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

This document was created in Adobe InDesign and then converted into Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files, which is what you are reading right now. It is intended to appear exactly as the original in every way. The original text was printed by Hall & Sellers of Philadelphia in 1790, and is the very first printing of the 1789 Book of Common Prayer.

The font used is HW Caslon’s “Caslon 14”, which seems to be a very good match to the original. The original was printed on pages about 6-1/2 by 4", or somewhat smaller than half of an 8-1/2 x 11" sheet of paper. You can enlarge it as desired for printing using the Adobe Acrobat Reader.

You may redistribute this document electronically provided no fee is charged and this header remains part of the document. While every attempt was made to ensure accuracy, certain errors may exist in the text. Please contact us if any errors are found.

This document was created as a service to the community by Satucket Software: Web Design & computer consulting for small business, churches, & non-profits.

Contact:
Charles Wohlers
P. O. Box 227
East Bridgewater, Mass. 02333 USA
chadwohl@satucket.com
http://satucket.com
and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth, shall live, though he die; and whosoever liveth, and believeth in him, shall not die eternally; who also hath taught us, by his holy Apostle Saint Paul, not to be sorry, as men without hope, for those who sleep in him; We humbly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that, when we shall depart this life, we may rest in him; and that, at the general resurrection in the last day, we may be found acceptable in thy sight; and receive that blessing, which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all who love and fear thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world: Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

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.

The THANKSGIVING of Women after Child-birth:

Commonly called,

The CHURCHING of Women.

¶ This Service, or the concluding Prayer alone, as it stands among the Occasional Prayers and Thanksgivings in this service, may be used, at the discretion of the Minister.

¶ The Woman, at the usual Time after her Delivery, shall come into the Church decently apparelled, and there shall kneel down in some convenient place, as hath been accustomed, or as the Ordinary shall direct: And then the Priest shall say unto her,

F Orasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, of his goodness, to give you safe deliverance, and to preserve you in the great danger of Child-birth; you shall therefore give hearty thanks unto God, and say,

(¶ Then shall the Minister say the following Hymn, taken from the 116th Psalm.)

Dilexi, quoniam.

I Am well pleased; that the Lord hath heard the voice of my prayer;

That he hath inclined his ear unto me; Therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

I found trouble and heaviness, and I called upon the Name of the Lord;
The Churching of Women.

Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

What reward shall I give unto the Lord, for all the benefits that he hath done unto me?

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the Lord's house, even in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Minister say the Lord's prayer, with what follows: But the Lord's Prayer may be omitted, if this be used with the Morning or Evening Prayer.

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 she, 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.

¶ Then shall the Minister say the Lord's prayer, with what follows: But the Lord's Prayer may be omitted, if this be used with the Morning or Evening Prayer.

The Woman that cometh to give her thanks, must offer accustomed offerings; which shall be applied by the Minister and the Church Wardens to the relief of distressed Women in Childbed: and if there be a Communion, it is convenient that she receive the holy Communion.