91, 14—16.

He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. Ps. 102, 17.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. Ps. 103, 13.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. Ps. 145, 18.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their

strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint. Is. 40, 31.

Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Is. 41, 10.

Even to your old age I am He; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you. I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you. Is. 46, 4.

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. Is. 59, 1.

In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them. In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old. Is. 63, 9.

The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him. Nah. 1, 7.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. 11, 28.

Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Matt. 28, 20.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you. John 16, 23.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Rom. 8, 26.

If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us

all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Rom. 8, 31. 32.

God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Cor. 10, 13.

### 5. Trust in God in Affliction.

I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Ps. 16, 8.

Into Thine hand I commit my spirit: Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth! Ps. 31, 5.

Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. Ps. 37, 5.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God. Ps. 43, 5.

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Ps. 50, 15.

Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Ps. 73, 25. 26.

Remember the Word unto Thy servant upon which Thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction; for Thy Word hath quickened me. Ps. 119, 49. 50.

Thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest shall ye be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. Is. 30, 15.

He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. Matt. 24, 13.

And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Cor. 12, 9.

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. 2 Tim. 1, 12.

This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us. 1 John 5, 14.

### III. THE HOPE OF ETERNAL DELIVERANCE AND JOY.

#### PSALMS.

116; 126.

#### LESSONS.

Job 19, 25—27; Ezek. 37, 1—14; Matt. 9, 18. 19. 23—26; 25, 34—40; 28, 1—10; Luke 7, 11—16; 24, 1—6; John 5, 19—29; 11, 1—46; 14, 1—6; Rom. 8, 16—25. 31—39; 1 Cor. 15, 12—26. 39—58; 2 Cor. 4, 7—18; 5, 1—10; Phil. 3, 8—11; Col. 3, 1—4; 1 Thess. 4, 13—18; Rev. 7, 9—17; 19, 5—9; 21, 1—7, 10—13. 22—27; 22, 1—6.

#### SENTENCES.

The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Is. 35, 10.

The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart; and merciful men are taken away, none con-

sidering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come. He shall enter into peace. Is. 57, 1. 2.

Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Dan. 12, 2.

As touching the dead that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. Mark 12, 26. 27.

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. Luke 2, 29—32.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death to life. John 5, 24.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10, 27. 28.

Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11, 25. 26.

Father, I will that they also whom Thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory which Thou has given me. John 17, 24.

O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength

of sin is the Law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15, 55—57.

For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Phil. 1, 21.

Our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. Phil. 3, 20. 21.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing. 2 Tim. 4, 7. 8.

The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory forever and ever! Amen. 2 Tim. 4, 18.

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works as God did from His. Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest! Hebr. 4, 9—11.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2, 10.

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. Rev. 14, 13.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;

and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. Rev. 21, 4.

### **Morning Prayer.**

O Thou faithful God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I give Thee thanks that Thou hast this night so graciously preserved, protected, and strengthened me, and I pray Thee, in the name of Jesus, that Thou wouldst keep me this day also and all the days of my pilgrimage. Forgive me my sin, comfort me with Thy grace, strengthen me through Thy power, and lead me by Thy Holy Spirit that I may be ready and willing to live and to suffer according to Thy will. I commend my weak body and my precious soul into Thy holy hands. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. All this I ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, my only comfort and Savior. Amen.

### **Evening Prayer.**

Almighty and merciful God, loving Father, Thou hast said: "Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee;" I now call upon Thee; have mercy upon me, and forgive all my sins with which I have this day offended Thee. Take me into Thy keeping this night, that my body and soul may rest in Thee. If it be Thy will, let me sleep without pain of body or sorrow of soul, and grant me again to see the light of day. But if according to Thine unsearchable counsel this is to be my last night on earth, I beseech Thee to receive me into the blessed day of Thy presence. Into Thy hand I commit my spirit, for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth! In the name of Jesus. Amen.

### Before an Operation.

My Lord and my God, as Thou hast been pleased to prostrate me upon this bed of sickness and pain in peril of death, even so Thou art able to raise me up that I may live before Thee. I confess that by my sins I have deserved, not only these present sufferings, but everlasting torments. But I turn to Thee with a contrite heart and true faith in Thy Son, Jesus Christ, the Righteous, who is the propitiation for our sins and our Advocate before Thy throne. For His sake be gracious unto me, a poor unworthy sinner, and have mercy also upon my bodily distress. Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me! In Thee alone do I hope and trust. Bestow Thy divine blessing, I beseech Thee, upon the rightful means which I am about to employ for my recovery. Do thou guide the hands that exercise their skill upon me, that without mishap the operation may be successfully concluded. Encompass me with Thy presence and strengthen me in the perilous hour, that I may be conscious only of Thee and by Thy gracious help be restored to health. May Thy hand uphold me, Thy grace comfort me, and Thy Holy Spirit refresh me, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

### Thanksgiving for Recovery.

1.

O God, who art the Giver of life, of health, and of safety: we bless Thy name that Thou hast been pleased to deliver this Thy servant from *his* bodily sickness. Gracious art Thou, O Lord, and full of compassion to the children of men. May *his* heart be duly impressed with a sense of Thy merciful goodness, and may *he*

devote the residue of *his* days to an humble, holy, and obedient walking before Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

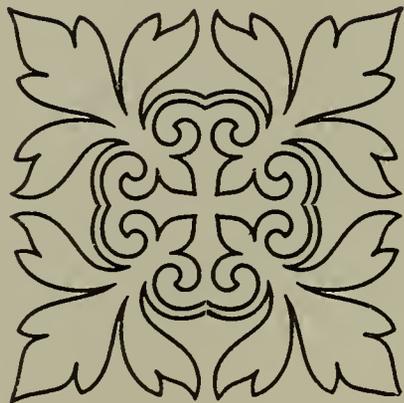
2.

Great and mighty God, who bringest down to the grave and bringest up again, we bless Thy wonderful goodness for having turned our heaviness into joy and our mourning into gladness by restoring this our *brother* to some degree of *his* former health. Blessed be Thy name that Thou didst not forsake *him* in *his* sickness, but didst visit *him* with comforts from above, didst support *him* in patience and submission to Thy will, and at last didst send *him* seasonable relief. Perfect, we beseech Thee, this Thy mercy towards *him*, and prosper the means which shall be made use of for *his* cure, that, being restored to health of body, vigor of mind, and cheerfulness of spirit, *he* may be able to go to Thy house and bless Thy holy name for all Thy goodness towards *him*, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

3.

I thank Thee, Lord, almighty God, for the fatherly chastisement and correction wherewith Thou hast visited me on account of my sins. I now realize that my sickness was not unto death, but that Thou, my Lord Jesus Christ, mightest thereby be glorified. For Thou hast had mercy upon me, cast all my sins behind Thee, and preserved my life. I give Thee hearty thanks for renewing my strength and enabling me to go again to Thy holy temple and about the duties of my calling. It is of Thy mercies, O Lord, that I have not long since

perished and been consumed. I will evermore remember Thy chastening. I will fear Thee all my life and not willfully provoke Thine anger. Grant also that, with my health renewed, I may now begin a new life. Help me daily to glorify Thy name and to let Thy praise be continually in my mouth. Guide me by Thy Holy Spirit, that I may live to Thine honor, not yielding my members as instruments of unrighteousness to serve sin, but as instruments of righteousness to serve Thee, to whom alone be worship and glory and praise, world without end. Amen.



## GENERAL PRAYERS.

Almighty God, who forgivest the iniquities of Thy people and healest all their diseases, who hast proclaimed Thy name to be the Lord that healeth us, and hast sent Thy well-beloved Son to bear our sicknesses: look down upon us, Thine unworthy servants, who humble ourselves before Thee and acknowledge that we have justly deserved Thine anger. We beseech Thee to have mercy upon us and to pardon and forgive us, and of Thy loving-kindness to remove the plague of sickness, the judgment of Thy hands, with which Thou hast visited us; and this we ask for the honor of Thy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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O Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve this Thy servant! Look upon *him* with the eyes of Thy mercy, give *him* comfort and sure confidence in Thee, defend *him* from the danger of the enemy, and keep *him* in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look down from heaven, we humbly beseech Thee, behold, visit, and relieve this Thy sick servant. Look upon *him* with the eyes of Thy mercy, comfort *him* with a sense of Thy goodness, preserve *him* from the temptations of the enemy, give *him* patience under *his* affliction, and in Thy good time restore *him* to health and enable *him* to finish his earthly

course in Thy fear and to Thy glory. If it should please Thee, however, at this time to call *him* hence, strengthen in *him* the faith which overcometh, and grant *him* at last the end of faith, even the salvation of *his* soul, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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O Lord God, merciful Father, whose every providence is love, we pray Thee most earnestly in behalf of *him* whom it hath pleased Thee to visit with bodily illness. Let this dispensation of Thy grace tend to Thy glory and *his* welfare. If it be Thy will, deliver *him* from *his* pains, and graciously permit *him* soon to recover and do the work of *his* calling into which Thou hast placed *him*. But above all things, let Thy Holy Spirit preserve in *him* the true faith in Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, an unshaken confidence in Thy love, and un murmuring patience in *his* infirmities. Take *his* soul into Thy keeping, and grant *him* a happy issue out of *his* affliction. This we ask for the sake of our dear Savior. Amen.

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O Lord, look down upon us as we pray to Thee in our distress. Have mercy on Thy servant who is laid on a bed of sickness. Relieve *his* body if Thou seest it good for *him*, and ease *his* pain. Give *him* patience, and bless *him* with the comfort of Thy presence, that *he* may know and feel that Thou dost not afflict willingly. O Lord, plead Thou the cause of *his* soul, do Thou redeem *his* life. Let *his* eyes see the King in His beauty, and behold the land that is very far off. Make Thine angels to encamp around *him* that no dark thoughts of doubt or sin may assail *him*; but may Thy Holy Spirit help *his* infirmities and make intercession for *him*, according

to Thy will, that so all the sins of *his* past life may be forgiven and an entrance ministered abundantly to *him* in Thy heavenly kingdom, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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Almighty God, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, our only help in time of need, hear us in behalf of Thy servant for whom we desire to pray. We look up unto Thee, O Thou compassionate Savior, who wast Thyself a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. O Thou, who didst weep at the tomb of Lazarus and art still touched with the feeling of our infirmities, pitifully behold the sorrows of our hearts, and graciously look upon our afflictions! O Thou, who of old didst cure all manner of sickness and all manner of diseases among the people, be gracious unto us! Let not this sickness be unto death, but for the glory of Thy name. Speak the word only, and Thy servant shall be healed. Have mercy upon *him*, O Lord; have mercy upon *him*, and not on *him* only, but on us also, lest we should have sorrow upon sorrow. If it be possible, let this cup pass away from us, without our drinking all its bitterness; but if not, Thy will be done. Only be pleased to sanctify this Thy fatherly correction to *him*, that, if it should be Thy good pleasure to restore *him* to *his* former health, *he* may lead the residue of *his* life in Thy fear and to Thy glory; or else give *him* grace so to take Thy visitation that, after this painful life is ended, *he* may dwell with Thee in life everlasting. Grant this for Jesus Christ's sake! Amen.

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O blessed Lord, the Father of mercies and God of all consolation, we beseech Thee, look down with in-

finite pity and and compassion upon this Thy sick servant. Remember the sharpness and weariness of *his* pains. Break not the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax, but make *him* to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice. Deliver *him* from the snares and temptations of Satan; from all impatience and repining at Thy chastisement; from all unbelief and distrust in Thy mercies; from improper fears of death and immoderate desires of life. Grant unto *him* sincere repentance for *his* sins and perfect assurance that they have been forgiven and *his* complete salvation secured through the atoning sacrifice and effectual mediation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Sanctify to *him* all *his* afflictions, and, though very grievous to the flesh, may they begin even now to work out for *him* a far more exceeding and an eternal weight of glory. Prepare *him* for all that Thou hast prepared for *him*. Give *him* to see the desire of *his* heart in the well-being and the well-doing of all bound to *him* by the ties of natural affection. And at last give to him an abundant entrance into Thy heavenly home. O blessed Jesus, we cast ourselves upon Thy mercy: by Thy cross and passion, by Thy precious death and burial, by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, deliver us, O Lord, and hear our prayer! Amen.

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O Lord God, in whose hand is the soul of every living thing and the breath of all mankind, and to whom belong the issues of life and death: look down in great mercy, we beseech Thee, upon this Thy servant whom Thou hast been pleased to visit with bodily afflic-

tion and disease. Be graciously nigh unto *him* with Thy divine help, according to all *his* circumstances of need. Let *his* sickness be for Thy glory, whether it be in the way of recovery or in the way of death. Grant unto *him*, we beseech Thee, true repentance for all *his* sins, with a firm and steady trust in the merits of Thy Son Jesus Christ, who is the propitiation for the sins of the world. May *he* be found in Him, not having *his* own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith. May *he* have grace to be in full charity with all men. Enable *him* to roll all *his* cares upon Thine arm, and to yield *himself* with child-like submission into Thy hands. Thus may *he* learn righteousness and glorify Thy great name, by the suffering through which *he* is called to pass. We pray that it may please Thee to bless the means which are employed for *his* restoration to health, that, if it be Thy will, *he* may yet rise from this sickness to serve Thee and show forth Thy praise in the land of the living. Lord Jesus, who in the days of Thy flesh didst rebuke disease and make whole such as were sick, and who hast now all power in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear us in *his* behalf, have compassion upon *him*, and spare *him*. But if this may not be, then grant Thou unto *him*, O most merciful Father, a better deliverance and a far more glorious salvation at last in Thy heavenly kingdom. Give *him* full preparation for death. In all *his* affliction let the arms of Thine everlasting love be under *him* and round about *him*. When heart and flesh fail, be Thou the strength of *his* heart and the stay of *his* life. Uphold and support *him* by Thy heavenly grace through all *his* conflict with the last

enemy; and finally receive *him* to Thyself that *he* may dwell with Thee for evermore; through the mediation and merits of Thine only Son, our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty and everlasting God, our merciful Father in heaven, Thou Lord of life and death, who hast promised to hear us when we call upon Thee in the day of trouble: we come before Thy presence in behalf of this Thy servant whom in Thine inscrutable providence Thou hast visited with dangerous illness. We beseech Thee, have mercy upon this our *brother*, and grant *him* grace to see Thy fatherly hand in the cross laid upon *him*. Teach *him* that all *his* present pains are as nothing compared with those eternal torments which *he* hath deserved by *his* sins, and that this present affliction is designed to promote the glory of Thy name and the salvation of *his* soul. Give *him* a due sense of the sinfulness of *his* life, turn *his* heart to Thee, comfort *him* with the forgiveness of sins by faith in Christ Jesus, and strengthen and keep *him* by Thy holy Word and Sacrament in trial and temptation. Help *him* to trust in Thy mercy, that *he* may remain patient and steadfast and in the hours of darkness and sorrow experience the power of Thy heavenly consolations. Let the bitter sufferings of Thy beloved Son be *his* comfort and strength in *his* weakness and distress. Thou art a God who workest wonders. We beseech Thee, therefore, be pleased to do unto *him*, by Thine almighty power, according to our prayer. Lay Thy hand upon *him* that it may be well with *him*. Ease and relieve *his* pains, and, if it so be profitable for *his* soul, command this sickness to leave *him*. Grant that *he* may rise again from this sickbed, recover from *his* affliction, and be restored to *his* former

health, to the end that *he* may thank and praise Thy holy name for *his* deliverance and joyfully serve Thee and *his* neighbor all *his* days. But, Lord, Thy will be done! If *he* hath reached the bounds appointed for *him*, prepare *him* for a peaceful and blessed departure, and enable *him* to commit *his* soul willingly and trustingly into Thy faithful hands. Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ! Amen.

### In Behalf of a Sick Child.

1.

O almighty, merciful God and Father, we beseech Thee, Thou wouldst have mercy upon this *child*, which in Baptism Thou hast received as Thine own, and gladden the hearts of *its* parents by graciously preserving *its* life and restoring *it* to health. If it please Thee, however, to receive *it* into Thy heavenly kingdom, grant *it* a peaceful departure, and vouchsafe Thy grace unto the parents that they may humbly submit themselves to the dispensation of Thy fatherly will and comfort themselves with the blessed assurance that their *child* is living in Thy presence, and that they shall find *it* again in the joy of eternal life. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son! Amen.

2.

O almighty God and merciful Father, to whom alone belong the issues of life and death, look down from heaven, we humbly beseech Thee, with the eyes of mercy upon this *child* now lying upon the bed of sickness. Visit *him*, O Lord, with Thy salvation; deliver *him* in Thy good appointed time from *his* bodily pain; and save *his* soul for Thy mercies' sake, that, if it shall be

Thy pleasure to prolong *his* days here on earth, *he* may live to Thee and be an instrument of Thy glory by serving Thee faithfully and doing good in *his* generation. But if in the counsels of Thy will, which are only good, devising what is best for *him*, best for us, and most for Thy glory, it should please Thee to remove *him* from this present life, we beseech Thee, receive *him* into those heavenly habitations where the souls of those who sleep in the Lord Jesus enjoy perpetual rest and felicity. Grant this, O Lord, for Thy mercies' sake, in the name of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

3.

Lord Jesus, Thou faithful and merciful Savior, have mercy upon us, and graciously look upon this sick child. Thou didst heal the nobleman's son when the father besought Thee, and didst raise up the daughter of Jairus. Therefore we look to Thy mercy and implore Thee Thou wouldst in like manner now manifest unto us Thy glory through Thine almighty help. O Thou Good Shepherd, look with favor upon this Thy poor lamb! O Thou, who art the Friend of little children, and dost love them, and hast promised them the blessed inheritance of Thy heavenly kingdom, have mercy upon this child! *It* is Thine; in holy Baptism Thou hast received *it* and added *it* to Thine inheritance. Withdraw not Thy hand from that which is Thine own! O Lord, if to prolong *its* life be expedient for the child and *its* parents, grant *it* to them once more, and restore *it* to vigor and health, and we will praise Thee for Thy mercy. If Thou art pleased, however, to remove *it* out of this evil and sinful world

and to bring *it* to Thine everlasting peace and the company of Thine elect, Thy will be done. Do Thou then strengthen the faith of *its* parents and friends that they may humbly submit themselves to the dispensation of Thy wise providence and say with Job: "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!" Amen.

### The Forgiveness of Sin.

Almighty and everlasting Father, the God of all grace, who forgivest the sins of the penitent, we beseech Thee, create in this sick *brother* a contrite heart, that, deploring *his* transgressions and acknowledging *his* wretchedness, *he* may obtain perfect remission, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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O holy and righteous God, who settest our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance: we have done evil in Thy sight, our conscience doth condemn us, our sin cannot be denied. Grant, therefore, we beseech Thee, that we may not seek to hide ourselves from Thee, but make a sincere confession of our sins. And do Thou, according to Thy promise, forgive us our trespasses and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our only Savior. Amen.

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Almighty and everlasting God and Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, have mercy upon us, and grant and increase in us Thy Holy Spirit, that we may rightly know and lament our sins, and with true faith embrace and receive Thy grace and forgiveness through Christ,

to the end that we may more and more die unto sin, live to Thee in newness of life, and ever serve and please Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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O God, our heavenly Father, Thou hast promised us through Thy Son: "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them." We beseech Thee, therefore, in behalf of this Thy servant, who, having been baptized in the name of Jesus, hath openly confessed Thee, the everlasting God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Graciously accept *him*, and forgive *him* all *his* sins; mercifully defend *him* against all temptations; and grant *him* everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

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Most merciful God, who according to the multitude of Thy mercies dost so put away the sins of those who truly repent that Thou rememberest them no more, open Thine eye of mercy upon this Thy servant who earnestly desireth pardon and forgiveness. And forasmuch as *he* trusteth only in the righteousness and promise of Thy Son Jesus Christ, impute not unto *him* *his* former sins, but accept *him* as righteous in Thy sight, and strengthen and endue *him* plenteously with every grace by Thy blessed Spirit. Create in *him* a clean heart and renew a right spirit within *him*, and restore whatever may have been decayed by the snares of Satan or by *his* own carnal will and frailness. Assuage *his* pain, comfort *his* heart, as shall seem to Thee most expedient for *him*. And when Thou art pleased to take *him* hence, take *him* into Thy favor, through the merits of Thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast said: “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,” upon this Thy promise we make our supplications to Thee for our afflicted *brother*. O Thou Lamb of God, have mercy upon *him* and take away the heavy burden of *his* sin. Interpose Thine atoning sacrifice between *his* sins and the righteous wrath of God, that where sin abounded grace may much more abound. Deal not with *him* as *he* hath deserved, but make intercession for *him*, and let *him* find through Thee the way to the Father and thus obtain everlasting life. Amen.

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O merciful Lord Jesus, who, when hanging on the cross, didst open the gates of Paradise to the penitent thief, and hast assured us in Thy holy Word that the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him: we beseech Thee, look down in tender compassion on *him* who now calleth upon Thee from *his* bed of suffering and pain. Hear *his* cry, O Lord, and take away *his* sins. Wash *him* in Thy most precious blood. Thou who didst come to seek and to save that which was lost, and who dost save unto the uttermost all who come unto God by Thee, suffer *him* not to sink into the pains of eternal death, but encircle *him* with the arms of Thy pardoning love, and say unto *him*: “Be of good cheer; thy sins are forgiven thee.” Hear us, O merciful Savior, who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

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O Lord Jesus Christ, my own and best Physician, I come to Thee in this my sickness and call upon Thee in mine affliction. Remember me graciously, O Christ,

and forgive the sins by which I have merited this chastisement. Enter not into judgment with me as I have deserved. Turn away Thine anger from me, and through the power of Thy Holy Spirit I will keep myself from sin and amend my life. Amen.

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Lord God, heavenly Father, I humbly confess before Thee that I have not only been conceived and born in sin, but that throughout my life I have greatly offended against Thee by sinful thoughts and desires and by evil words and deeds. But, O Lord, with a contrite heart and in true faith I pray Thee, graciously forgive me all my sin; let Thy strength be made perfect in my weakness; and grant me comfort, amendment, and patience; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God and Father, because of sin Thou appointest over men all manner of diseases that they may not perish with the world. I come unto Thee with the burden of my sins by which I have deserved not only this sickness, but even eternal damnation. I am by nature a child of wrath and a bondman of sin and have never spent a day without innumerable transgressions of all Thy commandments. I seek refuge in Thy boundless mercy. Enter not into judgment with me, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions, but for Thy name's sake pardon mine iniquity, for it is great. Remove Thy stroke away from me, and hearken unto the voice of my cry; hold not Thy peace at my tears! Spare me that I may recover strength before I go hence and be no more. Affectionate Father,

behold, for peace I have great bitterness; in love deliver my soul from the pit of corruption, and cast all my sins behind Thy back. Consider also my bodily affliction, and take it away, or alleviate it by Thy comfort. Give me patience, help me to bear my cross, or save me under it. Thy will be done! Do with me, O God, as seemeth good unto Thee! I am Thine, in Thee I would remain. Amen.

### For Persons Troubled in Conscience.

O blessed Lord, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, we beseech Thee, look down in pity and compassion upon this Thine afflicted servant. Thou writest bitter things against *him*, and makest *him* to possess *his* former iniquities; Thy wrath lieth hard upon *him*, and *his* soul is full of trouble. But, O merciful God, who hast written Thy holy Word for our learning that we, through patience and comfort of Thy Holy Scriptures, might have hope: give *him* a right understanding of *himself* and of Thy threats and promises that *he* may neither cast away *his* confidence in Thee, nor place it anywhere but in Thee. Teach *him* that, where sin aboundeth, grace doth much more abound. Open *his* eyes to behold the glories of Thy mercy in Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Break not the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax. Suffer not *his* faith to fail, but give *him* strength against all *his* temptations, deliver *him* from *his* perplexity and distress, and comfort *him* with the all-sufficient atonement of Thy Son. Make *him* to hear of joy and gladness, lift up the light of Thy countenance upon *him*, and give *him* peace, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Submission and Trust.

We humbly beseech Thee, O Father, mercifully look upon our infirmities and, for the glory of Thy name's sake, turn from us all those evils that we most righteously 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.

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Merciful and gracious God, who dealest wonderfully with Thy saints and deliverest them in due season, though Thy help tarry for a time that our faith may be tried, and our hope increased and made sure by patience and experience: bow down Thine ear to our supplication, and grant us Thy Holy Spirit that, continuing instant in prayer, with full assurance of hope, we may patiently wait for Thy promised help; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

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O almighty and everlasting God, a Comforter of all that mourn, a strength to them that have no might, we beseech Thee, hide not Thy face from them that are in distress, temptation, sickness, and anguish, but graciously incline Thine ear to hear their sighs and fervent prayers, that every one may know and experience Thy powerful help in time of need; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God, the Refuge of all that are distressed, grant unto us that in all trouble of this our mortal life we may flee to the knowledge of Thy loving-kindness

and tender mercy, that so, sheltering ourselves therein, the storms may pass over us and not shake the peace of God that is within us. Whatsoever this life may bring us, grant that it may never take from us the full faith that Thou art our Father. Grant us Thy light that we may have life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty God, Lord of the storm and of the calm, the vexed sea and the quiet haven, of day and of night, of life and of death, grant unto us so to have our hearts stayed upon Thy faithfulness, Thine unchangingness and love, that, whatsoever betide us, however black the cloud or dark the night, with quiet faith, trusting in Thee, we may look upon Thee with untroubled eye and, walking in lowliness towards Thee and in lovingness towards one another, abide all storms and troubles of this mortal life, beseeching Thee that they may turn to the soul's true good. We ask it for Thy mercy's sake shown in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty and most merciful Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, to whose tender compassion we owe our safety in days past, together with all the comforts of this present life and the hopes of that which is to come: we praise Thee, we worship Thee, we give thanks to Thee; and we beseech Thee, grant that Jesus, our Lord, the hope of glory, may be formed in us in all humility, meekness, patience, contentedness, and absolute surrender of our souls and bodies to Thy holy will and pleasure. Leave us not, nor forsake us, but conduct us safe through all changes of our condition here, in an unchangeable love to Thee and in

holy tranquillity of mind in Thy love to us, till we come to dwell with Thee and rejoice in Thee forever. Amen.

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O everlasting, merciful God and Father, Thou holdest in Thy hand life and death and dost so encompass us with Thy continual care that without Thy will not one hair falleth from our head and all our experiences on earth work together for our good. But as Thou visitest us also with bodily infirmity and distress, we beseech Thee to grant us the grace of Thy Holy Spirit that from Thy fatherly correction we may know Thy righteousness and goodness. By our manifold sins we have richly deserved all our afflictions. Yet this Thy gracious visitation is not a mark of Thine anger, but a token of Thy fatherly love. Thou dost chastise us that we may not be condemned together with the wicked world. O heavenly Father, graciously forgive us all our sins for the sake of the bitter suffering and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer. Grant us patience and sure confidence in Thy mercy, lighten the cross which Thy hand hath laid upon us, and turn the same to the glory of Thy holy name and our soul's salvation, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

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Everlasting God, merciful Father, who tenderly carest for us in our need and sorrow and gavest Thy Son to be tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, that we might have a faithful High Priest who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: we, Thy children, beseech Thee for our afflicted *brother*, who lieth under Thy mighty hand, that Thou wouldst

not enter into judgment with *him* for *his* sins, but strengthen and comfort *him* by Thy Holy Spirit in faith and patience, that *his* sickness may be to Thy glory and the salvation of *his* soul; through Jesus Christ, the heavenly Physician, our Brother and Lord. Amen.

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O God, my Lord and my Father, come now and comfort my soul that I may know Thee as my Refuge and Strength, and may not be wanting Thy divine help and protection in these days of trouble. I trust in Thee; let me not be ashamed! Into Thy hands I commend my soul; deliver me, O Lord, Thou faithful God! Amen.

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O Lord Jesus, who hast made it my lot to bear the cross, give me also an obedient and submissive heart that I may joyfully take Thy yoke upon me and willingly follow Thee in every affliction. Amen.

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Lord God, heavenly Father, if it please Thee to visit me with bodily infirmities, here I am. I know Thou art kind and gracious and wilt not suffer anything to come upon me except for my good and blessing. Grant that I may rightly receive Thy visitation, and that my sickness may be to Thine honor and glory; through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

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My Refuge and my Lord, I believe and hope in Thee. Do with me what pleaseth Thee, for I am Thine. My times are in Thy hand. Let Thy will be done, not what I will, but what Thou wilt. Henceforth even forever I cast all my care upon Thee; for I know that

Thou carest for me, yea, even for me. Hide me under the shadow of Thy wings! I will wait in silence for Thy salvation, O my God, and I will love Thee with my whole heart. Amen.

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O Lord, let me not henceforth desire health or life, except to spend them for Thee, with Thee, and in Thee. Thou alone knowest what is good for me; do, therefore, what seemeth Thee best. Give to me, or take from me; conform my will to Thine; and grant that, with humble and perfect submission and in holy confidence, I may receive the dispensations of Thine eternal providence and may equally adore all that cometh to me from Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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O Lord, Thou knowest what is best for us; let this or that be done as Thou wilt please. Give what Thou wilt, and how much Thou wilt, and when Thou wilt. Deal with me as Thou thinkest good and as best pleaseth Thee. Behold, I am Thy servant, prepared for all things, for I desire not to live unto myself, but unto Thee, and would that I could do it worthily and perfectly. Renew and strengthen me to this end by Thy Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, my Lord. Amen.

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Lord Jesus Christ, give me at all times a patient spirit, willing and ready to wait and pray, that I may not be weary of Thy chastening, but cast my burden upon Thee with all cheerfulness and confidence, and ever hope the best from Thee, who livest and reignest, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, forever and ever. Amen.

O merciful God, be Thou now unto me a strong tower of defense, I humbly entreat Thee. Give me grace to await Thy leisure and patiently to bear what Thou doest unto me, nothing doubting or mistrusting Thy goodness towards me, for Thou knowest what is good for me better than I do. Therefore do with me in all things what Thou wilt; only arm me, I beseech Thee, with Thine armor that I may stand fast, above all things taking to me the shield of faith, praying always that I may refer myself wholly to Thy will, abiding Thy pleasure, and comforting myself in those troubles which it shall please Thee to send me, seeing such troubles are profitable for me. And I am assuredly persuaded that all Thou doest cannot but be well; and unto Thee be all honor and glory. Amen.

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Most merciful and gracious Father, I bless and magnify Thy name that Thou hast adopted me into the inheritance of sons and hast given me a portion of my elder Brother. Thou who art the God of patience and consolation, strengthen me that I may bear the yoke and burden of the Lord without any uneasy and useless murmurs and ineffective unwillingness. Lord, I am unable to stand under the cross, unable of myself; but be Thou pleased to ease this load by fortifying my spirit that I may be strongest when I am weakest, and may be able to do and suffer everything that Thou pleasest, through Christ who strengtheneth me. Let me pass through the valley of tears and the valley of the shadow of death with safety and peace, with a meek spirit, and a sense of the divine mercies, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, give me to know and believe that without Thy will nothing can befall me in this world but what Thou, in Thy gracious providence, hast ordained for our welfare and salvation. Inasmuch, then, as it is Thy good pleasure that we must through much tribulation enter into Thy kingdom, I beseech Thee, enable me to bear patiently and obediently the cross which Thou hast been pleased to lay upon me. Let not affliction and temptation remove Thy fear from my heart, cause my faith to waver, or arouse rebellious murmurings within me. In this sickness, which I have richly deserved by my sins, comfort me with the abounding merits of Thy dear Son, and give me assurance that my trespasses are forgiven and I am Thy child in Christ Jesus. Strengthen me, in my pain and anguish, with Thy Holy Spirit that I may not employ forbidden, ungodly means for my recovery, but let me patiently wait upon Thee and continue steadfast in faith, in the confession of Thy name, and in prayer, that so even these my sufferings may work together for my good. O Lord, if it so please Thee and be good and expedient for me, relieve my pains and restore me to health, for with Thee nothing is impossible. Renew my strength, that I may continue longer in Thy praise and service. But I commit all to Thee. If it be Thy will, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt. Only grant that my weakness may have a blessed end, and do Thou lead me in the appointed hour out of all earthly sorrow into Thine eternal heavenly joys, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my only Redeemer. Amen.

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O gracious God, merciful Father, I acknowledge and confess that this illness has come upon me by reason of

my many and grievous transgressions; and if Thou shouldst deal with me according to my sins, I should be lost forever. But I sincerely repent of them and long for Thy grace in Thy dear Son Jesus Christ. Have mercy upon me, therefore, and, as Thou hast promised, forgive me all my sins. Direct the outcome of my sickness according to Thy counsel for Thy glory and my salvation. Give me faith and patience in my affliction. If it be Thy will that I shall not rise again from this sickbed, grant me in mercy a blessed end. If Thou shalt be pleased to restore me to health, enable me henceforth by Thy grace to flee and avoid sin, lest worse befall me. Let me so live by faith that in all things I may please Thee and continue in Thy grace and favor, here in time and hereafter in eternity, through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

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Almighty God, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, our only help in time of need, we flee unto Thee for succor in this season of tribulation and distress. Out of the deeps we call unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear our voice! O let Thine ears consider well the cause of our complaint.

We acknowledge, O God, that for our iniquities we are visited, and for our sins are we troubled. We are born to trouble as the sparks fly upward, because we have been transgressors from the womb. And if Thou shouldst be extreme to mark what we have done amiss, our present sorrows would be only the beginning of sorrows which should know no end. Wherefore should a living man complain? a man for the punishment of his sins?

But Thou art gracious and merciful, full of com-

passion and of great goodness. Thou hast not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. Blessed be Thy name that Thou not only hast opened unto us a way of escape from the wrath to come, but hast mercifully ordained the sufferings of the present life to work together for good to them that love Thee.

Thy wise providence ordaineth all things both in heaven and earth. Not a sparrow falleth to the ground without Thy knowledge and appointment, and the very hairs of our head are all numbered. Thou assurest us that Thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men, but for their profit, that they may be partakers of Thy holiness. Whom Thou lovest Thou chastenest, and scourgest every son whom Thou receivest.

Thou afflictest us to humble us, and to prove us, and to know what is in our hearts, and whether we will love Thee and keep Thy commandments, or no.

Give us grace, therefore, to consider in this day of our adversity wherefore Thou contendest with us and art wroth. Let us not despise Thy chastening, nor faint when we are rebuked of Thee, nor be weary of Thy correction. But let us be still, and know that Thou art God. In patience enable us to possess our souls. Grant that our tribulation may work patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and our hope, let it not make ashamed, but let Thy love be shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Ghost given unto us. Let us not cast away our confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. Though troubled on every side, let us not be distressed; though perplexed, let us not be in despair; though cast down, let us not be destroyed. And be pleased to cause our light afflictions, which are

but for a moment, to work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things that are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. Though no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous, yet afterwards let it yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto us who are now exercised thereby. Grant that we may find it good to be afflicted, and see that Thou, of very faithfulness, hast caused us to be in trouble. And whenever it may please Thee to deliver us out of the miseries of this sinful world, of Thy gracious goodness receive us into that blessed kingdom where Thou shalt wipe away all tears from our eyes, where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. Hear us for Jesus Christ's sake! Amen.

### The Prospect of Death.

Almighty and everlasting God, who art able to wound and to heal, to kill and to make alive, and in time past didst hear the prayer of Hezekiah and lengthen his life when he was sick unto death: we call upon Thee for this sick *brother* whose strength is all but consumed. If it be profitable for *him*, graciously restore *him* to health and vigor that *he* may henceforth live by Thy grace, and in all things seek to do Thy will. If, however, in Thy wise and good providence, Thou art pleased to call *him* out of this vale of sorrows, Thy will be done. Only, we pray Thee, give *him* true faith and Christian patience unto the end, and let *him* experience Thine abundant heavenly consolations in *his* final

conflict. Grant *him* a blessed departure and, on the last great day, the resurrection unto eternal life, for the sake of the bitter suffering, innocent death, and glorious resurrection of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, we fly unto Thee for succor in behalf of this Thy servant, here lying under Thy hand in great weakness of body. Look graciously upon *him*, O Lord; and the more the outward man decayeth, strengthen *him*, we beseech Thee, so much the more continually with Thy grace and Holy Spirit in the inner man. Give *him* unfeigned repentance for all the errors of *his* life past, and steadfast faith in Thy Son Jesus, that *his* sins may be done away by Thy mercy and *his* pardon sealed in heaven before *he* go hence and be no more seen. We know, O Lord, that there is no word impossible with Thee, and that, if Thou wilt, Thou canst even yet raise *him* up and grant *him* a longer continuance amongst us. Yet, forasmuch as in all appearance the time of *his* dissolution draweth near, so fit and prepare *him*, we beseech Thee, against the hour of death that, after his departure hence in peace and in Thy favor, *his* soul may be received into Thine everlasting kingdom; through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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O Lord, heavenly Father, who art a faithful God and sufferest not any one to be tempted above that he is able to bear, but with the temptation also makest a way of escape that he may be able to bear it: we be-

seech Thee for our sick *brother* in *his* great affliction and pain that Thou wouldst not suffer the cross to be too heavy upon *him*. Strengthen *him* that *he* may bear it with patience and nevermore despair of Thy mercy.

O Christ, Thou Son of the living God, who didst bear for *him* the pain of the cross and die for *his* sins, have mercy upon *him*, forgive *him* all *his* trespasses, and suffer not *his* faith to fail.

O God the Holy Ghost, our true Comforter in all distress, uphold *him* in patience and right prayer, sanctify *him* with full assurance, and forsake *him* not in the last extremity. Lead Thou *him* from this world of sorrow to the heavenly home. Amen.

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O Lord, teach me to consider that I must die, and that here I have no continuing city. Make me mindful of the shortness and vanity of my life that I may think much upon mine end, and live and die in this world, not to myself, but to Thee, that so in cheerful faith I may look for the day of my departure and the appearing of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and hasten unto the same by a holy walk and a godly life, through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

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Almighty, everlasting, and most merciful God, Thou who dost summon and take us out of this sinful and corrupt world to Thyself through death that we may not perish by continual sinning, but pass through death to life eternal: help us, we beseech Thee, to know and believe this with our whole heart, to the end that we may rejoice in our departure, and at Thy call cheerfully enter into Thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, since Thou hast hidden from me the day and hour when I shall be called away from earth, teach me to be ready at every moment that I may willingly leave this world, depart in peace, and with Thee and all the elect keep the Sabbath of eternal rest: Thou, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

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And now, Lord, what is my hope? Truly, my hope is even in Thee. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, yet I will fear no evil. Lord, Thou knowest whereof we are made; Thou rememberest that we are but dust. I am Thine; oh, save me! Behold, O Lord, I am Thy servant; Thine unprofitable servant, yet Thy servant; Thy lost prodigal child, yet Thy child. Into Thy hands I commend myself as unto a faithful Creator. Lord, I am created in Thine own image. Suffer not Thine own image to be utterly defaced, but renew it again in righteousness and true holiness. Into Thy hands I commend myself, for Thou hast redeemed me, Thou God of truth. Amen.

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Help, O Lord Jesus Christ, that, in this my last extremity, I may joyfully overcome by Thy grace. Uphold me in true faith, and comfort me with Thy Spirit when my end shall come that even in death I may not be severed from Thee. O Lord, to Thee I commend my soul which Thou hast purchased with Thy precious blood. Amen.

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O Thou ever faithful God, shorten to me the agonies of death, and vouchsafe a peaceful and happy end, ac-

ording to Thy loving-kindnesses as they have been ever of old, that I may thank and praise Thee for Thy mercy forever and ever. Amen.

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O Lord Jesus Christ, I am baptized into Thy death and will gladly die, knowing that, as I have been a partaker of Thy suffering, I shall also be glorified with Thee. As Thou, O Lord, upon the cross didst pray Thy Father to forgive Thine enemies, even so I forgive all that have trespassed against me that my trespasses may be forgiven. Do not forsake me in the agonies of death! Into Thy hands I commend my soul. Amen.

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O Father of all mercies, have mercy upon me while the terrors of death are all about me; suffer me not to be tempted above that I am able to bear; despise not Thy handiwork, for in Thee do I put my trust, Thou art my help and my God.

O Christ, who art the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world, and hast washed and cleansed me by Thy blood, have mercy upon me in the hour of my departure, and lead me to the life everlasting!

O God the Holy Ghost, Thou heavenly Comforter, defend and strengthen my heart against all the wiles of the wicked foe that I may firmly believe in the forgiveness of sin and depart upon the far journey in peace.

O Holy Trinity, I commend my soul into Thy hands; Thou hast redeemed me, O Thou faithful God, who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

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O almighty and everlasting God, who art merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness

and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin: I call upon Thee, Thou wouldst graciously forgive me all my sins and strengthen and keep my soul against every temptation. Help me that my faith may not waver, my hope may not falter, and I may not despair amidst the terrors of death. And when my last hour is at hand, let me depart in peace; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. In this my Savior I believe, I hope and trust in Him. O Lord, let me not be ashamed, but look upon me with the eyes of Thy compassion and favor, for the sake of the innocent suffering and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Savior. Amen.

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O Thou most loving God and faithful Father, I thank Thee most heartily for all the mercies and all the truth which Thou hast shown unto Thy servant. Be merciful unto me, poor sinner, in my last hour! Cast all my sin into the depth of the sea of Thine unfathomable mercy, and remember not mine iniquities. Despise not the broken and contrite heart which I bring unto Thee! Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me! Let the blood of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, cleanse me from all sin. Into Thy hands I commend my spirit.

O my dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I praise Thee for Thine unspeakable love with which Thou hast embraced me all the days of my life, for Thy bitter passion and pains of death which Thou didst suffer for me. I cast myself into Thine arms and cling to Thy precious merit. I will not let Thee go except Thou

bless me. In Thee do I trust; let me not be ashamed! Into Thy hands I commend my spirit; Thou hast redeemed me, Thou faithful God! Let Thy gracious face shine upon me, and let Thy wounds plead for me! I turn unto Thee, O Lord, alone; grant me a blessed end! Send Thy holy angels to carry me into life eternal which Thou hast bought for me with Thy suffering and death.

O Thou Comforter, God Holy Ghost, I praise Thee for the merciful blessings which Thou hast shown unto me, a poor sinner; for the faithful assistance with which Thou hast preserved me; for the sweet comfort with which Thou hast refreshed me. I pray Thee, for Jesus' sake, bless me in my dying hour! Be Thou my strength in my weakness, my comforter in temptation, my life in death! Cry Thou in my heart, Abba, Father! Come, lead me out of this vale of tears; open unto my soul the gates of heaven; let me depart in peace in Jesus' wounds; and though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

O Thou Holy Triune God, my Creator, Redeemer, Comforter, receive me, for Jesus' sake! Amen.

### **The Hour of Departure.**

Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him. Job 13, 15.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me. Ps. 23, 4.

My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Ps. 73, 26.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions! Ps. 51, 1.

Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Is. 1, 18.

Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world! John 1, 29.

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3, 16.

The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1, 7.

Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief! Mark 9, 24.

God, be merciful to me, a sinner! Luke 18, 13.

Lord, save me! Matt. 14, 30.

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Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation. Luke 2, 29. 30.

Lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh! Luke 21, 28.

Verily, I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise. Luke 23, 43.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2, 10.

Lord Jesus, receive my spirit! Acts 7, 59.

Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit. Luke 23, 46.

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O Lord Jesus, be gracious unto me, have mercy upon me, and preserve me by Thy precious blood! Take

me unto Thee in Thy eternal kingdom! Into Thy hands I commend my spirit. Help me through Thy mercy! Amen.

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Almighty and eternal God, have compassion on the sighs and groanings of this dying *brother*, and receive *him* into Thy kingdom which Thou hast in mercy prepared for *him* and all believers from the beginning of the world. Graciously release *him*, O Lord, and comfort *him* eternally with the elect, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty, eternal God, heavenly Father, comfort and strengthen this Thy servant, and save *him* through Thy goodness; deliver *him* from all anguish and distress; release *him* in Thy grace, and take *him* unto Thee in Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our only Lord and Savior. Amen.

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O Lord God, our heavenly Father, we heartily beseech Thee to regard this sick person with an eye of compassion; suffer *him* not to be overwhelmed by any pains of body or any anguish of soul, but grant unto *him* in this world Thy pardon and peace, and in the world to come life everlasting, through the abounding merits and the glorious mediation of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty and most merciful God, who upholdest our life in the midst of death, we beseech Thee, look in mercy upon this Thy servant and forgive *him* all *his* sins. *He* was baptized in Christ's name and cleansed with His blood; do Thou, therefore, accept the inno-

cent death of Thy dear Son as the atoning sacrifice for *his* transgressions. Deliver *him* also from *his* bodily distress and pain, shorten *his* sufferings, and sustain *him* against the accusations of conscience and the assaults of the wicked one, that *he* may fight the good fight of faith and overcome. Grant *him* a blessed departure unto everlasting life, and send Thy holy angels to accompany *him* to the general assembly of the elect in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

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Almighty and most merciful God, we commend the spirit of this our dear *brother* into Thy hands as into the hands of a faithful Creator and most merciful Savior, beseeching Thee that *his* soul may be precious in Thy sight. Wash *him*, we pray Thee, in the blood of the Lamb that was slain to take away the sin of the world. Do Thou purge away and blot out all *his* sins. Receive *him* to Thy mercy, vouchsafe to *him* a quiet passage, and guide *him* through the valley of the shadow of death; place *him* in the habitations of light and peace, in the company of Thy saints and faithful people who are gone before; with them vouchsafe unto *him* Thy peace, and make *him* partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light, there to praise Thee in glory and blessedness forever and ever. Amen.

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Depart in peace, thou ransomed soul, in the name of God the Father Almighty who created thee; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, who redeemed thee; in the name of the Holy Ghost who sanctified thee. Enter now into Mount Zion, the City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to the innumerable company of angels, and to the general as-

sembly and church of the first-born which are written in heaven. The Lord preserve thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth, even forevermore! Amen.

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O God the Father, Father of the spirits of all men; O God the Son, who hast washed away our sins by Thy own blood and by Thy resurrection hast brought life and immortality to light; O God the Holy Ghost, Regenerator, Sanctifier, and Comforter of Thy saints: have compassion now, we beseech Thee, upon the low estate of Thy servant lying in the extremity of sickness. We commend unto Thee *his* soul as into the hands of a faithful Creator and most faithful Savior. Wash *him* in the blood of the Lamb from all guilt. Though *his* flesh and *his* heart faileth, be Thou the strength of *his* heart and *his* portion forever. Give Thy peace to *him*, and let not *his* heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Having gone and prepared a place for *him*, come now again and receive *him* unto Thyself that where Thou art *he* may be also. — And graciously comfort us who mourn. Silence the murmurings of our rebellious hearts. Enable us to say with Thy servant of old: “The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” Make us mindful of our own mortality, and teach us so to number our days that we may seriously apply our hearts to that heavenly wisdom which may in the end bring us to life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord. Amen.

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We thank Thee, Lord Jesus, Thou Prince of Life, that Thou hast kept this our *brother* steadfast in true repentance and faith, and hast granted *him* a blessed

end. Now *he* is at home, and present with the Lord. All *his* sorrows are passed. God hath wiped away all tears from *his* eyes. Everlasting joy and gladness shall be on *his* head; and sorrow and sighing are fled away. Comfort us, O Lord, who are still in this vale of tears. Help us, O Christ, to bear in patience to the end the burdens and trials of our earthly pilgrimage. Enable us to follow our *brother's* faith and to stand ever ready, that, when our last hour shall come, we may also cease from our labor, depart in peace, and enter into Thy heavenly rest; O Thou, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with us all. Amen.

### **The Communion of the Sick.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst give Thine only Son into death for our sins, and through Him didst institute the holy sacrament of His body and blood for the strengthening of our faith, we call upon Thee in behalf of this our sick *brother* who desires to receive Holy Communion for a comfort in *his* affliction. Enlighten *him* by Thy Holy Spirit that *he* may rightly know and willingly confess *his* sins. Enable *him* also with true faith to embrace our only Mediator and Redeemer Jesus Christ that *he* may obtain both pardon and peace, and be prepared to partake worthily of Thy Holy Supper to *his* soul's health. Strengthen *him* through this salutary gift in faith towards Thee and in fervent love toward all men. Create in *him* a clean

heart, and renew a right spirit within *him*! Cause *him* also to recognize in this present visitation Thy fatherly hand that *he* may bear *his* cross in cheerful submission to Thy holy will; and do Thou deal with *him* according to Thine infinite mercy as Thou alone best knowest; for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Then may the Minister read a Psalm, e. g., 6; 25; 32; 38; 42; 51; 71; 77; 102; 130; 143; adding thereto a suitable exhortation.*

### The Confession.

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy punishment in time and in eternity. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee, of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Amen.

*Or:*

Dost thou humbly acknowledge and heartily lament thy sins?

*Yes.*

Dost thou believe that God, thy merciful Father, will, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Savior, pardon all thine offenses?

*Yes.*

Art thou resolved, should God prolong thy days, to lead the residue of thy life in His fear and to His glory?

*Yes.*

### Absolution.

Upon this thy confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce unto thee the grace of God, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive thee all thy sins, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Or:*

Be it unto thee according to thy faith. And I, by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, upon this thy confession, forgive thee all thy sins, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Peace be with thee! Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: this do, in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Take, drink ye all of it; this cup is the new Testament in my blood which is shed for you for the

remission of sins: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord Jesus Christ, given into death for thy sins; this strengthen and preserve thee in the true faith unto life eternal. Amen.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, shed for the remission of thy sins; this strengthen and preserve thee in the true faith unto life eternal. Amen.

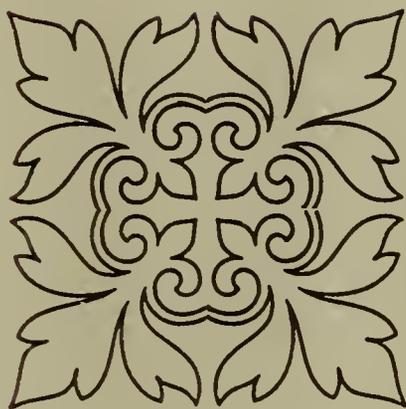
O Lord Jesus, my Savior and only Refuge, I give Thee hearty thanks that Thou hast so graciously refreshed me with Thy holy body and blood. Abide with me with Thy grace that I may never faint. Grant that, when my last hour shall come, I may fall asleep in firm faith in Thee and Thy holy blood, O Thou, who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

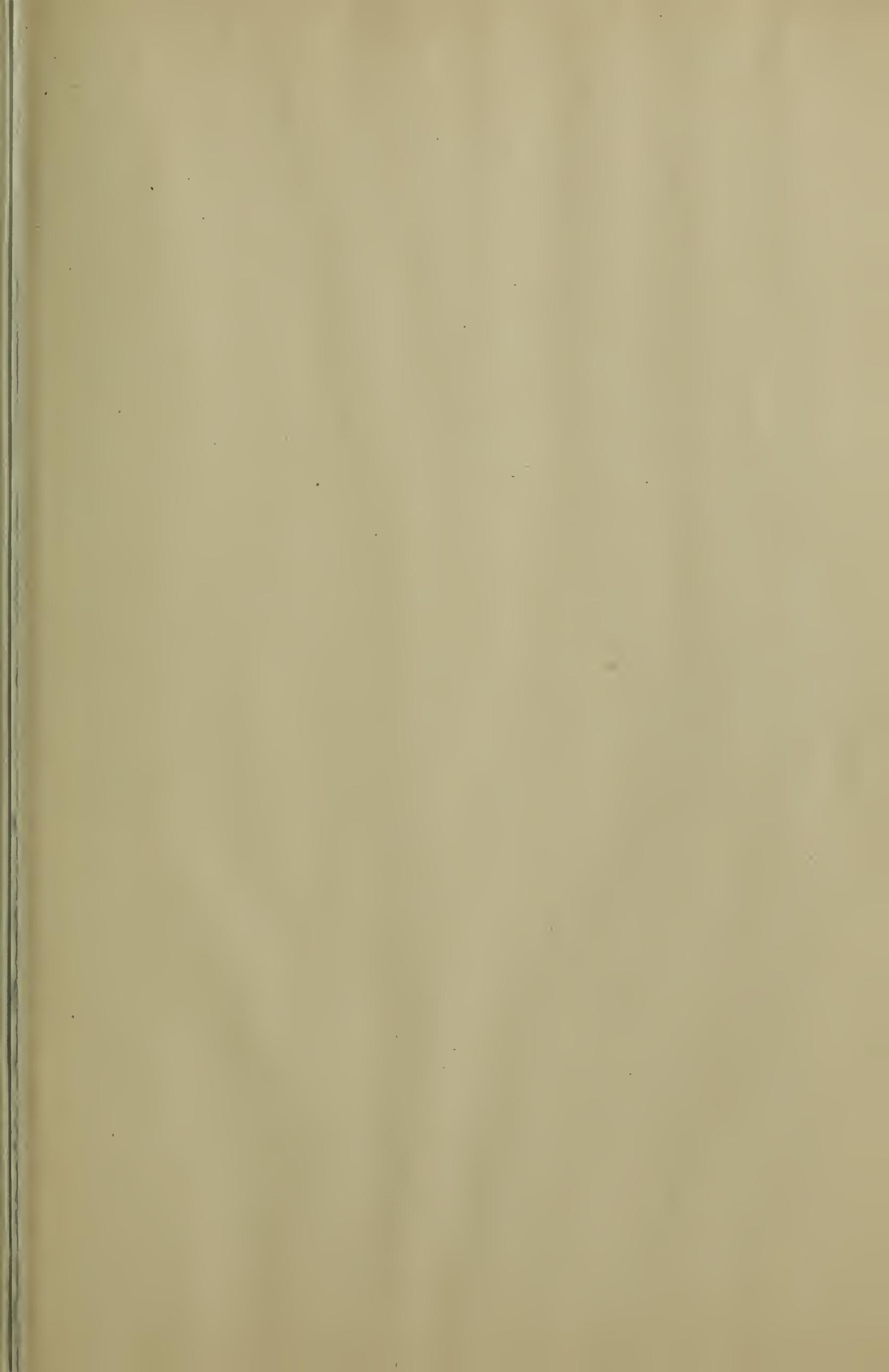
O God, my heavenly Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast refreshed me with the Holy Supper of my Savior. Give me grace to live the life which I now live in the flesh in the faith of Thy dear Son. I commend my soul to Thee, most merciful God, my Creator! Thou wilt not forsake me while I live in this world; Thou wilt in mercy remember all my household; and when my last hour shall come, Thou wilt deliver me from all evil and receive me into Thy heavenly kingdom. Cause now this heavenly food so to strengthen and keep me in faith and love, in patience and hope, that I may with childlike trust resign myself to Thy fatherly will, give praise to Thy holy name even amid trials and sufferings, and, living or dying, continue forever Thine in body and soul, through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee!

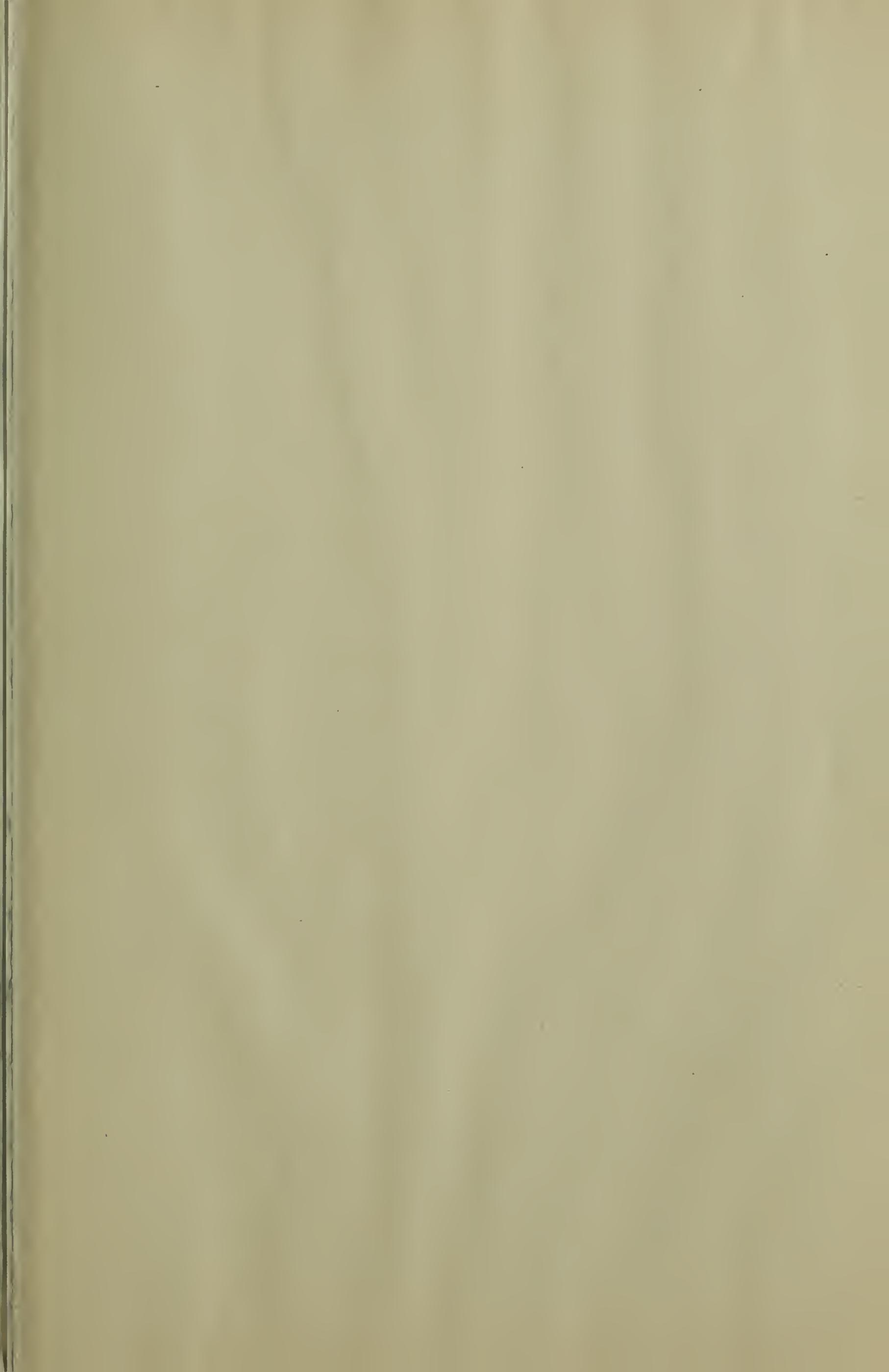
The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee!

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace! Amen.





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