

SUNDAY READING.

PRAYERS

To be used by a Child or Young Person ;—by a Grown Person ;—by the Master or Mistress of a Sunday School —and, by the Master or Mistres of a Family.



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# ADDRESS

## TO INDIVIDUALS

*On the Subject of the following Prayers.*

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**T**HERE are many persons, it is to be feared, who do not accustom themselves to pray at all, than which there cannot be a greater proof of Irreligion. Some of these may plead, perhaps, that they have never been taught to pray, or at least that they have no suitable prayer provided for them. To such persons an opportunity is now given of beginning what they cannot but allow to be a good custom, for who can deny that it is a good custom, or rather indeed, that it is a bounden duty to call day by day on the God who made them.

There are other persons who oblige themselves daily to say over the Lord's Prayer only, and perhaps, also the Belief. This is often done in a very formal and superstitious manner. The Lord's Prayer is undoubtedly a most excellent pattern for our daily prayers, but it does not appear to have been given by Christ as the only form of Prayer that was to be used; and, it is worthy of remark, that when he uttered it, he took occasion to warn his disciples against the vain repetitions used in prayer by the Pharisees. It is to be feared that

even the Lord's Prayer has become a vain repetition in these days, not through any fault in the Prayer itself, but through the unthinking, and perhaps, over frequent way in which some people use it. Possibly a new form may supply some new thoughts, and may serve to awaken the sort of people I am speaking of to a sense of the true meaning and use of both the Lord's Prayer, and of Prayer in general.

*Address to Parents.*

IT is hoped that there can be little occasion to inform parents, that they ought to teach their children to pray. A short Prayer, fit for persons of twelve or fourteen years of age, is here supplied. The same Prayer may serve both for morning and evening, and the memory, therefore, will be little burthened by learning it by heart. Before children entirely leave their father's house, it is desirable that, instead of the Child's Prayer, they should learn by heart the Morning and Evening Prayer for a Grown Person which follows.

*To Heads of Families.*

IF all Masters and Mistresses of Families would ask each of their servants what is their custom in respect to daily Prayer, and would supply them, if there seems occasion, with the Morning and Evening Prayer for a Grown Person, which they will find in this Tract, in his plain, I think, that much benefit might arise, through the blessing of God both to Masters and Servants: for a Servant's duty to his Master is one of the things which these prayers will teach.

*Address to Masters and Mistresses of Schools.*

YOU are desired to take notice, that the Prayer for a Sunday School is intended to be used only on a Sunday. The Prayer for an individual may, by merely changing the word *I* into *we*, and the word *me* into *us*, be made to suit a Daily School, and indeed it may be made to suit some Families also. Some of the Family Prayers may also suit Sunday Schools.

*On family Prayer.*

THE advantages of Family Prayer are many, and they are very plain. The Master of a Family (or the Mistress in his absence) by devoutly reading a Morning and Evening Prayer to his Family, instructs both his children and servants in their duty, accustoms them to prayer, makes an open profession of his own religion, brings himself under an obligation to observe a consistent, that is, a religious conduct during the day; and above all, let it be remarked, he draws down the blessing of God on himself and his household. Several Prayers are here offered to Masters and Mistresses of Families, and they who have not yet been used to Family Prayer, have now, therefore, an opportunity of beginning this good custom; and in doing it, may God grant them his blessing!

*General Directions, applicable chiefly to the Case of Private Prayer.*

FIRST, before you proceed to your private prayers, endeavor to compose your thoughts, and then examine yourself for a few moments. Ask yourself in the morning, for instance, what are

likely to be the duties and trials of the day that is before you, and in the evening, reflect what have been the sins of the day past. By doing so, you will be enabled to apply the words of your prayer more particularly to your own case, and possibly also you may thus be led to add a few words of your own to what you have got by heart, and by degrees you may thus be inclined to enlarge your daily petition more and more in your own words, and thus you may learn to pray more and more in spirit and in truth.

Secondly, When about to pray, endeavour to lift up your heart to God for the help of his holy spirit; for the scripture tells us, that it is "the Holy Spirit that helpeth our infirmities." Many people complain of great coldness and indifference while engaged in prayer, and there are few who are not conscious of this in a greater or less degree. Let all then begin, by imploring God's Holy Spirit to assist them in praying as they ought. There cannot be a better introduction to every kind of prayer, than a few secret words first uttered to this effect from the heart.

Thirdly, Beware of wandering thoughts when engaged in prayer. To this end let every struggle be made, and let it be seriously impressed upon you, that God is now present in an especial manner, and that all absence of mind which is allowed and indulged is a great affront to his Majesty.

Fourthly, But besides being attentive, take care that you are also sincere in your prayer. Ask yourself often, whether you mean what you say while you are praying, and whether you sincerely and earnestly wish the thing that you ask. Accustom yourself not to attend to the mere sound of

your words, but to the sense; and if you do not well understand any part of the prayers here offered you, endeavor to get what is difficult explained before you repeat it. Some persons have been known to say prayers day by day, almost every word of which they have contradicted by their whole conversation and conduct, What a terrible hypocrisy is this! A man's prayers may either be the greatest blessing to him, or the most grievous sin, according to the manner in which he performs them.

Fifthly, Endeavor not only to be sincere in your prayers at the moment when you offer them, but endeavor also, that the same spirit which animates your prayers, may animate your whole life. To this end, examine your life often by means of your prayers. Try whether all your maxims in life, your common speech and your several tempers, as well as your open conduct, agree with the prayers, which you use. The sincerity which God requires of you is not a momentary sincerity, it is not a short-lived and changeable feeling, which is forgotten when you go into the world. The remembrance of what you have been praying for in the morning should follow you into the field or the shop, and should influence your conduct all the day long.

Lastly, Consider whether God answers your prayers. If you pray aright, depend upon it your prayers will be heard and answered; your tempers will be subdued, your temptations weakened, and your whole mind will be rendered pious if you really pray that it may be so; and if this be not the case, you may reasonably suspect that your prayers have not been such as they ought. If you pray aright, depend upon it, you will improve in every

respect; you will gain more humility, more tenderness of conscience, more fear of God, more pleasure in his worship, and more happiness in his service, and also more confidence in Christ, and probably more hope of salvation, in proportion to the earnestness and sincerity of your prayers to God to this effect, for these are all the gifts of that Holy Spirit which God hath promised to them that ask it.

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*A Prayer to be used by a Child, or Young Person,  
both in the Morning and Evening.*

O LORD God Almighty, I beseech thee to have mercy upon me, and to bless me. Defend me this day (or this night) by thy mighty power; bestow upon me all things which thou knowest to be needful for me, and help me by thy Holy Spirit, to do whatsoever thou hast commanded. Incline me thankfully to receive instruction; what I know, give me grace to practice, and make me wise unto salvation. Grant that I maybe obedient to my parents and teachers, faithful and diligent in the duties of my calling, and humble and kind, and merciful. Preserve me from stubbornness and self-will, and from evil thoughts, and from angry passions, and also from lying and prophaneness, and from all vain-boasting; turn my heart from the love of sin, and make me to avoid wicked company.

And pardon all the offences which either in thought, word, or deed, I have committed against thee. O God, forgive all that is past, and receive me now into thy favor, for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, my most merciful Lord and Savior.



May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with me now and evermore. Amen.

*Morning Prayer for a Grown Person.*

O LORD God Almighty, I thank thee for having preserved me through the past night, and for granting me health and strength for my duties on this day. Blessed be the Lord for all his mercies, for giving me food to eat and rayment to put on, and for delivering me from many evils which my sins have justly deserved.

I thank thee especially, O Lord, for the gift of Jesus Christ thy Son. I confess before thee my exceeding guilt, and I pray thee, for Christ's sake, to pardon my offences, and to receive my soul when I die.

I beseech thee also, for his sake, to grant unto me the help of thy Holy Spirit, that I may be enabled to follow my Savior's example, and to do whatsoever he hath commanded. May I be patient, and humble, and kind, and merciful, endeavouring to do good unto all men, and forgiving those who trespass against me, even as I hope to be forgiven. Grant me grace to labour on this day diligently in my calling, and to be true and just in all my dealings, doing unto others as I would they should do unto me; and help me, O Lord, to restrain my tongue, and to subdue my evil tempers and to live in temperance, soberness and chastity. Save me from those sins which in times past have most easily beset me; strengthen me O Lord, for all my duties, carry me through all my difficulties and troubles, and help me, day by day, to grow in grace and in the knowledge of my Lord and Savior.

This Prayer I humbly offer up in the name of Jesus Christ.

May the grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with me now and evermore. *Amen.*

*An Evening prayer for a Grown Person.*

O LORD God Almighty, I bless thee for all the mercies of the past day, and I pray thee now to take me under thy care, and to deliver me from all the perils and dangers of this night. Preserve me, O Lord, both in body and soul, from every evil, and keep me from all sinful thoughts when I am about to close my eyes in sleep.

And pardon, I beseech thee, all my offences for the sake of Jesus Christ. I confess, O Lord, that I have this day left undone many things which I ought to have done, and done many things which I ought not to have done. Pardon all my pride\* and vanity, my idleness and self-indulgence, my impatience and fretfulness, and discontent. Pardon, O Lord, all the rash and angry words which I have this day spoken, and all the sinful thoughts which have risen up in my mind, and which I have not been careful to resist. And especially I pray thee to pardon my forgetfulness of thee my God, and my want of gratitude and love to Jesus Christ. For these, and all my other sins, which from time to time I have committed, I here implore thy pardon and forgiveness, in the name of my most merciful Savior.

\* Any of these words may be changed, as may suit the case of the person praying, that whatsoever sins have been committed in the day may be mentioned,

And since I know that my life is so short and uncertain, help me day by day, to think of my latter end. O Lord, grant me grace so to live that I may not be afraid to die, and do thou receive my soul at last into thine eternal kingdom.

I also beseech thee to give thy blessing to all my dear relations and friends. Bless the poor, the sick, and the afflicted, and all the tempted and distressed. Bless the land in which I live, and especially all the faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Give repentance to those who live in sin. Bless also my enemies.

And now, O Lord, help me to lie down at peace with thee, and in perfect charity with all men.

These prayers I humbly offer up in the name of Jesus Christ my Savior.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with me now and evermore, *Amen.*

*Morning Prayer for a Sunday School.*

O LORD God Almighty, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, we thank thee for thy merciful preservation of us through the past night. We also thank thee for all thy goodness to us, for our health and strength, and food and raiment, and friends and benefactors. More especially we bless thy name, for giving us the Holy Scriptures, in order that we may be instructed in the will of God, and in the way of everlasting life.

Dispose, O Lord, all who are here present, to attend reverently to the truths they hear, and suffer them not to give way to indolence, or carelessness of mind, or to hardness of heart and unbelief. Teach them also to apply the Scriptures to their own use, When they read of thy judgments may

they stand in awe of thy great power and majesty, and when they read of thy promises, and especially of thy mercies in Christ, may their hearts be filled with gratitude to their Redeemer, and may they take delight in singing thy praises.

And we pray thee, O Lord, to grant unto them the continual help of thy Holy Spirit, that they may day by day be preserved from sin, and may become fruitful in every good work. May they be faithful to the Lord their God, and upright in their conduct towards all men. May they be true and honest in all their dealings, doing unto others as they would that others should do unto them. May they be obedient to their parents and teachers; and may they be temperate, sober and diligent; may no untruth proceed out of their lips' and may they learn both to command their tempers and restrain their tongues, and may they be kind and merciful to each other, forgiving one another, even as they hope that God, for Christ's sake, will forgive them.

And pardon, O Lord, all their sins in time past which either in thought, word, or deed, they have committed against thee. Recieve, O Lord, all these children into thy favor, and into the arms of thy mercy; grant unto them true repentance, and an unfeigned faith in Christ our Lord.

We also beseech thee to prepare them for all those events in life which thy providence may see fit at any time to bring upon them. Thou knowest the various temptations and troubles to which before long they may be exposed, and the situations to which they may be called. We therefore pray thee, now to arm them for every future trial, and to train them up for the performance of all those duties

which thou shalt hereafter require of them. May they be grounded in the knowledge of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ, and may they now begin to fight under the banners of their Savior against the world, the flesh, and the devil; and as they advance in life may they grow in grace, each of them striving to recommend that gospel which they have been taught, and shining as lights in the world.

And finally we pray, that having thus done thy will, and enjoyed thy favor, all the days of their lives, they may at length be received in those everlasting habitations which thou hast prepared for them that love thee.

We offer up these our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, through whom alone we hope for the pardon of our sins, and in whose words we further call upon thee.

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 trespasses as we forgive them that 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, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

May the grace, &c.

*Evening Prayer for a Sunday School.*

O LORD God our heavenly Father, we beseech thee to pour down thy blessing on these children, and to grant that the words which they have this day heard with their outward ears, may, through thy grace, be so grafted inwardly in all their hearts, that they may bring forth in them the fruits of good living, to the praise and glory of thy name.

Forgive, O Lord, all the imperfection which thou hast seen in their worship and services on this day. Forgive also the various sins of their past lives; may they repent of them with unfeigned sorrow and contrition of heart, and may they lie down this night trusting in Jesus Christ their Lord.

We commit them to thy watchful care, and to thy mercies in Jesus Christ. Defend them, we pray thee, from all the dangers of darkness; do thou keep them O Lord, by night and by day; let thy blessing attend them to the end of their lives, and when they shall lay down their bodies in the grave, do thou receive their souls into thine eternal kingdom.

We pray thee, O Lord, to give thy blessing to all their friends and relations, grant unto their parents grace to lead a Christian life, and to set a good example to their families, that so they and the children whom thou hast given them may meet together in Heaven. We commend to thee also the bountiful benefactors of these children. Be merciful unto all those who have shewn them mercy and make them heirs of everlasting life. Bless the teachers of this school; give them grace both to know their duty and to fulfil it.

We pray for the land in which we live, for the King and all in authority, and especially we pray for all the Ministers of the Gospel; give success to their labors on this day; may their preaching be made effectual to overcome the various sins of men, and to make them obedient to the will of God.

Bless, we pray thee, in an especial manner, the true followers of Jesus Christ; build them up in their most holy faith, unite them in the bonds of Christian love, preserve them from the wickedness

that is in the world, and make them to be a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

We would also make intercession for the poor, the sick and the afflicted, for the widow and the fatherless, and for all those who have none to help them: O Lord, bless unto them their earthly troubles, and turn them to their soul's good, and do thou protect and defend them, and appear for them when all human help fails,

We pray also for the whole rising generation; may they be trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Put into the hearts of all parents and teachers, a concern for the souls of those over whom thou hast set them, and give thy grace to the children of this land that they may hear instruction with a teachable spirit, and may be made wise unto salvation.

And finally, we pray thee to have mercy on those who are now living in ignorance and sin, and are without God in the world. Turn them, O Lord, from their evil ways, give them true repentance, and send abroad the Gosple of Jesus Christ into this and all lands.

These prayers we offer up in the name of our only Lord and Savior, in whose words also we further address thee, saying, Our Father, &c.

May the grace, &c.

*Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD God Almighty, assist us now to draw near unto thee with deep reverance and humility of mind. Deliver us from all wandering thoughts, and enable us to worship thee in such a manner that thou mayest hear our prayers and power down thy blessing upon us.

O Lord God of Heaven, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank thee for all thine unmerited mercies bestowed upon this family, and we pray thee by thy grace to preserve every one of us from sinning against thee.

Defend us through this day by thy mighty power, save us from the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, put into our hearts good desires, and help us to fulfil all thy precepts and commandments. And since thou hast sent thy Son Jesus Christ into the world to die for our sins, and to become the Savior of our souls, O Lord give us grace day by day to thank thee for this unspeakable gift, and help us to remember that we are not our own, but are bought with a price, and make us willing therefore both to do and suffer all things to which thou mayest be pleased to call us; teach us to be this day patient and humble, and thankful, and contented with our lot, often lifting up our thoughts to Heaven, having our chief desires fixed on a better world. And make us holy in all manner of conversation as becometh the disciples of Jesus Christ: make this household we pray thee to be a household that feareth God; may we be delivered from the corruption that is in the world, and may we also dwell together in unity. May we put away from us all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and evil speaking, and all malice, and may we be kind one towards another, forgiving one another, even as we hope that God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us. And help us to know our several duties in life that we may fulfil them. May we be upright and diligent, may we waste no time, and neglect no opportunity of doing good that is



afforded us. May we be ready to every good work.

And teach us to be ever watchful and circumspect, and fearful of running into temptation, but if at any time we are overtaken with a fault, give us grace to confess it and repent of it, and to ask forgiveness, both from God and man.

O Lord pardon the many sins which in times past we have committed against thee. Forgive our forgetfulness of thee our God, and our many trespasses against our neighbours. Grant unto us all true repentance, and help us day by day to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Our Father, &c.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. AMEN.

*Evening Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD our heavenly Father, we beseech thee to hear the prayers which we are about to offer up unto thee; deliver us from all wandering thoughts, and help us to remember that we are now in the presence of that God, unto whom all hearts are open, and from whom no secrets are hid.

O God, we pray thee to forgive the sins of the past day. We acknowledge that we have this day left undone many things which we ought to have done, and done many things which we ought not to have done. We have trespassed against thee in thought, word, and deed. And though we have been encouraged by the Gospel to repent of our iniquities, and to serve God in newness of life, yet we have many times returned to those sins which we

profess to have repented of, and we have fallen into thy just wrath and displeasure.

But we pray thee, O thou God of all grace and goodness, for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, to pardon all that is past, and to take us into thy favor this night, not weighing our merits, but forgiving our offences, and causing us to place our humble trust in thy mercy. Deliver us we pray thee from the troubles of a guilty conscience, now that we are about to lie down to rest. Save us, O Lord, from the dread of death, and from the terrors of the wrath to come. Grant unto us, if it please thee, a quiet night, and make us all to be at peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the same time we beseech thee, not to suffer that we should deceive ourselves by any false hope, but give us grace day by day to examine ourselves with care and diligence, that we may discover all that is amiss in us. O Lord deliver us from continuing in any known sin. Save us from every secret iniquity: may we each of us resolve before we go to rest this night, to forsake, by thy grace assisting us, every former transgression, and may we now devote ourselves entirely to thy service.

We further beseech thee to bless all our relations, friends, and connections: take both them and us under thy protection this night. And have mercy on all those who are in pain, sickness, or any other adversity; do thou lighten their troubles, and support them by thy heavenly grace.

And accept our thanks for a thy goodness vouchsafed unto us this day. Praise be the Lord for all his mercies, for health and strength, and food, and raiment, and comforts of every kind which we have enjoyed. But above all, we desire

to bless thy name for the gift of Jesus Christ thy Son, for the instructions of thy sacred word, and for the hope of everlasting life. O Lord, grant unto us grace to receive these, and all thy blessings with a thankful heart, and let us shew forth thy praise, not with our lips only, but with our lives. Accept, we beseech thee, our imperfect supplications and prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour.

Our Father, &c.

May the grace, &c.

*Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD God Almighty, who searchest the hearts, and triest the reins of all the children of men, and whose eyes are in every place, beholding the evil and the good! We beseech thee to maintain in us this day a constant sense of thy presence.

Thou seest us, O Lord, in our lying down, and in our rising up: "the darkness and the light are both alike to thee;" and there is no place where the workers of iniquity can hide themselves. We pray that the thought of thine all-seeing eye may preserve us from sinning against thee. May we endeavor, on this day, not only to maintain our character with our fellow-creatures, and to find favor in their sight, but may we strive also to please God, and may we do from the heart whatsoever things thou commandest. We pray that when we are alone this day, our secret thoughts may be pure and holy: when we are in company, may we so speak and act as shall be pleasing to our heavenly Father; and when we are labouring in our calling,

may be faithful and diligent, and at the same time may we perform our work in thy fear, and with a view to thy glory.

Preserve us also from all undue eagerness and anxiety in the pursuits of this life. May we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, trusting that all other things which are needful to the body shall be added unto us. And let not our troubles this day overwhelm us; let not any disappointments greatly vex us; and let not the prosperity which thou mayest be pleased to send, become a temptation and a snare. We pray that we may be this day serious and sober-minded, and watchful, and circumspect, and mindful of our eternal interests.

O Lord help us always to remember, that life is short, and that one thing is needful. May we, day by day, be mindful of death, and prepare for eternity. We thank thee that thou hast sent thy Son into the world to save us, and that he hath died for our sins, and hath risen from the dead, and is gone into heaven to prepare a place for us. O God grant, we beseech thee, that we may none of us continue careless and unbelieving, but may we repent of all our past offences, and the life which we now live in the flesh, may we live by the faith of the Son of God. May we trust thy promises in Jesus Christ. May we hope continually in thy mercy: may we set the Lord always before us: may we overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, and may we be willing daily to deny ourselves, as our blessed Savior hath commanded; and thus, by thy grace assisting us, may we so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not those things which

are eternal. We ask this of the sake of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Savior.

May the grace, &c.

*Evening Prayer for a family.*

O LORD God our heavenly Father! assist us now to draw near unto thee with reverence, and grant us the Holy Spirit, that we may worship thee in an acceptable manner, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord God Almighty! we thank thee for all thy mercies during the past day; and we are now met together both to praise thee for thy goodness, and to commend ourselves to thy protection. Preserve us from all the dangers of this night, and grant us if it pleas thee, such quiet and refreshing rest, that we may be prepared for all those duties of life which are before us.

We also earnestly beseech thee to pardon the sins which we may this day have committed and to this end help us now to confess them before thee, examining ourselves with all impartiality and seriousness. Pardon every evil temper which we have shewn this day, and every rash and angry word which we may have spoken. Pardon also any want of strict integrity in our conduct. Pardon whatsoever insincerity and hypocrisy thy holy eyes may have this day seen in any of us. Pardon our want of due watchfulness over ourselves, and our too great readiness to cast blame continually on others. Pardon all our disobedience to the laws: pardon also our want of submission to thy providence, and of zeal to thy service.

For these and all our other sins, which we have any of us either on this day, or at any other time

committed, we here unite in imploring mercy through the name of our most blessed Savior. O Lord, forgive us for Jesus Christ's sake. Lay not any of our past sins to our charge, but blot them out from thy remembrance, for the sake of him who hath died for us. Give us penitent and contrite hearts, and let us lie down this night in thy favor.

We also implore thy blessing on all our friends and relations. Watch over them we beseech thee, by thy good Providence; teach them all to live in thy fear, and to hope in thy mercy. Bless the land in which we live, and especially the faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Have pity on those who are deprived of the comforts which we enjoy, and are lying down this night in pain, sorrow, and affliction; grant them patience under their sufferings, and make them at length partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. And teach us, O Lord, to have compassion on the afflicted, and to pray for them, and to do good unto all men, and to live in peace and harmony one with another.

We offer up these our imperfect prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Savior.

May the grace, &c.

*Prayer for a Family on Sunday Morning.*

O LORD God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless thy name for all thy mercies vouchsafed unto us the children of men.

We thank thee, O Lord, for all the blessings of this life; but especially we praise thee for giving us the holy word, for sending to us the ministers of thy Gospel, and for appointing the Sabbaths to be a season of rest for our bodies, and to be a day on which we may also attend to the salvation of our immortal souls.

O Lord, grant, we beseech thee, that we may rightly use the religious opportunities which we enjoy. Preserve us from thoughtlessness and inattention during thy public worship. In prayer may we feel our need of the mercies we implore. In the confession of sin, may we be effected with the sense of our own unworthiness, and in offering up thanksgivings to God, may we pour out our whole hearts before thee. We pray also, that when we shall hear thy word read, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to us, we may listen with an attentive ear, and receive thy truth into an honest and good heart.

And we beseech thee to preserve in us a right frame of mind throughout the day that is now before us. May we remember that this is the day on which our Savior rose from the dead, having by his death obtained eternal redemption for us. May we therefore think of our ascended Lord, and may we put away from us all folly and vanity, as well as vice and wickedness, and all eager desires after the things of this life, and all anger, and passion, and envy, and malice, and whatsoever else is either unsuitable to this sacred day, or is unbecoming the followers of Jesus Christ.

O Lord, we lament that in passing through the week, we are so often entangled by the care of this life, and overpowered by temptations which come upon us unawares. But we pray thee now to call away our thoughts from earthly things, and to fix them on those unspeakable joys which are at thy right hand for evermore. We pray thee on this day to strengthen our faith, to increase our hope, and to fill our hearts with love to thee, and with fervent charity towards our neighbour. Help us also to

repent of our sins, examining carefully our conduct during the week, and thus may we learn to amend our lives, and to run with patience the race that is set before us.

And, together with these prayers for ourselves, we offer up our supplications in behalf of all christian congregations. Give thy grace to all the ministers of thy Gosple, and enable them every where this day to preach thy word with faithfulness to the souls of men. Make thy Gospel effectual, to pull down the pride of the high minded, to alarm the careless, and convince the wavering, to encourage them that are as yet weak in faith, and to give peace and consolation to every troubled heart.

And, O Lord, we beseech thee, to send thy Gospel to the nations which now sit in darkness. Put an end to all false religion, and idolatry, and ignorance and error; and give thy blessing to those who in distant lands, are making known the light of thy truth.

We offer up these our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Savior.

Our Father, &c.

May the grace, &c.

*Prayer for a Family on Sunday Evening.*

O LORD God Almighty, Father of mercies, we beseech thee, for Christ's sake, to hear the prayers which we are now about to offer up unto thee.

We pray thee, O Lord, to give thy blessing to the instruction which we have this day heard, and to grant that it may be so grafted inwardly in all our hearts, as to bring forth in us the fruits of good living, to the praise and glory of thy name. Par-



don also whatsoever thou hast seen amiss in our worship and services on this day.

And accept, O Lord, our humble confession of all those great and manifold sins, which from time to time, both in thought, word, and deed, we have committed against thee: for we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. We have sinned; O Lord, by our pride and vanity, by our indulgence of many sinful passions, by our fretfulness, impatience, and discontent; by our emulation, our ambition and our covetousness. We have sinned also by our sloth and negligence, by our forgetfulness of many duties of our calling, by our too great love of this present world, and by our carelessness in following many of those evil customs which we have found in it. More especially we have sinned by our inattention to thy written word, to thy preached Gospel, and to all the means of thy grace.

For these, and all our numberless offences, we here implore thy pardon, and forgiveness, in the name of Jesus Christ; at the same time we thank thee for so mercifully providing this Savior for us, who came down from Heaven, and died for our sins, and who sitteth at thy right-hand, making intercession for us.

We also beseech thee, for Christ's sake, to grant unto us the help of thy Holy Spirit, that we may now forsake every evil way, and may amend our lives according to thy holy word. O Lord, preserve us through the ensuing week from sinning against thee. Save us from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Carry us through all our temptations

and dangers. Fit us for whatsoever duties are before us; and when we have fulfilled thy will on earth, receive us at length to thine eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ.

And the same things which we have been imploring for ourselves, we humbly ask in behalf of our dear friends and relations. Grant unto them pardon of their sins, a humble faith in Jesus Christ their Lord, and grace to walk in the way of thy commandments. Be mercifull to the land in which we live. Bless our King, and all in authority. Give thine especial grace to the ministers of thy Gospel, that they may both preach thy true and lively word, and may also be examples to their flock, of all virtue and goodness. Let thy blessing also descend on all the faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Save them from the temptations which are in the world; strengthen their faith and hope, and unite them in the bonds of christian charity with each other. And have pity on all those who neglect thy Gospel, profane thy Sabbaths, and live as if there was no God in the world. Convince them of their sins before it is too late, and incline them to seek for mercy through that Savior, whose grace they now despise. And, O Lord, deliver every one of us from all hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandments. Make us lie down this night thankful for the opportunities of instruction, which we have enjoyed, and for all the blessings of the Gospel. And may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and fear of God, and of his Son Christ Jesus.

Our Father, &c.

May the grace, &c.

*A Family Prayer for Sunday Morning or Evening.*

O LORD God Almighty, who hast given us thy Sabbaths to be a day of rest for our bodies, and of serious attention to the concerns of our souls; who hast also caused the Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, and hast sent among us the ministers of thy Gospel, that through their preaching we may be made wise unto salvation; we beseech thee to give thy blessing to all the means of grace with which we are favored on this day.

Help us to examine our heart and lives, and to discover all that is amiss in us. If there be any duty which we neglect, or any iniquity in which we continue to live; if there be any evil habit to which we yield, or any unchristian temper against which we do not earnestly contend; if also there be any inattention allowed in ourselves in the midst of thy public worship, any neglect of secret prayer, or any dislike to serious piety and devotion, we pray that we may each of us, on this day, discover it through thy grace assisting us. May we perceive the awful danger to our souls, and implore of thee to take away from us the heart of stone, and to put thy spirit within us.

Pardon, O Lord, we beseech thee, the sins of the past week. Pardon also the multiplied iniquities of our lives, by which, day after day, and year after year, we have been adding to the load of our guilt. Here, in thy presence, we would kneel down together to confess them before thee, and we would implore thy mercy in the name of Jesus Christ. O let our offences be all blotted out, and our souls delivered from eternal death, through the merits of him who hath died for us. We acknow-

ledge that we have no hope in ourselves, and that our whole trust and confidence are in thy mercy. Reject not we beseech thee, this prayer of our hearts, but let our cry come up unto thee, O thou merciful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And while we thus pray for ourselves, we earnestly lift up our supplications in behalf of others also. Give thy blessing this day to the preaching of thy Gospel. May thy servants be built up in their most holy faith, and may sinners be converted unto thee. May the Gospel of Christ be believed in this land, and his commandments obeyed; and may the blessed example of his holy life be followed. We pray also that all Christians may have their hearts this day knit together in love, so that they may become disposed to unite in forwarding every good work.

Have pity on the multitudes who are living without God in the world, and who understand neither their own sinfulness nor thy mercy. We lament, O Lord, that wherever we turn our eyes, we see vice and wickedness so dreadfully prevail; and we would pray, as we have been taught to do by our blessed Savior, that thy kingdom may come, and thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven. Send thy Gospel, we beseech thee, to all parts of the world O let thy name be known on earth, thy saving health among all nations. And bless, we pray thee, to this end all those who are laboring in foreign climes, in the cause of Christ, and are making manifest the savor of his name in every place. Give them grace to adorn, by their lives, that holy doctrine which they profess; and let thy Spirit make their word effectual, for the conversion of many hearers.

We further implore thy blessing on our relations and connections, and on all that is dear to us; and we desire to commend both ourselves and them this day to thy protection and mercy.

Give thy special grace to each of us who are united in the same family. Power down thy Spirit upon us. May those that rule in this household be enabled to govern it well, and in the fear of God; and may they have grace to set an example of all goodness and virtue. May every servant be a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ; and may they remember, that they have a Master in Heaven. May those of this family who are young, be preserved from the corruption that is in the world; may they renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanities of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh. And give to those among us who are beginning to advance in years, and especially to such as are aged, grace to redeem the remaining time, and to fulfil the work appointed for them before they leave this present world, and give up their accounts to God. O teach us all to be serious and sober-minded, and to think on our latter end.

Be merciful to us throughout the week, and help us often to renew our repentance, and to strive earnestly to please thee. Strengthen us, O Lord, for all our duties; save us from our several temptations and dangers; comfort us whensoever we come into trouble and adversity; guide us through this world by thy good Providence; and grant that we who have here met together to worship thee on earth, may meet at length, to praise and to bless thee for ever and ever in thy kingdom above.

These prayers we humbly offer up in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*A Family Prayer proper to be used on the Occasion  
of any Death or material Sickness in a Family.*

O LORD God Almighty, who sends to us prosperity or adversity, health or sickness, life or death as thou pleasest; we pray that all the mournful dispensations of thy Providence may be made to teach us wisdom. May they lessen in us the love of this world; may they lead us to cease from every sin, and may they dispose us to great seriousness of mind; and the more we meet with sorrow here, may we only look forward with so much the more earnestness to that happier and better state which thou hast graciously revealed to us.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to grant us faith in all the glorious promise of thy word.

We bless thee, that thy Son Jesus Christ hath brought life and immortality to light by his Gospel, and, that having first died for our sins, he hath also risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept. May we place our hope and trust stedfastly in Christ; may we repent of our iniquities and obtain pardon through his name; and after a life of holy obedience to thy will, may we be made partakers of all the benefits of his resurrection.

And, since we know that our days on earth are so short and uncertain, grant that whatsoever our hands find to do, we may do it with all our might. May we be diligent each of us in our proper work, and watchful and circumspect, and sober-minded and temperate in all things; may we also live in peace and harmony one with another, not rashly judging one another, since we must so soon all meet together to be judged, each of us for our sins, at the judgement seat of Christ.

We beseech thee also, O heavenly Father, to give us patience under the evils of life, and a spirit of resignation to thy righteous will. When thou bestowest on us thy blessings, may we be thankful for them, and when thou art pleased to remove them from us, may we be enabled to say "It is the Lord that giveth and the Lord that taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

And whensoever it shall please thee to call us out of this evil world, we pray that we may be found ready; may we be doing thy will and walking in thy ways, and watching with all prayer and perseverance, lest that day should overtake us unprepared. May thy good Spirit also sustain and strengthen us in our last hours. May the Lord be our help through life, and our support in sickness and in death, and may He be our portion for evermore.

Together with these prayers for ourselves, we would make intercession for others also. [Especially for thy servant whom thou hast visited with sickness, beseeching thee, if it be thy will, to restore his health, and to make him thankful henceforth for thy mercy, and devoted to thy service.]

We pray for them all that are afflicted; may God be merciful to them, and strengthen them under all their trials, and give them, in his good time, deliverance. And especially may the Lord pardon their sins, for Jesus Christ's sake.

We pray for the multitude who are thoughtless of God, and reflect not on death and judgment. Teach thou the young to remember their Creator in the days of their youth. Preserve those who are in the midst of their days, from being occupied only by the things of this life, and dispose the aged to

consider seriously, how fast the day of their death advances.

And now, O Lord, take us all into thy favor; pardon our many sins and imperfections, and give us grace henceforth more carefully to consider our ways; and when we shall have served thee faithfully here on earth, receive us at length to thine eternal kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*A family Prayer proper to be used when any Member of the Family has recovered from Sickness, or on the Occasion of any other special mercy.*

O LORD God Almighty, Father of all mercies, we desire to thank thee for all thy various gifts bestowed upon us. [Especially for thy late mercy vouchsafed to thy servant, who is a member of this family.] Thou hast surrounded each of us with various temporal blessings; thou hast often visited us in great mercy, and wrought out many deliverances for us. When sick, thou hast restored us to health; when in trouble, thou hast delivered us; when in difficulty, thou hast made a way for our escape. We are all the living monuments of thy goodness; and O how great, therefore, should be our thankfulness and praise.

O Lord, we would bless thee with unfeigned hearts for the comforts which now surround us. We bless thee for so favoring us in our lot in life, for multiplying to us thy various gifts, for giving to many of us so much health and strength, as well as to each of us food and raiment, and for bestowing on us friends and benefactors and kind relations. We would remember also, thy great mercy in placing us where thy Gospel is known; we thank



thee for giving us the holy Scriptures to be our guide, for bestowing thy Sabbaths upon us, for permitting us to hear thy word preached in our ears, and for thus favouring us with all the means of grace.

Grant unto us, O Lord, we beseech thee, hearts duly sensible of our Maker's goodness, and teach us often to lift up our thoughts to Him who is the giver of all that we enjoy. Deliver us from a repining spirit. May we be thankful and obedient, and not complaining and self-willed. May we bear, with a quiet mind, such evils of life as may, at any time, befall us, knowing that our lot is always far happier than we deserve; and whensoever we are tempted to impatience, may we think of our sins and also call to remembrance the instances of thy past goodness. And we pray thee to give us also a spirit of meekness and forbearance towards our fellow-creatures. Thou, O Lord, hast long borne with us, O may we bear with one another, and be ready to forgive, even as we hope to be forgiven. May we walk according to the spirit of thy Gospel in all humility and meekness, and patience, and loving-kindness, and charity, bearing one another's burdens, and so fulfilling the law of Christ.

And pardon all our sins in time past, and especially our want of due gratitude and thankfulness. May we each of us repent both of our trespasses against thee, and of every evil temper towards our neighbour. May we enjoy the future favours with a more thankful heart, and, while we receive benefits at thy hands, may we ourselves endeavor to shew mercy and loving-kindness unto all men. These and all other things, which thou knowest to

be needful for us, we humbly ask, in the name, and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c. &c.

*A Prayer for true Repentance, proper either for a Family, or for an Individual.*

O LORD God Almighty, who has power over the hearts of men, we beseech thee to bestow upon us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and to grant unto us true repentance and faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold offences, which, from time to time, both in thought, word, and deed, we have committed against thee, and we place all our hope in thy mercy. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be all the praise given for our salvation. We have broken thy law, we have despised thy grace, we have been deaf to the invitations of thy gospel. Day after day we have hardened our hearts against thee. We have committed many and grievous offences, both against God and against our neighbour. We are conscious of many a secret sin, of which thou, and thou only, hast been the witness; and, when we number up the trespasses of all our past lives, we are confounded by the multitude of our iniquities. But thou, O Lord, art merciful and gracious, not willing that any should perish, but that all should turn unto thee, and our Savior hath declared, that whosoever cometh unto him, he will in no wise cast out. We would now repent and draw near to God with unfeigned sorrow and contrition of soul; and we would implore thy promised mercy. O Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief. Enable us to put our whole trust in Christ, and to cast our-

55  
selves, as lost sinners, on thy mercy. We plead the name of Him who hath died for us. O pardon our offences, for Jesus Christ's sake, and for his sake receive us now into thy favor, and make us heirs of eternal life.

We pray also, that having repented of all our sins which are past, we may have grace to lead a new life, and to walk henceforth in the way of thy commandments. Let not our temptations again overpower us, let not sin regain the dominion over us, lest we fall into tenfold condemnation. Give us strength against all the enemies of our souls; put thy fear into our hearts: make us watchful and circumspect, and careful to avoid temptation, lest we should again be found sinning against thee.

And deliver us from all delusion and self-deceit. Make us fearful of indulging ourselves in any false hope, and anxious to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. And to this end may the Spirit of Truth enlighten and direct us. Do thou keep us, O Lord in all our ways. O strengthen what is weak, and perfect all that is wanting in us. Help us, when we are tried, to endure temptation, and preserve us blameless unto the day of the second coming of our Lord and Savior.

These our earnest prayers we humbly offer up in the name of Jesus Christ.

*A Prayer proper to be used in a Family during the present War.*

O LORD God Almighty, who are wont to visit nations with thy judgments, in order that they may repent and turn unto thee, we beseech thee to hear our prayers in behalf of this sinful land.

We acknowledge that thou justly punishest us for our offences, for we have forgotten the God of our Fathers, and we have turned aside from the Gospel of our salvation. And, through this forgetfulness of thee, we have fallen into many and grievous sins, and have provoked thy just indignation.

O Lord, we lament the vice, and wickedness, the fraud and covetousness, the hatred and variance and the many unchristian and unholy tempers which abound among us. We lament also the self-confidence and pride of heart with which we have been filled; for we have not thanked thee in our prosperity, and in our adversity we have not humbled ourselves before our God. We have trusted in ourselves, and in an arm of flesh, and have not looked unto Him from whom our help cometh.

Assist us, therefore, now to confess from the heart our dependance upon thee, and hear thou the earnest supplications which we would offer to thy Divine Majesty.

O Lord, have mercy upon us for Jesus Christ's sake. Pardon the numberless sins of this guilty nation, and, in thy great mercy; turn away thy judgments from us. Save us, we beseech thee from the hand of our enemies. Suffer them not to prevail against us. Dispose thou their rulers to peace; and unite the hearts of the people of these kingdoms, and incline them always to live in harmony one with another. And whatsoever sins any of us, who are here present, may have committed, whereby we have contributed to bring down thy wrath upon our native land, do thou forgive, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Have compassion, we beseech thee, on all orders of men among us. Bless our King, defend him from

all secret conspiracies, and open violence; prolong his life, prosper his days, and endue his ministers with grace, wisdom, and understanding.

Give thy blessing to the Houses of Parliament; and grant that all things maybe so ordered and settled by their endeavors, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations.

We pray for the magistrates of the land, that they may be every where a punishment to evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well,

Give thy special grace to all the ministers of thy Gospel: enable them to go forth in thy strength, proclaiming thy judgements to the impenitent, and the greatness of thy mercy to those who are humble and contrite in heart: and grant that the cause of Christ may prosper in their hands.

Bless, we pray thee, the whole rising generation, Preserve them from the contagion of evil principles, and grant that they may be trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We would add our humble and earnest supplications for the poor, the sick, and the afflicted. Give them grace to bear with a patient mind the trials which thou appointest for them. Deliver them from too much care about the things of this world. Make them rich in faith, and anxious chiefly to do the will of God, always looking forward with cheerful hope to a better world.

We pray also our enemies, that thou wouldst forgive them, and turn their hearts, and make them all to be at peace with us.

And, finally, we pray for all our bretheren of mankind, that a way may be opened in thy pro-

vidence for making known thy Gospel, and also for establishing it in its purity all over the earth.

And now, O Lord, to thee do we commend ourselves, and all that are dear to us, beseeching thee to guard us from evil, and to grant, that whatsoever may be thy judgments all around us, we may be kept in perfect peace, having our minds stayed on thee. And whensoever it shall please thee to call us out of this evil world, recieve us to thyself; all which we ask, in the name, and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May the grace, &c.



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