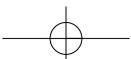
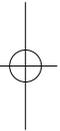
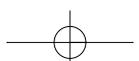
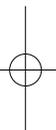


# **INTERCESSORY SERVICES FOR AID IN PUBLIC WORSHIP**





# INTERCESSORY SERVICES

BY

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# INTERCESSORY SERVICES FOR AID IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

BY

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## PREFACE

THESE services are published willingly enough, but at the same time not quite spontaneously. They were prepared for my own use and my congregation's when I was Minister at Cheetham Hill, several years ago (and not printed even then); and their appearance now is at the request and cost of a well-known Manchester Congregationalist, who is deeply interested in the improvement of our Public Worship.

It is, of course, an open question among us how far the use of such forms is an improvement. Yet it would seem to argue some lack of knowledge or of sensibility in anyone who should contend that the present condition of our public prayer is quite satisfactory. While some go so far as to say that our losses to the Established Church are more

due to our abuse of the principle of free prayer than to any other single cause.

I am not sure that this contention is wholly extravagant. And it is a serious thing enough, if we have, to any large extent, lost the power of wielding the mighty weapon we inherit, or blowing our magic horn.

But I am quite certain, all the same, that the right and exercise of free prayer is vital to our existence as evangelical free churches. If we were condemned to an exclusive choice, there could be no question which way it must lie. We must choose for free prayer.

Even its secondary effect on the congregation is, or may be, of at least as much value as the sermon,

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when the proper conditions of grace, diligence, leisure, and sympathy are present in the minister, and when freedom of prayer is not used to discourage due preparation.\*

Still, when this has been decisively said, it remains true that our poverty is nowhere more conspicuous than in our public devotions. And, even if some demur to this, it will on reflection probably be admitted that the intercessory element is the sphere where the exercise of extemporaneous devotion is least possible and least in place. We might become liturgical there without touching the ark of free prayer at all. The intercessory part of public prayer is not in its nature an outpouring of the spirit-stirred soul in the name, and in the midst, of a like-minded and like-moved church. Perhaps the exclusive use of free prayer descends to us from a time when the worshipping congregation was almost identical with the church of believers, who had a real spiritual experience, and whose soul of faith the minister found it easy to utter through his own. Whereas now the church is but the minority of the congregation, and a power so sympathetic as free prayer cannot do its mighty work because of unbelief. The conditions for its sole use may have ceased to exist; and if so, then the nature of intercessory prayer offers a fit opening for a liturgical element, to the great enrichment, freshness, and enlargement of heart in our devotion.

\* It is to be feared that there is a somewhat morbid scrupulosity in many cases on this last head. I have myself always openly claimed the right to use in the pulpit brief notes in aid of prayer. I do not find them always necessary, but the right should be claimed it not always used, so that in the use it shall be understood there is nothing furtive. But the great preparation for prayer is to pray.

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it may, of course, be objected that this is to imitate the Established Church. If we care to reply to that class of argument, it might be pointed out that to pray in public at all is to imitate the Established Church, and even the Roman, for they were both at the work long before we were. Some liturgical aid was, moreover, the practice of the Universal Church, from which we all sprang. And it might further be remembered that, with almost all ministers, intercession falls into forms more or less individual and stereotyped by the inevitable limits of human faculty. It then seems to become a question of praying with the eyes open or shut.

I think, however, that if the experiment were once made, it would be found that in intercession the congregation would feel more than repaid for any departure from our traditions by the freshness and varied petition possible with a prepared and read service. But the experiment will certainly fail with us unless the minister can make and keep it clear that his reading is none the less really prayer.

This, however, is not the place to enter on a full discussion of the question. The following services are offered, with a good deal of hesitation, for the possible use of the churches; with much respect, for the possible help of my ministerial brethren; and, with a reverence that prays to be humility, for the praise of God. It seems at times an almost hopeless task, for all but a finely-gifted few, to combine by any pains that warmth and passion which should never be wanting in prayer, with that chasteness which should always temper it in public prayer. I have tried to avoid language strikingly modern. It is never by modernity of phrase that we can get true freshness in prayer. *Barbarum verbum ut scopulum evitavit.* Of course,

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if any minister choose to change or omit words or phrases which may seem to suit the writer's individuality more than his own, that he is free to do. The services are but aids. And it will be seen how largely they are compilations.

The responses restore to the Church that share in public prayer which we have parted with so entirely, so amazingly, to the minister. This is a most singular thing taken with the vigilance exercised, and with much jealousy sometimes, over privileges of far less moment, like the disbursement of funds, the control of ventilation, or the painting of pews. And in the case of such anti-sacerdotalists as we are it is more surprising still. Nor

can we find a ready reply when it is said to show more antipathy to a particular church and its usage than sympathy with the Holy Spirit of common prayer in the Church universal. What keeps us silent is not spirituality, as with the Friends, and we need not flatter ourselves it is, but an overdriven individualism, which makes us proudly timid, and which in other forms is dissolving our churches into mere associations, not to say audiences.

These responses should be sung to be of much use. It is on a musical note, and not a spoken, that a congregation rises to the courage of hearing its own voice, especially where it is new to the attempt.

If the Lord's Prayer has been already used in the service, the minister may substitute for it some verse or collect fit for a close.

P.T.F.

Cambridge,  
Spring, 1896.

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## INTERCESSORY SERVICES

### I

**M**AKER of all flesh, Lord and Giver of Life, Father of all Spirits, Redeemer of the ends of the earth, as thou art all in all, so we would remember all in thee. And, looking for the time when all shall be brought to thee in very deed, so we would now bring them to thee in prayer.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

We pray for the whole family of man, that thou wouldst speed the hour when men shall worship as Sons, to the Glory of the Father's Grace; and behave as brethren, to the Praise of the Prince of Peace.

We beseech Thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord of Hosts, who hast set down thine innumerable company in peoples and nations upon the earth, we praise Thee because thou hast appointed unto us this fair and favoured land. May we ever honour thy righteous law, and steadfastly make thy justice our people's power. Help us to undo the evil that is past, to repair the former desolations, to discern the signs of the times, to prosper the right, and to be a godly example of peace and goodwill among men.

We beseech Thee to hear us, O God.

As thou hast ordained authority in our midst, we pray thee bestow upon our rulers grace, wisdom, and strength; and grant that they may so govern always that the Lord Christ may both reign and rule.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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Thou hast set thine eyes upon the hearts of men, and mindest all their ways. Visit with thy judgment the workers and defenders of wrong. But shine on the path of those that suffer it. Hide not from them thy hand, nor leave them to be bitter as if there were no God. But in the very midst of tribulation and woe pour forth the grace that in patience hath its perfect work.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

We beseech hhee, O Lord, for thy Church throughout the world. May it grow in the Faith of the Cross and the power of the Resurrection. Keep it in thy eternal unity, in great humility, in godly fear, and in thine own pure and peaceable Wisdom so easy to be entreated. Make it swift and mighty in the cause and Kingdom of Heaven. Cover, stablish, and enlighten it, that it may see through all that darkens the time, and move in the shadow of thy wing, with faith, obedience, and sober power.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Be with all that labour and fight for the freedom of thy Gospel and the purity of thy Word. Defend them from the world's cold, and the Church's hate; from error, and haste, and passionate sin; from sloth, and pride, and the fear of man.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For all those who are prophets in word and for all who are priests by deed; for those who preach thy Gospel, and those who lead our living sacrifices; for those that are called to be our saints, and those that are forward in doing good;

We beseech Thee to hear us, O God.

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For all teachers, comforters, peacemakers, and reformers; for all healers and helpers, mothers-in-Israel and fathers-in-God; that they may labour in hope, suffer in love, love unto death, and die with Christ in faith of an endless life;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For the ignorant, the angry, the stubborn, and the proud; for the victims of envy and the captives of care; for the slow of heart, the dead in spirit, and the sick in soul;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For all poor men, neglected women, and deserted children; for all, sheep without shepherds; for all youths masterless, and maidens without grace; for the old that are still unwise, and the afflicted that are still unkind; and for all that draw near the term of life and the shadow of death;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

God be merciful to us sinners, and in Christ graciously judge and pardon us for our iniquities of thought, word, and deed. May the night of sorrow not descend on the blindness of sin, but may thy forgiveness for Christ's sake shine within us all our way, and be a sunshine in our shadow, and our everlasting light.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

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## II.

**O**LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! O let thy glory, grace, and truth be openly showed in the sight of the world, and let all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God. Pour out thy Spirit upon all that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Quicken their witness to the power and glory of his cross; and give to all that name the name of Christ to depart from iniquity.

We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord.

Spread in our midst the spirit of pure religion and undefiled. Deliver us from past error, and present perils, and fears to come. May the faith of Christ work in us the love of man, and keep us from the love of the world. May the fellowship of his death move us truly to measure our days, and reveal the hidden riches of many secret things.

We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord.

We praise thee, O God, for the blessed dead who have departed this life in thy fear. We praise thee for the fathers who have showed forth to us thy truth. We bless thee for the patience and humility of the Saints, the memory of the just, the valour and the wisdom of the wise. O keep us in the same heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy word.

We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord.

O Lord and Father of the sons of men, give unto all godly parents the desire of their soul concerning their children. Endue all that teach them with the patience wherewith thou dost wait in faith for the in-gathering of the slow world. May our children be

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II

rising to bless us in the name of the Lord. May they seek the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Grant that they be not made by any carelessness of ours to pierce our own souls. And turn thou the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that the generations to come way be a people righteous and ready for the Lord.

We beseech thee to bear us, O Lord.

O Lord of nations, look on this our people. Though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee. Yet thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us; we are called by thy name. Leave us not. Be not as a stranger in the land, or a traveller that tarries for a night; but come in and abide with us ever. Be a wall of fire around us, and a glory in the midst of us, our salvation, our health, and our peace.

We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord.

And may all the helpless find a very present help in Thee. There be those that suffer through mischance, ignorance, and malice in many lands. Open thou a gate within their soul that they may escape from the bondage of bitterness through the sweetness of Christ. Specially we pray for the many who are ground down by the wickedness of men; and they cannot serve thee, or even suffer for thee. There are wronged souls; Lord bring them to their own. Open to them gates of righteousness that they may go in thereat and be glad. But until they possess the land feed them in the wilderness; cheer them in their day of dismal things; and by Thy great cross and grace preserve to better life all those that are daily thus appointed to die.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord, our Redeemer, we beseech Thee for all who are let and hindered in their approach to Thee. O Living Light, we pray to thee for all poor souls who once had light, but now are vext and dim. There are those for whom the former things are passed away, but all things are not yet made new. They wander in pathless ways, far from rest, and from help of man. Keep thou their faces still to the morning. Keep their feet still in the living way. Prepare within them the revelation of thy Son. Give them his gospel for a creating that so a new world may arise from their void, and in his grace they may become free indeed.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

And, O Lord, there are those whose mind is shaken with grief, and their heart made hard and bitter by trouble. They are bound in affliction and iron. They sit in heaviness, and they are full of sorrow. O give them grace in the time of their adversity to consider deep things, and to see things holden from the light of happy days. Rise to their faith from the very tomb, and in their hearts pass to thy kingdom of glory; that they may be amazed with light who were once benumbed with sorrow, and may glory in the life which cannot die.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

And those, O Lord God, our Judge and our Hope, those whose sin has found them out, and come home to them in sure and secret ways which no man knoweth but their own heart alone; those who had gone with the fools and knew not that the long ways of thy judgment are in the great deep; we remember them—whom thou hast never forgotten. Give them thankfully to bear the indignation of the Lord because they

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have sinned against him. Plead thou, thyself their cause. Execute judgment for them. Accept the amendment of their lives, their silent penitence, their secret pain and prayer; and bring them forth unto the light of forgiveness by the one saving sorrow of thy Son made sin for us upon his cross.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever.  
Amen.

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### III.

**F**ATHER of Spirits, whose Word hath gone forth unto the ends of the earth, and to whom no heart or tongue is strange. dwell and rule over more and more in the soul of all mankind. More and more breathe the spirit of the one Grace and Life into the hearts of all flesh. Make them to move like a host in the new and living way; and by the mighty working of thy righteousness be thou to all nations their unity, peace, and concord.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Light Eternal, shine upon the darkness of our earthly mind; take from our eyes the scales of worldly wisdom and spiritual fear. Our feet are slow; and they falter, and wander, and miss the goal. Be a light into the paths of peace. Confirm our feeble knees. Make us steady where thou dost hold, and trustful where thou dost lead. Hold up the weak-hearted lest they suddenly fall, and settle the doubting minds, that they may gain the victory which overcometh the world.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

We love thy courts, O Christ, and entreat thee to send light and peace into thy sanctuary. Cleanse thy temple with the fire of thy Word and the baptism of thy blood. Make the place of thy crucified feet glorious. Arm thy prophets with the sword of thy spirit, and thy ministers with the word of reconciliation; and bring all thy servants to the obedience of faith and the Kingdom of Heaven.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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Visit, O Lord, our native land, and let these isles of ours wait for the word of thy law. Crown our Queen with the glory of those who serve thee day and night, casting their crowns down before thy throne. Gird her with the Majesty of the Most High, and guide her with the wisdom which cometh down from above. Endow her ministers and counsellors with a discerning spirit of pure and peaceable rule. And dispose us all, whether princes or people, to repair our heritage of wrong, to quit us like godly men, to show forth thy glory, and bring thy kingdom in.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord, who art rich unto all, give thy grace to all them that are rich in this world, that they may be stewards of thine, rich in good works, ready to communicate, laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the reckoning-time to come.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord, who hast chosen the poor of this world who may be rich in faith to be heirs of thy Kingdom, and who hast ordained that man shall eat his bread in the sweat of his brow and the labour of his hands, we pray thee to grave deep in the hearts of all workmen the willingness to labour according to thy will. Amid the hardships of toil deny them not the joy of faithful work, the sweetness of earned rest, and the happy leisure that is their due. Lighten the load of labour which makes heaviness of spirit and pitiful mirth. Kindle a care for the things which are lovely and of a fair report. And more and more make the toiling world a happy land.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Make thyself known, thou Rock of Ages, to all the desolate as a refuge in the day of trouble, as a

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defence in danger, and the Great Healer of all grief, as the Father of the fatherless, and the strong companion of all who are lonely. Speak the one blessed word to the mourner, the captive, the crucified, the weary, the laden, and the dying, and leave them with thine exceeding peace.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

And, finally, give unto all mortal men the Holy Spirit and newness of life. Let thy salvation bring both to the godless and the godly a true and abiding repentance not to be repented of. Make us all to sorrow in a godly sort, that we may patiently bear the judgments we deserve, fearing only to be forgotten by thee, and prosper in leanness of soul. And the sorrows we deserve not may we bear in the crucified fellowship of the Holy One and the Just. Only bring us from darkness into light, and from light into more light—yea, even to the love eternal, the Lamb slain, the lifted curse, and the redeeming grace.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever.  
Amen.

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#### IV.

OUR Lord Jesus hath taught us to pray not only with others, but for them. He gave himself as a ransom for all according to the will of God, who willeth that all men everywhere should be saved body, soul, and spirit. Let us also, in Christ, give ourselves for all in his sacrifice of prayer, not only making supplication for all saints, but doing this good unto all men, and especially having compassion on those that are ignorant and out of the way.

Let us pray.

O Lord, let thy way be known upon the earth, thy saving health unto all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad, and sing for joy, for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Fill the redeemed earth with thy salvation, O Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Create peace, O God, to them that are afar off, and peace to them that are nigh. At home and abroad confound the devices of those who trouble thy kingdom; and restrain and foil those who delight to hurt, to avenge, and to destroy. And raise up many peoples in thy fear to be quiet habitations of righteousness, and temples not to be taken down.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord, move amid the counsels of the rulers of men. And whatever designs are in *their* hearts let thy counsel stand, and fulfil the thoughts of *thy* heart unto all generations. Amidst many kings may the

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God of Heaven set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed, and give the world such peace that no man can make trouble.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord, thou hast dealt favourably with us in England, and hast given unto us a pleasant land. We have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us what work thou didst for us in their day, and in the old time before them. But, O God, we are a stiffnecked race, a proud nation,

and a people laden with iniquity. Yet we are called by thy name, we have kept thy faith, and we have done thy works. O leave us not, nor forsake us. Establish thy house among us, and exalt it. Revive the witness of our godly sires. Open our eyes by the old gospel to thy present will. Lead us by the old light to our larger place and promised land. And instruct us, by great and godly guides, in thy public law. Teach us the path of kind and equal justice. that grievance and envy among us may die away. And grant that beyond the seas our ways may so please the Lord that even our enemies may be at peace with us. And so may the counsel of the Lord may be our treasure, and wisdom and knowledge become the stability of our times, and our strength of salvation.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O let the throne of Christ endure for ever amongst us, and may there be no famine of the word of the Lord. Let the faithful flourish in our land. Give power to those that fear thee, and let those that love thee be as the sun when it goeth forth in its strength. Revive, O Lord, the mind and conscience of thy church, that it may truly minister to the needs of this great and troubled time. Raise up prophets,

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apostles, and martyrs in our midst to freely unbind the word of truth, and boldly speak the counsel of God.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For all schools and universities of learning we beseech thee, that it may please thee, thou Father of Lights to endow them with every good and perfect gift, and bless their treasures of wisdom and knowledge. We would specially pray for all homes of sacred learning, and all who teach and study the deep things of God. Reveal to them the riches of thy revelation. Open the secrets of thy kingdom as they search the mind of Christ. May they cast salt into the fountains of our people's manhood, that the latter waters thereof may be healed, and that we may come to a sounder, holier mind.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For the many brethren unknown to us but known to thee, who spend their labour for us, and go in jeopardy of their lives on sea, and land, and in the depths of the earth. Defend them in peril, lighten their toil, and brighten their lot. May the power of duty go with them in all labour, and the power of justice give them their due; and may they find their great wage in that which the world cannot give.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord, thou knowest our frame, and rememberest that we are dust. Pity the sorrows of such as are torn by undeserved pain. Refresh all that are worn by perpetual care. Light up the faith of the dying. And comfort the bereaved with thy regard. Deliver the souls of those who are bound in the chain of their own misdeeds. And send thy Pentecostal power and joy to those holy ones who have

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the world's sin for a great burden upon their souls. We bear all our fear, and sin, and sorrow to the Redeemer who bears them all before thee, and by his intercession heals them all.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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. The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

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## V.

**O**LORD, who art rich in mercy unto all, who madest thy Son to be a light unto the nations and the glory of thine Israel, to proclaim redemption to the captives and sight unto the blind; grant that the children of men may speedily come to be sons of God, and the heathens Christians indeed.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord of changeless power and endless life, be favourable unto thy Church throughout the world. Gather, enlighten, sanctify, and sustain it by the Holy Spirit. Give us more and more to trust the silent working of thy perpetual Grace, which bringeth forth in Christ the salvation of men. And let the whole world know that the things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and all things are returning to the perfection of him from whom they came.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Visit, O Lord, this congregation which thou hast gathered in the holy name, and whose hearts thou hast set upon eternal things. May we go on from strength to strength. Whatever we leave behind we would press to the fulness of Christ. Enlarge us while we worship thee. Perfect thy gifts in us that we may serve thee in true freedom, in great power, with faith unfeigned, from a pure heart fervently. Store up thy grace in our hearts as food for our desert way. Prosper our labours, and further us with thy continual help, so that we may compass by thy blessing what our human frailty cannot attain.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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We beseech thee, O Lord, for all who are joined to us by affection, by friendship, by the bond of duty, or the ties of blood. No length of time, nor breadth of space can part thee from those for whom thou carest. Endow us with thy loving and constant mind. Sanctify our unity of love by the unity of faith, and adorn all our ties of nature by the bond of grace. Whether we visit thy house or break our bread at home, may we take thy food in great gladness and singleness of heart.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O God, who art our Refuge in pain, our Strength in weakness, our Help in tribulation, and our Solace in tears, heal, we pray thee, the diseases of those who are sick, turn all grief to prayer, and for all prayer give peace. May those who are harassed by fears, afflicted by poverty, fretted by care, worn down by illness, or given over to punishment, be set free by thy Redemption, raised to amendment of life, and cherished by thy strong compassion. And to the dying open the gates of righteous life, that the grave itself may praise thee and Death declare thy Glory.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord, our Redeemer, who willest not that any should perish, look upon the souls which are deceived by the world and the flesh, that they may be corrected, but not in thine anger; upon all who have lost their early grace, that they may receive the gift of faithful repentance; upon all perverse sinners against the light, that the hearts of the disobedient be turned to the wisdom of the just; and every kind of error do thou amend that it may be brought into the way of truth.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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O Lord, who art mightier than mighty nations and wiser than the counsels of the wise, rule and guide this nation of ours. Lead us in a way we know not to a wisdom we have not known. Send for our captains just men, strong and wise, men godly, ????, and pure. And to our people, grant the love of justice and the zeal of things equal and right. Direct our steps into the way of peace. Whatever is broken, bind us in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of Christ. Strengthen our hearts in the face of all fear to obey thy commandments. And may the Day-spring visit us from on high, and give up to see light clearly for peoples who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. So shall we adore thee for thy mercy, follow thee for thy truth, and desire thee for thine excellent goodness.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Our Father, who 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, The power, and the glory, For ever and over. Amen.

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## VI.

**O**LORD, who hast made the world and all that is therein, how excellent is thy wisdom, how manifold are thy works; the earth is full of thy riches, so is the great and wide sea also. Thou didst create the dry land for the habitation of man and beast, and the fruits thereof for their food and joy. Thou hast also taught us to go down to the sea in ships, and to do business in great waters. We pray thy blessing upon the wealth of the earth, upon the harvest of the year, on the merchandise of our people, and on the labour by which we use thine abundant gifts.

For all husbandmen and tillers of the ground, for all keepers of sheep and oxen, and for all by whose rural labour we are clothed and fed. Give them fruitful seasons, and fill us with food and gladness, that so our mouths may show forth thy praise;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For our manservants and maidservants, that in service of us they may be servants of the one God, theirs and ours; that they may be obedient

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in all singleness of heart, not in the way of eye-service as man-pleasers, but as seeing him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For all masters and mistresses, that they may master their own hearts and order their own lives aright before their Master in Heaven; that so they may render the things that are just and equal; that

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they may faithfully rule their servants, and duly consider them, and provoke them not unto anger;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For all who toil and spin in mill or mine; for those who lay their band unto the spindle or tend the shuttle in the loom; or all who labour away from men in the darkness of the earth; and for those who order and rule their toll; that their work may clothe them with honest praise, and their rest dispel the spirit of heaviness;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For all who labour in the building and adorning of our temples, our palaces, or our homes; for all craftsmen who are skilled in all manner of workmanship, and who devise cunning works; that they may have the spirit of understanding and knowledge; that they may build also the glory of the heavenly sanctuary, and with their souls adorn the house not made with hands;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

For all who trade in shop and market, and especially for this our land, whose merchants are princes, and its traffickers the honourable of the earth. May our merchandise and our hire be holiness unto the Lord. As with the people so may it be with the priest; as with the servant so with his master; as with the maid go with her mistress; as with the buyer so with the seller; as with the lender so with the borrower—may righteousness be the girdle of our loins, and uprightness the stay of our power;

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord, who hast taught us that the riches of wickedness profit us nothing and who blisseth the

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habitations of the just, let thy Holy Spirit guide and control us both in the devising and in the doing of our business. Deliver us from the slavery of gain, and from an evil concern for our own selves. Bring public corruption to open shame. Cleanse our gold from bloodguiltiness. Be

thou our Law-giver and thou our King. Save us from the golden calf, the faithless priest, and the broken law. Bestow thy blessing on our honest labour, and make our diligence fruitful by thy smile. Give unto us for our portion here that good name which is better than the precious ointment. And teach us to take heed only for the thing that is right, and to east all our care on thee.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

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## VII.

### FOR CHILDREN.

**O** LORD, who didst once speak unto the whole world by a little child, bear thy children when they make bold in him to speak unto thee.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

We praise thee that thou hast taught us not to fear thee with a quaking fear, but in the faith, fear, and love of thy dear child Jesus. O Lord, so guide our hearts and order our lives that we may ever freely turn to thee, and over joyfully find thee.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord our God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and whose nature and property it ever is to have mercy and to forgive, forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances, and grant us grace daily to amend our lives according to Jesus Christ thy living Word.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Eternal Father, who hast prepared everlasting life for all such as be thy faithful servants, grant that while we are here in this world we may have some knowledge of that good life in our hearts.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

O Lord most wise, be thou the Guide of our youth. Thou hast watched us through long nights with thy sleepless eye. Thou hast kept us through happy days with thy most comfortable hand. Thou hast borne

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us and carried us, thou hast corrected us and pitied us, and taught us to rejoice and hope and pray. O Lord, so guard us in our youth that we shall be worthy to grow old; and make us such when we are old that we shall not be ashamed to remember our youth.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Grant us, Heavenly Father, to be exercised in thy will by obedience to those whom thou hast put in authority over us. And so exalt thy law in our hearts and grave it deep on our minds. Teach us how to do our duty and serve thy kingdom and trust thy Christ; that we may always honour the highest things, and love the holiest, and live to thee for ever.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Defend us, O God, from pride, self-love, sloth, and a lying spirit. Bless our tasks and purify our play. Give us hearts of kindness and gentle speech. Give us grace never to envy another's good. But make us able to rejoice in our neighbours' gifts, and to be glad that thou hast better children than we.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

And, O Lord, who art good to all, pity the poor and those that have no helper. Heal those who are sick, and give ease where there is any trouble.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Defend and provide for all orphan children, and those that are cruelly used; all widows, and such people as are in any way neglected, lonely, and oppressed.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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Bless and keep in thy light and love our parents, friends, teachers, helpers, and benefactors. As thou doest good unto all, bestow thy kindly grace upon all who have done good unto us.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

And stretch out thy favour and thy protection to our native land. God save our Queen and all her counsellors, and preserve unto righteousness both all our rulers and all our people.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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O God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us. Make us to love thee as our Everlasting Father, trust thee as our soul's Redeemer, obey thee as our Immortal King, and fear thee with a godly fear, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

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, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

