

The first (1790) American Book of Common Prayer,
Formatted as the original

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P R A Y E R S .

¶ *Let us pray.*

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

¶ *A General Thanksgiving.*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts

may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer of St. Chrysostom.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that, when two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

2 Cor. xiii. 14.

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

Here endeth the LITANY.

P R A Y E R S and T H A N K S G I V I N G S upon several Occasions, to be used before the two final Prayers of MORNING and EVENING SERVICE.

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¶ *A Prayer for CONGRESS, to be used during their Session.*

Most gracious God, we humbly beseech thee, as for the Peoples of these United States in general, so especially for their Senate and Representatives in Congress as-

sembled; That thou wouldest be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations, to the advancement of thy Glory, the good of thy Church, the safety, honour, and welfare of thy people; that all things may be so ordered and settled

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tled by their endeavours, upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. These and all other necessaries, for them, for us, and thy whole Church, we humbly beg in the Name and mediation of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

¶ *For Rain.*

O God, heavenly Father, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all those who seek thy kingdom, and the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance; send us, we beseech thee, in this our necessity, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort, and to thy honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For Fair Weather.*

A Lmighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech thee, of thy great goodness, to restrain those immoderate rains, wherewith, for our sins, thou hast afflicted us: And we pray thee to send us such seasonable weather, that the earth may, in due time, yield her increase for our use and benefit; and give us grace, that we may learn, by thy punishments, to amend our lives, and for thy clemency to give thee thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *In Time of Dearth and Famine.*

O God, heavenly Father, whose gift it is that the rain doth fall, and the earth bring forth her increase; behold, we beseech thee, the afflictions of thy people; increase the fruits of the earth by

thy heavenly benediction; and grant that the scarcity and dearth, which we now most justly suffer for our sins, may, through thy goodness, be mercifully turned into plenty, for the love of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

¶ *In Time of War and Tumults.*

A LMIGHTY God, the supreme governor of all things, whose power no creature is able to resist, to whom it belongeth justly to punish sinners, and to be merciful to those who truly repent; save and deliver us, we humbly beseech thee, from the hands of our enemies; that we, being armed with thy defence, may be preserved evermore from all perils, to glorify thee, who art the only giver of all victory; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For those who are to be admitted into holy Orders, to be used in the weeks preceding the stated times of Ordination.*

A Lmighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast purchased to thyself an universal Church by the precious blood of thy dear Son; mercifully look upon the same, and at this time so guide and govern the minds of thy servants, the Bishops and Pastors of thy flock, that they may lay hands suddenly on no man, but faithfully and wisely make choice of fit persons to serve in the sacred ministry of thy Church. And, to those who shall be ordained to any holy function, give thy grace and heavenly benediction; that, both by their life and doctrine they may show forth thy glory and set forward the salvation

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vation of all men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Or this.*

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine providence hast appointed divers orders in thy Church; give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all those who are to be called to any office and administration in the same; and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue them with innocency of life, that they may faithfully serve before thee to the glory of thy great Name, and the benefit of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *In Time of great Sickness and Mortality.*

O Almighty God, the Lord of life and death, of sickness and health; regard our supplications, we humbly beseech thee; and, as thou hast thought fit to visit us for our sins with great sickness and mortality, in the midst of thy judgment, O Lord, remember mercy. Have pity upon us miserable sinners, and withdraw from us the grievous sickness with which we are afflicted. May this thy fatherly correction have its due influence upon us, by leading us to consider how frail and uncertain our life is; that we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom, which in the end will bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For a Sick Person.*

O Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; Look down from heaven, we humbly beseech thee, behold, visit, and relieve

thy sick servant for whom our prayers are desired: Look upon *him* with the eyes of thy mercy; comfort *him* with a sense of thy goodness; preserve *him* from the temptations of the enemy; give *him* patience under *his* affliction; and, in thy good time, restore *him* to health, and enable *him* to lead the residue of *his* life in thy fear, and to thy glory: Or else give *him* grace so to take thy visitation, that, after this painful life ended, *he* may dwell with thee in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For a Sick Child.*

Almighty God, and merciful Father, to whom alone belong the issues of life and death; Look down from heaven, we humbly beseech thee, with the eyes of mercy, upon the sick child for whom our prayers are desired; Deliver *him*, O Lord, in thy good appointed time, from *his* bodily pain, and visit *him* with thy salvation; that if it should be thy good pleasure to prolong *his* days here on earth, *he* may live to thee, and be an instrument of thy glory, by serving thee faithfully, and doing good in *his* generation. Or else receive *him*, into those heavenly habitations where the souls of those who sleep in the Lord Jesus enjoy perpetual rest and felicity. Grant this, O Lord, for the love of thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *For a Person, or Persons, going to Sea.*

O Eternal God, who alone spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the sea; we commend, to thy almighty protection, thy servant, for whose

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preservation on the great deep our prayers are desired. Guard *him*, we beseech thee, from the dangers of the sea, from sickness, from the violence of enemies and from every evil to which *he* may be exposed. Conduct *him* in safety to the haven where *he* would be, with a grateful sense of thy mercies, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For a Person under Affliction*

O Merciful God and heavenly Father, who hast taught us in thy holy word, that thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men; Look with pity, we beseech thee, upon the sorrows of thy servant, for whom our prayers are desired. In thy wisdom thou hast seen fit to visit *him* with trouble, and to bring distress upon *him*: Remember *him*, O Lord in mercy; sanctify thy fatherly correction to *him*; endure *his* soul with patience under *his* affliction, and with resignation to thy blessed will; comfort *him* with a sense of thy goodness; lift up thy countenance upon *him*, and give him peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For Malefactors, after Condemnation. Or else the Prayer in the Visitation of Prisoners; beginning "O Father of Mercies," &c., may be used.*

O Most gracious and merciful God, we earnestly beseech thee to have pity and compassion upon *those persons* recommended to our prayers, who now lie under the sentence of the law, and are appointed to die. Visit *them*, O Lord, with thy mercy and salvation; convince *them* of the miserable condition *they* are in, by *their* sins and wickedness; and let thy powerful grace produce in them such a godly sorrow, and sincere repentance, as thou wilt be pleased to accept. Give *them* a strong and lively faith in thy Son, our blessed Saviour, and make it effectual to the salvation of *their* souls. O Lord, in judgment remember mercy; and whatever sufferings *they* are to endure in this world, yet deliver them, O God, from the bitter pains of eternal death. Pardon *their* sins, and save *their* souls, for the sake and merits of thy dear Son, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

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¶ *The Thanksgiving of Women after Child-birth; to be said when any Woman, being present in Church, shall have desired to return Thanks to Almighty God for her safe Deliverance.*

O Almighty God, we give thee humble thanks, for that thou hast been graciously pleased to preserve, through the great pain and peril of Child-birth, this woman, thy servant, who desires now

to offer her praises and thanksgivings unto thee: Grant, we beseech thee, most merciful Father, that the through thy help may both faithfully live, and walk according to thy will in this life present, and also may be partaker of everlasting glory in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For Rain*

O God our heavenly Father, who by thy gracious providence dost

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doft caufe the former and the latter rain to defcend upon the earth, that it may bring forth fruit for the ufe of man; We give thee humble thanks that it hath pleased thee, in our great neceffity, to fend us at the laft a joyful rain upon thine inheritance, and to refresh it when it was dry, to the great comfort of us thy unworthy fervants, and to the glory of thy holy Name, through thy mercies in Jefus Chrift our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For Fair Weather.*

O Lord God, who haft juftly humbled us by thy late vifitation of us with immoderate rain and waters, and in thy mercy haft relieved and comforted our fouls by this feafonable and blessed change of weather; We praife and glorify thy holy Name, for this thy mercy, and will always declare thy loving kindnefs from generation to generation, through Jefus Chrift our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For Plenty.*

O Most merciful Father, who of thy gracious goodnefs haft heard the devout prayers of thy Church, and turned our dearth and fcarcity into plenty; We give thee humble thanks for this thy fpecial bounty; befecching thee to continue thy loving kindnefs unto us, that our land may yield us her fruits of increafe, to thy glory and our comfort, through Jefus Chrift our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For Peace, and Deliverance from our Enemies.*

O Almighty God, who art a ftrong tower of defence unto thy fervants againft the face of their enemies; We yield thee praife and thankfgiving, for our deliverance from thofe great and apparent

dangers wherewith we were compaffed; We acknowledge it thy goodnefs that we were not delivered over as a prey unto them; befecching thee ftill to continue fuch thy mercies towards us, that all the world may know that thou art our Saviour and mighty Deliverer, through Jefus Chrift our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For Restoring Public Peace at Home.*

O Eternal God, our heavenly Father, who alone makeft men to be of one mind in a houfe, and ftilleft the outrage of a violent and unruly people; We blefs thy holy Name, that it hath pleased thee to appeafe the feditious tumults which have been lately raifed up againft us; moft humbly befecching thee to grant to all of us grace, that we may henceforth obediently walk in thy holy commandments; and, leading a quiet and peaceable life in all godlinefs and honefty, may continually offer unto thee our facrifice of praife and thankfgiving for thefe thy mercies towards us, through Jefus Chrift our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For Deliverance from great Sickness and Mortality.*

O Lord God, who haft wounded us for our fins, and confumed us for our tranfgreffions, by thy late heavy and dreadful vifitation; and now, in the midft of judgment remembering mercy, haft redeemed our fouls from the jaws of death; We offer unto thy fatherly goodnefs ourfelves, our fouls and bodies, which thou haft delivered. to be a living facrifice unto thee; always praifing and magnifying thy mercies in the midft of thy Church; through Jefus Chrift our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *For*

The first Sunday in ADVENT.

¶ *For a Recovery from Sickness.*

O God, who art giver of life, of health, and of safety; We bleſs thy Name, that thou haſt been pleaſed to deliver from *his* bodily ſickneſs this thy ſervant, who now deſireth to return thanks unto thee, in the preſence of all thy people. Gracious art thou, O Lord, and full of compaſſion to the children of men. May *his* heart be duly impreſſed with a ſenſe of thy merciful goodneſs, and may *he* devote the reſidue of *his* days to an humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee,

through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

¶ *For a ſafe Return from Sea.*

MOſt gracious Lord, whoſe mercy is over all thy works; We praife thy holy Name that thou haſt been pleaſed to conduct in ſafety, through the perils of the great deep, this thy ſervant, who now deſireth to return *his* thanks unto thee, in thy holy Church: May *he* be duly ſenſible of thy merciful providence towards *him*, and ever expreſs *his* thankfulneſs by a holy truſt in thee, and obedience to thy laws; through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

The COLLECTS, EPISTLES, AND GOSPELS,

To be uſed throughout the YEAR.

The Firſt Sunday in Advent.

The Collect.

ALmighty God, give us grace that we may caſt away the works of darkneſs, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jeſus Chriſt came to viſit us in great humility; that in the laſt day, when he ſhall come again in his glorious majeſty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may riſe to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghoſt, now and ever. Amen.

¶ *This Collect is to be repeated every day, with the other Collects in Advent, unto Chriſtmas-day.*

The Epistle. Rom. xiii. 8.

OWE no man any thing, but to love one another: for he

that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou ſhalt not commit adultery, Thou ſhalt not kill, Thou ſhalt not ſteal, Thou ſhalt not bear falſe witneſs, Thou ſhalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this ſaying, namely, Thou ſhalt love thy neighbour as thyſelf. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of ſleep: for now is our ſalvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far ſpent, the day is at hand; let us therefore caſt oſt the works of darkneſs, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honeſtly, as in the day;