

Family Prayers

MORNING

SUNDAY.

GLORY be to Thee, O God; Giver of the morning light, who hast raised our Lord Jesus from the dead, on this first day of the week, that we might rejoice in it and keep it holy, a Sabbath of the heart.

Cleanse us now, we implore Thee, from all our sin, and bathe us with the dew of Thy divine forgiveness, that we, being renewed in spirit, may enter gladly into the pure worship of this day, and serve Thee with heavenly meditation and holy music, with faithful prayer and thankful praise, with words of love and works of mercy, with joy in Thy creation and perfect peace in Thee, according to the teaching and the example of Thy Son, our living Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, O God, our souls do thirst after Thee, that we may see Thy power and Thy glory, as we have seen them in the sanctuary, and be

satisfied with the goodness of Thy House. Lead us and guide us unto Thy holy hill, and bring us together with sweet converse to the place of prayer, to hear Thy Word of Truth in the spirit, to offer the sacrifices of joy with Thy people, and to make melody in our hearts with the songs of Zion. Prepare us, we beseech Thee, for a true entrance into the secret of Thy tabernacle; and bless Thy churches everywhere this day with the clear shining of Thy Presence; that the Holy Spirit may descend on many hearts, and multitudes may be brought from the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, we praise Thee for the mercies which Thou hast bestowed upon us as a household, and we beseech Thee to bless all the families of earth with a Father's blessing. Look mercifully upon the solitary and the lonely, the weary and the heavy-laden, and grant them rest unto their souls. Pity and relieve the sorrows of all mankind. Shed abroad the holy influence of the Sabbath throughout our land, and keep our whole country, with those who are chosen to govern it, in the way of righteousness and peace. Finally we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all who are near and dear to us, wherever they may be to-day, praying Thee to watch over them, to provide for them, to bless them in body and soul, and at last to bring them and us into the perfect and eternal joy of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Here any special prayer or brief petition, suited to the need of*

the household, to any particular occasion, or to the season of the year, may be added; and let all present join their voices and hearts in

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

MONDAY.

O GOD, our Father, of whom the whole family in heaven and on earth is named; Bestow upon our household, at the beginning of this day, that grace which shall keep us in the fellowship of the Christian way: and grant unto each one of us that heavenly guidance and control, in all our labours, pleasures, and trials, which shall maintain our hearts in peace with one another and with Thee. Graciously help and prosper us in the doing of our various duties, with a willing and a cheerful mind; and defend us all, by Thine almighty power, both from inward evil and from outward harm; so that, when the day is ended, it may not leave us in sorrow, strife, or shame, but in true unity and thankful rest, through Thy merciful favour and Thy forgiving love, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, the Fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking ; We beseech Thee to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot, ask, vouchsafe to give us in the fulness of Thy love and grace, which Thou hast

made known to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LIFT upon us the light of Thy countenance, O God, that we may rejoice and be glad in Thee; and send into our souls the purifying gift of Thy pardon, that our sins may be utterly removed from us, and we may go forth with a clean spirit, a joyful courage, and strength sufficient for our needs, to meet whatever thou hast appointed for us during this day. And grant, O most merciful Lord, that we may neither forget the precepts and the promises of Thy holy Word, nor depart in thought, or word, or deed from the obedient faith of Thy true children in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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THE LORD'S PRAYER.

TUESDAY.

O THOU, who art the true Sun of the world, evermore rising, and never going down; who, by Thy most wholesome appearing and light dost nourish, and make joyful all things, as well that are in heaven, as also that are on earth; We beseech Thee mercifully and favourably to shine into our hearts, that the night and darkness of sin, and the mists of er-

ror on every side, being driven away, Thou brightly shining within our hearts, we may all our life long go without any stumbling or offense, and may walk as in the daytime, being pure and clean from the works of darkness, and abounding in all good works which Thou hast prepared for us to walk in. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, who alone gavest us the breath of life, and alone canst keep alive in us the breathing of holy desires; We beseech Thee for Thy compassion's sake to sanctify all our thoughts and endeavours, that we may neither begin any action without a pure intention, nor continue it without Thy blessing; and grant that, having the eyes of our understanding purged to behold things invisible and unseen, we may in heart be inspired with Thy wisdom, and in work be upheld by Thy strength, and in the end be accepted of Thee, as Thy faithful servants, having done all things to Thy glory, and thereby to our endless peace. Grant this prayer, O Lord. *Amen.*

O God, most merciful, who healest those that are broken in heart, and turnest the sadness of the sorrowful to joy; Let Thy Fatherly goodness be upon all that Thou hast made. Especially we beseech Thee to remember in pity such as are this day destitute, homeless, or forgotten of their fellow-men. Bless the congregation of the poor. Uplift those who are cast down, mightily befriend innocent sufferers, and sanctify to them the endurance of their wrongs. Cheer with hope all discouraged and unhappy people, and by Thy heavenly grace

preserve from falling those whose penury tempteth them to sin. Though they be troubled on every side, suffer them not to be distressed; though they be perplexed, save them from despair. Grant this, O Lord, for the love of Him who for our sakes became poor, Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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THE LORD'S PRAYER.

WEDNESDAY.

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, O God, our exceeding Joy, who daily pourest Thy benefits upon us. Grant, we beseech Thee, 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, O Father, 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 for ever.

Amen.

GRANT, O Lord, that this day which Thou hast given unto us in mercy, may be returned unto Thee in service: As Thou hast guarded us during the helpless hours of sleep, so do Thou guide us during the appointed hours of labour; that all our tasks may be gladly and faithfully performed, as in Thy sight; that our burdens may not be too heavy for us, because Thine aid and comfort are with us continually; and that in nothing may we displease Thee, or injure one another. But if in anything we fail or come short, through ignorance or weakness, O God, let Thy fatherly wisdom correct us, and Thine infinite mercy forgive us, and Thy divine love amend our fault; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

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THE LORD'S PRAYER.

THURSDAY.

O LORD, lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us: let Thy peace rule in our hearts; and may it be our strength, and our song in the house of our pilgrimage. We commit ourselves to Thy care and keeping this day; let Thy grace be

mighty in us, and sufficient for us, and let it work in us both to will and to do of Thine own good pleasure. Keep us from sin; give us the rule over our own spirits; and keep us from speaking unadvisedly with our lips. May we live together in peace and holy love, and do Thou command Thy blessing upon us, even life for evermore. Prepare us for all the events of the day; for we know not what a day may bring forth. Give us grace to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily, and to follow in the steps of our Lord and Master. *Amen.*

O THOU who dwellest in heaven, mercifully regard all Thy sorrowful and afflicted children upon earth, we beseech Thee. Draw near to them with the comfort of Thy love, and sustain them by the right hand of Thy power. Grant us a heart to sympathize with them in their distress, and give us both the opportunity and the will to help those who are in any trouble, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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

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hearts in

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

FRIDAY.

WE praise Thee, O God, with the morning light, and in the brightness of a new day we bless Thy holy Name. For all Thou hast bestowed upon us with the gift of life, making us in Thine own image, and granting us to share as children in Thy knowledge and Thy love, in Thy work and Thy joy; we thank Thee, heavenly Father. For all good things in the world, for food and raiment, for home and friendship, for useful tasks and pure pleasures; we thank Thee, heavenly Father. For all spiritual blessings, for Thy holy Word, for the Christian fellowship, for the good example and blessed memory of Thy saints, for the secret influence of Thy Spirit; we thank Thee, heavenly Father. And above all we praise and bless Thee for the life and death of Thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O LORD, grant that our hearts may be truly cleansed, and filled with Thy Holy Spirit, and that we may arise to serve Thee, in entire confidence and submission to Thy will, ready to do and to endure whatsoever Thou hast appointed for us. Let us live for the day, not overcharged with worldly cares, but feeling that our treasure is not here, and desiring truly to be joined to Thee in Thy heavenly kingdom, and to those who are already gone to Thee. O Lord, save us from

sin, and guide us with Thy Spirit, and keep us in faithful obedience to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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THE LORD'S PRAYER.

SATURDAY.

ALmighty God, our Father and Preserver; We give Thee thanks that of Thy goodness Thou hast watched over us the past night, and brought us to a new day: and we beseech Thee to strengthen and guard us by Thy Spirit, that we may spend it wholly in Thy service and to Thy glory, looking for all prosperity to Thy blessing, and seeking only those things which are well-pleasing in Thy sight. Enable us, O Lord, while we labour for the life that now is, ever to have regard unto that heavenly life which Thou hast promised Thy children. Defend us in soul and body from all harm. And seeing it is a small thing to have begun well, except we also persevere, take us, O Lord, into Thy good keeping this day and all our days: continue and increase Thy grace within us, until we shall be perfectly united in the glory of Thy Son. Show Thy loving-kindness unto all men and women and little children, according to the need of every living soul, especially

unto those whom we love, and those who are in any kind of trouble or distress, whom we now remember silently before Thee: [*here let there be a moment of prayer in silence:*] Protect our country, and prosper Thy Church: Bless all who do good in the world, and restrain and convert all who do evil. And finally, be pleased to cast out of Thy remembrance all our past offenses, forgiving them in Thy boundless mercy and purifying our hearts, that we may lead a better life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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THE LORD'S PRAYER.

FOR THE SICK.

O THOU who hearest prayer, we pray Thee to be very kind and merciful to Thy child —, whose body suffers in pain and weakness, [and whose life, dear to us, is in danger.] Grant unto *him* patience and tranquillity of mind; peace, purity, and courage of soul; the strong will to live if it be Thy will; and a heart ready to trust Thee waking or sleeping. Bless all the means used for *his* recovery, and all who minister to *him* in his suffering [and peril.] Make Thou *his* bed in *his* sickness, and comfort *him* as a mother comforteth her child. Re-

store *him* speedily to health, if it please Thee, but above all things grant *him* that which Thou knowest to be best for *him*, and keep *him* Thine for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

FOR THE ABSENT.

ALmighty God, who art not far from any one of us; We commend into Thy fatherly care and keeping —, to whom our hearts go out in absence. Let these our loving thoughts come up before Thee as prayers and supplications; defend our beloved from all danger and harm, in body and in soul; enrich *him* with all blessings both for this life and for that which is to come; and grant that we may soon meet together, with joy and not with grief, to thank Thee for all Thy mercies, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

FOR DEPARTING FRIENDS AND TRAVELLERS.

MOST merciful Father, we beseech Thee to protect and prosper — on *his* intended journey. May the Angel of Thy Presence be with *him* wherever *he* may go, and may all *his* steps be ordered of Thee in wisdom and love; so that *he* shall travel with Thee as *his* guardian and *his* guide, and arrive in safety at *his* desired haven. O Lord, bless *his* going-out and *his* coming-in, from this time forth and even for evermore. *Amen.*

FOR A FAMILY IN TIME OF DISTRESS.

GOD, most wise and loving and faithful Redeemer, Thou hast permitted us to come into this present trial, [*here the affliction may be named or silently remembered,*] in order that we may learn obedience by the things that we suffer, and turn to Thee, our Helper in the time of trouble. Grant, therefore, that there may be no bitterness in our sorrow, no despair in our submission, and no doubt of Thee in our perplexity of heart. But do Thou teach us to face our trial manfully, and cause even the dark things of life to work together for our good, and bring us speedily out of our distress, that we may praise Thee with a joyful heart, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

BRIEF PETITIONS

GOD, who hast taught us to keep all Thy heavenly commandments by loving Thee and our neighbour; Grant us the spirit of peace and grace, that we may be both devoted to Thee with our whole heart, and united to each other with a pure will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HEAR our prayers, O Lord, and consider our desires. Give unto us true humility, a meek and quiet spirit, a loving and a friendly, a holy and a useful manner of life; bearing the

burdens of our neighbours, denying ourselves, and studying to benefit others, and to please Thee in all things. Grant us to be righteous in performing promises, loving to our relatives, careful of our charges; to be gentle and easy to be entreated, slow to anger, and readily prepared for every good work. *Amen.*

LOOK upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of Thy brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of Thy wisdom. All our desire is known unto Thee: therefore perfect what Thou hast begun, and what Thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer. We seek Thy face: turn Thy face unto us, and show us Thy glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect. *Amen.*

GRANT Lord, that we may not, for one moment, admit willingly into our souls any thought contrary to Thy love. *Amen.*

OLORD, perfect, we beseech Thee, the faith of us who believe, and sow the good seed of faith in their hearts who as yet lack it; that we all may look steadfastly unto Thee, and run with patience the race that is set before us. Give us grace to show our faith by our works; teach us to walk by faith, having respect unto the promises: which of Thy mercy make good to us in Thine own good time, O our most gracious Lord God and Saviour. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, who art the Giver of all wisdom; Enlighten our understandings with knowledge of right, and govern our wills by Thy laws, that no deceit may mislead us, nor temptation corrupt us; that we may always endeavour to do good, and to hinder evil. Amidst all the hopes and fears of this world, take not Thy Holy Spirit from us; but grant that our thoughts may be fixed on Thee, and that we may finally attain everlasting happiness, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

O GOD, who hast commanded us to be perfect, as Thou our Father in heaven art perfect; Put into our hearts, we pray Thee, a continual desire to obey Thy holy will. Teach us day by day what Thou wouldest have us do, and give us grace and power to fulfil the same. May we never, from love of ease, decline the path which Thou pointest out, nor, for fear of shame, turn away from it. *Amen.*

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

EVENING.

A GENERAL PRAYER.

O GOD most merciful, Light eternal in the darkness shining, by whom the night of sin and the blindness of our hearts are driven away: Since Thou hast appointed the day for labour and the night for rest; grant unto us, we beseech Thee, that our bodies may repose in peace and quietness, that afterward they may be able to endure the toil which Thou hast laid upon us in Thy service: Temper our sleep that it be not disorderly, and keep us spotless both in body and in soul, that our very rest may be to Thy glory, renewing the strength of our hearts and our joy in Thee: Enlighten the eyes of our understanding that we may not sleep in death, but obtain deliverance, through faith and hope, from all fear of this misery: Defend us against all assaults of our enemies, and take us into Thy holy protection. And although we have not passed this day without greatly sinning against Thee, we beseech Thee to hide our sins with Thy mercy, as Thou coverest all things on earth with the darkness of the night, that they may be blotted out from Thy remembrance, and we may abide in Thy presence and Thy favour, both now and for evermore. Relieve and comfort, with Thy fatherly goodness, all who are afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate: Protect and prosper, with Thine almighty power, our country and our rulers, the whole Church of Christ on earth, our home, and all that we hold dear and sacred: Be pleased to guard and help those whom we silently remember before Thee: [*here let*

there be a moment of prayer in silence :] Bless us and keep us, watch over us and save us, O God in whom we trust; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

VARIOUS PRAYERS.

ALMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our spirits; Meet with us at close of day, and grant unto us, Thy children, the peace which the world cannot give. May no unhallowed thoughts or cares disturb the quiet of this evening hour. Deliver us from the vain things which have such power over us. May we learn wisdom, receive strength, gain hope, feel the influence of things unseen, and find rest in God. *Amen.*

CONFIRM O Lord, we pray Thee, the hearts of Thy children, and strengthen them with the power of Thy grace; that they may both be devout in prayer to Thee, and sincere in love for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, Father of our spirits and Giver of all good; Grant that we may live in such fellowship with Thee that we

shall grow into Thy likeness, and share Thy life. Free us from fretting and pride, and beget within us a meek and modest spirit. Deliver us from the bondage and bitterness of a worldly life, and lead us out into the large and joyous liberty of Christ. May He so dwell in us that His spirit shall become our disposition, and spring up within us a well of water unto everlasting life. Lead us in a plain path along life's journey, and at last may we enter in through the gates into the City. And this we ask in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

FATHER of our spirits, and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; Bind us to Thyself with cords of faith, and love that can never be broken or strained. May we feel the impulse of our divine childhood, and find rest in Thee. Feed us out of Thy Word, and may it be sweet to our souls. May prayer daily acquaint us with Thee, and make us calm and strong. Cause the light of Thy face to shine upon us, so that we shall ever see our path, and find the world our Father's home. Give us patience and peace under every burden. May we not be anxious and troubled over many things, but have the one thing needful and be content. O Master, let us walk with Thee! *Amen.*

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

better. Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day come when these must be taken, brace us to play the man under affliction. Be with our friends, be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns, return to us, our Sun and Comforter, and call us up with morning faces and with morning hearts—eager to labour—eager to be happy, if happiness shall be our portion—and if the day be marked for sorrow, strong to endure it. *Amen.*

O LORD, make us to love Thee, and each other in Thee, and to meet before Thee to dwell in Thine everlasting love. *Amen.*

L ORD, support us all day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in Thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

S END Thy peace into our hearts, O Lord, at the evening hour, that we may be contented with Thy mercies of this day, and confident of Thy protection for this night; and now, having forgiven others, even as Thou dost forgive us, may we have a pure comfort and a healthful rest within the shelter of this home; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

L IGTEN our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and by

Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, with whom do rest the spirits of just men made perfect; we bless and praise Thy holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear; and especially for those most dear to us who have fallen asleep in Jesus. And we beseech Thee to give us grace so to follow their good example, that we may continue united to them in fellowship of spirit, and that finally we may be gathered together in Thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE CONFESSION OF SINS.

MOST holy and merciful Father; We acknowledge and confess in Thy Presence: Our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good ; And all our shortcomings and offenses against Thee. Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned: In wandering from Thy ways; In wasting Thy gifts; In forgetting Thy love. But Thou, O Lord, have pity upon us; Who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased Thee. Teach us to hate our errors; Cleanse us from our secret faults; And forgive our sins; For the sake of Thy dear Son our Saviour. And O most holy and loving Father; Send Thy purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech Thee; That we may henceforth live in Thy light and walk in Thy ways; Accord-

ing to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. *Amen.*

FORMS OF GRACE BEFORE MEAT.

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

ALmighty God, who providest for us, nourish our souls with the Bread of Life in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

BLESS us, O Lord, in blessing Thee, as we receive Thy gift of daily bread. *Amen.*

THE Lord bless this food to our use, and us to His service. *Amen.*

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

H EAVENLY Father, make us thankful to Thee, and mindful of others, as we receive these blessings, in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

F ATER in heaven, sustain our bodies with this food, our hearts with true friendship, and our souls with Thy truth, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

L ORD Jesus, be our holy Guest, Our morning Joy, our evening Rest; And with our daily bread impart Thy love and peace to every heart. *Amen.*