

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

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VISITATION OF THE SICK.

¶ *When any person is sick, Notice shall be given thereof to the Minister of the Parish; who, coming into the sick Person's House, shall say,*

PPeace be to this House, and to all that dwell in it.

¶ *When he cometh into the sick Man's Presence, he shall say, kneeling down,*

Remember not, Lord, our iniquities, nor the iniquities of our forefathers; Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood; and be not angry with us for ever.

Ans. Spare us good Lord.

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy Will be done on Earth, As it is in Heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Minist. O Lord, save thy servant;

Ans. Who putteth *his* trust in thee.

Minist. Send *him* help from thy holy place;

Ans. And evermore mightily defend *him*.

Minist. Let the enemy have no advantage of *him*;

Ans. Nor the wicked approach to hurt *him*.

Minist. Be unto *him*, O Lord, a strong tower,

Ans. From the face of *his* enemy.

Minist. O Lord, hear our prayer;

Answer. And let our cry come unto thee.

Minister.

O Lord, look down from heaven behold visit and relieve thy servant. Look upon *him* with the eyes of thy mercy; give *him* comfort and sure confidence in thee; defend *him* from the danger of the enemy; and keep *him* in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear us, Almighty and most merciful God and Saviour: Extend thy accustomed goodness to this thy servant, who is grieved with sickness. Sanctify, we beseech thee, this thy Fatherly correction to *him*; that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith, and seriousness to *his* repentance: That if it shall be thy good pleasure to restore *him* to *his* former health, *he* may 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.*

¶ *Then*

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¶ *Then ſhall the Miniſter exhort the ſick Perſon after this Form, or other like:*

DEARLY beloved, know this, that Almighty God is the Lord of life and death, and of all things to them pertaining; as youth, ſtrength, health, age, weakneſs, and ſickneſs. Wherefore, whatſoever your ſickneſs be, know you certainly that it is God's viſitation. And for what cauſe ſoever this ſickneſs be ſent unto you; whether it be to try your patience for the example of others, and that your faith may be found, in the day of the Lord, laudable, glorious, and honourable, to the increaſe of glory and endleſs felicity; or elſe it be ſent unto you to correct and amend in you whatſoever doth offend the eyes of your heavenly Father; know you certainly that if thou truly repent you of your ſins, and bear your ſickneſs patiently, truſting in God's mercy for his dear Son Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, and render unto him humble thanks for his fatherly viſitation, ſubmitting yourſelf wholly unto his will, it ſhall turn to your profit, and help you forward in the right way that leadeth unto everlaſting life.

¶ *If the Perſon viſited is very ſick, then the Miniſter may end his Exhortation in this Place, or elſe proceed.*

TAKE therefore in good part the chaſtiſement of the Lord: For, as St. Paul faith in the twelfth Chapter to the Hebrews, whom the Lord loveth he chaſteneth, and ſcourgeth every ſon whom he receiveth. If ye endure chaſtening, God dealeth with you as with ſons; for what ſon is he whom

the Father chaſteneth not? But if ye be without chaſtinement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye baſtards, and not ſons. Furthermore, we have had fathers of our fleſh, which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: Shall we not much rather be in ſubjection unto the Father of Spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chaſtened us after their own pleaſure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holineſs. Theſe words, good *brother*, are written in holy Scripture, for our comfort and inſtruction; that we ſhould patiently, and with thankſgiving, bear our heavenly Father's correction, whenſoever, by any manner of adverſity, it ſhall pleaſe his gracious goodneſs to viſit us. And there ſhould be no greater comfort to Chriſtian perſons, than to be made like unto Chriſt, by ſuffering patiently adverſities, troubles, and ſickneſſes. For he himſelf went not up to joy, but firſt he ſuffered pain; He entered not into His glory before He was crucified. So truly our way to eternal joy is to ſuffer here with Chriſt; and our door to enter into eternal life is gladly to die with Chriſt; that we may riſe again from death, and dwell with him in everlaſting life. Now therefore, taking your ſickneſs, which is thus profitable for you, patiently; I exhort you in the Name of God, to remember the profeſſion which you made unto God in your Baptiſm. And forasmuch as after this life there is an account to be given unto the righteous Judge, by whom all muſt be judged, without reſpect of perſons, I require you to examine yourſelf and your eſtate, both toward God and man; ſo that, accuſing

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cufing and condemning yourfelf for your own faults, you may find mercy at our heavenly Father's hand for Chriſt's fake, and not be accused and condemned in that fearful judgment. Therefore I fhall rehearfe to you the Articles of our Faith, that you may know whether you do believe as a Chriſtian man ſhould, or no.

¶ *Here the Miniſter ſhall rehearfe the Articles of the Faith, ſaying thus,*

DOſt thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jeſus Chriſt his only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghoſt, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; [*He defended into Hell;*] The Third day he roſe from the dead; He aſcended into heaven, And ſitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence ſhall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And doſt thou believe in the Holy Ghoſt; the holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of Sins; the reſurrection of the body; and the life everlaſting. *Amen.*

¶ *The ſick perſon ſhall answer,*
All this I ſteadfaſtly believe.

¶ *Then ſhall the Miniſter examine, whether he repent him truly of his Sins, and be in Charity with all the World; exhorting him to forgive, from the Bottom of his Heart, all Perſons that have offended him; and if he hath offended any other, to aſk them Forgiveness; and where he hath done Injury or Wrong to any Man, that he make Amends to*

the uttermoſt of his Power. And if he hath not before diſpoſed of his Goods, let him then be admoniſhed to make his Will, and to declare his Debts, what he oweth, and what is owing unto him, for the better diſcharging of his Conſcience, and the Quietneſs of his Executors. But men ſhould often be put in Remembrance to take order for the ſettling of their Temporal Eſtates, whiſt they are in Health.

¶ *The Exhortation before rehearſed, may be ſaid before the Miniſter begin his Prayer, as he ſhall ſee cauſe.*

¶ *The Miniſter ſhall not omit earneſtly to move ſuch ſick Perſons as are of Ability, to be liberal to the Poor.*

¶ *And then the Miniſter ſhall ſay the Colleſt following.*

Let us pray.

OMoſt merciful God, who, according to the multitude of thy mercies, doſt ſo put away the ſins of thoſe who truly repent, that thou rememberſt them no more; Open thine eye of mercy upon this thy ſervant, who moſt earneſtly deſireth pardon and forgiveness. Renew in *him*, moſt loving Father, whatſoever hath been decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by *his* own carnal will and frailneſs; preſerve and continue *this* ſick member in the unity of the Church; conſider his contrition, accept *his* tears, aſſuage *his* pain, as ſhall ſeem to thee moſt expedient for *him*. And forasmuch as he putteth *his* full truſt only in thy mercy, impute not unto *him* *his* former ſins, but ſtrengthen *him* with thy bleſſed Spirit; and, when thou art pleaſed to take *him* hence, take *him* unto thy favour; through the merits of thy

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thy moft dearly beloved Son Jefus
Chrift our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then fhall the Miniſter ſay this
Pſalm.*

Pſal. cxxx. *De profundis.*

Out of the deep have I called
unto thee, O Lord; Lord,
hear my voice.

O let thine ears confider well
the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme
to mark what is done amifs; O
Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee;
therefore ſhalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my ſoul
doth wait for him; in his word is
my truſt.

My ſoul fleeth unto the Lord;
before the morning watch, I ſay,
before the morning watch.

O Iſrael, truſt in the Lord; for
with the Lord there is mercy, and
with him is plenteous redemption.

And he ſhall redeem Iſrael from
all his ſins.

¶ *Adding this.*

O Saviour of the world, who by
thy Crofs and precious Blood
haſt redeemed us; ſave us, and
help us, we humbly beſeech thee,
O Lord.

¶ *Then fhall the Miniſter ſay,*

THe Almighty Lord, who is a
moſt ſtrong tower to all thoſe
who put their truſt in him, to
whom all things in heaven, in
earth, and under the earth, do
bow and obey, Be now and ever-
more thy defence; and make thee
know and feel, that there is none
other Name under Heaven given
to man, in whom, and through
whom, thou mayeſt receive health
and ſalvation, but only the Name
of our Lord Jefus Chriſt. *Amen.*

¶ *Here the Miniſter may uſe any
part of the ſervice of this Book,
which, in his diſcretion, he ſhall
think convenient to the Occaſion;
and after that ſhall ſay,*

Unto God's gracious mercy and
protection we commit thee.
The Lord bleſs thee, and keep
thee: The Lord make his face to
ſhine upon thee, and be gracious
unto thee: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon thee, and give
thee peace, both now and ever-
more. *Amen.*

¶ *Prayers which may be ſaid with
the foregoing ſervice, or any part
thereof, at the diſcretion of the
Miniſter.*

A Prayer for a ſick Child.

Almighty God, and merciful
Father, to whom alone be-
long the iſſues of life and death;
Look down from Heaven, we hum-
bly beſeech thee, with the eyes of
mercy upon this Child, now lying
upon the bed of ſickneſs. Viſit
him, O Lord, with thy ſalvation;
deliver him in thy good appointed
time from *his* bodily pain, and
ſave *his* ſoul for thy mercies ſake;
That, if it ſhall be thy pleaſure to
prolong *his* days here on earth, *he*
may live to thee, and be an inſtru-
ment 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 Jefus enjoy perpetual
reſt and felicity. Grant this, O
Lord, for thy mercies ſake, in the
ſame thy Son our Lord Jefus Chriſt,
who liveth and reigneth with thee
and the Holy Ghoſt, ever one God,
world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer*

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¶ *A Prayer for a sick Person, when there appeareth but small Hope of Recovery.*

O Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; We fly unto thee for succour in behalf of this thy servant, here lying under thy hand in great weakness of body. Look graciously upon *him*, O Lord; and the more the outward man decayeth, strengthen *him*, we beseech thee, so much the more continually with thy grace and Holy Spirit in the inner man. Give *him* unfeigned repentance for all the errors of *his* life past, and steadfast faith in thy Son Jesus, that *his* sins may be done away by thy mercy, and *his* pardon sealed in Heaven, before *he* go hence, and be no more seen. We know, O Lord, that there is no word impossible with thee; and that, if thou wilt, thou canst even yet raise *him* up, and grant *him* a longer continuance amongst us. Yet, forasmuch as in all appearance the time of *his* dissolution draweth near; so fit and prepare *him*, we beseech thee, against the hour of death, that after *his* departure hence in peace, in thy favour, *his* soul may be received into thine everlasting Kingdom; through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

A Commendatory Prayer for a sick Person at the Point of Departure.

O Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of just men made perfect, after they are delivered from their earthly prisons; We humbly commend the soul of this thy servant, our dear *brother*, into thy hands, as into the hands of a faithful Creator, and most mer-

ciful Saviour; most humbly beseeching thee, that it may be precious in thy sight. Wash it, we pray thee, in the blood of that immaculate Lamb, that was slain to take away the sins of the world; that whatsoever defilements it may have contracted in the midst of this miserable and naughty world, through the lusts of the flesh, or the wiles of Satan, being purged and done away, it may be presented pure and without spot before thee. And teach us who survive, in this, and other like daily spectacles of mortality, to see how frail and uncertain our own condition is; and so to number our days, that we may seriously apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom, whilst we live here, which may in the end bring us to life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ thine only Son our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for Persons troubled in Mind, or in Conscience.*

O Blessed Lord, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comforts, We beseech thee, look down in pity and compassion upon this thy afflicted servant. Thou writest bitter things against *him*, and makest *him* to possess his former iniquities; thy wrath lieth hard upon *him*, and *his* soul is full of trouble: But, O merciful God, who hast written thy holy Word for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of thy holy Scriptures, might have hope; give *him* a right understanding of *himself* and of thy threats and promises; that *he* may neither cast away *his* confidence in thee, nor place it anywhere but in thee. Give *him* strength against all *his* tempta-

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temptations, and heal all *his* distempers. Break not the bruised reed, or quench the smoking flax. Shut not up thy tender mercies in displeasure; but make *him* to hear of joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Deliver *him* from fear of the enemy, and lift up the light of thy countenance upon *him*, and give *him* peace, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer which may be said by the Minister in behalf of all present at the Visitation.*

O GOD, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; Make us, we beseech thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let thy holy Spirit lead us through this vale of misery, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives; That, when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Catholic Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope; in favour with thee our God; and in perfect charity with the world. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer which may be said in case of sudden Surprise and immediate Danger.*

O Most gracious Father, We fly unto thee for mercy in behalf of this thy servant, here lying under the sudden visitation of thine hand. If it be thy will, preserve *his* life, that there may be place for repentance; But if thou hast

otherwise appointed, let thy mercy supply to *him* the want of the usual opportunity for the trimming of *his* lamp. Stir up in *him* such sorrow for sin, and such fervent love to thee, as may in a short time do the work of many days: That among the praises which thy Saints and holy Angels shall sing to the honour of thy mercy through eternal ages, it may be to thy unspeakable glory, that thou hast redeemed the soul of this thy servant from eternal death, and made *him* partaker of the everlasting life, which is through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A Thanksgiving for the Beginning of a Recovery.*

Great and mighty God, who bringest down to the grave and bringest up again; We bless thy wonderful goodness, for having turned our heaviness into joy and our mourning into gladness, by restoring this our *brother* to some degree of *his* former health. Blessed be thy Name, that thou didst not forsake *him* in *his* sickness; but didst visit *him* with comforts from above; didst support *him* in patience and submission to thy will; and, at last, didst send *him* seasonable relief. Perfect, we beseech thee, this thy mercy towards *him*; and prosper the means, which shall be made use of for *his* cure: That being restored to health of body, vigour of mind, and cheerfulness of spirit, *he* may be able to go to thine house, to offer thee an oblation with great gladness; and to bless thy holy Name for all thy goodness towards him; through Jesus Christ our Saviour: To whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

THE COMMUNION OF THE SICK.

¶ *Forasmuch as all mortal men are subject to many sudden perils, diseases and sicknesses, and ever uncertain what time they shall depart of this life; therefore, to the intent they may be always in readiness to die, whensoever it shall please Almighty God to call them, the Ministers shall diligently from time to time (but especially in the time of pestilence, or other infectious sickness) exhort their Parishioners to the often receiving of the holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ, when it shall be publicly administered in the Church; that to doing, they may, in case of sudden visitation, have the less cause to be disquieted for lack of the same. But if the sick person be not able to come to the Church, and yet is desirous to receive the Communion in his house; then he must give timely notice to the Minister, signifying also how many there are to communicate with him, (which shall be two at the least) and all things necessary being prepared, the Minister shall there celebrate the holy Communion, beginning with the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, here following:*

The Collect.

Almighty, everliving God, Maker of mankind, who dost correct those whom thou dost love, and chastise every one whom thou dost receive; We beseech thee to have mercy upon this thy servant visited with thine hand, and to grant that he may take his sickness patiently, and recover his bodily health, if it be thy gracious will; and that whensoever his soul shall depart from the body, it may be without spot presented unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle. Heb. xii. 5.

MY Son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth; and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

The Gospel. St. John v. 24.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my Word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

¶ *After which the Minister shall proceed according to the Form before prescribed for the Holy Communion, beginning at these words, (Ye who do truly, &c.)*

¶ *At the time of the distribution of the Holy Sacrament, the Minister shall first receive the Communion himself and after minister unto those who are appointed to communicate with the sick, and last of all to the sick Person.*

¶ *But if a man, either by reason of extremity of sickness, or for want of warning in due time to the Minister, or for lack of company to receive with him, or by any other just impediment, do not receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, the Minister shall instruct him, That if he do truly repent him of his sins, and steadfastly believe that Jesus Christ hath suffered death upon the Cross for him,*
and

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and shed his Blood for his redemption, earnestly remembering the benefits he hath thereby, and giving him hearty thanks therefor, he doth eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ profitably to his soul's health, although he do not receive the Sacrament with his mouth.

¶ When the sick person is visited, and receiveth the Holy Communion all at one time, then the Minister, for more expedition, shall cut off the form of the Visitation at the Psalm, and go straight to the Communion.

¶ In the times of contagious sickness or disease, when none of the Parish or Neighbours can be gotten to communicate with the sick in their houses, for fear of the infection, upon special request of the diseased, the Minister alone may communicate with him.

THE ORDER FOR

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

¶ Here is to be noted, that the Office ensuing is not to be used for any unbaptized Adults, any who die excommunicate, or who have laid violent hands upon themselves.

¶ The Minister, meeting the Corpse at the entrance of the Church-yard, and going before it, either into the Church, or towards the Grave, shall say, or sing,

I Am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die. St. *John* xi. 25. 26.

I Know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another. *Job* xix. 25, 26, 27.

WE brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken a-

way; blessed be the Name of the Lord. 1 *Tim.* vi. 7. *Job* i. 21.

¶ After they are come into the Church, shall be said or sung the following Anthem, taken from the 39th and 40th Psalms.

Lord, let me know my end, and the number of my days; that I may be certified how long I have to live.

Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long; and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee; and verily every man living is altogether vanity.

For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain; he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.