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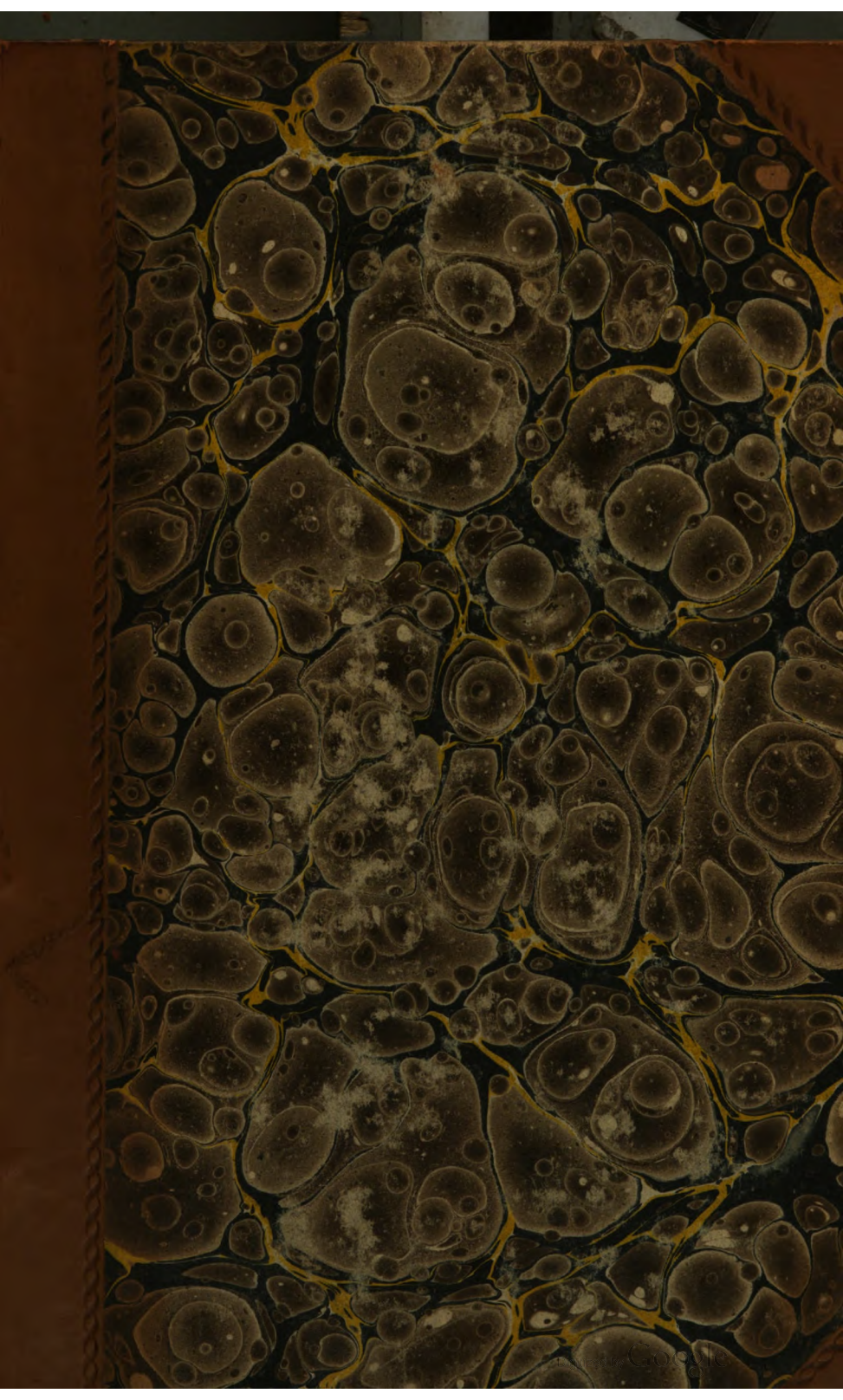
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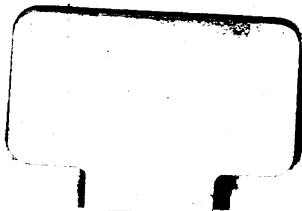
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P. 222. B.S.











**THE**  
**DOMESTIC ALTAR.**



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THE

# DOMESTIC ALTAR:

A

SIX WEEKS' COURSE

OF

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS,

FOR

THE USE OF FAMILIES.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

A FEW ON PARTICULAR OCCASIONS.



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BY THE REV. WILLIAM SMITH, A. M.

AUTHOR OF "A SYSTEM OF PRAYER."

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## P R E F A C E.

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**H**APPY only are they who take delight in the worship and service of their Maker. Of all such it may be said, they will be regular and constant in their attendance on divine worship every Lord's day. The most punctual observance of public ordinances, however, will not tranquillize the conscience, or satisfy the spiritual appetite, of a sincere and growing Christian. All such persons, (more especially if they be at the head of a family,) must be anxious to erect an altar to God in their own house, acknowledging, at stated seasons, the many mercies they are daily receiving; and uniting their requests for future blessings, which they may stand in need of. But however desirous the master or mistress of a family may be that domestic religion should not be altogether neglected, various obstacles come in the way, and some plausible arguments present themselves, as an excuse for delaying the commencement. When even the hindrance on account of business is got over, there will remain a backwardness, arising from a modest and humble sense of inability to take the lead; particularly if our Maker is to be addressed by extemporary prayer. Few, very few indeed, (as I have observed in my Appendix to the "System of Prayer,") possess what is called the *gift*; by which we understand the power or capacity, upon all

occasions, to conceive proper thoughts, and to express these in decent and acceptable language. The majority of whom this is said, either confine themselves within a very narrow compass, or otherwise express their multifarious and indistinct ideas, in low and mean, *I would not say* offensive, expressions. As a remedy or prevention here, preconceived prayer hath been recommended both by churchmen and dissenters, and many excellent forms have been drawn up, which are now in frequent use. With all due deference to the numerous authors of former compositions of this nature, I may surely say, there is room, and may be occasion, for others. The Collection made by the Rev. S. Palmer, and principally used by nonconformists, is taken from writers who lived in the beginning of the last century. Some of the present day may be apt to think the prayers in general too long, and many of the sentences, from their involved nature, not so easy to be understood and followed by servants and children. Most of those which have been drawn up by pious bishops, and clergymen of the Establishment, are of a still older date, and equally liable to the afore-mentioned criticism; for the prayers and collects, although short in themselves, are often expressed in periods of such a length and intricacy, as not to be comprehended by the generality of worshippers, without close and continued attention. The very excellent treatise some time ago published by Mr. Bean, of Carshalton, entitled, "A Course of *Morning and Evening Prayers* for every Day in the Month," comes nearest to what I could wish in a composition of this kind. The language is plain and pious, the matter diversified and extensive, and the prayers not in general too far lengthened out. But a desire to prevent a

sameness in his compositions; (an error, or defect, too justly attributed to all his predecessors,) hath led him to separate and divide the prayers into distinct and different subjects. This undoubtedly produces a great variety both in matter and expression: but it certainly hinders, or prevents, the bringing in of what *never* should be omitted in all our approaches to a throne of grace. At the same time that we preserve this variety, could there be introduced in each of the several compositions *whatsoever* is essential or requisite to be acknowledged, confessed, and prayed for, every purpose and desire will be accomplished. This hath been my aim in the following Work; and I have also endeavoured to express myself as nearly as possible in Scripture language; being assured, that this is adapted to every capacity, and may be expected, upon all occasions, to be most acceptable to God, and profitable to man. In this humble hope the Author ventures to send it forth into the world.



N. B. If any of the prayers be too long for the convenience of the family, there are parts enclosed by crotchets, which may be left out, without injuring the connexion: and should a second course be required, a sufficient variety will be obtained by using the paragraphs thus marked \* † along with what is contained within the crotchets.

It may be further observed, in order to prevent the swell of the volume to an inconvenient size, the Author has been obliged to diminish the number and abridge the matter of the Occasional Prayers that he at first intended and proposed: but

this deficiency, he thinks, may be supplied by having recourse to his "System of Prayer;" where from page 209 to p. 260, and from page 319 to p. 331, adequate and suitable Scripture-Addresses will be found, both for intercession and for thanksgiving. .

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# PRAYERS

FOR

## THE USE OF FAMILIES.

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FIRST WEEK.

SABBATH MORNING.

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\* Most holy, blessed, and glorious Lord God, permit us this morning to speak to thy sacred Majesty. We would come into thy more immediate presence believing that thou art, and that it is our peculiar duty and privilege to worship and serve thee. Enlighten and quicken us, according to thy word, that we may draw nigh with a clear view of many of thy perfections, and with a humbling sense of our own unworthiness and sinfulness: for, whilst we live, we would call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to bless and magnify God's holy name.

[It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord; and to sing praises unto thy name, O

B



Most High! to shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.]

\* This, in a more especial manner, is the day which the Lord hath made, and set apart for himself; therefore would we not only be glad therein, but desire to spend it in the public and private exercises of religion.

[It is the day, O God, upon which thou didst begin to create these wondrous works of nature around us; works which, continually beholding, we cannot sufficiently admire; for they every where, and in all their parts, bespeak thine infinite wisdom, power, and goodness. But upon this first day of the week thou didst more particularly create the light, and separate it from the darkness. Speak but the word only, O Lord, and thy Spirit shall descend into our naturally blind understandings, which will be as a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path, to guide us into the way of pardon, peace, holiness, and happiness. Well may we now say, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, by raising up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David." We believe, O God, and we would receive with grateful hearts, the *good tidings* of great joy, which thine Angel brought to the shepherds of old, that unto us is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Give us good reason to hope that we

are all amongst that happy number who have believed to the saving of the soul. May we hope that we have forsaken all other saviours, and come weary and heavy laden unto Jesus Christ for spiritual rest. And now abiding in him, as the branch in the vine, and walking by faith, and not by sight, give us, O God, a comfortable assurance that we are accepted in the Beloved; and that thou hast blessed us, and chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before thee in love.]

To this end, O Lord, and according to thy promise of old, create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Let our whole souls be purified in obeying the truth through the Spirit. May our understandings, naturally dark, and alienated through the ignorance that is in us, be this day more enlightened in the doctrines and duties of thy word. Let our wills, once at enmity with God and divine things, no longer pant after the dust of this earth, or be entangled with lying vanities, wherein there is no profit; but henceforth be conformable in all things to the will of God.

\* We would go to thy house this day with praise, and enter into thy courts with thanksgiving; for the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures to all genera-

tions. Pour out, O God, upon all the ministers of the everlasting Gospel a double portion of thy Holy Spirit; and may they be enabled to discharge the important trust committed to them with fidelity and diligence; with thy approbation and with abundant success. Thus, according to thine own promise, may we be taught to profit by every opening of the mouth, and fully satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

[But, alas! O Lord, must we not confess that the Sabbath at times hath been as a weariness to us; and, like backsliding Israel, of old, we have said in our hearts, when will it be over, that we may return to our worldly concerns, and pleasures? O God! let not this any longer be the case with us. Incline and enable us to call the Sabbath a Delight. As often as we are brought to thy holy mountain, make us joyful in thy house of prayer; and when we return from thy tabernacle, may we go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; may we visit our habitations, and not sin.]

Help us, O Lord, to continue in thy fear, and in thy love, that our tongues may speak of thy righteousness, and celebrate thy praises all the day long: thus finding in the path of duty that inward peace and satisfaction which the world can neither give, nor take away.

[And now, O God, our shield, and the horn of our salvation, our rock, our fortress, and high tower; our refuge, Saviour, and deliverer; our God in covenant;—hear in mercy these petitions which we have put up, and accept the vows and engagements we would again this day come under.]

\* Be pleased to confirm and establish with us, and with all who are near and dear to us, that everlasting covenant, which is well ordered in all things, and sure. Let thy gracious presence be with us, and thy loving kindness rest upon us, at all times, and in every place. With thy servant may we be enabled to say, “Nevertheless we are continually with thee; thou shalt guide us by thy counsel, and afterward receive us to glory.” All that we beg, or hope, is in the name, and for the sake of him, who is our alone Mediator and Advocate, whom the Father heareth always, and who with him, and the Eternal Spirit, is worthy to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Amen.

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## FIRST WEEK.

## SABBATH EVENING.

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\* WE would again this evening call upon the Lord, our God, who is worthy to be praised, and who in his mercy hath promised to be the everlasting confidence and hope of his people. Thou art, indeed, the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; of whom, and through whom, and to whom are all things; who art over all, and God blessed for evermore.

Help us ever to recollect, as the greatest of all earthly privileges, not only that our lot hath been cast in a Christian land; but that we particularly have been trained up in the way we should go; even that way of life, which is above to the wise, and by which we may all depart from hell beneath. Having been shewn this path of life, and led to him who is the only true way to the Father, O may we never turn from it, to the right hand, nor to the left, but stand fast therein, and walk in the good way, that we may find more and more rest for our souls.

[We are enjoined by an inspired Apostle, that we despise not the Church of God, and that we forsake not the assembling of ourselves together: yea it is said, Let the people praise thee, O Lord, let all the people praise thee. Let them give glory unto the Lord from the end of the earth, and declare his praise in the Islands. In obedience to these injunctions, we have this day been drawing nigh unto God in that new and living way which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil of his Son's flesh.

O! may we hope it cannot be said of us what thou didst say, by thy Prophet, to backsliding Israel of old: "This people draw nigh to me with their mouth, and honour me with their lips; but their hearts are far from me."]

We must indeed confess that the iniquities of our holy things do testify against us; we lament the deadness of our frames, the carnality of our affections, and the many vain thoughts that lodged within us, whilst we were even worshipping in thy temple this day. We are ashamed, and blush to lift up our faces to thee—to *thee* who art the Searcher of hearts, who art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look but with abhorrence upon every kind and degree of iniquity. Lord! if thou shouldest be strict to mark all this, O Lord! who shall stand? Our only hope is in the perfection of thy nature,

and in that mercy, which (it is declared) thou hast magnified above thy great name.

[O God! we would remember with much gratitude thine own words: "Fury is not in me; for my name's sake have I deferred mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain, that I cut thee not off."]

\* Lord! we would take encouragement from these considerations, and plead, that for thine own name's sake, or, if there be a stronger plea, for thy beloved Son's sake, thou wouldest blot out the transgressions, and pass by the many infirmities, which may have adhered to us during the past day: And forbid, O God, that we should ever be chargeable to such a degree for the future. Whenever we approach a throne of grace, or engage in any ordinance of divine appointment, may we seek God with our whole heart: yea, even as the hart panteth after the water brooks, so may the desire of our souls be towards thee, and the remembrance of thy name.†

Give us that preparation of the heart, as well as answer of the tongue, which alone cometh from the Lord, that thus our souls may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. Then shall we rejoice in God, and glory in the Holy One of Israel—walk in the light of thy countenance, and drink of the river of thy pleasures.

[O Lord, we would be more and more impressed by that interesting declaration,—to be carnally minded, is death; but to be spiritually minded, is life and peace; and therefore would not be debtors to the flesh, to live after the flesh; but would make conscience of endeavouring, through the Spirit, to mortify the deeds of the body, that we may live. Help us to put off entirely, as concerning our future conversation, the old man with his corrupt lusts and deeds, and to put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge and true holiness, after the image of him that created us.]

Any additional light which may have been imparted to our souls this day, may it continue and increase—any further resolutions made in the strength of our Redeemer, may they be conscientiously kept, and carried into effect—from the whole of our future life and conversation let an unbelieving world take knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus, and imbibed the true temper and disposition of his first followers.

\* And now, O God, may we be permitted to plead in behalf of our fellow-creatures. These words would make a deep impression upon our minds, “who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” Might this time be approaching, when, according to thy promise, all



the kingdoms of the world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ.

[To this end, O God, be with all thy ministering servants throughout the world; but especially go forth with those who are carrying thy Son's Gospel to heathen and savage nations. Lead them not into temptation, and deliver them from all evil. Give them a mouth and wisdom, which all their adversaries shall not be able to gainsay, or resist. The harvest truly is plenteous; but able and faithful labourers, we fear are few. Pray we therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth more labourers into *this* harvest. That the same blessing may be conferred upon our native Country, O Lord, we would be equally earnest and anxious. In the fulfilment of thy promise of old, give us pastors according to thine heart, who shall feed thy people with knowledge and understanding. Give thy grace, O God, to all subjects throughout the land, that we may submit to every ordinance of men for the Lord's sake; whether it be to the king, as supreme, or unto governors sent by him for the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of them that do well: and seeing that he is the minister of God to us for good, and we must needs be subject not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake, may we be continually attentive to

this, that we may live quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness, and in all honesty.]

\* Lord, regard in mercy the prayers which have this day been put up for all ranks and orders of men among us; from our Sovereign upon the throne, to the poorest and meanest subject. Graciously send an answer of peace, so far as may be consistent with thy glory and the general good. And now, O God, permit us to recommend this family, and every individual thereof, to thy merciful care and keeping this night. Refresh our bodies with sleep—preserve our minds from unnecessary alarms and fears—and may we awake in the morning, if it be thy holy will, to experience more of thy goodness and grace. Let us every day be growing wiser and better, until thy appointed time, when thou shalt call us hence. Then may we be found accepted in the Beloved, and spend a joyful eternity in the presence and praises of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. — Amen.

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## FIRST WEEK.

## MONDAY MORNING.

\* GIVE ear, O Lord, unto our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplications this morning: for thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee in sincerity.

[We are kneeling before the Lord our Maker. We are the clay, and thou our potter: and we are all the work of thy hand: because thou, Lord, hast created all things; and for thy pleasure they are, and were created.]

Cast upon thy care from the womb, thou art the God who hast fed and clothed us all our life long until this day. And therefore *this day* would we now call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to adore and bless that gracious Providence, which hath thus far redeemed our life from destruction, and crowned us with loving kindnesses and tender mercies. O let it never be said of us what thou didst say to the ungrateful king of Judah — that we have not rendered again unto the Lord according to his benefits done unto us; for our hearts have been lifted up, and in our prosperity

we have forgotten God. The Lord pardon us; and humble us, if in any degree we be chargeable in this respect, so that his wrath may not remain upon us. We wish to be mindful of our great Benefactor, and to live as the children of so many mercies.

\* We would again, more especially this morning, bless and thank God for performing the mercy promised to our fathers, and remembering his holy covenant. Thou hast, indeed, visited and redeemed thy people, by raising up for us a horn of salvation in the house of thy servant David: and in this hath thy love been most wonderfully manifested toward us, because thou hast sent thine only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him; yea, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. May we hope, O God, that we have been enabled to commit our precious souls into the hands of this Messiah whilst we live; trusting also that we shall be able to commit them, when we die, for all those purposes for which he was sent. †

And now, that thou hast redeemed us, and we are called by thy name, may we consider ourselves as thine, O Lord, by *purchase*, as well as by creation.—Both soul, and body, and spirit, would we now present as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, and

which is our reasonable service. We would be a willing people in the day of thy power, and henceforward worship thee in the beauties of holiness. O that our hearts were enlarged, and our ways were directed to keep thy statutes; then shall we not be ashamed when we have respect unto all thy commandments.

O that we could say we love God because he first loved us. We pray for such a love as hath no slavish fear in it; yea which causeth us to delight ourselves in *him*, who alone can satisfy the full desires of our souls. And, Lord, let us have ever deeply impressed on our minds thy *second* as well as thy *first* great command, to love our neighbour as ourselves; for this is the message heard from the beginning, that we should love one another: and O let us never forget the scriptural denunciation annexed; he that loveth not his brother abideth in death.]

In all our labours, this week, let none iniquity be found; but let us ever render unto all their dues; tribute to whom tribute, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, and honour to whom honour; yea, all things whatsoever we would that men should do unto us, let us do so even to them; knowing this to be the law and the prophets.

[O God, we know not *absolutely* what temporal blessings to ask at thy hands; for who knoweth

what is good for man in this vain life? We would look up to the Lord as our shepherd, that we may never want; believing there is no want to them that fear him, and that all who seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. *We would set the Lord always before us; and because thou art at our right hand, may we never be moved.* Should it be consistent with thy glory, and our good, we pray, O God, that we may be blessed in our basket and in our store; in our offspring, and in our worldly substance; that we may be blessed in the city, and in the field; when we go out, and when we come in.]

Lord, we would not be over-anxious about length of days; but we desire to keep our tongues from evil, and our lips from speaking guile: if, peradventure, thou mayest see meet, in the fulfilment of thine own promise, to satisfy us with long life, and shew us more and more of thy salvation in the land of the living.

\* O God, if it be thy holy will, let the whole earth be filled with thy glory. Let all thy churches, blessed Saviour, be established in the faith; and let pure and undefiled religion before God, and the Father, prevail among them. Our native Country, the Lord be merciful unto it. Salvation will God appoint unto us for walls, and bulwarks. O let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, and more and more establish the just.

[Thou Governor among the nations, save our king, and prolong his life. Let the spirit of the Lord rest upon all them that sit in judgment; and may the body of the people lead quiet and peaceable lives.]

May the youth of this land be taught of God, and thus may we hope that our children may be blessed after us.

\*We would be mindful of our absent relations; the Lord God be as a sun and shield to them; the Lord give grace, and glory, and withhold no good thing from us, or them. And now, O Lord, what wait we for? our hope is in thee. Do to us, and for us, exceeding abundantly above all that we ask, or think, for a Redeemer's sake; in whom we alone trust; and to whom with the Father, and Holy Spirit, we would now ascribe everlasting praises. — Amen.

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## FIRST WEEK.

## MONDAY EVENING.

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• Most blessed, and glorious Lord God, whose we are, and whom alone we are bound to worship and obey, instruct us now, and teach us, and guide us in the way of our duty, that we may this evening attend upon thee without distraction; for we cannot of ourselves order our speech, by reason of darkness: but the Lord be pleased to compose our thoughts, and direct our steps. We would ever have deeply impressed on our minds a sense of thy great and glorious perfections. Thou art the *Alpha* and *Omega*, the beginning and the end of all things; for thou *wast* before all things; and by thee all things subsist. Thine understanding, O Lord, is infinite; and thy name, thy nature, and thy habitation, is holy. Righteous also art thou, O God, and upright are thy judgments.

[Our God also is true. We worship the God of fidelity and truth. For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven, and thy faithfulness continues from generation to generation.]

But our God is good likewise unto all; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil, and on the good;



and sendeth rain on the just, and on the unjust. — Yet we would more especially praise thee, O Lord, for thy great mercy.

[We trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever; for unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy.]

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting; therefore will we wait upon thee this evening, and be of good courage; humbly trusting that, according to thy promise, thou wilt revive our hope, and strengthen our hearts, while waiting upon thee in this ordinance of prayer.

[We would again this evening hear what God the Lord will speak; for he will speak peace unto his people. — The man after God's own heart hath said — Surely his salvation is nigh; for mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have mutually embraced. Christ, we believe, came into the world not to destroy the law, but to fulfil it. He bare our sins in his own body on the tree, and thus redeemed us to God by his blood; being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit: he suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.]

Lord, let us no longer be of a double mind — With the Father of the faithful we would believe, and let it be accounted to us for righteousness. — Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ; even we have believed in this blessed Jesus, that we

might be justified by faith in him, and not by the works of the law ; for by the works of the law shall no flesh living be justified. And being justified by faith, may we have peace with God, be adopted into his family, and have a right to all the privileges of his children.

\* Help us continually to consider, that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth ; and that now we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

[Knowing at the same time, that no unrighteous person shall ever inherit the kingdom of God, we pray that we may be washed, that we may be regenerated, that we may be sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God ; and being purged from our sins, and having purified our souls in obeying the truth, may we be at last presented holy, and unblamable, and unproveable in the sight of God. Lord, whilst we are in this world, keep us from its evils.—As we profess to be risen with Christ, and to seek those things which are above, may we never set our affections too much upon any thing here below.]

Having heard the word of God, and received it with joy, let neither the cares of this world, nor the deceitfulness of riches, cause us to be unfruitful.

\*We would be the companions of them that fear thee, O Lord, and of them that keep thy precepts. If sinners, therefore, entice us, may we never consent. Let us make no friendships, neither desire to be with them, lest we learn their ways, and get a snare to our souls.—And God preserve us from the malice and subtlety of Satan—We dread him as the god of this world; and as the prince of the power of the air—O let him not get an advantage over us.

[The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan! Even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee. Let us never give place to him; but manfully, and through divine power enabling us, resist his every attack, that he may flee from us.]

May we more and more aspire after personal graces and virtues. Clothe us, O God, with humility. May we be temperate in all things.—As strangers and pilgrims we would abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. Help us to give up, and part with every object that may come in competition with our love and duty to thee; counting all things but as loss, and dross, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. And knowing that in all labour there is profit, may we never be slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

\*Take us all under thy protection this night. To the keeper of Israel, who never slumbereth

nor sleeps, we commit our bodies and souls. We would remember thee upon our bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches; and having found the Lord (which made heaven and earth) to be our help, yea our defence, and refuge all the night long, may we awake, to sing of his power, yea to sing aloud of his mercy in the morning. We ask all in the name of our adorable Mediator, who hath loved us, and given himself for us; and to whom be ascribed glory and honour, salvation and praise, now and for ever. — Amen.

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**FIRST WEEK.****TUESDAY MORNING.**

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\***LORD** God of Hosts, thou King eternal, immortal, and invisible, whom no man hath seen, nor can see; for thou dwellest in that light unto which no mortal eye can approach; be pleased to look down and behold us from the habitation of thy holiness, and of thy glory. But look not upon us, O God! as we are in ourselves; for in that case we could neither hope for thy pardon, nor thy favourable acceptance. Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed: he is our alone Mediator and Advocate; and he is ascended up on high, and hath received gifts for men, even for such rebellious creatures as we are; that we may be reconciled and brought nigh, and that the Lord God might dwell amongst us. Through him, by one Spirit, would we now come with a holy boldness and confidence, even as children to a father. We must acknowledge, indeed, that we have forfeited all title to the appellation of children. It is said in thy holy word, our fathers have sinned, and are not, and we have borne their iniquities.

Truly, O God, we are a seed of evil-doers : behold we were shapen in iniquity, and in sin did our mothers conceive us. When we look back to our earliest years, we must acknowledge that we have sinned against the Lord our God, both we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day ; and that we are all of us by nature the children of wrath.

[For thou art a pure and perfect Being ; and we are assured that the judgment of God is according to truth, who will render to every man according to his deeds ; to them who, by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory, honour, and immortality, eternal life ; but unto such as are contentious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil.]

O Lord, it would be in vain for us to plead innocent. Thou art the Searcher of hearts, and thou knowest that we have done evil ; times and ways without number have we offended thee. In us, that is in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing. Our sins also, O God, have been of the most aggravating nature ; for we have sinned against light, and conscience—against the most astonishing mercy and love—after the most solemn professions and voluntary engagements ; and although we have been repeatedly warned, reprov'd, and chastened.

\* Notwithstanding of this thou hast said, most merciful Jehovah, by the mouth of thy servant, (Ezekiel,) " Turn ye at my reproof, and behold I will pour out my Spirit unto you : repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so iniquity shall not be your ruin."

[The love of God is wonderful. How boundless thy compassion, and grace ! For it is added, that in order to have mercy upon us, therefore will he *wait*, that he may be gracious unto us. Surely it is meet to be said unto God, if we have done iniquity, we will do so no more. O Lord, our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us ; but by thy name only will we henceforth be called. Too long, alas ! may we have halted between two opinions. This day would we again choose whom we shall serve. Others may continue to worship Baal, or Mammon ; as for us, and ours, we will serve the Lord.]

We believe thou takest no pleasure in the death of sinners. We are persuaded of the all-sufficiency of Christ for the salvation of every one that believeth. Convinced that the blood of Jesus Christ alone cleanseth from all sin, we fly to him, and would abide in him, even as the branch in the vine ; for peace, pardon, holiness, and comfort. And, possessed of this pardon, this peace, shall we again become the servants of unrighteousness ? We are purposed that we will

not transgress. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? For we are baptized into the death of Christ, and our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, and that henceforth we should not serve it. Being thus made free from sin, we would become the servants of righteousness.

\*But, O Lord, we have no might in ourselves, neither know we what to do. Our eyes are upon thee. We look to that grace which is given us in Christ. Through his strengthening us, we would believe that we can do all things. Grant, therefore, O God, according to the riches of thy grace, that we may be strengthened with all might by thy Spirit in the inner man, and so as that we may serve thee without fear, in righteousness and holiness, all the days of our life.

[This life, O God! what is it? A vapour — a shadow, that soon passeth away. Knowing that all things here are full of labour, and the eye not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing, and that there is no solid enjoyments under the sun, may our souls more frequently say, the Lord is our portion, and heaven our best inheritance.]

Here we have no continuing city; but we seek one to come. Lord, may we consider ourselves more as pilgrims and strangers on the



earth. By this, may we declare plainly that we desire a better country; that is, a heavenly one.

\* O that all the dispensations of the Divine Providence and grace may have a tendency to prepare us for this better country! and in God's due time may we, and all ours, be admitted into it; no more to go out for ever. We would be thankful for the blessings of the past night. We laid ourselves down and slept, and we have again awaked, because the Lord sustained us. Let this house be a Bethel, where the God of Jacob may take delight to dwell; and all its inhabitants interested in that covenant which is well ordered in all things, and sure. We entreat, at the same time, O God, that every needed blessing may be bestowed on those whom we are bound in duty to have upon our hearts before thee. Be mindful of thine interest in the world. Let Christ's kingdom come, and Satan's be destroyed. We again commend ourselves, O God, to thy daily protection and grace. May we thus be kept from danger and from sin; and let the shades of the evening descend upon us with peace and a good conscience. All which we implore, and would humbly hope to be bestowed, for the sake of Jesus Christ; to whom, with the Father and Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises. Amen.

**FIRST WEEK.**

**TUESDAY EVENING.**

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\* O THOU who searchest all hearts, and understandest all the imaginations of the thoughts of men, mercifully regard us this evening, when we draw near, to adore, confess, and plead before thee. Thou art the infinite and incomprehensible Jehovah; far exalted above our highest conceptions. Who can by searching find thee out? Who can find out the Almighty unto perfection?

[But thou hast not left thyself without a witness. The invisible things of God are clearly discovered from the things that are made. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom, and by thy power, thou hast made them all. This earth is full of thy riches; so is the great and wide sea. The heavens also declare thy glory, and the firmament sheweth thy handy work; day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night teacheth knowledge. But on thee also all things depend. O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. In thee we live and move, as well as from thee at first derived our being. Thou givest to every beast of the field his food, and

to every fowl that flieth in the air when they cry unto thee. Thou art kind and beneficent to all thy creatures; but from the period of our existence, thy delights have been with the sons of men.]

\* We adore the sacred Trinity, — the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, — who in the beginning of the world vouchsafed to say, “ Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness.” Thus were we made both upright and happy. But man being in honour, abode not. Our first parents broke their Maker’s express command; and death, and sin, and misery, hath been entailed on all mankind. We are now but of yesterday, and know nothing. Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. O Lord, to us, and to our fathers, belongeth confusion of face; because we have sinned against thee.†

We have done those things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone those things which it was both our duty and interest to do. Yea, we must confess that we are all as an unclean thing, and that even our righteousnesses are as filthy rags before that God, who is of purer eyes than to behold evil.

[How abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water! The Scripture hath concluded all under sin, both Jews and Gentiles;

they are all gone out of the way; we are together become unprofitable; and there is none that doeth good by nature; no, not one. And now, O our God! what shall we say after this? Indeed we have sinned against the Lord our God, and thus, and thus have done: and we have good reason to dread that awful declaration, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." We know that it is so of a truth. If he contend with us, we cannot answer him for one of a thousand transgressions which we have committed.]

\* Blessed, then, for ever blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath chosen us again in *him*, before the foundation of the world; and when the fulness of time was come, did send him to be a propitiation for our sins, and to bring us back to the divine favour and image. Therefore would we say unto God, do not condemn us, but deliver us from going down to the pit, for thou hast found a ransom,†

Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed; and for his sake, as well as for thy name and mercies' sake, let our sins be forgiven.

\* We long for the blessedness of that person whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, and to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. O let us never forget these precious words of an inspired Apostle: "Unto you, first,

God having raised up his son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities." We pray, therefore, that the grace of God, which bringeth salvation, and hath appeared unto all men, may effectually teach and influence us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works.†

We would acknowledge thee, O God, in all our ways, that thou mayest direct every step of our conduct.

[We know not what is before us in the womb of thy providence; but thou knowest, and we desire to leave all our concerns in thy hands. If thou art pleased to continue health and prosperity, and our remaining comforts, Lord, keep us humble and thankful. And if thou shouldest see needful to visit us with sickness, disappointments, or bereaving dispensations of thy providence, O God, give us patience, resignation, and the sanctified use of trouble.]

By all that we meet with here below, may we be trained up and prepared for the services and enjoyments of heaven. We would be mind-

ful of our brethren of mankind. By the blood of thy covenant, O God, speak peace unto the heathen. O thou who wast pleased to scatter Israel for their abominations and unbelief, gather them in thy good time, according to promise. May peace be within *our* borders, and prosperity within our palaces. From the king upon the throne, to the beggar upon the dunghil, we would be a holy, that we may be a prosperous and happy people.

\* Lord, take and keep all our friends under thy special protection and care this night. As every day brings us nearer to our end, Lord, teach us all so to number them, as to apply our hearts unto the truest wisdom. May we every day be growing wiser and better; more useful to live, and more fit to die. We would lie down in our beds without a slavish fear, and trusting to thy promise, that our sleep shall be sweet. Being thereby refreshed, and strengthened, may we enter upon the duties of a new day with hearts devoted to thy service.

And now, O Lord, we beseech thee hear and receive these our prayers and praises; our confessions and supplications; through the merits and intercession of thy dear Son, our only Saviour and Redeemer, in whose words we call upon thee, saying, Our Father, &c. Amen.

## FIRST WEEK.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

\* O THOU most holy, blessed, and glorious Lord God, whom we are bound by every tie to worship and obey; behold us again, this morning, before the throne of thy grace. We laid ourselves down in peace—we have during the past night taken our rest in safety; and by thy kind providence we are entering upon the duties and enjoyments of another day.†

A wearisome night might have been appointed us; thou mightest have *scared* us with dreams, and terrified us through visions; and we might have been full of tossings to and fro, until the dawning: but thou hast bestowed on us sleep, such as thou givest to thy beloved; and our beds have comforted and refreshed us. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for this renewed instance of his sustaining power and preserving goodness.

\* This morning again would we say, Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and we will declare what he hath done for our bodies and souls. Thine hand, O God, created us

at the first. Our substance was not hid from thee, when we were made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth: thine eyes did see our substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all our members were written; which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. And we thank thee, O Lord, that thou hast not only granted us life, and thy visitation to preserve our spirit in the helpless state of infancy and childhood; but that thou hast cast our lot in a part of the world where light and liberty, peace and plenty, have so long existed and flourished. We would also be truly thankful, O God, that our fathers and mothers were both of them righteous before thee, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless; and that we, by their means, have been taught to know the Scriptures, and the way of salvation, from our youth.

[The law of the Lord, we know, is perfect, and his testimonies are sure. We have searched the Scriptures for eternal life, and find that they clearly testify of Jesus Christ; that he is the end of the law for righteousness; and that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth.]

O Lord, may we hope that these Scriptures have not been as a dead letter unto us; but



that the Gospel contained therein hath come home to our souls, in the demonstration of the Spirit, and with power. We would be thankful to God if we have in any measure seen our need of Christ, and been enabled to close with the offers of salvation, as freely exhibited in the Gospel.

\* Incomprehensible Being, who searchest the heart, and to whom every secret motion within us is known, behold our souls prostrate before the throne of thy grace this morning, ready again to take hold of thy covenant and strength, that we may make peace with thee, and that thou mayest make peace with us. Look down, O God of mercy, upon us; and for thine own sake, and according to thy express word and promise, blot out our transgressions, and remember our sins no more.

[Or, if there be a stronger plea; behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed, thy beloved Son, in whom thou art ever well pleased; who appeared in our world to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself; and by this one offering hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. O! for his sake, forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And now may the *peace* of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus. We would

not be over anxious for that peace and prosperity which the world giveth. It is often a snare, and sometimes a ruin to its possessor. But we pray for that peace, which Jesus Christ hath promised, and left for all his disciples; a peace which the world can neither give nor take away; and through which our hearts may not be troubled or in any degree afraid.]

We must confess, O God, that if thou shouldest be strict to mark iniquities, we have often had cause to be both ashamed and afraid.

\* Thou hast also said in thy word, that the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Have we not reason at times to fear that we may have drawn back, or that we have not *yet* truly believed to the saving of the soul? May the good Lord heal our backslidings, and pardon our numberless failings in duty. Thou hast said, return thou backsliding Israel, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you. Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; and from this day enlighten and renew, more and more, every faculty and power of our mind and soul, that we may give all diligence to add to our faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity: that these things being in us, and abounding,

we may neither be barren nor unfruitful in the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.†

For that protection which thou hast afforded us during the by-gone night, and that refreshing sleep which our bodies have enjoyed, we desire, O God, to be more and more thankful. To thy care and keeping we again commit ourselves this day. Compass us about with thy favour as with a shield.

\* If consistent with thy will, prosper us in all our lawful employments, and give us comfort in all our worldly enjoyments. The same blessings we would ask in behalf of our relations, our friends, our benefactors, and well-wishers. Our enemies, Father forgive them, and enable us to do the same.

Lord, plead thine own cause in the world. Let ignorance, idolatry, superstition, and wickedness, come to an end. Erect the throne of thy Son's dominion upon the ruins of Satan's kingdom. Let the happy time be approaching when there shall be universal peace on earth, and good will amongst all mankind. Lord, continue kind to our native Country. Bless our king, and every branch of the royal family. Provide for us, O God, rulers and magistrates, such as are able men, who fear thee, and hate covetousness. Prosper, O God, the means of instruction provided for

our youth, and let the hoary heads be found in the way of righteousness; that they may look backward with satisfaction, and forward with hope. Pity the sick and afflicted; spare young and useful lives: and prepare us all for death and judgment. Now, blessed be God for all his gifts, both of nature and of grace. And to the Three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and Holy Spirit, be ascribed all honour and glory. Amen.

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## FIRST WEEK.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

\* **GLORIOUS** Jehovah! by which name thou didst desire to be known by thy people of old, O take us (like them) into covenant with thee, and draw near in mercy to hear and help us. We would ever consider it as our highest honour, and greatest privilege, to call upon God by prayer and supplication, -with thanksgiving.

[We adore thee as the alone true object of all spiritual worship. Though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or on earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him; And one Spirit, the Eternal Spirit, who searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God; by whom, through Jesus Christ alone, we have access unto the Father. In this new and living way may we be permitted to approach, at this time, to offer up our evening sacrifice.]

And we would say, Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth, and for ever-

more: from the rising of the sun, unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name be praised: for the Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. There is none like unto thee; rich in mercy, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders. But we would more especially praise thee this night for the unmerited, yet still continued, communications of thy goodness and grace to us.

\* Well may we say, the Lord is good, and doeth good; he is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works; the goodness of God endureth continually. O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness.

[We would more particularly thank and praise thy name, for what we have experienced of it during the past day. Thou hast protected our going out and our coming in. The Lord is our keeper; he hath been as a shade upon our right hand, and preserved us from all evil. Yea, we have eaten this day to the satisfying of the soul.]

\* Bread, which strengtheneth man's heart, thou hast favoured us all with; and wine and oil, with whatsoever tendeth to enliven and cheer, thou hast liberally bestowed upon *some* of us: yea, may we not say, each for ourselves, we have waited upon thee; and thou hast given us this day, and all the days of our life, our meat in due season.†

We would be thankful, O God, unto thee for

these temporal blessings; and pray earnestly that they may produce in our souls humility, gratitude, and love.—But let us not be over anxious about any worldly enjoyments or advantages. We would be convinced that all things here are unsatisfactory, or fleeting in their nature.

\* Blessed Saviour, impress thine own injunction upon our minds—Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, and which the Son of Man shall give unto all that come unto him.

[We believe that Jesus Christ is the bread of life, who came down from heaven; and that if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and that this spiritual bread which he bestows, is his flesh and blood, which he gave for the life of the world. Lord, give us in a spiritual manner to partake of Christ's flesh, which is meat indeed; and of his blood, which is drink indeed; and that so he may savingly dwell in us, and we in him. Thus abiding in Christ, even as the branch in the vine, may we more and more, to the glory of God, bring forth the fruits of holiness and righteousness. Without him we know that we can do nothing; but, through his strengthening us, we can do all things.]

\* Help us each to say with our Apostle—"We are crucified with Christ, nevertheless we live; yet

not we, but Christ liveth in us ; and the life that we now live in the flesh, we live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us, that we should no longer live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."

[Thus living and walking no longer according to our old natural state, but according to the new one which we receive by faith, and the principles and means of practice properly belonging thereunto, may we now strive to continue and increase in all Christian duties and graces. May we continue to love God in Christ as our supreme good. We pray for that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom, and by which every wise man departeth from evil. We would submit ourselves to him, saying upon all occasions, the will of the Lord be done. May God of his infinite mercy grant that we may continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and that we be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel. Let our love to mankind be without dissimulation, and may we be kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love. Instead of stirring up strife by giving way to anger at any time, and using grievous words, help us, O Lord, by a soft answer to turn away wrath.]

Lord, enable us daily to do good, that we may



be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up in store for ourselves a good foundation against the time to come. But keep us humble, O God, and let us never be desirous of vain glory.

[Forbid that we should ever be ranked among wine bibbers, and riotous eaters of flesh; for the word of God saith, the drunkard and glutton shall come to poverty; and the drowsiness arising therefrom, shall clothe a man with rags.]

\* May we be temperate in all things; and as we would ascend at last into the hill of the Lord, and stand accepted in his holy place.†

To this end, bless us, O God, with a pure heart, and with clean hands; and may we every day be growing wiser and better. We would thank the Lord, who hath preserved us this day from all evil.

[Help us to know the measure of our days, and to keep in constant remembrance how frail we are, our wasting frames requiring a fresh supply of spirits and strength, by means of rest and repose through the night.]

\* May we be secure this night, and take our rest in safety; and let the same privileges be conferred upon all our brethren, and kindred, according to the flesh; that we may all have the blessedness of those that make the Lord their trust.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, through all ages, world without end.— Amen.

## FIRST WEEK.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

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\* O Lord God, that created the heavens and formed the earth, permit us this morning to use thine own words. "I, the Lord, speak in righteousness; and I said not unto the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain." We would take encouragement from this, as also from the more express declaration of thy servant—"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him." We pray for *that* preparation of the heart, which is needful for us, and which, with the answer of the tongue, alone cometh from God.

[It is said in Scripture, that those who come to God must believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Never will we doubt one moment of thy existence, O God! but daily see, and admire thee, in all the works of thy hands, and in all those perfections, which thou hast most gloriously displayed in the word of thy grace. The Lord is the maker of all things. By thy word alone the heavens were made; and all their host by the breath of thy mouth. Through faith, we understand, that the

worlds *also* were framed by the *word* of God ; so that things which are seen, were not made of things which do appear. And thou, even thou, O Lord alone, hast not only made the heavens, with all their host ; and the earth, and all things that are therein ; but thou preservest them all, upholding them from the beginning by the word of thy power, so that they continue, this day, according to thine ordinances.] . . .

We would, this morning, see and admire thee in all the works of creation and providence ; beholding every where the most indubitable marks of infinite wisdom, unbounded power, and never-failing goodness.

\* But we would more especially thank and praise thee, our God, for the display of these perfections in behalf of the human race, and with regard to us, a small and humble part thereof. Thy wisdom appears in the formation of our bodies, and still more so in the admirable texture of our souls. The power of God hath been displayed also in the preservation of the human race, amidst all the convulsions of this earth, and watery elements around us : and the goodness of God endureth continually. Thou openest thine hand, O Lord, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing—Blessed be the Lord our God, who daily loadeth us with his benefits. May *we* not say, in particular, the Lord hath been our shepherd, and we

have never wanted ; believing, and rejoicing in the words of thy servant—that there is no want to them that fear thee ; and that they who seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

[We have dwelt in the land, and verily we have been fed—fed with food convenient for us ; nay, may not some of us say, that we have been filled with the finest of the wheat, and that God hath abundantly blessed our provision ? O that our gratitude might bear some proportion to the goodness of God.]

\* But what, O Lord, are temporal benefits, when compared with our spiritual privileges ! Well may we say, Blessed are our eyes, for they see, and our ears, for they hear what many prophets and kings desired to see and hear, but could not : even the kingdom of God come nigh unto us : to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing men's trespasses unto them ; but having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things to himself ; whether they be things on earth, or things in heaven. May we hope, O God, that we are, and shall be made partakers of all the blessings of this most wonderful and extensive reconciliation.†

; We would hope and trust in thy word, which saith ; being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." We believe in Christ, and would receive him more cordially into

our hearts, that we may have a right and power to become the sons of God. O thou Lord Almighty, say unto all present, I will be a father unto you; and ye shall be my sons and daughters.

[And being thus predestinated unto the adoption of children, by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, may we be made always acceptable, and accepted in the Beloved.]

And shall we now continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. Let thy word, O Lord, be hid in our hearts, that we may never wilfully and habitually sin against thee; but ever walk before thee in truth, and in righteousness, that thus we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things; for to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived; that he might purify our souls, in obeying the truth, through the Spirit; making it as our meat and drink to do the will of our heavenly Father; and at last present us holy, and unblamable, and unproveable in his sight. For the refreshment of sleep, which our bodies have received during the past night, we would again express our thankfulness to God. Thus reinvigorated and strengthened, may we proceed cheerfully to all the duties which may this day be incumbent upon us.

[Make us conscientious in all our dealings with mankind, knowing that thine eye is upon us, and that

we must, ere long, give an account of our stewardship. Keep us from setting our affections too much upon the objects or pursuits of this world; knowing, and remembering, that all must soon pass away. We would think daily of death, that we may be weaned more from a present world, and be made more willing to leave it.]

Let our friends and relatives still continue to experience thy tender care and keeping. Give them, O God, what thou knowest to be good for them; and defend, or deliver them from every thing which might eventually lead to their hurt, or to their ruin.

\* Continue to protect our Country against all foreign and domestic foes: make us ever thankful for the civil and religious privileges we enjoy. Let our children be all trained up in the way they should go, that when they are old they may not depart from it. In thy abundant providence, supply the wants of the poor. O God be gracious to all who are afflicted in body or mind; and send them relief, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. This, and every favour, we ask in our compassionate Saviour's name; and to him, to thee, O Father, and to the Spirit of all grace, we ascribe present and everlasting praises.—Amen.

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FIRST WEEK.

THURSDAY EVENING.

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\* WITH a humble trust and confidence, we would this evening call upon the Lord Jehovah, in whom is everlasting strength, and who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask, or think. Who is like unto the Lord our God, high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens; who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and upon the earth. Well may we say, then, "What is man that thou takest knowledge of him, or the son of man, that thou makest account of him? Behold, O God, our days are a handbreadth, and our age is as nothing before thee." Omniscient and highly exalted Jehovah, thou knowest our thoughts that they are vanity, that our days are full of trouble and disappointments. Our conversation is vain, and what profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun.

[When we even resolve that we will prove ourselves with mirth, and enjoy pleasure, we are obliged to say of laughter, it is mad, and of mirth, what doth it? And if, for the same pur-



pose, we make ourselves great works, build houses, plant gardens and orchards, and get possessions, and enjoy pleasures of every worldly nature, we must declare in the end, all is vanity and vexation of spirit, and there is no true profit, or pleasure, under the sun.]

\* We lament before thee, O Lord, the cause of this. All flesh have corrupted their way, every imagination of the thought of man's heart is only evil continually. The Lord, that looketh down from heaven, knoweth that the children of men are all gone aside; like lost sheep they have gone astray, and are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. What shall we say then? Is God unrighteous that taketh vengeance? Far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should commit iniquity; for the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways. Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment. May we not say with the Prophet, all this hath come upon us, for our evil deeds, and for our great trespasses: and seeing that we are punished less than our iniquities deserve, it is of the Lord's *mercies* that we have not been altogether consumed, and because his compassions fail not. To mercy, this darling attribute of Heaven, we can alone have recourse. Permit us this

evening to plead, God be merciful to us sinners. Blot out our transgressions as a cloud, and our iniquities as a thick cloud. We plead thy general promise—I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. †

And now, we beseech thee, let the power of our Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, the Lord is long-suffering, and of great mercy. Pardon, we beseech thee, the iniquity of us thy people, according to the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven until now.

\* But we have a more faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and of them the chief. We believe that this is the Messiah, the Son of God, who should come into the world; and that, as predicted of him, he was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; that the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and that by his stripes we may be healed. Blessed Jesus! shall it ever be said of any of us, ye would not come unto me that ye might have life? We give up every other mean and hope of salvation, and would receive him into our hearts this night, that he may be, of God, made unto each of us, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. We will abide in him, and let his words abide in us, that we may ask what we will, and it shall be done unto us.

[And thus divinely furnished, we again most solemnly renounce the devil, the world, and the flesh. Every suggestion of Satan will we resist; the world and all its objects would we use as not abusing them; and the evil propensities and passions of our nature shall not any longer be wilfully and habitually indulged by us.]

\* We would be thine, O God, wholly, and for ever. Make us such as thou wouldest have us to be, in all purity of heart, and in all sanctity of life and conversation.

And now, O God, that we have been pleading, professing, and promising for ourselves, hear us also in behalf of our fellow creatures. Thou hast expressly commanded that intercessions be made for all men, and declared it not contrary to thy will that all men should be saved; we would, therefore, not only trust in, but look up to the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, and in whom only their help is to be found. We would derive much encouragement from these words: "Fear not, for I am with thee; I will bring my seed from the East, and gather them from the West; I will say to the North, give up, and to the South, keep not back; bring my sons from afar, and my daughters from the end of the earth."

[Smile, O God, upon every attempt to accomplish this latter day promise: may such of thy servants as have already gone forth, and those who

may yet be sent with the word of salvation to every part of the world, be pure in their minds and motives; may they be indefatigable in their zeal towards God, and for his cause; may they be clear, and sound, in all the essentials of the Christian faith; and at the same time that they are wise in winning souls unto Christ, may they be prudent in all their dealings, and circumspect in the whole of their walk and conversation; that thus, by the blessing of God upon their labours, the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may be great among the Gentiles; even from the rising of the sun, unto the going down of the same.]

\* But we would also, O God, this evening most earnestly recommend to thy goodness and mercy our own ungrateful, although highly privileged land. †

Thou hast said, and promised to a nation that shall reflect upon their evil ways, and repent of their doings that were not good; I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, I will call for the corn, and increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

\* Lord, pour down a spirit of repentance and reformation among us; that thus we may hope, year after year, thou wilt bless our provision, and satisfy our poor with bread; that thou wilt crown every year with thy goodness, blessing us with

fruitful seasons, and filling our hearts with food and gladness. For our own personal provision this day, we offer up our humble and grateful acknowledgments. Will the Lord be pleased to continue his protection and favours through the night, and during the defenceless hours of sleep? To the Keeper of Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps, we commend all our benefactors and well-wishers. Lord, forgive those who may have done, or wished us harm this day. We would desire to lie down in our beds at peace with all the world, as we would hope to die in peace with thee our God. Now, unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, and his Father; to him be glory and dominion. Amen.

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## FIRST WEEK.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

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WE will gratefully remember thy words, O Holy One of Israel, and our Saviour: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." May this promise be fulfilled as to us this morning; and may we also firmly believe that the Son is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

\* Encouraged by the hope of our great Advocate's presence, and depending on his promise, to send the Holy Spirit to help our infirmities; we would again this day lift up our hearts with our hands unto God in the heavens. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O thou Most High! to shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. We would be deeply impressed with these condescending declarations, that thou hast made us, and formed us, and created us, for thy glory; yea, that thou hast formed us for thyself, and that we may shew forth thy praise.

[On this account we would now join with the blessed in heaven, saying, "Amen, blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever." And we are not only thine by creation, Almighty Parent of the universe, who hast also distinguished us in the scale of being from every other creature here below; but by *thee* we still subsist—thy visitation preserves our spirits, and thou art daily loading us with thy benefits. For this distinction, and these temporal favours, we would every morning offer up our humble and hearty thanks to Almighty God. But we would be chiefly mindful of our spiritual advantages and privileges.]

\* Our God, and our fathers' God, we were early devoted to thee by the most solemn engagements; and from our childhood we have been taught the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded. But did we take heed to ourselves, lest we should forget the covenant of the Lord our God, which he made with us *in baptism*, to be a God unto us as well as to our parents? Have we not, in too many instances, neglected, despised, or forsaken it? We certainly have at times loved darkness rather than light; and the imaginations of our hearts have often been evil from our very youth.†

Can it be said of any of us, that, like lost sheep, we have not gone astray? but must we not confess, that notwithstanding we have been repeatedly warned by the word of God, and our own consciences; yet still we have sinned, and come short of our professions and privileges; and been too much alienated from the life of God, through the natural blindness and corruption of our hearts?

[Blessed God, didst thou command thy servant of old to go and proclaim these words toward the north? "Return, thou backsliding Israel, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you; for I am merciful." And, most compassionate Saviour, art thou not still expostulating with us? "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Can we bear any longer thy tender complaint? "How often would I have gathered thee, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." Shall we hear our Saviour as it were weeping, and saying, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong to thy peace! but now they are," or will ere long be, "hid from thine eyes." We blush to think that we have ever heard



these calls with indifference. We lament that upon so many occasions we may have been like Felix, and said in our hearts, "Go thy way for this time, when we have a more convenient season we will call for thee."]

Will the Lord be merciful to us, and not lay these sins to our charge? Wilt thou bestow upon us *now* that godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of? We are persuaded that without an interest in the merits and purchase of Christ, we can have no solid peace in this world, nor comfortable prospect as to that which is to come; and therefore it is our heart's desire, and ardent prayer to Almighty God, that we may be enabled to accept of the Lord Jesus Christ, as he is freely exhibited in the Gospel for our salvation.

\* We would this morning renew our professions of faith and love. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief.— We accept of thee, O Jesus, as our *prophet*, to reveal the will of God;— we trust in thee, as our *priest*, to make atonement for our guilt, and reconcile us to Heaven;— we receive thee as our *king*, to rule over us, and subdue every evil propensity and passion in our nature; and to turn us from the power of Satan unto God. And now that we have said that one is our Master, even Christ, O let us prove, and shew, by our life and conversation,

whose servants we are. We will keep the injunctions of our Lord, that we may abide in his love; and whatsoever things are true and honest, just and pure, lovely, of good report, or praiseworthy, will we think of, and, through grace strengthening us, endeavour to perform. †

And thus, daily growing in grace, as well as in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may we be at last presented, without spot or blemish, in the sight of God our heavenly Father.

\* For the safety and refreshment of the past night, we offer up our sincere and hearty thanks: may the same kind Providence watch over us this day; and may thy grace, O God, assist us in all the duties of it. Keep us chaste in our thoughts, temperate in our enjoyments, and just and upright in all our dealings.

[As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, but especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Our kindred according to the flesh we would be daily mindful of at a throne of grace: may they each of them be included with us in that covenant which is well-ordered in all things, and sure.]

\* Lord! protect and bless our native land; be as a wall of fire about us, and as a glory in the midst of us. May our judges be just, and our exactors righteousness. From the king on

the throne to the lowest magistrate in office, Lord, give them the true spirit of their stations, and make them public blessings in their day. Bless us as to the season of the year ; and may our poor have bread, and be satisfied. O Lord, be as a father to the fatherless, a husband to the widow, the stranger's God, and the orphan's stay. Be merciful to the afflicted, and prepare the dying for death. Prepare us all for that great and important change. Now to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

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## FIRST WEEK.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

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O LORD our God, hear us this night, for thy loving kindness is great. Turn unto us according to the multitude of thy tender mercies; then will we extol, and honour, and thank, and praise thee, O thou God of our fathers!

[We would have no other gods besides thee, for we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. We adore thee as the incontestable owner and Lord of all. The earth and the heavens are thine; yea, the heaven of heavens, with all their host. The Lord our God is holy in all his words, and in all his works. Far be it from God that he should do wickedness, or that evil should dwell with him. Thou art a faithful God, that keepeth covenant, and thy truth endureth for ever. Praise the Lord, O our souls, who giveth food to the hungry, looseth the bands of the prisoner, and raiseth up them that are bowed down. For the Lord is gracious and merciful. O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom, and power, and goodness, and mercy of God. We adore these perfections, O

God, as universally displayed in the preservation and in the comfortable subsistence of all our fellow creatures around us: but we would be more especially grateful for that distinguishing goodness and mercy that we, and all ours, have experienced.]

We would be greatly thankful for the time and place where our lot hath been cast. The wilderness might have been our house, and the barren land our dwelling. We might have been mingled amongst heathen and barbarous nations, and thus learned their works, and served their idols. Blessed be God for light and liberty; and we would praise thee also for preserving goodness. Not only didst thou take us out of the womb, and make us to hope when we were upon our mother's breast; but to this day thou hast held our soul in life, and not suffered our feet to be moved from the land of the living. Yea, we have had both food and raiment; and although we may have been sent into the world without purse or scrip, yet we have never lacked any thing that was needful for the body.

\* May we not say of our Country in particular, it is a land which the Lord God of heaven careth for, and that his eyes are always upon it for good, from the beginning even unto the end of the year? But what are these, O Lord,

when compared with our Gospel privileges! Thy word accords with our woful experience, that all mankind have lost thy favour and image. As a remedy for this, thou wast pleased, O Father of mercies! to lay our help upon One that is mighty. Thou didst not spare thine own Son; but, according to thine eternal purpose, didst determine to give him for a covenant of the people, that he might in due time restore the preserved of Israel, be a constant and increasing light to the Gentiles, and extend thy salvation unto the end of the earth. †

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, that our eyes have seen, and our ears heard, the eternal purpose fully accomplished by the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. This is he that should come, and in vain do we, or thine ancient people, look for any other.

[We trust to the angel's proclamation at his birth: "Fear not! behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.]

\* To this Saviour we would now look with believing confidence, as unto the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world; to him who was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and poured out his soul unto death, that he might

bear the sin of many, and make intercession for the transgressors. By him, O God, we profess to have received the atonement, and to him alone we would ever look, as our Mediator and Advocate with the Father. Yea doubtless, and we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord; that we may win Christ, and be found in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, even the righteousness which is of God by faith.†

And being thus found in Christ, and enjoying such righteousness, and pardon, through him, shall we any longer think of continuing in sin that grace may abound. Forbid it, O our heavenly Father! May we not say, through Jesus Christ we are dead unto sin, and alive unto God? For our blessed Master declares, in our behalf, "For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." Thy word is truth: according to this word, let Jesus Christ be of God made unto us sanctification: and the very God of peace sanctify us wholly, in soul, body, and spirit.

[We know that the law is holy, and the commandments are holy, and just, and good: but we are still by nature carnal, sold under sin, and have no power at all, except it be given us from

above. Yea it is expressly said, that without Christ we can do nothing; and as the branch cannot bear *fruit* unless connected with the vine stock, so no more can we, unless we abide in him. Blessed Saviour, may we then always abide in thee, and thou in us, that we may bring forth fruit unto God.]

And thus leading a life of faith in the Son of God, may we have more and more of that peace which passeth all understanding; a peace which will give a double relish to all our sober enjoyments, and support our minds under the deepest adversity: for, O God, we know not what is between us and the grave.

\* Thy paths may yet be to us as in the dark and deep waters. But help us ever to remember, that thou art clear when thou speakest, and right when thou judgest; and that thou canst and wilt, at the last, make all things to work together for thy people's good. Enjoying such a promise, we would, in the confidence of prayer, commend ourselves to God this night. Give thine angels charge concerning us. Let the angel of the Lord encamp round about us. Be thou, Lord, our keeper, and as a shade on our right hand; and then we will lay ourselves down, and sleep: yea we will lie down, and our sleep shall be sweet unto us. Lord, extend the same mercy and grace to all who ask, or look for, an interest



in our prayers. Thine outcast, but ancient favourite people, Lord bring them in with the fulness of the Gentile nations. Let the whole earth be filled with thy glory. Our churches established on the rock Christ, let neither the world nor Satan prevail against them. Give peace in our time, O God, and disappoint the designs of all who delight in war. May the happy period be approaching when it shall cease to the ends of the earth. And now the God of peace make us perfect in every good word and work to do his will, and that we may at last be brought to his heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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**FIRST WEEK.**

**SATURDAY MORNING.**

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\* **GOD**, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast promised the Holy Spirit unto such as ask, we beseech thee send down into our hearts this morning of his sacred influences, to help our infirmities; for we know not how, or what we should pray for, as we ought; but it is said, the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us. May we hope that he hath shed abroad the love of God in our hearts, and taught us to say *Abba, Father*. Doubtless thou art our Father by creation; for we are the clay, and thou our potter, and we are all the work of thine hand. But may we hope, O God, that the Spirit hath convinced us not only that we are thy offspring, along with all the other living creatures around us; but that he hath guided, and shall guide us into all truth.

[The Spirit, we believe, searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God. O that we could say, we have received the Spirit, that we might know the things that are freely given us of God; for the natural man knoweth not this.]

We trust that he hath made us thankful to God for the privileges of our birth, and means of instruction which we have enjoyed. But for the distinguishing mercy of Heaven we might have been born, even in this Country, at a time when we should have been aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope, and being without God in the world: but, thanks be unto thy name, O God, that thou didst not call us into being until not only our civil rights and privileges were fixed on the most solid basis, but also until thy Word, and Gospel, had a free course through the land, and, as we would hope, been remarkably glorified in the salvation of numbers. And may we not hope that this Gospel hath come to us in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power? O that we could say with a greater assurance, that we are amongst the number of those who have truly believed to the saving of the soul!

\* One thing we know, O God, and for this we bless and magnify thy grace, that whereas we were once spiritually blind, we now see; see the value of salvation, and of those things which are above. Formerly we loved only the vanities of time; now we trust that God hath given us some taste and relish for the blessings of eternity. 'Tis true, and we own and humbly

confess it, that we still fail, and come short in many duties; but would be thankful, at the same time, that by the grace of God we as often repent, and resolve, and do wish and endeavour to abhor that which is evil, and to cleave to that which is good. May we not then hope, O God, that we shall be made a willing people in the day of thy power, and enabled, by divine grace, to return unto thee with our whole heart? We would hold fast the profession of our faith, without wavering; and continue to wait upon thee to renew our strength, and thus appropriate to our consolation that blessed promise, that he who hath begun a good work in us, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. O thou whose mercy endureth for ever, forsake not the work of thine own hands; but perfect that which concerneth us: and may we be kept by the power of God, through faith, unto eternal salvation.

[Whilst we are in the world, help us to keep in mind, and to fulfil, the various duties which may be incumbent upon us. In God we would put our trust; for blessed is the man that trusteth in him. The Lord direct our hearts unto the love of God; for God keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him unto a thousand generations. Who would not fear thee, O thou King of nations, for unto thee alone doth it appertain? And blessed is every one that feareth

the Lord, and walketh in his ways. Whilst thus walking we would be submissive to thy will, and let our faith and patience appear in all the disappointments and tribulations we may meet with here below; being assured, that as many as God loves he rebukes and chastens. And with regard to our fellow-creatures, let us never live in envy or malice, hateful, or hating any one. May we remember these words of our Lord: "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Lord enable us to seek peace, and ensue it. We would live in peace with all men, that the God of love and peace may be with us. And pondering in our hearts, that to do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice, we would follow after that which is altogether just. But to do good, and to communicate, let us never forget, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. And O may we never harden our hearts, nor shut up our hands, against any of our poorer brethren; but open them wide, and give sufficient for their need.]

We pray, O God, that we may be every week advancing in the graces of humility, temperance, chastity, and self-denial. May we be diligent, and persevere in every good word and

work ; remembering that we are not yet come to the rest, and to the inheritance, which the Lord our God hath given us by promise ; and therefore we should maintain a holy fear, lest, although a promise being left us of entering into this rest, any of us should ever come short of it.

\* For that comfortable rest which our frail bodies have enjoyed during the past night, we would offer up our thanks to Almighty God. O let his goodness and grace accompany us in all the concerns and transactions of this day. Six days thou hast appointed us to labour with our hands and with our heads, that we may acquire a comfortable subsistence, and have wherewith to give to him that needeth. Will the Lord command his blessing upon all that we set our hands unto? This maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow with it. Impressed with a deep sense of the value of time, and that our days and weeks are passing on, may we give all diligence to improve every hour which God hath given us : and may we at last meet with the divine forgiveness and approbation. The same blessings we ask for ourselves, O God, bestow upon all our friends and relations. Be a guide to them in every difficulty, protect them in the hour of danger, deliver them in all their temptations, and comfort them in all their trials and troubles.

Continue to be favourable unto our land. Preserve to the latest posterity our civil and religious rights. Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son. Let those who sit in the habitations of justice remember they judge not for man, but for the Lord. Let our bishops and pastors be blameless, as the stewards of God; and may the whole body of the people be fed with the pure and sincere milk of the word. Lord forgive our enemies, and reward our benefactors. Forgive what thou hast seen amiss in us through the night and this morning; be our portion through life, and our guide even unto death. And to God only wise, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all honour and praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

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FIRST WEEK.

SATURDAY EVENING.

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\* LORD God of Israel, according to thy promise in these latter days, pour out thy Spirit upon all thy servants here present ; even the Spirit of wisdom and of truth. Let him teach us all things, and bring all things to our remembrance whatsoever we should say unto thee, and then give ear to our prayer, O God, and hide not thyself from our supplications : but hearken thou, and hear in heaven, thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest, forgive, and accept of our persons, and this our evening sacrifice. We would review, and acknowledge all thy merciful dealings toward us this week. Six days more thou hast added to our lives, and every morning we have experienced thy loving kindness ; and every evening have had reason to celebrate thy faithfulness. Whilst many have been exposed to hunger, and cold, we have been fed and clothed by thy bounty. Multitudes in the world, and some around us, have this week been suddenly called from time to eternity ; but God is still holding *our* soul in life. Night after night, we have laid ourselves down to sleep, and



we have awaked in the morning, for the Lord sustained us: yea, we have lain down in peace, and our sleep hath been sweet. For all this we would be thankful to thee, O Lord, who makest us to dwell in safety, and whose visitation alone preserveth our spirit. But we would be chiefly thankful for the continuance of our spiritual privileges, and comforts. †

Blessed be God, that our land is still the land of Gospel light, and liberty; and that we can worship thee both in private and public, without any one daring to disturb us. God grant that we may never undervalue, or abuse these privileges; as knowing that our guilt and condemnation will then be severer in the day of judgment.

We would never forget God's eternal purpose to give his Son to be the Saviour of the world.

[We would be greatly thankful for the early intimations, and many express promises of the Messiah. Everlasting thanks be unto God the Father, who in these last days hath spoken unto us by his Son. Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.]

\* To this divine and all-sufficient Saviour may we hope that we have committed our pre-

cious souls, that they may be pardoned, and accepted as righteous in the sight of God, our heavenly Father; and that we may in due time be brought back to his image and likeness. To this end and purpose, we would be more and more thankful for the means of grace, and all the ordinances of divine appointment. May the daily reading of thy word increase our spiritual knowledge, confirm our faith, and animate our hopes. Let our morning and evening sacrifices keep us in a holy and watchful frame through the day, and dispose us to resign ourselves to thy gracious keeping during the night.

[And O may the return of every Sabbath be looked forward to with increasing delight! May we hope that we have called, and shall still call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable. May we hope that we shall endeavour upon this day to turn away our feet from finding our own pleasures, speaking our own words, or doing our own ways. Thou hast said, "Blessed is the man that keepeth the Sabbath, from polluting it." We trust that we would not only do so, but conscientiously spend it in the publick and private exercises of devotion.]

Lord make us thankful for the near approach of another Lord's day Sabbath. Blessed Saviour, we trust, that, after the example of thy inspired servants, we do not err in keeping the first day of the week as the Christian Sabbath. Let the

privileges and promises belonging to thine ancient people, who kept the seventh day, be confirmed and multiplied toward all those who rightly observe the first day of the week.

\* Should'st thou see meet in thy forbearing, and by thine all-protecting Providence, to spare us to see the light of another morning, may we all be in the Spirit upon the Lord's day, and worship God, who is a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. We would not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is. May we not say, Lord, we have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth: thither would our willing feet repair, that we may publish, with the voice of thanksgiving, God's manifold mercies, and tell of all his wondrous works. Lord, bless the studies and preparation of thy ministering servants; may they be as scribes who are well instructed unto the kingdom of Heaven, and bring forth out of their treasures, things new and old. May they convince and convert sinners, and build up and comfort the saints.

Permit us once more to commit to thy care and keeping, our absent relatives and friends. Although at a distance from us, may they be nigh unto the Lord our God, day and night, that he may maintain their cause at all times, as the matter shall require.

Lord be merciful to the sick and afflicted part

of mankind. Whatever be the cause, or the event of their present visitation, may they have reason to say with thy servant of old: "It is good for us that we have been afflicted; for thereby have we learned thy statutes."†

Particularly, O God, would we have upon our hearts the distressed in mind; for it is said in thy word, "The spirit of a man will sustain his other infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?"

[We would say with patient Job, we know, Lord, that thou canst do every thing: and with thy servant David, that, notwithstanding trouble and sorrow, even like the pains of hell, should get hold of thy professing people, yet thou canst and wilt incline thine ear to their supplications, and in due time deliver them from all their soul-distresses.]

Merciful and gracious God, lay not upon such more than thou wilt enable them to bear; and soon, if it be thy holy will, let the language of the Psalmist be theirs — "Return unto thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee."

\* For the world in general we would once more entreat at a throne of grace. Look down from heaven, O God, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and glory, a world lying in ignorance and wickedness. God be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us, that thy way may be known upon earth, and thy

saving health among all nations. Blessed Jesus, thou hast expressly declared that thy Gospel shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations. We long for that happy time when the Jews shall be brought in with the fulness of the Gentiles. Then should we behold mercy and truth meet together, righteousness and peace mutually embrace. Nation shall not then lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Lord, although not permitted to see these happy times, may we now rejoice in the prospect, and at last die in the comfortable hope of their arrival. This night we would again commit ourselves, and all our concerns, to God's paternal care and keeping, in the hope of being raised up in the morning to see and enjoy another day of the Son of Man. — For his sake, we ask every blessing. — And to him, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all glory, and praise, and humble worship, for ever. Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.**

**SABBATH MORNING.**

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\* O ETERNAL, for ever blessed, and glorious Lord God ; by thy good hand upon us, we are spared to see the light of another Lord's day Sabbath.

[We would begin it with the psalm and song of thy servant David, saying ; " Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion ; and unto thee shall the vow be performed : for blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee." Thus shall we dwell with pleasure in thy courts, and be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.]

Ps. lxvii. 5. " Let the people praise thee, O Lord, let all the people praise thee." This we believe to be the day which the Lord hath made, and more especially set apart for his solemn worship and service ; being the return of that important day, in which he raised up his Son from the dead, to be an all-sufficient Saviour, a glorious High Priest, and prevailing Intercessor for the human race.

\* Although altogether unworthy in ourselves, O God, either to receive thy pardon, or to enjoy communion with thee ; yet, coming in the name,

and depending on the merits of our beloved Advocate, may we not hope, both in our families and in thy church, this day to be accepted, owned, and blessed? Keep us in mind, O God, that we were made for thy glory, and that our noblest employment is, undoubtedly, to be engaged in thy worship. O renew and raise our carnal and grovelling hearts, and we shall find in this employment the most substantial happiness. Alas! that we should be so ungrateful as ever to forget thee, the Author and Giver of all our mercies. Alas! that so many among us, who bear thy Son's name, and by outward profession are devoted to thee, should, nevertheless, neglect the assembling themselves together, to pay that worship and praise which is so justly due. We would not be among this number, O God! We hope that we rejoice when it is said, let us go up to thy house: we will call and esteem this day, thy Sabbath, a delight, holy of the Lord, and honourable: and we would, thereon, neither find our own pleasures, speak our own words, or even think our own thoughts.†

But, O Lord, we are weak and polluted creatures. This world, and the things thereof, steal too far and too often into our hearts, to unfit us for the duties of thy holy day. Blessed God, enable us to drive away these disturbers of our spiritual exercises, that we may meditate upon divine truths without distraction; that our imagina-

tions, whilst engaged in religious duties, may not be wandering, with the fool's eyes, to the ends of the earth. O Lord, we lament past offences in this respect. Pardon, O Lord, the iniquities of our holy things. Let our numerous failings, and shortcomings in religious duties, be all blotted out of the book of thy remembrance. We would repent, and be converted, and pray, that times of refreshing, from the presence of the Lord, may now come upon us, that we may raise our souls more and more above earth, and finite objects, to think seriously about heaven and eternity.

[What shall we render unto God for that precious liberty which we of this land and age enjoy; that we not only are allowed each to sit under our own vine and fig-tree, but that we can meet together in decent and comfortable places of worship, none daring to disturb, or make us afraid. O God, let not the present generation, nor may our posterity ever, be left so far to provoke thee, as to send that worst of all famines among us; not a famine of bread, or a thirst of water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. We would be greatly thankful for, and take encouragement from that precious declaration of thine infinite wisdom: "Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, and waiting at the posts of my doors; for whoso findeth me, findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord."]



\* May we all, this day, go out with joy, and be led forth with peace. In the reading of thy word, may we find it to be a lamp unto our feet, and as a light unto our path. Let the faithful declarations of thy ministers not return unto thee void, but accomplish that which thou pleasest, and prosper in the thing whereunto thou hast sent it: may their words be quick, and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword, to the minds and consciences of the wicked, but refreshing and comfortable as the dew of heaven to all mourners in Sion. Let this family continue under thy gracious protection; and may we each have what is good and proper for us, according to our several ages, situations, and circumstances.†

Let the young remember thee, their Creator, in the days of their youth: may such as are in the middle of life, and more immediately exposed to its temptations and trials, maintain a constant faith and hope in thee: and let those who may be verging toward the decline of life, still be bringing forth fruit in old age. Enable them, O God, to look back with indifference upon all things here, and to be looking forward with clearer views, and brighter prospects, to the many mansions which their dear Redeemer has gone before to prepare for them. Let the servants of the family be diligent, obedient, and faithful; not with eye service, as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart, pleasing God; remem-

bering that they are also the servants of Christ, and that whatsoever good thing any man doth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond, or free.

\* And now, O God, thine eyes are upon us; pardon what thou hast seen amiss; vouchsafe to accept of our humble acknowledgments, and renewed engagements; and, in thy great goodness, and for thy Son's sake, send an answer of peace to our imperfect supplications and intercessions. In all due submission, we would conclude with the words of the elders, and angels, who stand around, and fall down before the throne in heaven; saying, "Amen. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever."—Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.****SABBATH EVENING.**

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\* O THOU, who hast said in thy word, " I am the Lord : that is my name ; and my glory will I not give to another." We, who have the unspeakable privilege to be thy professing people, would continue this evening to pay unto thee, and thee only, all adoration, and worship. But how shall we, who are in ourselves such poor dust and ashes, venture into thy more immediate presence, and dare to take thy thrice holy name in our guilty and polluted lips ? We presume to lift up our eyes, and to open our mouths in thy presence, O God, deriving all our confidence, and taking encouragement, only from thine amiable perfections every where displayed, and from the gracious declarations of thy revealed will. In the book of Nature, we see that thou art infinitely wise and powerful, holy, just, and good ; but, from the book of Revelation, we are convinced that thou hast magnified thy mercy above thy great name. †

We praise thee, again, to night, O God, for the breath we draw ; for the food and raiment provided for us ; for the lengthening out of our days ; and

for the many conveniences and comforts of this life, that are still continued to us. But what are all these, when put in comparison with thy free love, unbounded compassion, and unlimited grace, in Jesus Christ! God forbid that we should ever forget him, who is, and ought to be, as the chiefest of ten thousand, and altogether lovely to our souls; who is the Alpha, and Omega; the beginning and end of every hope and privilege we enjoy. Give us grace, O God, more and more to consider, to admire, to be grateful for, and to appropriate that adequate and comprehensive blessing of salvation, which was purchased by Christ's death, and is now freely exhibited to every individual of the human race, through faith in his name. Gracious Father, we would be justified only in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, may we abound in hope, and be filled with all joy and peace in believing. May this Spirit witness in, and with our spirits, that we are thy children; and may he gradually renew every faculty, every power, and every passion within us, until we be completely transformed into the pure and spotless image of our Master.

[We continue, O God, to adore and contemplate thy works of providence, as well as grace. Help us this evening to sing the Song of Moses, and of the Lamb, saying; "Great and marvellous are thy

works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." We know that whatsoever the Lord pleaseth, that doth he in heaven and earth, in the seas, and all deep places. Thy paths may sometimes be unto us as in the dark and deep waters. We are weak, shortsighted creatures, and cannot often fathom or trace the wisdom and goodness of thy dealings with us. Thou hast been pleased to give, and also to take away comforts; and have we not felt our hearts, at times, prone to murmur and mourn beyond a proper measure and degree? We have not, at least, said with thy servant of old: "Blessed be the name of the Lord."]

O God, continue thy forbearance, and extend thy great compassion towards us. We would look up to that dear Redeemer, who hath a fellow feeling in all our griefs and infirmities. O God, for his sake, pity every doubting, pardon every murmuring thought; and enable us to believe that thou art gracious, as well as just, in all thy dealings toward us. We would not, for a moment, disbelieve that all things shall work together for good to them that love God, and who are the called according to his purpose. Having committed our souls into the arms of thy mercy in Christ, and determined to abide in him, as the branch in the vine, that we may bring forth spiritual fruit, may we not hope that thou wilt continue to be our covenant God, and preserve us to thee as a peculiar chosen people?

Thus would we lay claim to that peculiar Christian privilege, that we may have the promise both of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. For it is expressly said in the word of truth respecting such: "All things are yours: both prosperity and adversity; life and death; things present and things to come; all is yours, for ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's." Having, then, such a promise, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness?

\* We would wish to walk worthy of that holy vocation wherewith we are called; to increase in the knowledge of God, and be more fruitful in every good word and work; to be filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God. Unto this, and every good purpose, O God, grant that thy ordinances and institutions may be greatly conducive. The man after thine own heart hath said, Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; and we are sure that a day properly spent in thy courts, is better than a thousand otherwise employed. O that we could apply that consoling promise: those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God, and bring forth fruit even to old age. May the knowledge we have received, and the impressions which have been made, this day, by reading and hearing thy word, be neither forgotten nor effaced, when we mingle with a vain and ensnaring world again.

\* We must still confess that we have often made and renewed the most solemn vows and engagements; and as often failed, and acted contrary to the words which have gone out of our mouths. O give us grace, for the future, to be true and faithful. Convince us how much better it is not to vow, than having vowed, not to perform. We know that we are weak, and without power of ourselves to do any thing, as of ourselves. We would therefore look up unto, and put our trust in that sweet, consoling declaration: "He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength." Lord Jesus, make thy grace sufficient for us. From this night, may we each go on from strength to strength, until every one of us appear before God in the Sion above. We would still be mindful of all our fellow creatures. O Lord, hear the prayers which have this day been put up for them throughout the whole Christian church. Let savages and heathens, Jews and infidels of every kind, in thy due time be converted, that God's way may be known upon earth, and his saving health among all nations. Spare to us, O God, our absent relatives and friends. If consistent with thy glory, and their and our good, may we often meet in peaceful and comfortable circumstances, before we go hence, and be no more here: but if thou hast otherwise ordered that we shall see each other's faces no more in a present world, the Lord grant that we may ere long meet in heaven, never

more to part again. We would now in faith and hope commit ourselves to God through the night. May we awake, if it be thy holy will, to enter upon the duties and business of another week : spending it in thy fear, may we finish it in thy favour. And to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be endless praises. — Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.****MONDAY MORNING.**

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\* **HOLY**, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and art to come: thou art worthy to receive all honour and glory; all praise and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created.

[We would, this morning, pay homage unto the Three that bear record in heaven; the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; believing, from the Book of Revelation, that these Three are One. We adore thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, and the Eternal Word, who was in the beginning with God, and was God; by whom all things were made, and without whom was not any thing made that was made; and who in the fulness of time became flesh, and dwelt among us, and shewed us his glory; the glory of the only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. And since it is the will of Heaven, that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father; we adore him as the brightness of his Father's glory, and the express image of his person. We adore thee, O Jesus, who hast redeemed us by thy blood, out of every

kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. Lord, we would never look, or have recourse unto any other but unto thee, as the true and living way to the Father. We believe there is no other name under heaven, given among men, by which we can be saved. O that we might say with a fuller assurance of faith, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us, and chosen us in him, before the foundation of the world; and predestinated us unto the adoption of children, according to the good pleasure of his will, and to the praise and glory of his free and sovereign grace."]

We would express our thankfulness to thee, O God, this morning, for all the benefits which thou hast bestowed, and which thou art continuing to bestow upon us, whether of a temporal or spiritual nature. Thou didst, in the beginning, create man more immediately for thyself, to glorify and enjoy thee both in a present and future world. But our first parents, and we in them, have done what in us lay, to defeat thy kind and exalted purposes concerning us. From a state of innocence, purity, and happiness, we were brought into a state of natural depravity, ignorance, and misery. But in this, our low and lost estate, thou wast pleased to look down upon us with an eye of compassion; and in due time didst send thy Son into the world, not to condemn, but to save us sinners.

\* We would be thankful for the privileges and promises belonging to us, as descended from religious parents. It is said in thy word, that the children of the just are blessed after them; that they and their seed shall be established before thee; and find in thee, at all times, a strong confidence, and place of refuge.

[In a humble dependence on these promises, and ever thankful that we were trained up in the way we should go, we will continue to obey the commandments of our fathers, and to keep and do according to all the precepts which they have instilled into us, in order to inherit that farther promise, which God hath left to us and to our children; that we shall never want a man, a descendant from us, to stand before him for ever.]

\* O Lord, we would continue to express our gratitude to thee, for that temporal peace and comparative prosperity which our Country still enjoys: that we have fruitful seasons, and are still permitted every one to sit under his own vine and fig-tree; none of our enemies around daring to invade or annoy us. Yea, although thy judgments in this our day have been remarkably abroad in the world, and thine anger poured out upon all the nations around; yet the overflowing scourge hath not been commissioned to pass over and come unto us. O God, may we be duly sensible of this thy long-suffering patience, and forbearing mercy

towards us: for have we not, both as a nation, and as individuals, merited the severest of thy judgments? Have we not, in numberless instances, abused that light and liberty we have so long enjoyed?†

Our peace and plenty have led us into a state of carnal security, with every species of effeminate luxury; and in respect of the glorious Gospel, which, blessed be thy name, is still preserved pure among us, have not thy ministers still reason to complain, “Who have believed our report; and to how very few, in comparison, hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? Wilt thou not visit for these things, O Lord! and shall not thy soul be avenged on such a nation as this?” Our only hope is in thy sovereign mercy and gracious promises. What encouragement, O God, may we not derive from these words: Jer. xviii. 8. “If that nation against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil ways, I will repent of the evil I thought to do unto them.”

\* O God, pour down a spirit of repentance and reformation upon all ranks and degrees of men among us. Both as a nation and as individuals we have offended; and, according to thy servant’s injunction, may we every one return from his evil way, and, through God’s grace, make our ways and our doings good. Then may we hope that the Lord, upon every occasion, will take part with us, and help us, that no weapon formed against us

shall prosper; and that we shall at all times see our desire upon our enemies. But, O God, in whatever manner thou mayest see meet to deal with us as a nation, let us be individually and eternally safe. We would place our confidence and hope in these reviving words: "The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants, and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate." We have to thank thee, O God, for thy care and protection during the dark and defenceless hours of the past night. How kind and forbearing, to be still adding another day, and another week, to our lives, that we may redeem time, and improve the talents committed to our care. In the evening of this day, may we reflect upon no hour that has been spent idly or unprofitably. To thy gracious keeping we commend this family, and all the families in whom we are deeply interested. The Lord bless them out of Sion; and, if consistent with thy will, may they see nothing but what is good for them all the days of their life. And now, Lord, what wait we for? Our hope is in thee. Let the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.—Amen.

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## SECOND WEEK.

## MONDAY EVENING.

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\* WE would not be amongst that unhappy number, who cast off fear, and restrain prayer before God. Evening, as well as morning, would we approach thy more immediate presence with our humble tribute of adoration and praise. Thou art the greatest and the best of beings. There is none like unto thee in all the earth. Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord! none like unto thee in heaven above, or on the earth beneath. Thou art the eternal God, with whom a thousand years are as one day, and one day as a thousand years.†

Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands: they shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

\* The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

[How then “ shall we go from thy Spirit, or

whither shall we flee from thy presence? If we ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if we make our bed in hell, behold thou art there: if we say, surely the darkness shall cover us, even the night shall be light about us: for the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.”]

How then ought our hearts to tremble, O Lord, when we consider also that thou art infinitely pure and just? Thou art the Holy One of Israel, whose name is holy, and who dwellest in the high and holy place.

\* And surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment: for the work of a man will he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways. Yet, notwithstanding all this, we lift up our heads and hearts in hope. Blessed be God's name for that reviving declaration: “O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thine help.” To bring about our salvation, thou didst not spare thy Son; but in due time sent him into the world. We rejoice that Christ came not to do away the law, but to fulfil it; that by fulfilling all righteousness, he became the Mediator of a better covenant; that by his death upon the cross, the hand-writing of ordinances, that was against us, is blotted out; for he took

it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. By him we have now received the atonement; and to him alone we look, and in him alone would we confide, as our Mediator and Advocate with the Father. Yea, doubtless, and we would count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may win Christ, and be found in him; not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, even the righteousness which is of God by faith.†

Lord, enable us to walk worthy of this holy vocation wherewith we are called, and to put our trust in thee, that we may never be ashamed, and that thou mayest deliver us in thy righteousness. O that we could at all times say, Whom have we in heaven but God? and there is none upon earth that we desire in comparison with him: our flesh and our heart faileth, but he is the strength of our heart, and, we would hope, our portion for ever.

[Lord, enable us from this time more diligently to hearken unto thy voice, and to do that which is right in thy sight, giving ear to thy commandments, and keeping all thy statutes: may we neither add thereunto nor diminish from them, but may we stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. May we more espe-



cially have this evidence in ourselves, and know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. We would recompense no man evil for evil; but as thou hast said, O Lord, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay it;" let us never think of avenging ourselves, but at all times give place unto wrath: yea, if our enemy hunger, let us feed him; if he thirst, let us give him drink: let us not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Lord, let us never withhold good from any to whom it is due, when it is in the power of our hand to do it; taking encouragement from these words; the liberal soul deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand. We dread these awful words: "Whoso stoppeth his ear at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." God forbid, then, that we should ever despise the poor. Yea, in obedience to thy injunction, blessed Jesus, we would be kind to the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind, who cannot recompense us, in the prospect of being by thee abundantly recompensed at the resurrection of the just.]

Lord, help us to consider that the end of all things, as to us, may be near at hand, and therefore we should be sober, and watch unto prayer; looking diligently unto ourselves, lest any of us fail of the grace of God; and so be numbering

all our days, as that we may apply our hearts unto true wisdom.

God grant that we may never be like the men of the world, which have all their portion in this life, and who say of it, "This is my rest, *here* will I dwell, for I have desired it;" but, on the contrary, finding that for true happiness we here have laboured in vain, and spent our strength for nought, and that all our days are vanity, may we cry out, I loathe it, I would not live always. Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Lord, keep us ever in a waiting posture, and enable us to see thy hand, and to acknowledge thy will, in every thing that befalls us.

\* For the health of body and composure of mind which we have this day enjoyed, we would express our thankfulness to a gracious God. Be with us, heavenly Father, during the silent watches of the ensuing night. Preserve us still from disease of body, and from distress of mind: or, if it should be thy will that we receive such chastisements from thy hand, Lord give us patience to endure them, and a happy issue out of them in due time. Let the putting off our clothes this night put us in mind of the putting off of these mortal bodies, which must, ere long, return to the dust: and, O grant that we may be, both habitually and actually prepared for

the important event. May the like blessings, both temporal and spiritual, be bestowed upon all who are near and dear to us. In thy fear, and love, and in mutual good offices, may we live whilst in this world, and ere long meet together in that kingdom, and in those mansions, which our dear Redeemer hath been preparing from the beginning of time.

In his name we ask every blessing; and to him, with thee, O Father, and the Eternal Spirit, be all praise, and honour, and glory. Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.**

**TUESDAY MORNING.**

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\* WE would now lift up our voice and hearts unto that Being, who is the sole object of all true and proper worship. The Lord our God is one Lord. Before him there was no God formed, neither shall there be any after him. All the gods of the nations are idols. They are vanity and a lie, the work of men's hands. They that made them are like unto them, and so is every one that trusteth in them. We praise not the gods of silver and gold, of brass, iron, wood, or stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know; but would glorify the God in whose hands our breath is, and whose are all our ways. In an especial manner would we now adore and bless the God of heaven, for his wisdom, power, and goodness, displayed in our creation: for in the day that God created man, in the likeness of God created he him. We were, indeed, made a little lower than the angels, and crowned with honour, and with glory; for God made man upright: and had not our first parents, beguiled by the Old Ser-

pent, eaten of the tree, whereof God commanded them that they should not eat, we had not died; but been for ever happy in the presence and enjoyment of our great Creator. But our first father sinned; and death, the wages of sin, through him entered into this world: and now being sinners, and having all come short of the glory of God, we are by nature the children of wrath.†

Personally must we not confess that we have refused to know God, to hear his word, and to walk in his ways. Yea, we have lifted up our soul unto vanity; with a double tongue and with flattering lips have we spoken; in every thing come short of our duty, and in many things offended altogether.

\* Must we not then ever adore and magnify the everlasting love of God, which caused him to take compassion upon *us*, whilst he spared not the angels that sinned, and kept not their first estate. We will ever remember, with gratitude, his early promise, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. We will say, O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like unto thee, which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy: for now, in the fulness of time, thou hast performed the mercy promised to our fathers, and remembered thy holy covenant, and promise, that in Jesus Christ, who is the seed

of the woman, as well as of the stock of Abraham, all the families, all the kindreds, and all the nations of the earth should be blessed.

[With a holy joy and humble gratitude would we ever recollect the prophetic appellation of the Son of God, when he came into the world: "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." Believing that whosoever cometh in this new and living way to the Father shall in no wise be rejected, we would this morning again come to God, that we may be accepted in the Beloved, and have redemption through his blood, and the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.]

From this time we would say, in the language of holy Scripture, "*Asshur* shall not save us," neither will we any longer trust to our merit, or good works; but commend our souls entirely into the hands of a covenant God in Christ, that the whole of a Redeemer's purchase may be gradually communicated to us. May we know our election of God, from the Gospel coming unto us, not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and with much assurance. According to thy mercy, save us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

[Let thy word, O God, be hid in our hearts, that we may not sin against thee, but walk

before thee in truth and righteousness; that thus we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things: for to this end Christ both "died, and rose, and revived," that he might purify our souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit, making it as our meat and drink to do the will of our heavenly Father; and at last present us holy, and unblamable, and unreprouceable, in his sight. Thy commandments, O Lord, are exceeding broad, and we are not sufficient of ourselves to think, or do any thing as of ourselves. O then may our sufficiency be of God, the God of peace, who alone maketh perfect in every good work to do his will, and worketh in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever.]

And thus renewed and strengthened, may we have grace to fulfil all divine precepts and moral obligations, whether they respect our Maker, our neighbour, or ourselves. We would never forget the first and great command, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and mind, and soul. May this love beget in us the proper fear of God—a cheerful obedience to all his commands—and an entire resignation to his holy will.—Lord, give us that love to our fellow creatures, to the Church of Christ, and to the whole world, which arises from the principles of

true piety, and ultimately centres in thee; that charity, without which all other qualities are said by thy word to be vain, (1 Cor. xiii. 1.) and in thy sight but as a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

\* And may we every day be growing in the personal graces of humility, temperance, chastity, self-denial, diligence, and Christian watchfulness. May we be seeking that we may excel, coveting earnestly the best gifts, and be always abounding in the work of the Lord, in as much as we know that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord. God be merciful to the whole human race. We long for that happy time when the Jews shall be brought in with the fulness of the Gentiles. For our native Country, and its various dependencies, we would ever be sincerely anxious. O Lord, give us that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and remove from us that general sinfulness which is the reproach and ruin of a people. Let all our mercies and our judgments be so sanctified, as that in the issue God's glory may be advanced, and the freedom and happiness of our Country secured. "Give the King thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the King's son;" and let all inferior magistrates have the spirit of their stations. "Clothe thy priests with salvation, that all thy saints may shout aloud for joy." Bless our schools and universities :



may our youth be taught in the way of wisdom, and continually led in right paths: and may the hoary head be found in the way of righteousness. We would not forget our absent relations and friends: in whatsoever place or situation they may be, let thy wisdom guide them, thy providence protect them, and thy blessing be upon them, both as to their bodies as their souls. And now, O God, with thankfulness for the blessings of the past night, we commit ourselves to thy care and keeping this day. May it be comfortably and usefully spent; and let the close of it find us growing in grace; in the love and practice of what is virtuous and praiseworthy. All we ask is for a Redeemer's sake.—  
Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.**

TUESDAY EVENING.

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\* O LORD, our God, by whose kind providence we have been preserved unto the close of another day, permit us this evening to express our gratitude, and to offer up our prayers and praises unto thee. We are assured in thy word: "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord; to shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night."

[We will therefore come before thy presence with thanksgiving, and abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness. We acknowledge, and adore thee, as the Author of our being. We would be continually thankful for the time and place where our lot hath been cast. Blessed be God that we were born in a Christian land, and that we live in a peaceful, healthy, and fruitful Country. We consider ourselves as greatly indebted to God's peculiar providence, that we are descended from honest and religious parents, and that we were early instructed in the ways of righteousness.]

With humble gratitude we appear again this

evening before our great and gracious Sovereign, to praise him for all those benefits which he hath so liberally bestowed from our birth unto the present hour. Thou hast never been wanting, O God, during all this period, to load us with blessings both temporal and spiritual ; as well for our bodies, as for our souls. Receive, O God, our sincere acknowledgments for all thy unmerited favours ; and forgive us in thy great mercy, if we have not made a proper return for all that thou hast done toward us.

\* But we would more especially now, and every night, remember God's unspeakable gift to us, the gift of his well-beloved and only begotten Son. We had destroyed our own souls ; for by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation. We were cast out as it were into the open field, and trodden under foot ; and there was none eye that pitied us, nor any other being that could effectually have had compassion upon us ; then thou passedst by us, and looked upon us, and behold thy time was a time of love ; for when thou sawest us polluted in our blood, dead in trespasses and sins, thou didst say, in thy magnified mercy, Live! live! To carry into effect this gracious purpose, when the fulness of time was come, thou didst not spare thine own Son, but sent him down to this lower world to suffer in our stead. †

[We thank thee, O God, that he was made of a

woman, and made under the law ; that he became bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh ; that he was made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, that he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, that he might thus redeem us from the curse of the law, by being made a curse for us, and having slain the enmity thereby, reconcile both unto God, in one body, by the cross : as also to cleanse us from all iniquity.]

Adored for ever be the grace of God for this all-sufficient foundation for our pardon, justification, and adoption, again into the family of Heaven ! We thank thee, blessed Jesus, for thine own precious words : “ I am the bread of life ; he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Verily, I say, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” O Lord, our God, like the careless many, we have often said, Who will shew us any earthly good ? arising from riches, honours, or the pleasures of this life ; and we were always deceived ; for all below the sun is vanity and vexation of spirit : but returning unto thee with broken and contrite spirits, thou didst lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, and thus put joy and gladness into our hearts, more than in the time when our corn and wine increased. Still cause thy face to shine upon us. O God, deliver us from the do-

minion of Satan and sin, and continue to work in us both to will and do of thy good pleasure.

[Thou hast said, O our heavenly Father, "My son, give me thine heart." Wilt thou indeed, O God, accept a gift of so little value? Overcome by such condescending goodness, and knowing that thou canst make it better, we here this night again would solemnly present it to thee. We resign our understandings to be guided by thy word: we give up our will to be melted down, and conformed to thy holy will: we would withdraw our affections from things below, and have them more and more placed on things above. Every power and faculty of our souls would we consecrate to thee; that, thus renewed, and strengthened by thy grace, we may keep a conscience void of offence both towards God and towards all men. We know that as long as we are in this world, we are, as it were, in an enemy's country, and in heaviness often through manifold temptations. But if Satan, or the world, or our own hearts, should tempt us in any degree to sin, let a regard for thy sacred Majesty, and the fear of thy threatened judgments, keep us in check.]

May we remember continually, that we can do nothing without God seeing us; that thou hearest all we say; that thou canst penetrate into the bottom of our hearts, and will judge us one day according to our deeds done in the body. Teach

us, O God, from this time, not only to know and do thy will, but in all things to submit to the disposals of thy providence. Notwithstanding these may sometimes be, in our weak apprehensions, dark and unaccountable; yet we know they are all of them just, and right, and infinitely good. In whatsoever manner thou treatest us, we would never murmur against thee. In deep submission, and in humble imitation of our blessed Lord, would we only say, under the severest trial, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from us: nevertheless, not our will, but thine be done." May all that we now meet with, by thy blessing, have a tendency to prepare us for our latter end.

\* We would keep our hearts with all diligence, seeing that out of them are the issues of life. And, Lord, what thou didst say to thy disciples, thou hast said unto all—Watch. Let us, therefore, watch; for we know not whether thou wilt come to us by death, at even, or at midnight, or in the morning; yea, neither the day nor the hour do we know wherein the Son of Man cometh; therefore let us watch. For thy name's sake, and for thy Son's sake, O God, let not that day come upon us unawares. We thank God, who hath this day given us our daily bread. Having all the necessaries, and so many of the comforts of life, let us not only be content, but be truly grateful to the great Giver. In this disposition, and com-

mitting all our concerns into thy paternal bosom, would we lie down in our beds this night. Help us all to say in faith, and in the words of thy servant, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou, Lord, only makest me to dwell in safety. Lord, give to all thy beloved sleep; and may those who are near and dear unto us, be near and dear unto thee. May both we and they have all that is good for us in this world, and through thine infinite mercy and grace be safe and happy in the next.

We ask all in the name, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, thine only Son, and our Saviour. —  
Amen.

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## SECOND WEEK.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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\* **INFINITELY** great, and most holy God, how shall we, who are but sinful dust and ashes, presume to approach this morning into thy more immediate presence! We are emboldened, and we are encouraged, only by the more amiable perfections of thy nature, and by the express declarations of thy revealed will. We know that the goodness of God endureth continually, and that thy tender mercies are over all thy works: yea, thou hast said, "Fury is not in me; for my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off." It is added, therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto us, and have mercy upon us. Well may we then say, the mercy of the Lord is everlasting, and his compassions fail not. In this view, and with this hope, we will take with us words, and turn to the Lord, saying unto him, "We have sinned against thee, O Lord! we have sinned, and have done perversely, for we have not been obedient



to thy laws, nor walked in the paths of *all* thy commandments." †

May it not be said of us, that we have walked after the imagination of our own hearts, and in the sight of our own eyes; forgetting thee, and fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind?

[And do we not know that the judgment of God is according to truth, against them which commit such things? Thou hast warned us, O God, to flee from the wrath to come; but have we brought forth fruits meet for repentance? or, despising the riches of God's goodness and forbearance, and long-suffering, have we not known and considered that this should lead us to repentance; but, after our hardness and impenitency of heart, we have treasured up unto ourselves wrath, against the day of wrath, and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. Forbid it, O our heavenly Father, by deeply impressing our hearts this day with the remembrance of thine infinite purity, together with the spirituality and extent of thy divine law, and the necessity of a better righteousness than ours, to justify us in thy sight.]

Well may we say, if thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? In thy sight, O Lord, shall no man living be justified. But we are now assured that the

Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son : and to us is revealed that mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ, and was in him reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.

\* We admire and adore the tender mercy of our God, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us ; to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the region and shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace ; yea, to give the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins.

[And we adore that High Priest, who, neither by the blood of goats, nor of calves, but by his own blood, entered in once into the holy place ; having offered himself without spot unto God, and obtained eternal redemption for us. O God, give us wisdom and understanding to comprehend the greatness of thy love, in not withholding thy Son, thine only Son ; and his love, in giving himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God, for a sweet smelling savour. May the Holy Spirit, (who alone can do it,) teach us the length, and breadth, and depth of divine love : and may he, at the same time, engage us to hate sin more and more, which was the alone cause of our Saviour's sufferings and death.]

At the footstool of thy throne, O God, this morning we would say, "Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the Son of Man whom thou madest strong for thyself; and for the sake of what he hath done, and suffered, be merciful to our unrighteousness; and our sins and iniquities do thou remember no more." Encouraged still farther by the free invitations of the Gospel, may we not say, we have come to the Son of God, and professed to receive him in all his offices, as our Prophet to instruct, as our Priest to atone, and as our King to rule in and over us. Blessed Jesus, to whom could we go, but unto thee? thou alone hast the words of eternal life. And may we not appeal to thee with this same inspired servant of thine; "Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that we love thee."

[Thus, may we not say, "Although our house be not so with God;" notwithstanding much weakness, and many failings, do adhere to us; yet we hope that "he hath made with us an everlasting covenant, well ordered in all things, and sure; and this is all our salvation, and all our desire." O that we could apply these gracious words of thine, "I will betroth thee unto me for ever: yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies."]

In thy great mercy, thou hast preserved us until this day; and this morning we would renew

our purposes, and resolutions, to live devoted to thy fear and service.

\* In all our ways we will acknowledge thee, that thou mayest direct our steps. In God we have put our trust, and will not be afraid what man can do unto us. We would not fear, neither be dismayed; for the Lord, he it is that doth go before us, who hath promised still to be with us, and will not fail nor forsake us. We will therefore commit our thoughts, our words, and our works unto the Lord, that they may be established; that our purposes for his glory, and our good, may be brought to pass; and that all our afflictions and trials may be sanctified. And now, O God, permit us to remember before thee our brethren of mankind. O be merciful to heathens and savages, to such as live and die without the external advantages of Revelation. Of a truth, we would perceive that God is no respecter of persons. In every nation, may such as fear thee, and work righteousness, be accepted in the Beloved. Lord be mindful of thy Church universal. Wherever the name of Christ is named, there may truth, holiness, and charity, prevail. Our native Land, and all its dependencies, we again recommend to thy providential care. For every favourable interposition in our behalf we desire to be thankful; and still confiding in thee, may we, in the use of proper means, find thy protection, and abundant

success against all our enemies. Let our King and Queen, and every branch of the Royal Family, continue to experience thy favour; and may whatever is good in them be more regarded and followed by all who are near their persons. Put a stop to the abounding of vanity, profligacy, and every species of wickedness among us. To this end, may the ignorant be instructed; multitudes of thoughtless sinners be converted, and thy countenance and blessing accompany every society for the reformation of manners. We pray, O God, that we may be a holy, in order that we may be a happy people. Accept of the thanks of this family, for our protection and preservation during the past night. Carry us safely, and comfortably, O God, through the duties of the day; and may we rejoice in every good thing which the Lord our God hath given unto us, and to our house. Now, to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the Three that bear record in heaven, be everlasting praises. — Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING.**

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\* O GOD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, the good Lord that pardoneth and accepts his people, look down upon us this evening with a favourable eye, and let the words of our mouths, and meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. We confess that we are miserable sinners. Both against thy law and against thy Gospel we have repeatedly offended. The law of the Lord is perfect, and his commandments are exceeding broad. But have we attended to the various precepts thereof? †

We have not known the Lord God of our fathers as we ought to have done, nor served him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind; and therefore, according to the divine threatening, deserve to be cast off for ever.

[O God, we must confess that at times we have spoken against thee wickedly, and, like thine enemies, taken thy name in vain. We have not kept the Sabbath from polluting it; neither have we at all times been truly joyful

in thy house of prayer. We may not have actually cursed our parents, and thereby become obnoxious to God's wrath and sentence; but have we always attentively listened to the voice of our father, and never forsaken the law of our mother? When they reprov'd or corrected us, did we give them reverence? Have we submitted to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, rendering to all their dues, tribute to whom tribute, and honour to whom honour is due? We may not have actually shed man's blood; but have we not often been angry with our brother without a just cause?]

Holy! holy! Lord God Almighty! we know that none but the pure in heart shall see thee; and yet, alas! who among us can say, I have made my heart clean; I am pure from sin? But as against the law of God, we would also this night confess our sins against thy Gospel. Have not we often heard it with indifference or lukewarmness? Cumbered and troubled about many things, we have not properly minded the one thing needful.

\* Is not this our condemnation, that light is come into the world, but that we have loved darkness rather than light, our deeds being evil? The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. But have we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of the soul? Can it be said of us, that

we have received the grace of God in vain? or at any time, that we have turned it into wantonness? We have named the name of Christ, and yet, alas! we have not wholly departed from iniquity. For all this, we must confess, O God, that in thine anger thou mightest cast us away from thy presence, and take thy Holy Spirit from us; thus leaving us to the wanderings of our corrupt desires, and giving us over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which must lead to the second death. But, O Lord, thou art a God of infinite mercy: and it is declared by an ancient prophet, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Yea, blessed Saviour! thou hast said all manner of sin shall be forgiven unto men. Return, O God, we beseech thee. O save us for thy mercy's sake. Say unto each of us, blessed Jesus! "Thy sins are forgiven thee."

[We know our own insufficiency, and would feel the force of these words of our Lord: "No man can come unto me, except the Father, which hath sent me, draw him." But, Holy Spirit of God, have we not, in some degree, enjoyed these drawings, in so far as thou hast convinced us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; taken of the things of Christ, and shewn them unto us, that he is just



such a Saviour as we need, and able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him? We would now give ourselves up unto him, and henceforth we would neither live nor die to ourselves: but whether we live, we will live unto the Lord, or whether we die, we will die unto the Lord; living or dying, we are the Lord's.]

And the very God of peace sanctify us wholly: for we are not sufficient of ourselves to think or do any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God. We plead thine ancient promise to the new covenant: "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, that they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances." Encouraged by these declarations, we now wait upon the Lord, that we may be sanctified through the truth; and we would say with his servant of old, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Save us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; so that the law of the spirit of life, which is in Christ Jesus, may, in due time, make us free from the law of sin and death. Let no temptation but such as are common to men overtake us; and with every temptation, O God, make a way for our escape.

[Lord, let neither the smiles nor the frowns of the world cause us to make shipwreck of faith and a

good conscience; and, putting on the whole armour of God, may we be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. Having as it were our loins girded about, and our lights burning, may we be ever like unto men that wait for their Lord, that when he cometh and knocketh we may open unto him immediately; seeing that blessed are those servants whom the Lord, when he cometh, shall find watching.]

Convince us, O God, that this is not our rest, and that here we have no continuing city; and grant that we may all be among that happy number who are seeking one to come, even that city which hath foundations, and whose builder and maker is God; that great and holy city, the city of the living God; the heavenly Jerusalem, situated on Mount Sion above; which is the mother city, and, we hope, shall ere long be the eternal abode of us all. Lord, keep us graciously and securely by thy Almighty power, through faith, until this glorious period.

\* Give us, during the ensuing night, that refreshing sleep which is needed to recruit both our bodies and spirits, and that we may more ably and effectually serve our generation in those several situations in which thy providence hath placed us. If it be thy holy will to spare us to see the light of another morning, may we arise with hearts more and more grateful to God for all his goodness, and inclined

and disposed to live devoted to his praise. We ask every favour in the name, and for the sake of our dear Redeemer; to whom, with the Father and blessed Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end.—Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.**

**THURSDAY MORNING.**

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\* O THOU, Almighty Being! whose dominion extends from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same; thou alone art the true object of all religious worship. And it is said expressly in thy word, "I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess."

[In obedience to this positive institution, and influenced by the apostolic declaration, that we should be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known unto God, we would this morning approach the divine presence.]

God is in heaven, and we upon earth; therefore our words should be few, and set in order before him. We draw near again this morning in deep abasement, by reason of our great distance from thee as creatures, and the vanity of our present condition. Yea, Lord, may we not say, "For wherein are we to be accounted of, whose breath is in our nostrils; that dwell in houses of clay;

whose foundation is in the dust; and which are crushed as before the moth? But we are not only removed far from God on account of the meanness of our origin, but we have driven ourselves to a still greater distance, by our apostasy and sinfulness. Our first father sinned, and all flesh have corrupted their way upon the earth. We lament that general inclination in man to what is evil, and averseness to whatever is just and good. But we are more especially called upon to enumerate our own transgressions.

[We were, O God, in our evening sacrifice, confessing before thee our sins against the first table of the law; we would now deprecate our failings in duty towards our neighbour. Have we obeyed our Lord's express command, and loved him as ourselves? We must confess, that upon many occasions we have not done to others as we would wish them to do unto us. We may not have openly injured, or taken away by violence our neighbour's houses, or fields; but have we not sometimes devised evil against them upon our beds, and when the morning was light, practised, in some degree, extortion and oppression, too anxiously wishing to join house to house, and field to field? Dare we say that we have spoken the truth at all times, and never been guilty of back-biting with our tongues, or of taking up an evil

report against our neighbour? Have we never, from pity, or a worse motive, concealed the truth, and thus perverted the law, and caused wrong judgment to proceed? Alas! we have been envious when we saw the prosperity of the wicked, and thus at times broken the apostolic precept, and been guilty of envying one another.]

We have not sufficiently mortified our members which are upon the earth; inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Forgetting that all who are Christ's should crucify the flesh, with the affections and lusts thereof, we have too often made provision to fulfil them.

\* We have been too much conformed to a present world, and too little transformed by the renewing of our minds. Nay, notwithstanding the Gospel feast hath been prepared, and all things ready, and we have been bidden too to the marriage, yet have we not often made light of it, and gone our own ways, one to his farm, and another to his merchandise? Lord, thou hast said, "If he that despised Moses' law died without mercy, of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God; hath counted the blood of the covenant as an unholy thing; and done despite unto the Spirit of Grace?" May

we hope, O God, we have not been left to fall, and to sin so grievously ; for notwithstanding we must confess that we have dealt very treacherously, in that we have *not* performed the vows and solemn engagements that we came under, yet we are desirous now to take unto us words, and turn unto the Lord, saying, " Take away our iniquity, and receive us graciously. Asshur shall not save us, neither will we trust any more to the works of our hands : " to thy mercy and free grace only would we have recourse, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. O Lord our God, in him may we, with all the true seed of Israel, be justified. Upon believing, may our hearts be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise : may this Spirit bear witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, justified by his grace, and made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

[O Lord, by thy Spirit ever help our infirmities, and strengthen us with all might in the inner man ; save us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of all the powers of the mind and soul, so as that in the whole of our life and conversation the genuine fruits of holiness and righteousness may appear.]

Give us grace, holy Father, to persevere in every good word and work, and to take comfort from the all-prevailing prayer of thy Son in our

behalf, that we may be kept through thine own name, and preserved, both soul and body, blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gracious God! wilt thou hear the intercessions which we would present this morning? Let the whole earth be filled with thy glory; the Jews being brought in with the fulness of the Gentiles. Wherever the name of Christ is professed, there let pure and undefiled religion prevail, and rectify every error and disorder which hath crept into the church.

\* May these sinful lands unto which we belong, experience much of thy forgiveness, returning favour, and recovering grace. Bless our King with the best of thy blessings: if consistent with thy holy will, may he soon be restored to wonted health of body and mind; and long may he be spared to reign over us, both as a free, and as a happy people. Let the rest of the Royal Family enjoy health and peace, with every blessing they stand in need of. Forgive, O God, and change the hearts of any of our great men and rulers who may be looking to their own interests more than to the good of the nation. O thou Sovereign Controller of all events! so dispose and order all publick measures, as that in the issue thy glory may be advanced, and the welfare of these lands be established, and promoted. Let justice and judg-



ment still prevail in our land; and may our magistrates be a terror to evil-doers, and the praise of such as do well. Continue, O God, in thy great mercy to bless us with fruitful seasons, and to avert from us the deserved judgments of pestilence and war. Provide in thy pity for the poor, and put it into the hearts of the rich to be charitable. All who love us, may they be loved of thee, our God. Preserve us in affection, and mutual good offices: may we live in safety and comfort here, and meet in glory, to part no more. And now, O our heavenly Father! receive our most grateful acknowledgments for the blessings of the past night; preserve us in thy fear and love all this day long; and in the evening may we still find that thou art good and gracious to us, and have reason to think that we are training up for heaven. We ask, and hope for all, in our Redeemer's name; to whom, with the Father and Spirit, be everlasting praises. Amen.

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## SECOND WEEK.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

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\* O THOU Creator and Lord of all, behold us again this evening at the footstool of thy throne. Every other being, we are persuaded, unto whom we might think of approaching, is altogether unable either to hear or help us. But will God in very deed receive the praises, or hear the prayers of such unworthy and polluted creatures? Yes, O most merciful and compassionate Jehovah! thou hast given us abundance of encouragement both to ask and hope for thy favourable presence. O leave us not, therefore, whilst at a throne of grace, to our own dull and wandering hearts; but revive and influence us by thy Holy Spirit. We adore thee, O God, for that display which thou hast made of thy nature and perfections in the works of creation and providence around us. Here, we behold infinite power, wisdom, and goodness, transcendently and universally shining forth. May such manifestations not be lost upon us; but daily looking around and beholding them more and more, may they make deep impressions on our minds, and beget in us the highest esteem, and reverence, and godly fear.

But, O Lord, in thy word, and in the work of our redemption, thou hast displayed those attributes in the noblest manner, and hast magnified thy mercy above thy great name. All of us have sinned and come short of thy glory; but thy Son hath come down into our world, and offered up himself a propitiation for sin. Let this offering up of thy Son be to the Jews a stumbling-block, and to the vain and self-conceited Greeks foolishness: to us it appears, and O grant that it may more and more in reality be, the wisdom of God, and the power of God, to the salvation of immortal souls. What can we render unto thee, O God, for this unspeakable gift? Alas! we have nothing to give, nothing to offer as an equivalent, or that can be at all compared with thy well-beloved and only begotten Son. Not unto us; not unto us; but unto thy rich sovereign grace be all the glory.†

But O, most merciful Father, take us wholly to thyself: soul, body, and spirit, we commit into thy hands; make us such as thou wouldest have us to be, in all purity of heart, and in all holiness of life and conversation.

[We have already been devoted to thee, and some of us by the most solemn vows and engagements, and would embrace the present opportunity to renew and recognise them. Influenced by divine grace, may we hope that we have made choice of the Father as our portion; the Son as

our Saviour; and the Holy Ghost as our sanctifier and comforter. In the satisfaction of Christ we confide for justification: to the redemption of Christ we look for sanctification: and in his every way perfectly finished work alone, we trust for all salvation. But making such professions, and entertaining such hopes, what manner of persons ought we to be? Alas! our faith is weak; our hopes are languid; our love in general cold; and our duty too, too often irksome and partial. Blessed God, from this night arouse our sluggish souls. Shew us the misery and danger of continuing in such a state of indifference and slothfulness. Have pity upon us; have pity upon us, O our God! for thy name's sake, and for thy Son's sake. Return into our dark, and cold, and lifeless hearts; and be unto us, from this period, like the enlightening, reviving, and refreshing sunshine after the rain; that we may believe more firmly in thee as our God in covenant; that we may hope in, and look to another world as our chief portion; that we may be frequently longing and incessantly striving after a greater conformity to our Saviour's image; and so, by the influences and aid of the ever blessed Spirit, may we be daily abhorring and forsaking every known sin, and loving and cleaving to every known duty.]

O Lord, we revere and would fulfil the royal law, according to the Scripture, and love our neigh-

hour as ourselves. Teach us to increase and to abound in love toward one another, and toward all men.

[Establish every where the kingdom of Christ; and make all the nations of the world to know, worship, and serve thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. To this end, we pray for the success of a preached Gospel throughout the world, and for all thy ministering servants every where. Give them a mouth, and wisdom which all their adversaries shall not be able to gainsay or resist; and let such as shall be saved, be daily added to the Church universal.]

The Lord rejoice over this Country, to do it good. May our land never be termed forsaken or desolate; but *Hephzibah*, and *Beulah*; the Lord delighting in us, and being as it were married to us; yea, according to thy promise, may we all know the Lord, and be, as it were, betrothed unto him for ever in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. Let all iniquity stop her mouth, and let the righteous among us see it and rejoice. Lest the Lord should devise and frame judgments against us, let every one turn from the evil of their ways, and make their doings good; so shall it be well with us, and with our children for ever.

\* We pray for our brethren and kindred according to the flesh: may they all have the ble-

sedness of those that make the Lord their trust. The Lord God be as a sun and shield unto them. The Lord give grace, and glory, and withhold no good thing from them. O God, enable us to forgive from the heart all who *wish*, or *do* us harm. Blessed Jesus, thou hast said, "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." What a noble motive for laying aside all malevolence and animosity of temper! O Father of mercies, we solicit thy compassion in behalf of all such as are under thy afflicting hand; more especially for such as are visited with poverty and disease: give them that patience and resignation which are needful, and may they profit by the trials through which thou art making them to pass. May we all be prepared for sickness, and for death. With gratitude to God for all that he hath done *to* us and *for* us every day of our past lives, we would this night commend our spirits into his hand. Deign, O gracious Father, to receive them into thy special care and keeping: and if it should please thee that we are not to see the light of another morning, may we go out of the world at peace with thee, and all mankind. Now unto God, only wise, and good, and gracious, be all praise, and honour, and glory. Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.****FRIDAY MORNING.**

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\* **JEHOVAH!** by which name thou wast known to thy people of old; the Lord sitting upon a throne high and lifted up; who humblest thyself to behold the things that are in heaven, and on the earth, of thine infinite condescension vouchsafe us thy presence and acceptance this morning. We come to present that tribute of gratitude and praise, which is due from all rational creatures to their Creator. †

Keep alive upon our minds that first of truths, that every thing proceedeth from God. According to thy good pleasure, and for thy glory alone, they all are, and were created.

[Thy existence is from eternity. From everlasting to everlasting thou art the same unchangeable Being, whose wisdom is unerring, whose power is unbounded, and goodness universally displayed. Permit us, O God, to adore thee, as sitting upon thy throne in the centre of the universe, and performing thy will throughout all the regions of unlimited space. We admire that order, and grace, and beauty, which for ever springs from thy creating hand. The tribes innumerable of animals

around us speak forth thy praise; - in their formation, in their different sustenance, in their continued preservation, and in all their various enjoyments.]

But *we* more especially of the human race, by the wonderful mechanism of our bodies, and still more admirable fabric of our souls, display God's infinite wisdom, and his omnipotent power.

[Of a truth we may say, that *we* are fearfully and wonderfully made. Thou didst clothe us with skin, and with flesh, and hast fenced us with bones and with sinews. Thine eyes did see our substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all our members were written; and which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. And thou didst also, O Lord, breathe into our nostrils the breath of life, and thus we became living and immortal spirits.]

For there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth us understanding. Yea, verily, God our Maker teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven.

\* But have we, O God, like all thy other creatures, answered the end of our creation? Alas! we must confess, and we every day feel, that notwithstanding thou didst in the beginning make man upright, he sought out sinful inventions. All



we, indeed, like lost sheep, have gone astray. We have turned aside every one to his own way. All men have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. What then shall we say unto thee, O God, who art still the preserver of men? We will say, it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, and because his compassions fail not. Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ !†

Help us to see, with all men, what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning hath been hid in God, who created all things by him, and was, in him, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing unto them the natural effects and consequences of sin.

[With Simeon of old would we say, "Blessed be God, the Lord God of Israel, that our eyes have seen his salvation." We would rejoice that now the prophecy is fulfilled, that "unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, upon whose shoulder the government is laid, and who, from henceforth, even for ever, shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." To this almighty, and all-sufficient Saviour, we have often professed to commit our precious and never-dying souls; and this morning we would renew our professions of faith, and love, and obedience. Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief.]

Blessed Jesus, we consider thee as the only spiritual door, by which we enter into the favour and enjoyment of our heavenly Father.

\* We would ever hear thy voice, and follow thee, that thou mayest give unto us eternal life, and that we may never perish. May we all be in the number of them who have believed to the saving of the soul.

[That we may enjoy the comfort of such, we would obey the first and great command; to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our mind, and with all our strength; knowing that he is a faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him, and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.]

O Lord, give us that best of evidences that we are among the number of thy adopted children; that we love thee, and love thee so as to walk after thy commandments: thus shall we love not in word only, neither in tongue, but in deed, and in truth.

[O God, the hope of Israel, and Saviour of thy people in every time of trouble; be not unto us as a stranger in the land, or as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night; but may thy presence go with us wherever we go, and thy blessing rest upon us wherever we dwell. Thou hast been the guide of our youth, and the staff and sup-

port of our riper years; and shouldest thou see meet to carry us forward to old'age, and even hoary hairs, still may the eternal God be our refuge, and underneath us his everlasting arms. Then will we boldly, although humbly, say; "The Lord is our helper, and we will not fear what man can do unto us."]

Whilst we remain in a present world, help us, O God, to serve thee faithfully and diligently in that station wherein thou hast placed us. May we have a single eye to thy glory, with the real good of ourselves and others, in the fulfilment of all those duties to which we are called.

[Will God condescend to bless our daily labours, and all our temporal exertions? Take from our hearts all the seeds of avarice, injustice, envy, or malice; every thing that may have a tendency to injure our neighbours, or disturb the peace and quiet of our own consciences. Whilst we are labouring for the body, and exerting ourselves for the concerns of this life, let us never be unmindful or forgetful of our precious souls, and their everlasting destiny.]

O God, if it be thy holy will, preserve to us health, the most precious of all earthly blessings: but if it be necessary that thou shouldest visit us with pain of body, or even distress of mind, O stand by us, to support and comfort us, and in thy due time to deliver. We would never forget, we

would always comfort ourselves with that general promise, that all things at last shall work together for good to them that love God. May we hope that we are amongst this number, and may we enjoy the comfort of that hope.

\* For the last night's refreshing sleep, God be praised. For the cheering light of the day, O God, accept of our unfeigned thanks. Be graciously present with us during every moment thereof. Hold up our goings in all thy paths, that our footsteps slide not; and enable us to be faithful unto death, that we may obtain the crown of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who hath instructed us to pray in these words: "Our Father," &c.

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## SECOND WEEK.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

\* O THOU who art the author of our existence, and the preserver of our lives, may we presume this evening to address thy sacred Majesty? We would be sensible of our utter unworthiness to take thy name in our lips, or even to raise our thoughts towards thee. But there is *One* in whom thou art ever well pleased, and he is our Mediator and Advocate with the Father; *even* Jesus Christ the righteous. To him would we *now*, and at all times, look; and through him *only* would we hope to have access, by one Spirit, unto the God, and Father, and fountain of all. Thus permitted and accepted, would we say, God be praised for all the advantages surrounding us, and for all the personal blessings communicated to us, from the first moment of our existence, until the present hour. We see, and would acknowledge, that we are altogether unworthy, when we think of our forgetfulness of thee; when we consider the number of our failings, and highly aggravated nature of many of our offences. With sincerity and deep humi-

lity, we now confess them in thy presence, and implore thy forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ. May we now, and at all times, take comfort from that wonderful question which thou didst condescend to propose by thy servant of old: "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die, and not that he should return from his ways, and live?" In a way of faith, and may we hope *sincerely*, would we now say, "Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; cause thy face to shine upon us, and we shall be saved." Raise us from the tomb of our natural corruption, and rescue us from the bondage of sin and Satan; and if it please thee that we still live for some time in a present world, help us to live a *holy life*, as the best and only way to die the *death* of the righteous.

[From this time teach us, O God, in a more salutary manner, to number our days, and to employ our time better, which is running away with such rapidity. By thy grace directing and influencing us, may we be enabled to make such a use of the advantages and opportunities which thou art putting into our hands, as may engage thee to continue them with us, and at last to pass that approving sentence in our behalf: "Well done, good and faithful servants; ye have been careful over a few, I will make

thee ruler over many *things*: enter ye into the joy of your Lord.”]

Blessed for ever be thy name, O God, for all our past mercies, and for thy renewed goodness and kindness toward us. It is thou who hast kept us in safety this day, and not permitted any material evil to trouble the repose of our life. By thee our bodies have been nourished—from thee came that sweet and wholesome air which refreshed us—to thee we are indebted for our friends, our connections, with all the conveniences and comforts of life; and if we have done good, or been in any degree useful, it is to thee alone that all the praise is due. Continue, O God, if consistent with thy glory and our eternal safety, to shower down thy blessings upon us; and with one and all of them, give us the blessing of a humble, thankful, believing, and obedient heart.

[Pardoning, by thy special grace, our numberless failings and shortcomings, send down, O God, thy light and thy truth, the needed influences of thy Holy Spirit, to lead and guide us, so as that *thy* word may be henceforth the rule of our conduct, and *thy* glory the great end for which we desire to live in the world.]

Grant us, O God, this night that repose which is needful to refresh and invigorate our weak and decaying frames: but should we awake

in the night, may our meditations be useful; may we think seriously of that time when we must sleep in the dust; and be waiting, in trembling hope, for the second coming of our Lord. O God, prepare us for that most important of all events; and let none of us ever give sleep to our eyes, or even slumber to our eyelids, until we have some comfortable hope of our interest in the new and well-ordered covenant; until at least we have afresh committed our souls into the arms of God's mercy in, and through a Redeemer. Lord, look down in mercy toward all our fellow creatures. Let the ignorant and thoughtless be brought to the knowledge of the truth. May such as have erred and strayed from the paths of rectitude, be brought back through the power and efficacy of thy word and Spirit. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly from every source of temptation. Make thy grace, O God, sufficient for all that wait upon thee in the use of means.

[We recommend to God, at this time, in a particular manner, all those in whom we are any way interested. Our Nation and Colonies we would not forget. We would ever remember, with peculiar gratitude, the most high God, who, when he separated the sons of Adam, and divided to all the nations their inheritance, gave us so pleasant, healthy, and fruitful a portion of the



earth to dwell in. Lord, as thou hast been very favourable to us in this respect, wilt thou be entreated still to be pleased to look down in mercy toward us, graciously forgiving every cause of wrath, and continuing only to give that which is good?]

\* We continue to pray for the life of the King, and for the real welfare of all the Royal Family. If it be thy holy will, may there never be one wanting in it to reign over us. O God, be pleased to counsel our King's counsellors, and to teach his senators wisdom. The ministers of religion, may they all be as scribes, well instructed unto the kingdom of heaven. Let our bishops be blameless, as the stewards of God; and may we have pastors according to thine heart, who shall feed thy people with knowledge and understanding. May every individual among us promote the peace of the community, and seek the welfare of the Country to which we belong. O thou who hast never left thyself without witness in doing good, continue to give us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. For the mercies of the past day, O God, accept of our unfeigned thanks. Preserve us this night from every danger to which we might be exposed. We commit ourselves wholly to thy care and keeping; and with ourselves, all those

to whom we stand related by the ties of nature, or grace. Be always with us, O God, whether we sleep or wake; whether we live or die. We ask, and hope for every blessing, in the name, and for the sake of our dear Redeemer; to whom, with the Father and Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises. Amen.

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**SECOND WEEK.****SATURDAY MORNING.**

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\* BY thy good hand upon us, O God, we are brought forward to the last day of another week. May we not gratefully say, the Lord hath been our keeper, and as a protecting shade upon our right hand? the sun hath not smitten us by day, no more than the moon by night. Deign, O God, to accept of our humble acknowledgments for thy sustaining, and for thy preserving goodness. We are assured that it is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to offer up daily praises unto the Most High. We hail the return of that day, when God condescended to rest from his labour in these lower regions; from creating the earth, and all the things that therein are; and the sea, and the things which are therein. These all, as with so many tongues, declare God's infinite wisdom, his unlimited power, and his never-failing universal goodness. May the frequent and daily contemplation of thy works, O God, have a suitable effect and influence upon the minds and hearts of all thy rational creation. We would say again this morning, O Lord, our Lord, how ex-

cellent is thy name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens !

[And when we more especially consider these heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon, and the stars which thou hast ordained ; may we not in the deepest abasement add, “ What is man, that thou art mindful of him ; and the son of man, that thou visitest him ? ” O make us thankful for that rank of being which we yet hold ; for that dominion over the brute creation that is still left us ; and for the free use and enjoyment of them all, toward our subsistence, our convenience, and our pleasure.]

\* But we would be more especially thankful, O God, for that other world ; for the new heavens, and the new earth, brought to light by the Gospel of thy Son ; and where he is now preparing blessed and glorious mansions for all his true and faithful followers. Grant, O God, that we may be amongst that safe and happy number, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of this hope set before us ; among that number, to whom to live is Christ ; and to die, shall be immediate, and everlasting gain. †

We would this morning, again, O Lord, according to thy word, lay hold of thy strength, that we may make peace with thee ; trusting to thy free and gracious promise, that thou wilt, through thy Son, and our Saviour, make peace with us. We would humbly plead and pray for a comfortable

persuasion of this in our own minds ; taking encouragement from this consideration, that he alone is our peace, who hath broken down the middle wall of partition between the Father and us ; and reconciled us unto him through the blood of the cross. Let everlasting consolation, and good hope, through grace, be given unto us, through this mysterious and merciful method of salvation. O thou who speakest peace unto thy people, and to thy saints, speak peace unto our souls ; and let the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts, and minds, through Jesus Christ.

[Let thy Son, O God, make us free from the power of sin, as well as from the curse of the law, and then we shall be *free* indeed. May he destroy the body of sin that is within us ; *that* law in our members which wars against the law of our minds, and bringeth us so often into captivity to the law of sin.]

To this end, we wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit ; *that* Spirit, who may not only guide us into all truth, but who shall cause us to walk in the statutes, and commandments, and ordinances of the Lord, to do them. O let this Spirit abide with us at all times ; and may we never be left to quench, or even resist his sacred influences. May he help our infirmities, and make daily intercession for us at a throne of grace. May he seal our souls unto the day of redemption. Accept,

O God, of our sincere thanks for our present situation and circumstances. Thus far, may we not say, the Lord our God hath both kept, and cared for us? May we not say, the Lord hath been our shepherd, and we have never wanted? He hath made us to lie down all our life long, as in green pastures, and led us beside the still waters. O that we were more thankful for the continued protection, benedictions, and deliverances of Divine Providence, as well with regard to our bodies, as to what belongs to the safety and salvation of our souls. May we presume to entreat the continuance of thy paternal regard, with all those advantages, and benefits, which may be needful for our comfort here, and consistent with our safety and happiness hereafter.

[Still looking up to the Lord as our shepherd, let us firmly believe there is no want to them that fear him, and that all they who seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Bless our honest and lawful endeavours, with respect to a present world. It is said, trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed; and ye shall eat in plenty, and shall be satisfied. Lord, if it be thy will that we should increase in wealth, and rise in the world, may our gratitude grow in proportion, and our advancement go hand in hand with the comfortable subsistence of all around us.]

Lord, weaken the principle of self-love in our souls, and lessen all immoderate attachments to a present world. May we use every thing here as not abusing it; weeping as though we wept not, rejoicing as though we rejoiced not, and possessing as though we possessed not. May we ever be found so numbering all our days, and all our weeks, as to be applying them chiefly to the great and important ends of our creation; to the promoting of God's glory in the world, and advancing the interests of a Redeemer's kingdom.

\* Almighty God! accept of the renewed sacrifice of praise, which we would now humbly offer up unto thee, for the sweet and refreshing sleep we enjoyed during the past night, and that thou hast enabled us to rise from our beds this morning in such measures of ease and health. *Never* would we forget him, who giveth us every thing that maketh life desirable and comfortable. Enable us this, and every day, to walk in the paths of righteousness and holiness. Let the whole day of life be spent in such a manner as that when its evening and end shall come, we may each, like Simeon of old, break forth, "Lord; let now thy servant depart in peace." May this, O God, be the happy lot and portion also of all whom we are bound in duty to have upon our hearts before thee. And now, heavenly Father, forgiving our failings, and supplying all our deficiencies, permit us to say;

“ To him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory, and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and ever.” Amen.

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## SECOND WEEK.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

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\* **ALMIGHTY** Maker and Lord of all! from this footstool on earth, permit us to lift up our voice and hearts toward thy glorious sanctuary in heaven. We would conclude this week with a humble attempt to set forth thy praises, and to declare our gratitude for continued and most unmerited favours. †

But, O Lord, thou art high above all the earth; far exalted beyond our most elevated conceptions or praises. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord; who can shew forth all his praise? We adore thee as the only living and true God—a Spirit, eternal, unchangeable, and everywhere present. The Lord our God is perfect in knowledge; there is nothing too hard for him: he preventeth his people also with the blessings of his goodness; and he hath promised that no good thing shall be withheld from them that walk uprightly.

[We would praise thee, our God and Father, this night, with all that gratitude of which our natures are capable, for the favours which thou hast so liberally bestowed upon us, from our

birth to the present hour. But we would particularly thank thee for those of the past week, which thou hast, in thy great mercy, and long-suffering patience, added to the many that have already gone over our heads.]

\* Nothing, O God, can equal the number of thy benefits toward us, except the number of our failings and short-comings, by which we have rendered ourselves undeserving of them. Most merciful and gracious God! into what state might we have been brought at this moment, had it not been for thine inconceivable forbearance, which prevented thee from entering into judgment with us! We should have been long ere now reaping the fruits of our ingratitude and folly, having been cut down as cumberers of the ground. O let us not abuse thy goodness and long-enduring patience any longer, but employ those days and weeks which thou mayest still grant us, in seeking thee with our whole desire, and serving thee with all our heart, and with all our soul. †

We have said, we will take heed to our ways; as also, that we sin not with our tongue. From this time, may we be more sincere, and fixed in our resolutions. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be yet any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

[We have professed to believe in Christ to the

saving of the soul : and it is expressly said, “ If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature ; old things are passed away ; behold, all things are become new.” Henceforth we would abide more closely in him, as the branch in the vine ; not only that we may enjoy a constant sense of the divine forgiveness, but also walk worthy of the Lord unto all well-pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in every personal grace and virtue.]

Let the time past of our lives be more than sufficient to have lived so much to ourselves. Ever remembering that we are bought with a price, even the precious blood of thy dear Son, may we henceforth devote more of our time and talents to thy worship and service. Let our eyes be daily lifted up to admire the works of creation around us. May our tongues be often employed in celebrating thy praises, and speaking good of thy name. Let the bowels of compassion never be shut up from a brother in need ; but may we be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.

\* And O that we could take more delight in approaching to God, and rejoice more in the whole of our salvation ! for God’s loving kindness is better than life ; and all the things that can be desired by us here below, not to be compared with the light of his countenance lifted up upon us.

[And by thus longing after thy salvation, O God, may we more plainly declare, that we seek a country, and look for a city, whose builder and maker is God, and into which all the ransomed of the Lord shall ere long come, with songs in their mouths, and everlasting joy upon their heads; and where sorrow and sighing shall for ever flee away.]

Whilst thou art pleased to continue our abode in this world, have we not cause to rejoice in our privileges as well as in our prospects? Thou art preserving us in health—thou art supplying us with food and raiment—we have still all the necessaries, and many of the comforts of this life—May we not, then, this evening set up our Ebenezer, our stone of remembrance, *saying*, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us?”

\* Having, therefore, obtained help of God, and continued monuments of his bounty and care until this day, we would in faith commit our bodies and souls unto him, under all the future events and dispensations of divine providence. Be our God, and guide during the remainder of this night. Let the angel of the Lord encamp around our dwelling; and since to-morrow is that day which is set apart for Christian worship, may our hearts be prepared for those duties which may then be incumbent upon us. In our closets, in our families, and in the sanctuary, may we find that it is good for us to

draw nigh unto God. And now, heavenly Father, wilt thou hear us again in behalf of our brethren of mankind? Lord Jesus, we believe (since thou hast told us) that thou art the way, the truth, and the life; and that no man cometh unto the Father but by thee. We pray, therefore, most benevolent Saviour, that according to thy express and gracious promise, the Gospel of thy kingdom may be soon preached in all the world, and for a witness unto all nations. And wherever the name of Christ is named, and his religion established, Lord, grant that both the avowed and secret enemies of the Church may be put to silence, and all their machinations defeated. Let our native Country, O Lord, continue to enjoy, by thy goodness and forbearance, those civil, as well as religious privileges by which it hath been long distinguished. O God, forgive our national ingratitude and provocations, and pour out of thy Spirit upon all ranks. Preserve and guide our Sovereign, and all in authority under him, and over us. Bless them all with the true spirit of their stations, and let the whole body of subjects continue to lead quiet and peaceable lives. Our kindred, and all our sincere friends, O God, be still their guide, their guardian, and their portion. All that are afflicted in body or mind, Father of mercies, (for thou alone canst,) pity, support, comfort, and deliver, in thy good time and way. Let the close of this week put us in mind of the con-

clusion of our lives; may we be both *habitually* and *actually* ready when the Son of Man cometh. Holy Spirit, enable us in that solemn hour to say, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit! Lord Jesus, receive our souls. Now, unto these Three that bear record in heaven, be all honour, and praise, and worship, for ever. Amen.

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**THIRD WEEK.****SABBATH MORNING.**

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\* O THOU who art the author and preserver of our lives, unto thee we would now lift up our voice and our hearts. Teach us to approach unto thee with that reverence which becometh all thy creatures; and vouchsafe to draw near unto us, as a God of pity, of mercy, and of grace. †

We adore thee, O God, who hast made us for thy service; that thou hast given us thy word to direct us in thy worship; and that one day in every seven of our lives is appointed for this purpose. As the unworthy, but professing disciples of Jesus Christ, who hope for acceptance only through his merits and mediation, we would now offer up our morning sacrifice to the God, and Father, and fountain of all. This is the day which thou hast made; the day upon which thy Son rose from the dead, finishing the work of our redemption; that happy day when the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, may be humbly expected wherever

two or three are met together in the name of the adorable Trinity. Wilt thou, then, O most high and incomprehensible Jehovah! accept of the dedication which we now make thee of our bodies and souls?

\* We are sensible that we have rendered ourselves unworthy of thy notice, having lost thy image, and broken thy commandments. But, God of all grace, thou art in Christ again reconciling a guilty world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses; and, therefore, we would now believingly, although humbly, draw near, asking and hoping every thing for his sake. Let these sins which we have formerly committed against much goodness, much love, and much light, be all blotted out of the book of thy remembrance. Let these worthless souls of ours be clothed with the wedding garment of a Redeemer's righteousness, that we may thus be interested in the privileges of his kingdom. O thou giver of every good and perfect gift, as the surest and sweetest evidence of this, create in us all clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us, that we may love thee—that we may fear thee—that it may be as our meat and our drink at all times to do thy holy will. We thank thee, O God, for that providential care and goodness which thou hast exercised towards us during the past week, and the by-gone night.

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Prepare us for all the duties in which we are this day to be engaged. May the good Lord pardon them who have been endeavouring to prepare their hearts, although they may not be prepared according to the purification of the sanctuary: and when we are allowed to enter into thine earthly temple, let all worldly wishes, worldly cares, and worldly thoughts of every sort, be banished from our minds. Enable us to sing thy praises with gratitude in our hearts. Grant that we may read thy holy Scriptures for our instruction and comfort. May the prayers which we shall this day offer up for ourselves and others, so far as consistent with thy glory, be accepted: and let thy good word preached, enlighten our understandings, spiritualize our hopes, confirm our faith, rekindle our love, and inspire us with new resolutions to live more becoming the professions we make, and the privileges we enjoy.

[And when we return from thy house, forbid, O God, that we should spend any part of thy day in thinking our own thoughts, speaking our own words, or minding our own pleasures; but let it be an entire Sabbath of rest unto our souls, reflecting upon what we have heard, laying up thy doctrines and precepts in our memories, examining, by thy Word and Spirit, into our mental state; and renewing, by thine all-sufficient

grace, our broken vows and unfulfilled engagements.]

\* And so, O Father, into whose hands we have committed our immortal spirits, by thus wisely and profitably spending our Sabbaths on earth, may we all be trained up and prepared for that eternal Sabbath in heaven, where we shall see thee as thou art, feel all thy perfections conspiring to make us happy, join in endless worship with an innumerable company of angels and dignified spirits, be introduced into thy beatific presence, where there is fulness of joy, and be admitted to sit down at thy right hand, where there are pleasures for evermore.

[O Lord, might we still intercede in behalf of our brethren of mankind! We would fulfil the royal law, according to the Scriptures, and love our neighbour as ourselves. Thou hast expressly promised by the blood of thy covenant to speak peace unto the heathen. Soon, if it be thy will, O God, give them to thy Son as his inheritance, with the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. Where the Gospel is preached and professed, may multitudes be converted, and made a willing people in the day of thy power. Those islands to which we belong we would more especially have upon our hearts. Preserve, O God, preserve to the latest posterity, our religion, our constitution, our liberties, civil and sacred. To this end, establish our King

throne, preside in both houses of parliament, and endue all our magistrates with the true spirit of their respective stations. Pour out, O God, a double portion of thy holy Spirit upon all the ministers of the everlasting Gospel; and may they be enabled to discharge the important trust committed to them with fidelity and diligence, with thy approbation, and with abundant success. Let the churches with which we are more immediately connected have rest; and walking together in the fear of the Lord, and comforts of the Holy Ghost, may they be edified and multiplied.]

\* Our relatives and friends, wherever they are, may their bodies be the objects of thy providential care, and all their souls the subjects of thy saving grace. If it be thy will, let us have many comfortable and useful meetings in this world, and may none of us be found wanting in that day when thou countest thy jewels. Such as may now be more immediately under thy afflicting hand, O God, console, support, and, in thy due time, deliver; and may we all have an interest in that sure and comprehensive promise, that all things at last shall work together for good.

Now, unto the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**THIRD WEEK.**

**SABBATH EVENING.**

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\* OUR Father that art in heaven, who alone dost justly claim our bended knees, and our uplifted hands, still hallowed be thy sacred name. For we, that are in ourselves but as dust and ashes, have, nevertheless, been permitted again and again this day to draw near and supplicate at the throne of thy grace. And, O most merciful and forbearing Jehovah, thou hast so far taken pity upon us, or been pleased to accept of our imperfect worship, as not to commit any outward breach upon us. For we must confess, that even the iniquities of our holy things do testify against us; and hadst thou been strict to mark our vain, polluted, and sinful thoughts, even in thy worship, thou mightest have thrown the refuse of our sacrifices in our faces, and said in thy wrath, who hath required such services at your hands? But, O Lord, we admire, and adore, and would ever rejoice in these gracious declarations, which thou hast given us in thy word, that thou takest no pleasure in the destruction of sinners; and knowing our frame, remembering we are but dust, and

therefore exacting of us less than our iniquities deserve, thou art long-suffering, slow to anger, full of compassion, and plenteous in mercy. †

Blessed God, may every returning consideration of thy glorious attributes, but especially these astonishing expressions of thy loving kindness and tender mercy to the human race, so conquer and soften our naturally hard and stony hearts, as that they may now melt down, and flow out, in ardent love, and humble gratitude; thus ending thy day, as we sweetly began it, with thine easy yoke, in thy delightful service.

\* What an honour and privilege were conferred upon us, to be allowed to enter into the house of God, to approach his more immediate presence, to sing his praises, hear his Gospel, and pour out our hearts in prayer before him! Angels and dignified spirits were but thus employed to-day: but O, how different their worship, how infinitely superior their ecstatic delights; when viewing the face of God without an intervening cloud, and surrounded by the excellent glory, they were heard to say with every creature in heaven above; "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever!" †

O God, keep us in patient waiting until that glorious hour, when we also may hope to join that blessed company, and sing the Song of Moses and

the Lamb. Make us thankful for those subordinate communications of thy love and grace, which but tasted here below, give more true peace, and solid pleasure, than the men of the world enjoy, when their corn, and wine, and creature comforts do most abound.

[O God, give us a greater relish for these pure and spiritual joys. We long to have more of the temper and disposition of the holy Psalmist, when he said, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God!" We wish to say, "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! a day spent in thy courts, is better than a thousand otherwise employed."]

\* Lord grant that the worship and services in which we have lately been engaged, may be followed not only with thy gracious pardon, but with thy efficacious benediction. May neither the cares nor the pleasures of this world destroy the seed of the word which may have been, this day, sown in our hearts; but may it spring up, and bear fruit, some thirty, sixty, or an hundred fold.

[We have desired the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby. We are one Sabbath day's journey nearer the end of life. God grant that we be nearer to heaven in our tempers, in our conduct, in our desires, and affections.]

From this night we would desire to lead a life more conformable to the holy Gospel we profess,

and to the glorious hopes we are permitted to entertain.

[Will the Lord be pleased to follow with his blessing the preaching of the Gospel every where. Wherever the name of Christ hath this day been named, may multitudes have seen their need of his salvation, and been constrained to fly to him as their city of refuge. And if it be thy holy will, let the glorious period spoken of in an ancient prophecy be nigh at hand, when the whole earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the channel of the sea.]

\* Will God be pleased to hear the intercessions which have this day been put up through all his Churches ; more especially for our native Country, the Government under which we live, thy Church as established among us, and all sects and denominations of real Christians. Be pleased, O Lord, to pardon what may have been asked amiss : and where thy servants may have neglected to ask for needful blessings to themselves, and others, do thou, of thine infinite goodness, supply the deficiency. And now, O God, permit us to commend our bodies and souls to thy paternal care this night. Thou art the Keeper of Israel, who never slumbereth, nor sleepeth. Give us that composed and refreshing sleep which thou hast promised to thy beloved. Be at our right hand, and we will not fear what evil men, or evil spirits,

can do unto us : and having found that thou hast been our refuge and defence all the night long, may we awake in the morning disposed to meditate upon thy goodness and mercy. O may we live in thy love and fear all our days, and improve by every dispensation of thy providence and grace, and at last be admitted, with all ours, into thy heavenly kingdom. We ask and hope for every blessing in the name, and for the sake, of our dear Redeemer. Amen.

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**THIRD WEEK.****MONDAY MORNING.**

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\* **INCOMPREHENSIBLE**, but infinitely great and glorious Jehovah, we are again this morning permitted to lift up our hearts and voice unto thee. From every repeated view of the works of creation around us, we are led to admire thy wisdom, thy power, and thy goodness, universally displayed. But when we bring our contemplations homeward to our own situation and circumstances, we are constrained to say, the Lord of all hath been peculiarly kind, merciful, and gracious to the human race. Thou didst at the first make us after thine own image, a little lower than the angels; and crowned us with honour and with glory; but our first parents broke thy covenant, and we in them have sinned, and fallen from this holy and happy condition, into a state of guilt, pollution, and misery. †

We are now but of yesterday, and know nothing. We are a seed of evil-doers, who have gone astray from every right path; and thy pure and perfect law hath justly concluded us all under sin, that

every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world become guilty before God.

\* But thou hast not left us altogether, nor in any age, in this dark and forlorn situation. For, when the world, by wisdom, knew not God, and the way of man was not in himself, God, at sundry times, and in divers manners, spake in time past to our fathers by the prophets, and hath in these last days spoken still more clearly and fully by his own Son. We thank thee, blessed God, for that complete revelation of thy mind and will, delivered to us in the Holy Scriptures. We would not add, we would not (according to thy express injunction,) take away from this divine repository; but at all times would implicitly receive the things that are written therein, as a perfect standard for our faith and practice. †

O God, our Father, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, engage us all to make a saving application of this Son of thine, as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world; and to whom all the prophets gave witness, and now once in the end of the world hath appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

[But, O God, we have already made this good confession. By baptismal and sacramental dedication, we are, at least outwardly, thine, in the bonds of the new covenant. It would be our earnest and daily prayer, at a throne of grace, that we

may all be among the number of thy true Israel, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God, saved by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, filled with all peace and joy in believing, and having our souls sealed unto the day of redemption.]

\* Receive, we beseech thee, O God, this morning, our sincere and united thanks for that protection which thou hast afforded us, and the refreshing sleep we have enjoyed during the past night. Be with us, O our heavenly Father, through the whole of this day, and of this week, whose secular employments we are now about to enter upon. In all our transactions with the world, may we be conscientiously just, knowing that all who do unrighteously are an abomination unto the Lord. †

Let us guide our affairs with discretion, so as that we may have it in our power to shew favour, and assist our neighbour, in whatsoever business he hath need of us, as becometh saints.

\* Enable us, O God, upon all occasions, and in all situations, to shew mercy, that we may never have judgment without mercy from thee. If thou shouldst see meet to crown our lawful endeavours, so as that we increase, and abound in the good things of this life; Lord, let our rising in the world go hand in hand with the preservation, and comfortable subsistence, of all around us.

[But O let us take heed from morning to night, lest at any time our hearts be overcharged with the cares of this life; for thou hast expressly said, "He that maketh haste to be rich, shall not be innocent."

Lord deliver us from the inordinate love of money, which is the root of all evil; which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.]

O Lord, we would not be over anxious to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves may break through and steal; but would be laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven, that where our treasure is, there our hearts may be also for ever.

\* Lord, we would keep alive upon our minds, both the shortness and the uncertainty of time. May this engage us to redeem it, and so to number all our days, as to be applying them toward an habitual preparation for death. Lord, give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our numberless failings, and shortcomings in duty. Forbid that we indulge either envy or malice in our hearts toward any fellow-creature. If it be thy holy will, may we fall into no temptation, but which thou wilt enable us to resist, and overcome. And in the evening may we return to a throne of grace, with a conscience void of offence, and a

heart replenished with gratitude to God, for the privileges and blessings of another day. Now unto the Three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed, as is most due, all praise, and power, dominion, and glory, world without end. Amen.

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## THIRD WEEK.

## MONDAY EVENING.

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\* O GOD, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants, we come now into thy more immediate presence. Evening as well as morning would we pray unto thee, convinced that it is good for us to draw near unto God. Thou knowest that we are nothing in ourselves; that we are entirely dependent on thee for our being, and our well-being; and thou hast erected a throne of grace, seated thyself thereon, and invited us to come with a humble but cheerful confidence, not only to remember thy past goodness, but to be entreated of us for blessings which we may yet stand in need of. Thou hast in former times made all thy goodness to pass before us; we have tasted and seen that the Lord is gracious; thy long-suffering and loving-kindness have been wonderfully manifested toward us. May we hope that it cannot be altogether said of us, what thou didst say to thy professing people of old: "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel hath not known me, their Creator and Benefactor; my people have not considered the

protection and the benefits they have received at my hand. If this should be the case, as we have reason to fear it hath been the case with respect to most of us; we are come this evening to deprecate thine anger, to implore thy merciful forgiveness, and to beseech thee to grant us a more humble and thankful temper of mind. And what encouragement may we not derive from these words of our dear Redeemer, and who is our only Mediator and Advocate with the Father? Hast thou not said, O adorable Saviour, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, believing, ye shall receive; and if ye ask any thing of the Father, in my name, he will do it." We would believe, and take encouragement and comfort from these words: we would ask, and, if possible, nothing doubting, in the name and for the sake of our dear Redeemer. We would beg that from this evening we may no longer be forgetful or neglectful of thy benefits, whether of a temporal or spiritual kind; but that we may eye thy good and gracious hand in them all: and moreover, that with every blessing which thou mayest henceforth be pleased to bestow, our souls may receive an additional flame of gratitude and affection, until we be enabled to love the Lord our God with all our mind, and heart, and strength, and our neighbour also, for thy sake.

[Blessed Jesus, we would have ever deeply

impressed on our minds these words of thy beloved Apostle: "For if God so loved us as to send his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him, we ought also to love one another: and if we love one another, God dwelleth with us, and his love is perfected in us."

Keep alive upon our minds, O God, a remembrance of all thy other most just and holy commandments; "that we may serve thee from day to day with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind, never forgetting that important truth, that the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; and that if we seek him he will be found of us; but if we forsake him, he will cast us off for ever." To be cast away from God's presence, and to have his Holy Spirit taken from us, we would ever dread as the greatest of all evils. That this may not be the case, we will again promise, and endeavour from this night to let our conversation be without covetousness, and to be content with such things as we have; for to such thou hast expressly said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Be it unto us, O God, according to thy word and promise, and we will not fear what either men or evil spirits can do against us.]

Into thy hand we would commit our souls this night. O that we could say with greater assurance; thou hast redeemed us, Lord God of truth.



Then might we lay claim to perpetual safety and divine protection, during the defenceless hours of sleep. But, O Lord, notwithstanding our many infirmities and failings, we would place our whole confidence in thee. For it is more especially said in thy word: "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God."

\* We would now pray for our brethren of mankind: God be merciful to the heathens and savages, unto such as live and die without the external advantages of Revelation. Of a truth we would perceive, that God is no-respecter of persons; but he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, may be accepted with him through the Beloved. Lord be mindful of thy Church universal. Wherever the name of Christ is named, there may truth, peace, holiness, and charity prevail. Our native land, and all its dependencies, we earnestly recommend to thy providential care. For every favourable interposition in our behalf, we desire to be thankful; and still confiding in thee, with the use of proper means, may we experience thy protection and abundant success. Continue, O God, to pour down thy blessing upon the heads of our King, Queen, and every branch of the Royal Family; and may what is good in them, be more regarded and followed by such as are near their persons. Lord give a spirit of

judgment unto all that sit in judgment; and let our magistrates be a terror to evil-doers, but the praise and reward of such as do well. Let the ministers of religion be successful, and may they all take heed to themselves, and to their doctrine, lest by any means when they have preached to others, they themselves should be a cast away. Lord be merciful to every human creature that we know. Let none of them perish. Give them each a serious concern about their souls; and may they fly to thee in Christ, for safety and eternal happiness. Such of our relatives and friends as are absent from us, we commit to the care of thy providence, and word of thy grace, which is able to keep them from all evil here, and transmit them to happiness and glory hereafter. Lord be with us through the following night. Let no evil befall us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. If it be thy holy will, may we rise in the morning to thank thee for new mercies, and continued privileges. And the God of peace cause us to go from his throne in peace, and grant us the things we have requested of him, for the alone sake of Jesus Christ; in whom, whether sleeping or waking, living or dying, we would be found; and to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, we would ascribe all honour and praise. Amen.

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**THIRD WEEK.****TUESDAY MORNING.**

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\* O THOU Creator and Preserver of all things, behold us again, this morning, at the footstool of thy throne. We draw near, permitted and encouraged by thy Word to adore thy perfections, and to give thee thanks for the many favours conferred upon us. We come also to confess our demerit and sinfulness, and to plead for thy pardoning mercy and recovering grace. And who is like unto thee, O thou great, eternal, invisible, and incomprehensible object of our spiritual worship? Before all things thou didst exist; from everlasting to everlasting thou art the King of angels and men, the only living and true God, infinite in wisdom, power, goodness, and mercy. Of thy good-will and pleasure thou didst at first bring us out of nothing into existence; for which we consider ourselves as highly indebted to thee. But that rank of being which we hold in the scale of creation, demands our further and most grateful acknowledgment. We are wiser than the fowls of heaven, and have more under-

standing than the beasts that perish. We bless God that we are endued with rational and immortal souls, and made capable of knowing, worshipping, and enjoying him. We would express our thankfulness this morning for all that care, protection, and kindness, which we have experienced from our birth to the present hour; for sparing us in childhood, guiding us in youth, and preserving us amidst the numberless diseases and dangers of riper years. We thank thee for our daily food, for our warm and decent clothing, for all the necessaries of life, and those many conveniences and comforts which *we* enjoy beyond thousands of our fellow-creatures around us. But, above all, we would ever adore and praise God for his inestimable love and grace in Jesus Christ. †

We had destroyed ourselves, but in God there was help found. When there was no eye to pity, nor hand to help, he sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the only true Messiah, and that he died for our offences, and rose again for our justification.

[Blessed Saviour, let us never for one moment doubt that thou art able to save, unto the very uttermost, all that come unto God by thee. We profess all of us to be thy disciples; grant that we may be really and truly of this happy

and highly privileged number. But, alas! must we not confess and say, how weak and faint in comparison of what they ought to be! How weak and faint are our ideas of this most wonderful plan! and how short do we come, both of the professions we make, and of the hopes we are allowed to entertain! Thou hast bought us with the price of thy Son's blood. We should, therefore, glorify thee in our souls, and in our bodies, which are thine. But are we not daily forgetful of thy interest in us? Do we not, almost on every occasion, love and fear the creature more than the Creator? The objects of sense and time have engrossed our attention, while the things that belong to our peace were neglected. What shall we now say unto thee, O thou preserver of men! To us belongeth shame and confusion of face. But still thou takest compassion upon us, and hast promised in thy Word, that like as a father pitieth his children, thou wilt in Jesus Christ both pity and save us.]

\* We fly to thee in him, as the alone foundation, for pardon, reconciliation, adoption into the family of heaven, and every spiritual blessing. O let the Holy Spirit be given unto us, to seal our souls unto the day of redemption. Let him be as a Spirit of wisdom to guide us at all times; as a Spirit of holiness, to regenerate and cleanse our souls from every impure

desire; and as a Spirit of might and power, to strengthen us, that we may neither be ashamed, nor afraid, when we have respect unto all thy commandments. Lord, we are poor short-sighted creatures, and know not absolutely what temporal blessings to ask at thy hands; for we know not what shall eventually be best for us. If consistent with thy will, might we hope that goodness and mercy shall still follow us.

[What are we, and what is our father's house, that thou hast brought us up hitherto? When we think of what we have received, O God, and compare it with what we deserve, we are lost in wonder and astonishment at thy goodness. Let it not be altogether lost: may it lead us to gratitude and humility; to repentance, and to a mindfulness of our latter end: for we know not what is between us and the grave. Thou mayest yet see meet to teach us in the school of adversity. Help us then to say, "it is the Lord's will, let him do what seemeth him good. Shall we receive good at the hand of the Lord, and shall we not also receive evil?" We trust he will not lay upon us more than he will enable us to bear, and that the issue of all shall be to God's glory, and for our greater good.]

\* Lord, accept of our sincere thanks for that freedom from pain, both of body and mind,

which we have enjoyed during the by-gone night. There are many, no doubt, whose cry, during the lingering hours, hath been, Would God it were morning! and who even now (the distress remaining) may be saying, Would God it were evening! Lord God take pity upon such, and in thy good time relieve them: and elevate all our hearts toward that enviable time and place, when God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes, and there shall be no more death; neither sorrow, nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain; the former things being for ever passed away. Until this period come, until death, which leadeth unto it, may we all be kept in a waiting posture. May we watch, as well as pray, that we be *actually*, as well as *habitually*, prepared for death: for blessed are those servants whom the Lord, when he cometh, shall find watching. Now, unto him that supplieth all our need, according to his riches in glory by Jesus Christ; to the Three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, thanksgiving and praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

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**THIRD WEEK.**

**TUESDAY EVENING.**

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\* PERMIT us, O God, to approach into thy presence this evening with forgiveness and acceptance. Thou art the alone object of all true worship; and, therefore, unto thee every knee should bow, and every tongue confess. We would ever esteem it as our highest honour, and as one of our greatest privileges, to be invited and encouraged to call upon thee by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. In the exercise of this privilege, and looking for acceptance through our adorable Mediator and Advocate, we would now recall to our minds, and mention with humble gratitude, all that goodness and grace which thou hast exercised toward us ever since we had a being. Thou art our great Creator, as well as constant and daily Preserver. We were cast upon thy care from the womb. Thou art the God who hath fed and clothed us all our life long until this day; and this night we are calling upon our souls, and every power and faculty thereof, to bless and praise that kind and beneficent Providence, to which



we are indebted for all that we have and are. Lord, let us never forget even these temporal favours. Write a law of gratitude upon our hearts, and stir us up to consider every operation of thy hand toward us for good. May we not say, the Lord is our Shepherd, and we have not wanted; never been without the necessaries of this life, and enjoyed many of its conveniences and comforts, which thousands of our fellow-creatures are destitute of. But, O Lord, we would this evening consider thee not only as the maintainer of our lot and portion in a present world, but likewise as the strength of our heart and eternal portion of our souls. We were destroyed by the introduction of sin into our world, and had been for ever ruined, but for the free love and infinite mercy of Heaven. Blessed, for ever blessed, be that adorable Trinity in whom there was help found!

Before the foundation of the world, eternal Father, thou didst make a covenant with thy chosen; and now, in these latter days, thou hast performed the mercy promised to our fathers, remembering thy holy covenant. Greater love we cannot conceive than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends; but hereby was the love of God peculiarly distinguished, in that, whilst we were enemies, Christ died for us.

[Wonderful love, indeed, that God should not

spare his own Son; but, as the Scripture saith, deliver him up to death for us all. Help us to appropriate the apostolic deduction: "How shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Forbid it, heavenly Father, that we should be of that number who doubt and draw back on account of the greatness or multitude of our transgressions. The blood of Jesus Christ, we would believe, cleanseth from all sin. Notwithstanding they be of a scarlet and crimson dye, thou hast said, O God, by the mouth of thy prophet: "I will pardon all their iniquities whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me." And this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and of them the chief. Yea, we would believe to our *peace* and hope, that he is able to save, unto the very uttermost, all who come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for us.]

\* To this Messiah, or sent of God—the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world—Jesus, the anointed of the Father, and alone Mediator for the human race; unto him we have already been devoted, or dedicated ourselves, by baptismal engagements. And we would this evening (may we hope by thy Spirit influencing us) renew the solemn dedication, recommitting our souls

into the arms of God's mercy in Christ, that all our sins may be forgiven, our natures regenerated and sanctified, and our precious souls everlastingly saved. O God, from this night enable us to live and walk more becoming the profession we have made, and the glorious privileges we now enjoy.†

By thy grace renewing and strengthening us, may we lay aside every weight, as well as those sins which do more easily beset us, and run with patience the Christian race that is set before us.

[We would abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good; and cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Convince us, O God, of the brevity of life, and great uncertainty thereof. Here we have no continuing city. Our days are like a shadow that declineth. There may be but a step between us and death. Lord, make us to know our end, and the measure of our days, that we may know how frail we are. And knowing this, give us, O God, to double our diligence in the paths of righteousness. Let us seek that we may excel, covet earnestly the best gifts; and never be weary in well-doing; knowing that in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.]

O let our loins be girded about, and our

lights burning, and we ourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord; and so as that, when he cometh and knocketh, we may be ready to open immediately. Let this night put us in mind of that important event, for we know not what another night may produce. We would not give sleep to our eyes, nor slumber to our eyelids, until we have a well-grounded hope of our interest in a Saviour. Lord Jesus, we believe, help thou our unbelief. Into thy gracious hands we commit our living and departing spirits: keep them, we beseech thee, safe and secure, until the resurrection day.

\* God be mindful of his interest in the world! O that it were consistent with thy will that all the ends of the earth might see the salvation of our God! We rejoice in the prospect of universal peace, when nation shall no more rise up against nation. Bless the Country in which we dwell, and the Government to which we belong. May our King be preserved wise and good, our magistrates be endued with the spirit of their stations, and the great body of the people lead sober, honest, and peaceable lives. The Lord bless all ages and conditions of men among us. Let our youths be sober-minded, and the Word of God abide in them. May such as are in the middle of life, and cumbered with its cares, be mindful of the one thing needful;

and let there still be old disciples among us, whom thou hast taught, and kept from their youth, and who are still ready to declare thy wondrous works.

[O that the sighing of the malefactor and prisoner might come up before God, and that thou wouldest, according to the greatness of thy power and mercy, preserve them from despair who are shortly to die. Lord deliver them from going down to the pit of destruction, and let them not be hurt of the second death.]

\* God of providence and grace, be kind and merciful this night unto all whom we ought to have upon our hearts before thee. May they have all that is good for them here, and heaven and happiness hereafter. Whatever we beg, is for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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**THIRD WEEK.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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\* Most high, and most holy God, we embrace with cheerfulness every opportunity to engage in thy service. We are all the creatures of thy power; we are the objects of thy providential care; and we are still the monuments of thy sparing mercy. Surely, then, it is a duty incumbent upon us, every evening and morning of our lives, to present that tribute of gratitude, and praise, which is justly due from all creatures, to so great, and good, and merciful a Creator. We would say this morning, "Praise the Lord, O our souls! for thou, O Lord, our God, art very great, and clothed with honour and with majesty."

[Who covereth thyself with light as with a garment, and who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain; who also layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters, and walketh upon the wings of the wind; who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flaming fire: yea, that doeth according to his will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of this earth.]

But we would now praise the Lord for his goodness, as well as for his greatness. The Lord is good, and doeth good. The goodness of God endureth continually.

[At the same time, O Lord, that we are called upon to speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, thou hast given us abundant reason to utter the memory of thy great goodness. Thou art kind even to the unthankful ; for thou makest thy sun to rise on the evil, as well as the good ; and sendest thy rain upon the just, and the unjust. Yea, the Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works.]

The eyes of every creature look up unto thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. But God is peculiarly kind unto all his professing people. How great is thy goodness, O Lord, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee ! which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee, before the sons of men ! Who would not fear thee, O thou King of Nations ! for unto thee alone doth it appertain ? We pray for that fear of the Lord, which is the fountain of life, the beginning of true wisdom, and which causeth those who possess it to depart from evil.

\* Give us, O God, experimentally to feel the force of these words, “ And they that know

thy name, will put their trust in thee, for thou, Lord, hast never forsaken them that seek thee, and art a refuge unto all that are in trouble."

[We know that thou art great in council, and mighty in working. We would therefore acknowledge God in all our ways, and trust to him alone in every emergency. When we are in doubt, or fear, respecting the path of duty; may we hear thy voice, O God, as it were, behind us, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." And having found what we conceive to be thy holy will and pleasure, enable us, O God, to go forward without that fear of man which bringeth a snare; and to maintain an unshaken confidence in thee, that the issue of all may be to thy glory, and our greater good. We know, and would ever have deeply impressed on our minds, that thou art the wise Disposer of all events. Nothing can possibly come to pass without thy permission, or decree. O let this consideration both silence and comfort us under every dispensation of Providence. Thy steps, and paths, may sometimes appear to be as in the dark, and deep waters. We are poor short-sighted creatures, and we may not see now, why, or for what reason, thou contendest with us. Yet we know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou never dost, but in thy faithfulness, afflict us. Help us ever to consider, that when we are thus judged we



are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.]

In this world, we know not whether a state of prosperity or adversity be fittest for us: O that we could say upon all occasions, "The will of the Lord be done." We are sure thou knowest better what is good for us, than we do ourselves. We would say, Give us, O God, what thou knowest to be good, and withhold from us whatsoever (although, for the present, it should be pleasing,) might eventually be evil, or hurtful: and train us all up in that way which thou knowest to be the best, for fitting us, in due time, for thy heavenly kingdom.

[May we more and more contemplate and adore God's holy providence, and be disposed to follow the leadings of it.

Should it be thy gracious will to spare unto us our many remaining comforts, teach us to possess them as though we possessed them not. Enjoying all things here in a due subordination to our love and duty to God, may we be ready to resign them and ourselves also, whenever he may be pleased to require them, or to call us away.]

Give us, O God, more and more to see the nothingness of this world, the brevity, as well as uncertainty, of this life, with the fleeting and unsubstantial nature of all its enjoyments, and

engage us more closely to embrace thee, by faith, as our covenant God in Christ, who shall then never leave, nor forsake us; but in thy own good time make us perfectly holy, and happy, through the ages of eternity.

\* Lord, thou hast recruited our bodies, and refreshed our spirits, by the comfortable rest of another night. Every morning, therefore, would we stand up to thank, and praise thee, who not only gave us songs in the night, but art still our help when the morning appeareth, and givest us good cause to speak to thy praise all the day long. To this end, O God, preserve us this day from all those things which may be hurtful, either to body or soul. Keep alive upon our minds a constant sense of thy presence with us; and this will deter us from every thing that is evil, and encourage us more and more to every thing that is good.

[We know that in the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and thou hast promised that our children and relatives shall have a place of refuge there. To thy wisdom, protection, goodness, and mercy, we commit now, and at all times, their bodies and souls. As for our enemies, knowing that we are called thereunto, both by principle and profession, may we forgive them. Lord, we would not render evil for evil, or railing for railing, but con-

trariwise, blessing; that thus we may prove ourselves to be the children of our Father, who is in heaven.]

\* Lord, we would wish well to the whole human race; and pray, if it were thy holy will, that they might all soon be united with us in the bonds of the same new and well ordered covenant. Where thy judgments are abroad, O God, let the inhabitants of that land tremble before thee, and learn righteousness. The wrath of man, we know, shall praise thee; but the remainder thereof, do thou in mercy restrain. Make us thankful for that domestic peace and safety we still enjoy. Let mercy and truth ever preserve our King, to rule over us in the fear of God. May both Houses of Parliament be directed by thee, to promote the publick good. And may all inferior magistrates administer impartial justice, as knowing that they judge not for themselves, but for thee. O Lord, if it be consistent with thy will, let Britain flourish to the end of time. And now, blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

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**THIRD WEEK.**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING.**

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\* O LORD, thou art good, and still doing good unto all thy creatures. Every animal around us is preserved by thy providence, and supported from thy bounty. But thou art graciously pleased to manifest a more especial regard toward the being, and well-being of the children of men. In this lower creation, thou hast made us to have dominion over all the other works of thy hands, and given every creature for our sustenance, our conveniency, or our pleasure. O God, keep us ever humble, and make us truly thankful for that distinction thou hast made between us and all the other animals around us; and whilst we are praising thee for that unlimited right and power which thou hast given us over them, teach us to govern and make use of them with moderation and clemency, ever considering that they are the gifts of thy goodness, not the slaves of our wanton dominion and cruelty. Permit us again this evening, O Lord, to thank thee for that providential care which thou hast exercised toward each of us since we came into the world. We might, like many others of our fellow creatures,

have been exposed to hunger, and thirst, and nakedness, and been in want of all things: but we have eaten, and been full; have built goodly houses, and dwelt safely therein; have had all the necessaries, and many of the comforts of this life, liberally bestowed: yea, the power and goodness of God have been ever with us, and kept us in all the ways which we have gone, morning and evening preventing us with the blessings of his goodness. Lord, make us daily and hourly grateful to thee for these eminent and extraordinary temporal benefits conferred upon us; and convince us more and more that it is owing to thy blessing, in, and with them, that they afford us any enjoyment at all. But, O Lord, we would be led from past experience, as well as from thy blessed word, to see that no comfort or indulgence of this world can yield *solid* and *abiding* happiness; which is only to be found in thy favour, under the smiles of thy countenance, and in communion and fellowship with thee. O that we could say with thy servant of old, "Whom have we in heaven but God? and there is none upon all the earth we would desire in comparison with him: both our heart and flesh may faint and fail; but he is the strength of our hearts, and portion for ever." May the sanctified application of these truths quiet our minds, give peace to our troubled consciences, subdue our rebellious and carnal dispositions, and elevate and satisfy our

spiritual desires. Thou mayest soon, O God, see meet to summon us from a present world. We know that we are each training up for a more permanent state of happiness or misery.

[O that this consideration, sanctified by thy grace, may engage every one present to choose that way, which is above to the wise, that we may all depart from hell beneath. May we never be tempted to sin, but at the same time think whither it is leading us, to the loss of everlasting pleasures, and to our being consigned over to infamy and misery.]

Let the thoughts of our being soon to leave this world lead our views and desires beyond it: and the consideration that every thing belonging thereunto shall, in a very little time, pass away, may this engage us to be using all as not abusing them; in such a manner, as that we shall not repine at Providence, or even grieve immoderately when we are disappointed, or they are taken away from us.

\* We would keep in mind that sacred truth, that man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward. Ever since that fatal day, when our first parents broke thy covenant and sinned against thee, pain, and sorrow, and death, have been entailed upon us all. Being sinners, we must of necessity be sufferers.

[Affliction becomes needful and proper, that we may see more clearly the great evil of sin; that

our carnal appetites and passions may be mortified; and that our affections may be drawn off and weaned from this present seducing and insnaring world. Blessed be thy name, O God, for what thou hast told us of the nature of affliction, and for the promises which thou hast given to thy people under it. Afflictions are not the absolute marks of thy displeasure; for thou hast said, on the contrary, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten;" and whom the Lord loveth, he thus correcteth, even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.]

Grant, therefore, O heavenly Father, when thou art pleased to visit us with trials, that we may not faint, or grow weary in our minds, but endeavour through grace to bear with submission the whole of thy will; knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope; and hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost given unto us. We would say, "Why art thou cast down, O our souls, and why art thou disquieted within us? Hope thou in God, for we shall yet praise him, who is the health of our countenance, and our God."

\* We are sure, O God, that thou knowest better than we do what is good for us; and that it is thy prerogative to assign us our lot, and to order and control the various windings through which our lives are drawn. May it be our concern only to

endeavour through grace to act our parts well; to behave upon every occasion in such a manner, as we shall wish to have done when we come to the closing scene of all. And now, O God, wilt thou accept of our acknowledgments for thy care and keeping of us during the past day? From thy bountiful hand we have received many mercies: by thy watchful providence, we may have escaped many hidden dangers. Whilst innumerable multitudes of our fellow creatures are every day carried off the stage of life, we are still continued in a state of probation. O God, give us grace to improve the little time which thou mayest still allot us, so as that we may have thy approbation in the great day of account. But we would not only pray for ourselves, but for all men. O let the Gospel be preached to every creature. Where it is dispensed, may multitudes be made a willing people in the day of thy power. Purify thy Church, O God, from every error; and may all that name the name of Christ depart from iniquity. Our native Land, and Colonies abroad, Lord continue to bless and highly favour. We pray for our Sovereign the King, that God may protect his person, preserve him in health and comfort, and, if it were the divine will, that his reign might be long and prosperous. Bless every branch of the Royal Family, and may all our great men be good and exemplary. Let such as bear the sway over us be just, and rule in the fear of God. Pre-



side, O God, at the helm of publick affairs, and give peace at home and abroad. Be favourable to our Sion—clothe her priests with salvation—let her saints shout for joy. Those persons with whom we are more immediately connected, give them grace to be faithful, diligent, and useful. Let our absent relations and friends be under thy constant guidance and protection. May we see them, and be refreshed by them, from time to time. Be with us all during the ensuing hours of rest; and may the peace of God keep our hearts and mind, through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom be glory, both now and ever. Amen.

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## THIRD WEEK.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

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\* O GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! God of thine ancient people Israel; who did once condescend to dwell between the cherubims; vouchsafe us thy gracious presence and acceptance this morning. We draw near unto thee as the alone true object of all spiritual worship, and as we are directed and encouraged by thy word and promises. Being thine by creation, by preservation, and by every just and natural tie, we would ascribe that homage and praise which is so reasonable and due. But we would humbly hope, O Lord, that we are also thine by a sweeter and more intimate connexion; no less than the gracious redemption and most invaluable purchase of thy beloved Son. We believe that God hath now fulfilled his promise made at sundry times, and in divers manners. Jesus, the desire of all nations, is come. He took not upon him the nature of angels, but was made in the likeness of sinful men. In this nature, and in our room, he suffered and died, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.

[We trust this is he who should have redeemed Israel; and in vain, and to their continued punishment, do they look for another. It is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus hath come into the world to save sinners, and of them the chief. We would ever rejoice in these express words of the Apostle, to wit, that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto his servants the word of reconciliation." We believe, Lord Jesus, help our unbelief, that thou art able and willing to save unto the very uttermost, all who come unto God by thee.]

May we hope, O God, that we have seen our guilty and depraved state by nature; that we have been convinced of the insufficiency of every other method, but the Gospel plan; and that we have been enabled to receive, and rest upon, the Lord Jesus Christ for all salvation. We believe that he came to bless his people, by turning every one of them from their iniquities. We would now, and at all times, more especially have an eye to this distinguished part of our Lord's mediation and purchase; that Christ may of God be made unto us sanctification.

[We would long to be of his workmanship; to be created in Jesus Christ unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in

them. It is recorded of old: "This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." O God, let this prophecy be fulfilled respecting each of us. Lord create in us clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us.]

\* Thou art the searcher of hearts, and trier of the reins of the children of men. With thy servant of old would we say, "Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Teach us, O God, not only to hold fast that which is good and praiseworthy, but to abstain even from all appearance of evil.†

O Lord, by thy grace make us such as thou wouldest have us to be, in all purity of heart, and holiness of life and conversation.

\* We adore that kind Providence which hath preserved and conducted us through another day and night. We thank thee, O God, for the benefits we have received, the many unseen dangers we may have escaped, for that health of body and soundness of understanding we have enjoyed, and the various conveniences and comforts which are still left us. Lord, what are we, or what is our father's house, that thou hast brought us up so far

on our journey through life ; and in the way shewn such tenderness, compassion, patience, and mercy? Lord, let not all this goodness and forbearance be lost upon us ; but let our hearts melt down, and flow out in gratitude and affection to thee, and toward all our fellow-creatures for thy sake.

We would again embrace this opportunity to pray for all men. Thou hast declared, blessed Saviour, that thy Gospel shall be preached in all the world, and for a witness to all nations. Hasten this happy time, O God, by all the dispensations of thy providence, and by every effort of thy ministering servants.

[We would not be ignorant that blindness in part hath happened to Israel. Lord take away the veil which is still upon the hearts of thine ancient people. We long to see the deliverer come out of Sion, who shall turn away ungodliness from the seed of Jacob. Remember, O God, thine ancient churches of Asia, where the candle of the Gospel did once so brightly shine. They left their first love ; yielded in the hour of temptation ; and did neither repent nor remember whence they were fallen ; and thou didst, according to the awful threatening, remove thy candlestick out of its place. If it were consistent with the divine will, we pray for the fulfilment of that prophecy which says, " And the Beast was taken, and with

him the false prophet, who has deceived so many nations." O let their delusions and superstitions come to an end! Will the Lord be favourable to the churches of the reformation? Do good, O God, in thy good pleasure, unto Sion, and build up the walls of the Gospel Jerusalem. "Let peace be within her habitations, and prosperity within her palaces: for our brethren and companions' sake we will now say, Peace. Peace be to every house of the Lord our God."]

\* For our Nation and Colonies; let God himself be as a wall of fire about us, and the glory in the midst of us; and let our national help continually be in the name of the Lord our God.†

Thou sovereign controller of all events, sanctify our national judgments, as well as the deliverances which thou hast from time to time sent. May every token of thy displeasure against us as a nation, humble us in the dust, and cause us to repent and return unto thee, who art our God in covenant; and let every favourable interposition in our behalf, or remarkable deliverance which thou mayest have wrought out for us, not only fill our hearts with gratitude, but inspire us with a purpose and resolution to live and walk becoming our advantages and privileges.

\* Give the King and Queen to see more and more of thy goodness in the land of the living; and, if consistent with thy will, let there be of their

posterity, who shall sit upon the throne of these kingdoms, to the latest ages. O God, give a spirit of judgment unto every one that sitteth in judgment; and let righteousness run down our land as a stream and mighty river. Let the ministers of the everlasting Gospel be faithful; and as wise stewards, to give thy people their portion of spiritual food in due season. Lord, regard in mercy the various situations of our acquaintances and friends. Be a physician to their bodies, and a saviour to their souls. Take us all under thy guidance and protection this day. May no evil befall us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. May we go forth in thy favour, and return to our habitations in thy favour; and let every dispensation of thy providence and grace be sanctified unto us. Now unto God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises. Amen.

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### THIRD WEEK.

#### THURSDAY EVENING.

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\* INFINITELY wise, and good, and gracious God ; with all humility and reverence would we again, this evening, attempt to praise and worship thee.

Impress our minds at all times with that sacred declaration ; “ God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of his saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.” We would therefore now more immediately stand in awe, and sin not. We would wish and pray for that grace whereby we shall be enabled to serve him acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. Instruct us, and teach us, and guide us, O God, in this ordinance of thy appointment, and in every path of duty.†

Thou art the fountain of goodness ; for thou givest unto all life, and breath, and all things. O that we, with the whole rational creation, might be ever ready, morning and evening, to praise the Lord for his goodness. But thou hast been peculiarly beneficent and kind to the human race ; opening thine hand, satisfying our every want, and giving us all things richly to enjoy. May that



distinction which thou hast made between man and all the other creatures in this lower creation, be ever received, and considered by us, as the free unmerited gift of thy benignity toward us. But art thou not a holy God? of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look upon iniquity? And thou art also a God of infinite justice.

\* Righteous art thou, O God, and upright are thy judgments. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness: and it is expressly said, "Thou wilt render unto every one according to their deeds." What shall we then do, or say unto thee, O thou preserver of men? O Lord, to us, and to our fathers, belongeth shame and confusion of face, because we have sinned against thee. We have forsaken the God that made us, and too lightly esteemed the rock of our salvation. Examining ourselves, we find, alas! that our iniquities are increased over our heads, and that our trespasses have grown up unto the very heavens. May we not say with thy servant of old: "Wherefore we abhor ourselves, and repent as in dust and ashes." O how sweet, most blessed God! are these words of thine unto our souls. If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin. And to remove every cause of doubt and uncertainty from our minds, thou hast subjoined by the mouth of thy prophet;

“Come and let us reason together: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Trusting to these declarations and promises, we would say with another of thy servants: “We will confess our transgressions unto the Lord, that thou mayest forgive the iniquity of our sin.” Encouraged still farther by the free invitations of the Gospel, we have come to Jesus Christ, our Immanuel, and professed to receive him in all his offices; as our prophet, to instruct; as our priest, to atone; and as our king, to rule in, and over us. Blessed Jesus, “to whom could we go but unto thee? thou alone hast the words of eternal life.” And may we not appeal to thee with this same inspired servant of thine: “Lord! thou knowest all things; thou knowest that we love thee.” Thus, may we not say: “Although our house be not so with God,” much weakness and many failings still adhering to us; yet “we hope that he hath made with us an everlasting covenant, well ordered in all things, and sure: and this is all our salvation, and all our desire.” Say, O divine Saviour, unto each of thy servants present; Sons, daughters, be of good cheer; thy sins are forgiven thee.

[We long for the blessedness of that person whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered; and to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. We plead that the Spirit himself may

bear witness with our spirits, that we are the children of God; and if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, of all the blessings of the new covenant. For these, and for every good purpose, we would continue, O God, to read thy word, meditate on divine truths, and pour out our hearts in prayer before thee. O how great is thy goodness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought out for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!]

\* Fearing God, and trusting in him, may we have more and more peace of conscience; joy in the Holy Ghost; increase in every Christian grace; and perseverance in true Gospel holiness unto the end of our lives. Lord, hear us in behalf of all whom we are in duty bound to have upon our hearts before thee. Look down, O Lord, in mercy, upon a world that lieth in wickedness. O let the prince of darkness be judged and defeated in his malicious purposes; and let thy name, and thy Son's name, be great in the salvation of the heathen. Our heart's desire and prayer for the Gospel Israel is, that they might be saved. O let love, and peace, and grace, be with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

[We look up, and pray for the fulfilment of that promise: no weapon formed against thy Church shall prosper; and every tongue that riseth up in judgment shall be condemned.]

Our Native Land, O God, regard it in mercy. Look down upon us, at all times, with a pardoning and a pitying eye.

[We of this land and age have merited, and we have felt thy scourge by different dispensations of Providence. O let thy wise and holy purposes be answered by them all; and let thy rod, in due time, be removed from us.]

\* May all our governors, from the King upon the throne, to the meanest magistrate in office, be endued with a proper spirit of their various stations; and thus judgment shall run down our land as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. Our absent relations and friends we would ever remember with particular affection and earnestness. Those who may be under thy afflicting hand, O spare their lives, if consistent with thy glory, and their good. Bring them out of the furnace, as gold purified and refined; and make them still useful and comfortable in their day. Continue to bless this family by night, as well as by day. May every one included in these walls, be within the bonds of the new covenant. Let us all, this night, lie down in thy fear, and rise again in thy favour; and may our sleep be sweet and refreshing unto us. And now, blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who alone doth wondrous things; and blessed be his glorious name for ever and ever. Amen.

## THIRD WEEK.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

\* Most high, and most holy God, we approach the footstool of thy throne this morning, and would plead the accomplishment of thy Son's promise, (John, xiv. 23.) "that if any man love him, and keep his sayings, thou wilt come unto him, and make thine abode with him." But what are we, O Lord, that we should enjoy so high an honour, that thou shouldest even look down upon us from the habitation of thy holiness and glory. Can we possibly expect that thou wilt either accept of us, or bless us? This indeed is thy name, and this thy memorial to all generations: the Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness and truth. But thou hast, at the same time, declared that thou wilt by no means clear the guilty. Yea, that unto all who are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, thou wilt render indignation and wrath; tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil. It would be in vain for us, O God, to plead innocent. Painful recollection tells us, that the imaginations of our hearts have been evil from our youth. And which of thy precepts

have we not neglected? Which of all thy commandments have we not broken? Thus, O God, have we destroyed ourselves. Yet in thee there was help found.

[Although the wages of sin be death, the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We would therefore no longer look to the law for life. By it, we know, shall no flesh living be justified. We can look only to the Gospel of the grace of God.]

\* We would ever receive with adoration and joy, the testimony of an inspired Apostle: "If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for our sins only, but also sufficient for the sins of the whole world." To this Saviour would we look; in him alone would we place all our confidence. O grant that each of us may be more closely united to him, by a true and living faith. To this end, O God, and as an earnest and pledge of it, vouchsafe the Holy Spirit of promise. May he be a constant and comfortable witness within us, that we are born of God; by gradually enlightening our minds, renewing our wills, spiritualizing our affections, and thus preparing our souls for heaven. †

O God, let every dispensation of thy providence toward us be sanctified, and have this happy tendency. May thy continued goodness

beget in our hearts daily thanks; let thy merciful forbearance lead us to a speedy repentance. O may the disappointments of the world cure us of an over-weaning fondness for it: and by all the afflictions which thou mayest see proper to visit us with, may our faith and patience be tried, and the fruits of righteousness and holiness ensue.

[Lord, we would be like trees planted by the rivers of water, which bring forth fruit abundantly. Not as though we had already attained, either were already perfect, would we sit still, and be slothful in the work of our salvation: but this one thing be ever seriously concerned to do: "forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, we would press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord." As to this world, O God, we would pray with thy servant of old, "Give us neither poverty nor riches; not riches, lest we should be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? nor yet poverty, lest we be tempted to covet, and take the name of the Lord in vain; but feed us ever with food convenient for us." Continuing steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, and fellowship, may we, like them, eat our meat (what thou hast, in thy good providence, furnished,) with gladness, and singleness of heart, praising God, having favour with all the people, and giving none offence to the Church

of God. Thy servant of old hath said, "The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him, and the Lord shall cover him all the day long.]"

We have, O God, during the past night, experienced more of thy goodness, as well as continued protection. Thou hast refreshed our frail bodies with sleep, and again this morning opened thine hand to satisfy our every want. What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward us? We would take the cup of salvation, and daily call upon thy name. We will endeavour to fulfil those vows which we have made; to love thee with all our mind and heart, and our fellow-creatures for thy sake.

[Let us never forget that positive precept, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." We have heard the worldly maxim, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. How different thy precepts, blessed Jesus! But I say unto you, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use and persecute you." Lord help us to love our enemies, and, like thee, to be kind even to the unthankful, and to the evil. But above all, O Lord, if we should see any of the disciples of thy Son an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, incline our hearts to minister kindness unto them; that our Master and Judge may acknowledge



us, and the deed as done unto him, in that day, when he shall come in his own, and in his Father's glory, to judge the world in righteousness.]

This day, O Lord, we again commit ourselves to thy providential care and guidance. Preserve our going out and coming in, preserve us from all evil, but especially from the evil of sin.

[Make us conscientious in our dealings with the world, and give us that degree of prosperity which thou seest best for us. In all our ways we would acknowledge thee, that in every doubtful case we may have the wisdom that is profitable to direct, and the grace which may be needful for us to strengthen and comfort.]

\* Continue, O God, to bless this house, and all the families with which we are connected. May we all belong to that blessed Head, of whom the whole family of heaven is named; and at last arrive at the mother city, the Jerusalem which is above, and which we would hope and trust shall be our eternal abode. To this Head of the Church, and fountain of every blessing we enjoy, or hope for; to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; and to the Eternal Spirit, who searcheth all things, even the deep things of God; to this incomprehensible Three in One, be ascribed now, and for ever, all praise, and power, honour, and glory. Amen.

**THIRD WEEK.****FRIDAY EVENING.**

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\* MAKE us thankful, O God, for every opportunity of calling upon thy name. Thou art seated upon a throne of grace, and thine ear is never heavy that it will not hear, nor thy arm shortened that it cannot save. Yea, it is enjoined us in thy Word, that we should "be anxiously careful about nothing; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make our requests known unto God." With the voice of thanksgiving, indeed, we have reason, at all times, to draw near the footstool of thy throne. Thou art our Creator; unto thee we are indebted for that rank of being we hold, and thou hast kindly afforded every other creature which moveth on the face of this earth, and in the sea, either for our subsistence, or for our pleasure. But, O God, thou art our preserver also. In thee we live and move, as well as from thee at first received our being. Not only didst thou take us out of the womb, and make us to hope at our mother's breast; but unto this night thou hast held our soul in life, and not suffered our feet to be moved from the

land of the living. And may we not still say, Blessed be the Lord our God, that daily loadeth us with his benefits. They are new every morning, and have been repeated every evening of our lives. Great has been thy forbearance, as well as faithfulness. It is of the Lord's mercies that we have not, ere now, been consumed, and because his compassions fail not. For, O God, have we not forgotten thee, times and ways without number? We have, indeed, done those things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone those things which it was our bounden duty to perform. Yea, we have sinned against the Majesty of heaven and earth, and have reason to dread that awful declaration, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Out of the depths, therefore, would we cry unto thee: "If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord who shall stand?" But there is forgiveness with thee: nay it is said, "Let Israel hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and plenteous redemption." Can we doubt this, O God, when thou hast not spared thine own Son, but sent him into the world to suffer and die in our stead; sent him to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, and to declare thy righteousness in regard to the remission of sin? May we hope that we have not only been convinced of our need of a Saviour, with the infinite propriety and all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ for this purpose,

but that we have all been enabled to betake ourselves to him, as he is freely exhibited in the Word of God, for salvation. O let the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, henceforth keep our hearts and minds, through Jesus Christ. †

May the kingdom of God, which cometh not with observation, or outward pomp and splendor, be both ours, and also within us; that kingdom which consists not in meat, or drink, but in righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

[Let thy Word, O God, be continually in our memories, and hid, as it were, in our hearts, that we may not sin against thee wilfully, and habitually; but may we love and desire it as newborn babes, that we may grow thereby, and that our souls may be more and more purified in obeying the truth. We would continue, by thy grace assisting us, steadfast in the faith; grounded and settled; and so as that we may never be moved away from the hope of the Gospel; but be going on from strength unto strength, from one degree of holiness unto another, until we all appear perfect before the Lord in Sion above.]

O God, as long as we are in this world, direct us, and keep us, and bless us. In every matter of importance we would look up unto thee for direction; and may we, from time to time, hear as it were a voice behind us, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." We would not

put an unlimited confidence in any of the sons of men, in whom too often there is no help: but ever make the God of Jacob our refuge; placing alone our hope in him, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is, and who keepeth truth for ever.

\* We continue most sincerely to pray for our brethren of mankind. Let the whole earth be filled with the glory of the Lord; his name, and his Son's name, being known and revered from the rising to the setting sun. In our day, O God, thy judgments have been remarkably abroad in the earth. We would be humbled, we would be corrected. Both as a nation, and as individuals, may we be improved by each, and all of them.

[The wrath of man should then praise thee, O Lord, and the remainder thereof thou wilt restrain.]

If it be consistent with thy will, we pray, that our Sovereign may long be preserved to us, healthy and sound both in body and mind, and that his progeny may sway the British sceptre unto the latest ages. O Lord remove not the speech of the trusty, nor take away the understanding of the aged among us.

\* Let the things which belong to the Nation's peace never be removed from the eyes and hearts of those who are intrusted with the nation's government. Pour out, O God, upon all the

ministers of the everlasting Gospel a double portion of thy Holy Spirit; and may they be enabled to discharge the important trust committed to them with fidelity and diligence; with thy approbation, and with abundant success.

[The several Christian communities with which we are connected, Lord let them prosper, and may all who wish well to them have both inward and outward peace. Walking together in the fear of the Lord, and comforts of the Holy Ghost, let us be edified and multiplied.]

\* O Lord be peculiarly kind to all thy professing servants before thee. Give us all that may be good for us in this world, and whatsoever may be conducive to our safety and happiness in the next. With thanks unto thee, O God, for thy protection and goodness during the past day, we would again commend our bodies and souls to thy care and keeping this night. From the violence of unruly elements, and the hands of wicked men, good Lord protect and deliver us. And may we, if consistent with thy will, awake in the morning to sing and celebrate thy praise. And now, O Lord, let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our adorable Redeemer, in whose words we further address thee, as "Our Father," &c.

**THIRD WEEK.****SATURDAY MORNING.**

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\* **LORD** God Almighty! which was, and is, and art to come: with thee is the fountain of life, and thou art the Author of every good and perfect gift. We would, therefore, give unto the Lord the glory and thanksgiving which is due unto his name, and worship him this morning in the beauty of holiness. But how shall we, whose thoughts are vanity, and whose hands and hearts are so impure, presume to address the sacred Majesty of heaven and earth? We take encouragement only, O God, from thine amiable perfections, and from the gracious declarations of thy revealed will. "Thou art infinitely wise, and holy, and just, and good; but thou hast magnified thy mercy above thy great name." Blessed, for ever blessed, be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. This we believe to be the true Messiah; the one Mediator between God and men. From the ends of the earth, we would now look unto him that we may be saved. O God, for Christ's sake forgive us all

our sins ; and according to the good pleasure of thy will, and to the praise of the glory of thy grace, may we be accepted in the Beloved. We would be justified by faith alone, and thus have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ; for we believe that he is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. And may this faith, O God, not be of a dead and barren nature, but may it work by love, and purify our hearts.

[O God, thy word is truth ; sanctify us through belief of the truth. According to thine own promise, give unto each of us a new spirit, and take away the stony heart out of our flesh, that we may walk in thy statutes, and keep thine ordinances, and do them. Thus may we hope that we shall be thy people, and that thou wilt continue to be our God and portion, in time and through eternity.]

\* Accept of our thanks, O God, for all that mercy and goodness which hath followed us through every period of our by-gone life ; for sparing us under the weakness and diseases of childhood ; conducting our steps through the slippery paths of youth ; and preserving us still amidst the no less surrounding dangers of riper years.†

We thank thee for the food we have to eat, the raiment wherewith we are clothed, for the comfortable habitations we have to dwell in,



and the many conveniences and privileges that we enjoy above numbers around us, and in other parts of this habitable world.

[O that our gratitude might bear some proportion! Let love to God, and love to our fellow-creatures, from this day be more conspicuous in every part of our conduct and conversation. Seeing that life is short, and we must ere long, and may soon, be called to give an account of those talents wherewith we have been intrusted, let us be no longer slothful, but up and be doing, that the Lord may be with us, and bless us, in every work of our hands, and in every word which proceedeth out of our mouths, that we may be more and more useful in the world, and in the Church of Christ.]

\* We have to thank thee, O God, for another night's comfortable rest. We have laid us down and slept in peaceful security. Thou hast caused the outgoings of another morning to rejoice over us. We are brought in safety and health to the light and enjoyments of another day. Defend and keep us in the same, O God, from all harm, whether of a temporal or spiritual nature. Prosper us in all our lawful undertakings this day; and give us humble and thankful hearts to enjoy the good things which thou hast provided for us. †

Provide, O God, in thy mercy and goodness,

for the wants of the poor and needy. Thou hast promised to regard the prayer of the destitute. Help them to wait upon thee in the use of every lawful mean, and then to see that their expectation shall not perish. O thou who art in thy holy habitation a father to the fatherless, and the judge of the widow, according to thy word, help and relieve all those who commit themselves unto thee.

\* Lord, be merciful to the sick and afflicted part of mankind. Spare young and useful lives; and prepare the dying for their last change. It is said in thy word, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Lord, fulfil this promise in respect unto all such as may be distressed in mind. May it please thee to have compassion according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. And wilt thou be pleased to sanctify bereaving dispensations to all concerned? May neither we, nor ours, sorrow as those who have no hope: but ever remembering that as Jesus Christ himself died and rose again from the dead, so them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with him: may we comfort ourselves, and one another, with these words. As those who are near and dear to us are daily dropping off the stage of life, may we love heaven better, and strive to have clearer views of our interest in Gospel privileges

and hopes. To us to live, and while we live, may it indeed be Christ, and then to die will be everlasting gain. And now, O our God, hear the prayers of thy servants, and their supplications. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken, and do, and defer not, for thine own name's sake, and for thy Son's sake; who, with the Holy Spirit, are worthy to receive all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

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### THIRD WEEK.

#### SATURDAY EVENING.

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\*O THOU that hearest prayer, unto thee would we again lift up our souls. It is good for us to draw near unto thee; for thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Give ear unto our words this evening, and keep alive upon our minds a sense of thy being and various perfections. We would know, and consider in our minds, that the Lord he is God, in heaven above, and upon this earth beneath, and that there is none else. Thou art also the Lord that changest not; for "before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth or the world was formed, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God; the same to day, yesterday, and for ever." We adore thee as every where present; infinite in knowledge; unlimited in thy power; and never-failing in acts of beneficence and kindness. The whole creation around us manifest these perfections in their formation, sustenance, and various enjoyments. But we, above all thy other creatures,

have reason to declare that the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations. Thy distinguished goodness appears in our wonderful preservation from infancy to riper years; in the constant supplies of food and raiment, necessary, and convenient; and in those numerous privileges and comforts which we enjoy above others of our fellow-creatures. O that we could say, that our remembrance of the giver, that our gratitude to God, bore some proportion to the unmerited and extraordinary gifts conferred! But, alas! must we not confess, with the Jewish king, that we have not rendered again unto the Lord according to his benefits done unto us? for our hearts have been lifted up to forget the great giver. Lord, humble us on this account: we would lament our ungrateful dispositions. O God, give us grace every morning and evening to praise thee for thy goodness. But we tremble to think of thy holiness and justice. We know thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and canst not look upon sinners but with detestation. Nay, thou hast said in thy word, that thou wilt cause every man to find according to his ways. What then must become of us, O Lord, who have offended thee times and ways without number?

[For, which of thy precepts have we not

rejected? which of thy commandments have we not broken? How then shall man be just with God?]

\* If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee. This is thy name and memorial to all generations: "The Lord God, merciful and gracious," and, through Jesus Christ, "forgiving men's trespasses and sins." We will, therefore, say unto God, do not condemn us, but deliver us from going down to the pit, for thou hast found a ransom. Believing, that whosoever cometh unto this Saviour he will in no wise cast out, we will now come and lay our hand upon the head of Christ, our Passover, sacrificed for us; and, confessing our sins, we will believe in God's word, that "he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We would now more especially have an eye to that end of Christ's being sent, to bless his people, by turning every one of them from their iniquities. Sin is that abominable thing which God abhors: and we are assured, that without holiness none shall see him in mercy. We will, therefore, more and more aspire after it, as a distinguished part of that salvation which our dear Redeemer hath wrought out for us: for it is expressly said, He gave himself for us, that he might redeem

us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

[Grant, therefore, O our heavenly Father, that from this time forth, an unbelieving world around us, viewing our altered dispositions, and regular, holy conversation, may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus; that we are rising above the vanities of time, to the riches of eternity. The nearer we approach to the end of life, may our faith be stronger, and our hopes brighter; and let our souls never be parted from our bodies until an eternal separation be made between us and sin. O Lord, hear all the intercessions which we have presented at the throne of thy grace this week: and if we have asked any thing amiss, or contrary to thy holy will, O Lord, forgive, and avert thy displeasure from us. Permit us once more to recommend this family to thy goodness, mercy, and grace.]

\* Thou hast promised to be the God of all those families that call upon thy name. We beseech thee cause thy blessing to rest upon our house, from the beginning of the year, even unto the end of it. Having refreshed our bodies with sleep, if it be thy holy will, may we awake to see the light, and to enjoy the privileges, of another Sabbath. Lord, we would remember, with good will, the whole household of faith, and pray that thy presence and blessing may be with it to-morrow. Mercy and grace be with all that love our Lord

Jesus Christ in sincerity. We would exercise Christian compassion toward such as may differ from us in essential matters; and pray that they may be forgiven, and converted to the acknowledgment of the truth. We would embrace in the arms of Christian benevolence and love, those who differ from us only in modes and ceremonies; and whether they assemble in spacious churches, or humbler places of worship, we entreat, O heavenly Father, that thou wouldest be present with, and greatly bless them. And now, O God, what wait we for? Before thy presence are all our failings; and well known unto thee are all our wants. Let all our sins be forgiven, and all our deficiencies be supplied, out of the merits and fulness of Jesus Christ. In him alone would we be found, whether sleeping or waking, whether living or dying. And now the God of grace and hope be with us, and fill us with all peace and joy in believing, that we may abound more and more in the love and practice of every grace that shall make us comfortable here, and happy hereafter. We ask all for a Redeemer's sake. Amen.

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## FOURTH WEEK.

## SABBATH MORNING.

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\* O LORD, we would lift up our souls unto thee in the morning of this holy day, and at the commencement of a new week. Let our thanksgivings and prayers come up before thee with acceptance; and may an answer of peace be sent down, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ. Thy great and marvellous works, both of creation and providence, are again opened to our view, and they demand our daily admiration, gratitude, and praise. †

As, upon this first day of the week, thou didst, O God, bring out of nothing the whole mass of this material world, which, in order of time, thou didst fashion into that beautiful form in which we now behold it; we adore that infinite wisdom, that unbounded power, and never-failing goodness, which appear throughout the whole, and in every part of this lower creation: but more especially would we bless thee, in that thou didst make *us* after thine own image, to know, glorify, and enjoy thee, the sovereign Lord, as well as Maker of all.

\* O that we, with the whole rational creation, may be ever ready and willing to say, in the heavenly language of the four and twenty elders before the throne, "Worthy art thou, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created." But, O Lord, if we admire and contemplate with wonder and gratitude these works of nature around us, which thou didst upon this first day of the week begin to create, how much more doth it become us to celebrate the work of our redemption, which was completed at the dawn of that auspicious morn, when thy Son, our blessed Saviour, rose from the dead, and triumphed over all the powers of darkness, and hell! We believe most truly and sincerely, O God, what the inspired Apostles have declared unto us, "how that Christ died for our sins, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day," (this first day of the week,) according to the Scriptures.

[As he had power to lay down his life, so he had power to take it again.]

\* By this he was declared to be the Son of God with power, even by his resurrection from the dead. And it is said in thy Word, O God, *thus* it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead, that repentance and remission of sin should be preached, in his name, among all nations. †

To us, upon whom the ends of the world are come, hath this gracious word of salvation been sent.

[Blessed, for ever blessed be God, that we who aforetime were far off, are now brought nigh by the blood of Christ; and that, according to various prophecies of the Old Testament, and every declaration in the New, the salvation of God is now sent unto us Gentiles, with a special promise that we shall also hear it. Lord, may we not only hear, but know the Gospel's joyful sound. O that it could be said of us personally what was said respecting the Thessalonians of old, (1. Thes. ii. 13.) " For this cause also we thank God without ceasing; because, when ye received the word of God, which ye heard of us, you received it not as the word of men; but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you."]

Forbid that any one of us, like the lawyers and Pharisees of old, should reject this counsel of God against ourselves; but as Christ is freely offered, may we all be enabled to embrace him in his several offices; and may he indeed be of God made unto each of us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

[We are, by name and profession, the disciples of thy Son; may we be so in truth and reality. Impress our minds deeply with this sacred, salu-

tary truth, that so many of us as have been baptized into Jesus Christ, have been baptized into his death; and therefore we are buried with him by baptism; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so *we* also should walk in newness of life.]

Grant, O God, that our old man may be crucified with him, and so as that the body of sin may be destroyed, that henceforth we may not serve sin.

\* Give us grace so to watch over all our thoughts, and to order our life and conversation, as that the fruits of holiness, benevolence, and charity, may spring up and flourish, to the glory of God, the honour of our Christian profession, and the welfare and happiness of all our brethren of mankind.

[We would express our thankfulness to God, that we have not, long ere now, been cut down as cumberers of the ground. Still, O great Master of the vineyard, thou art coming to us year after year, and week after week, in the ways of thy providence, and in the ordinances of thy appointment, seeking spiritual fruit; and we are ashamed to think that so little is to be found. Lord, let thy forgiveness and thy forbearance still be extended toward us, and make us more diligent and more watchful for the future.]

\* We bless thee for preserving us during the

past night, and granting us that repose which our frail bodies stood in need of. Be with us, O God, during every part of our duty to which we may be called this day. More especially, when we are permitted to enter thy courts, may we be enabled to worship thee in spirit and in truth. May we hear thy word in faith, may we sing thy praises with zeal, may we ask of God blessings agreeable to his will, and may we form sincere and effectual resolutions, through grace, to live more becoming our mercies and privileges.†

To this end, O sovereign Shepherd and Bishop of our souls! bless all those whom thou hast called to conduct thy people in the way of salvation, and to discover unto them the mysteries of the kingdom of grace. Teach them, O God, what they should teach thy people. In flame their hearts with a holy zeal, that they may do their duty with ardour, with faithfulness, with unabated diligence: and may the blessing of God, which alone maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow, accompany all their administrations.

\* In mercy hear, O God, and send an answer of peace to all the intercessions which may be presented this day throughout the Christian world. Let bloody wars every where cease. May all men live together, and love one another like brethren: and may the Gospel spread, until the Jews be brought in with the fulness of the Gentiles. Be

particularly gracious, O God, unto all whom we are bound to have upon our minds in thy presence. Our kindred, according to the flesh, and all our friendly acquaintances and neighbours, may they be prospering in their spiritual, as well as temporal concerns. To us, and to them, and to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, may this life be useful and comfortable; and death, at the last, everlasting gain. We ask every favour in his blessed name, and would conclude our morning exercise in his comprehensive form; saying, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom," &c. Amen.

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**FOURTH WEEK.****SABBATH EVENING.**

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\* O LORD of hosts, God of thine ancient people Israel, and who didst once condescend to dwell between the cherubims, let our prayer come up before thee, and let our supplication this evening be delivered according to thy word. Thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth, who hast made both heaven and earth, and who art likewise the alone object of all proper adoration and worship. What shall we render unto thee for the inestimable privileges which thou hast this day conferred upon us? Thou hast not only preserved our bodies from numberless accidents, which we could neither foresee nor prevent; but thou hast nourished our souls with heavenly manna, that spiritual food which cometh down from heaven, and of which our blessed Saviour says, whosoever truly eateth, shall never die eternally. †

May we hope, O God, thou hast this day given us to partake of this true bread! We have again, as from heaven, heard thy voice. Thou hast instructed us in all that we should do to please thee, and that we may be continued in

thy favour. May the opportunity neither have been abused nor lost as to us. Let us not, O God, be of the number of those hearers who deceive themselves, and who deceive others;— who are like unto men that behold their natural faces in the glass, and soon after go away, and forget what manner of men they are; or who are like unto those who build their houses upon the sand, which the rains descending, and the winds blowing upon, soon, very soon, causeth to be swept away. Grant rather, O God, that we may be of that number, who are not only taught thy word, but who shall keep it unto the end.

\* Pardon, O God, as to us all, the sins which we have this day committed; all the distraction of mind we may have experienced; and the evil thoughts that may have crept into our minds whilst thy servants were announcing to us divine truths.

[Let the threatenings they declared, deter us, and the promises which they brought from thy holy word, revive our drooping spirits. May the black and deformed pictures of vice which they drew, create horror and disgust, and the beautiful and attractive representations of virtue and holiness which they set before us, by thy blessing, have a suitable influence upon our hearts and lives.]

Lord increase our faith; let it more and more work by love; may it be such a faith as shall



be productive, and manifest itself every day by good works. May it be a faith, O God, that shall triumph over the world and Satan, which shall at last transform us into the image of our Maker, that thus we may one day receive and enjoy the great end and reward thereof, the salvation of our precious and immortal souls.

[May we not say truly, O Lord, thou hast delivered unto us many talents, or spiritual privileges, to improve? Forbid it, O God, that any of us, like the wicked and slothful servant, should, as it were, hide these in the earth; or, which is worse, abuse them to our greater condemnation and shame: but considering the words of thy servant of old, that in all labour there is profit, may we, by a wise and diligent improvement of the talents wherewith we have been intrusted, at last receive that most welcome of sentences from our blessed Lord and Master. (Matth. xxv. 23.) "Well done, good and faithful servants, ye have been careful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things, enter ye into the joy of your Lord."]

\* Keep us, O Lord, under the shadow of thy wings this night. Protect us from every disease and every danger to which we are, while in a present state, continually exposed. But if it seem good unto thee that we meet with accidents or afflictions, give us grace to be submissive to thy will, and to improve them to thy glory, and to our

own real advantage. As the bed in which we are to lie, and the sleep we are about to partake of, are emblems of that state into which death is soon to reduce us, may these bring it to our remembrance, and cause us seriously to consider our latter end, and to be preparing for it without delay, and with all our might; since out of this, and after this, are the issues of life. O Lord, in thee may we ever live, in thy favour and unchangeable love may we die, and with thee, and all the blessed inhabitants of heaven, let us dwell through eternal ages. †

According to thy express command, we implore thy benediction upon the whole human race. We behold with thy prophet, that darkness still covers a great part of the earth, and gross darkness the people; but it is promised by the same sacred oracles, that the Lord shall arise upon it, and his glory be seen among the nations, that the Gentiles shall come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his rising; yea, the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto God; the inhabitants of the Isles fly as a cloud, and as doves to their windows, and every nation and kingdom that will not serve him, perish, and be utterly wasted. Lord, hasten this eventful period, and succeed all those efforts which are making toward the accomplishment of this prophecy.

\* In a particular manner we would remember before thee our own nation and colonies. We

have heard with our ears, O God, and our fathers have told us, what works thou didst in their days, and in the times of old. May what thou hast wrought out for us, and bestowed upon us, (our civil and religious privileges,) be preserved, and transmitted down to the latest posterity; and may we, and our children after us, still hear, and see, and gratefully acknowledge the loving-kindness of the Lord. Hear the prayers which have this day been put up for all orders and conditions of men among us. May the ignorant be instructed, the hardened sinner reclaimed, the weak and humble soul be strengthened, and comforted, and all who make a more than ordinary profession, be proportionally pure and holy in their lives. Permit that we again recommend to thy goodness and grace, all who desire an interest in our prayers: the poor, and the afflicted, the sick, and the dying, Lord, be their support, their consolation, their physician, and their eternal portion. Be propitious to this family through the night. If thou art pleased to spare us until to-morrow, to begin another week's labour and exercise, grant that we may employ it better than the preceding; and every day, and every week, may we be becoming wiser and better, more useful to live, and more fit to die. We ask, O God, and we hope for every blessing in the name, and for the sake of our dear Redeemer; to whom, with thyself, and blessed Spirit, be all honour and glory. Amen.

## FOURTH WEEK.

### MONDAY MORNING.

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\* **WILT** thou hear us, O Lord, this morning; and in thy great mercy attend unto our prayer? From the end of the earth we would, encouraged by thine ancient promise, come unto thee, thou God of the Gentiles as well as of the Jews.

Thou hast not only permitted us to say, "Our Father in heaven," but hast enjoined that we call upon thee by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. And to whom else, O eternal and ever blessed God! can we have recourse? for thou alone hast all power in heaven and earth; and thou art the Father of lights, and the fountain of every blessing.

[But how shall we, this morning, again present ourselves before thee? We are a people of unclean lips. We are sinners both by nature and by practice. How then shall we dare to approach a God of infinite perfection? Approach thee, who art the Holy of Holies! Our faith also, O God, is weak; and can we hope to receive those blessings, which thou hast promised only to such as draw near with a holy boldness and confidence? Lord

be merciful unto us, and pour down the spirit of grace and supplication. Let this dispel all evil thoughts; produce in us holy and ardent desires; recall to our minds thy kind declarations and promises; and cause that we draw near, not only with a profound humility, but with a sincere and fervent devotion.]

Worthy art thou, O God, to be praised, as well as had in reverence by all thy rational creation; for by thee were all things made that are in heaven, and that are in earth; visible and invisible; whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by thee, and for thy glory. But we of the human race more especially adore the Lord our God, that he breathed into our nostrils the breath of life, that man might thus become a living and immortal spirit.

\* We were originally blessed by God; and, along with every other part of this lower creation, pronounced good: for we were created in knowledge, righteousness, and perfect holiness, after the image of him that made us. O what a dignity and privilege blessed God conferred upon us! But, alas! man being in honour, abode not; our first father sinned, and in Adam we all died. Yet blessed, ever blessed be God, for that infinitely gracious, as well as extensive declaration of Gospel, "that as by the offence of one, judg-

ment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one, may the free gift come upon all men unto justification of life." We believe that God is no respecter of persons. Thou hast solemnly assured us, that thou "takest no pleasure in the death of sinners." "It is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save them, even the very chief." Convinced that it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy; and for this reason waiteth to be gracious to all who believe in his Son. We would say with Jacob of old: "We have waited, and would still wait for thy salvation, O God!" Other foundations, either for our pardon, or peace, we would not lay, than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus. Through him alone we profess and hope to have access by one Spirit unto the Father. O that we could say, "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Sanctify us, O God, through thy truth; thy word is truth.

[May it be quick, and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword to the dividing asunder of our souls from sin, and all manner of evil thoughts and inclinations. O let this word be as a light unto our feet, and as a lamp unto our path. May we be thereby enlightened, regenerated, and sanc-

tified. And as we are in a world of difficulty and trial, O God remove out of our way whatsoever may endanger our eternal safety; and enable us to resist, steadfastly, every temptation of Satan, and our own selfish and wicked hearts.]

May all our thoughts, all our designs, all our labours and endeavours, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer!

\* Teach us the whole of thy will, and impress every law of thine upon our hearts. May the love of God overpower and root out every principle of self-love that would lead us astray from him: and grant, O God, that we may ever keep in mind the second, as well as the first great command,—to love our neighbour as ourselves.

[Let our conversation and conduct towards every individual, be according to the strictest rules of equity, and charity, and good faith, and universal benevolence. If thou seest it needful, O God, to chastise us, may we be disposed to kiss the hand that smites, and submit patiently to the rod that would thus humble and instruct us. Grant, O God, that in all our ways we may acknowledge thee; and be graciously pleased to direct us into the right path: enable us ever to wait on thee, and to be of good courage; seeing thou hast promised to strengthen the hearts of such as wait patiently for thee, and rest altogether in thee. We would wish to say, “ Lo, this is our God, we have

waited for him, and he will save us : this is the Lord, we have waited for him, and we shall be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”]

We would be thankful for our merciful preservation during the past night. O let none of us who heard the word of salvation yesterday, turn away from him who speaketh from heaven. Other voices we may hear this day, in our commerce with the world ; but may we be on our guard, and ever perceive the danger of obeying any voice which contradicteth the voice of our Maker.

\* May we conduct ourselves this day, and all the days of our life, as under thy more immediate inspection, O God, and as liable every hour to be cited before thy throne. Let all our plans and schemes of a worldly nature be agreeable to the laws of justice and humanity ; and give that success which may be instrumental in promoting thy glory, and the general good ; knowing that in the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence ; and thou hast promised that our children and relatives shall have a place of refuge there. To thy wisdom, protection, goodness, and mercy, we commit, at all times, their bodies and their souls. Such as are absent, may we have good tidings from them. If consistent with thy will, may they still be spared to be a blessing and comfort. Give us, and them, all what *thou* knowest to be good for time



and eternity. And now, O our God, hear the prayers of thy servants, and their supplications. O Lord hear; O Lord forgive; O Lord hearken, and do, and defer not, for thine own name's sake, and for thy Son's sake: in whom we would now and for ever be found: and to whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and praise. Amen.

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**FOURTH WEEK.**

**MONDAY EVENING.**

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\* O LORD, the great and dreadful God! but who keepest covenant and mercy toward them that love him, and keep his commandments. From a sense of duty, and may we hope also, encouraged by privilege, we would, this evening, approach the footstool of thy throne. It is said in thy word, that men ought to pray, and not to faint; to pray without ceasing; to pray every where, lifting up holy hands: and thou hast, in thy great mercy, promised that thou wilt hear the desire of the humble; that thou wilt prepare their heart; that thou wilt cause thine ear to hear. With all humility and reverence, therefore, would we now look up to our Maker, and our eyes have respect unto the Holy One of Israel.

[O Lord, keep alive in our memories, and deeply impress upon our minds, a sight and sense of thy various perfections. Thou art the one only living and true God. Thou art the eternal and unchangeable Jehovah. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth or the world was formed, even from everlasting to ever-

lasting thou art God: the same to day, yesterday, and for ever.]

We adore thee, as infinite in knowledge, unbounded in thy power; whose dominion is without bounds; goodness universally extended, and enduring continually. Thou, Lord, also knowest the hearts of all men. No thought can be withholden from thee: yea, thou hast expressly said: "I, the Lord, search the heart, I try the reins; even to give every one according to their ways, and according to the fruit of their doings. And God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

\* We tremble, O God, to repeat these words: "For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness, neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight, and thou hatest all workers of iniquity." And must not we confess, O God, that *we* have sinned, with our fathers before us. We have often committed iniquity; yea, we have times and ways without number done very wickedly.

[Innumerable evils have compassed us about; our iniquities have taken hold upon us, so that we are not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of our head; therefore our hearts fail us. But, notwithstanding all this, still there is hope.

For at the same time thou declarest, that thou wilt “by no means clear the guilty.” Thy name is celebrated as the Lord God merciful and gracious, keeping mercy for thousands, and forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.]

Pardon, we beseech thee, our iniquity, O Lord, although it be great. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. And for this purpose, O God, let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the Son of Man, whom thou madest strong for thyself.

\* Believing that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins, we beseech thee, blessed Jesus, say unto each of us, “Thy sins are forgiven thee.” Thanks, eternal thanks, O God, be unto thee, for that reviving declaration! “To him gave all the prophets witness, that through his name, whosoever believeth in him, shall receive remission of sins.”—“Lord we believe, help thou our unbelief.” And may this faith, as it should do, lead to purity of heart, and all manner of good works. †

Never would we forget these words of our Apostle: “This is a faithful saying, that they who have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works; for these things are good and profitable unto men.”

[O thou fountain of all grace, as well as good-

ness, make us a willing people in the day of thy power; and grant as to each of us, that being delivered out of the hand and power of our spiritual enemies, we may serve thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our mortal life.]

We come again, this evening, to offer our praise and thanksgiving unto God, for having preserved us this day, in the midst of numberless diseases and dangers to which this fleeting and uncertain life is exposed; as also for the supplying of all our natural and spiritual wants from the bounties of his providence and grace.

[We acknowledge, O God, that all is owing to thy free love, and unmerited goodness; otherwise we might, and should have been exposed to many evils which others have experienced, and been afflicted with; and who, as to outward appearance, may have less deserved them than us.]

\* O may the continued protection we are receiving, and the numberless unmerited favours which thou art daily conferring, make deeper and deeper impressions of gratitude upon our hearts; and let all thy goodness lead us to repentance and amendment of life. May we not say, we acknowledge, O God, and our conscience tells us, that we have deserved, long ere now, to be cut down as cumberers of the ground? But still thou art proving us, and sparing us, week after week, month after month, and year after year. Lord,

may we try thy patience, may we tempt thy providence, no longer.†

From this night, give us to resolve more sincerely and successfully, to live less to ourselves, and more to thee, and the important ends for which we were sent into the world.

[During the ensuing hours, kindly appointed for the rest of man, we commit ourselves to the divine guidance and protection. O that we might dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty! that we may say of the Lord, "He is our refuge, and our fortress, and in him will we continually trust." At the same time, O God, we pray that thou wouldest be propitious unto all who are connected with us by the ties of nature, of friendship, neighbourhood, and religion.]

\* Be always with us, O God, whether we wake or sleep; whether we live or die; and receive us at last into thy heavenly kingdom. We ask all in the name, and for the sake of our glorified Redeemer, Jesus Christ the righteous; unto whom, as the Lamb that was slain, and the great Lord and Head of his Church, be ascribed glory everlasting. Amen.

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## FOURTH WEEK.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

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\* O THOU, who didst appear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty; deign to look upon us in mercy this morning. With thy people of old we would say, "Oh, that thou wouldest bow thy heavens, that thou wouldest come down from the habitation of thy holiness and glory, to accept of us, and bless us: for, since the beginning of the world men have not heard, neither hath the eye seen, what thou hast laid up and prepared for them that wait upon thee!"

[Thou hast expressly and graciously added to these words, a promise to meet them who remember thee in thy ways, and who rejoice in thee, and work righteousness.]

\* But, O God, have we not reason also with thy people of old to confess, "that we have sinned, that we are all as an unclean thing, and that our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; that we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away."

[And, speaking as a nation, may we not say; there is none, in comparison, that calleth upon

thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. Like them we would also now plead: "O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter, and we are all the work of thine hand. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people. Hast thou not made an everlasting covenant with us, ordered in all things, and sure? This covenant, even the sure mercies of David, it would be all our salvation, and all our desire." Both as a nation, and as individuals, would we plead the gracious promise: "The Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance." And again: "O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me; yea, although the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, yet my loving-kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed; for I am the Lord that hath mercy on thee." O, may we not, ought we not continually to say, "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgressions of thy people; who retainest not thine anger for ever, because thou delightest in mercy?" Yes, O Lord, "thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, neither rewarded us according to our iniquities; for as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is thy



mercy toward them that fear thee; and as far as the East is from the West, so far wilt thou remove our transgressions from us.”]

The wages of sin, we know, is death; the soul that sinneth, it shall die. But “thou hast magnified thy mercy, O Lord; and mercy, (hast thou said,) shall be built up for ever, because thou hast redeemed thy people; redeemed them not with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish, and without spot; who verily was fore-ordained before the foundation of the world; but was manifested in these last times for us, who by him do now believe in God; believe that we have redemption through his blood, and the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”

\* Believingly and joyfully would we say now, “If the blood of bulls, and of goats, sanctified to the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, (who through the Eternal Spirit offered himself without spot unto God,) purge our consciences from dead works, and cause the peace of God to rule in our hearts?” Now the Lord of peace himself give us peace by all means; not that peace which the world giveth, exposed to continual interruption, and which shall soon pass away for ever; but “the peace of God which passeth all understanding, and which shall keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.” May we all be

the children of God through faith in him; "being born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God; and having the Holy Spirit of promise, not the spirit of bondage again to fear, but the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father; even that Spirit which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory for ever and ever." O Lord, may we know that this Spirit is given unto us according to thy promise; and may he not only guide us into all truth, but cause us to walk in thy statutes, and to keep all thy judgments, and do them.

[O that we could more and more feel the fruits of the Spirit in our hearts, and manifest them in the whole of our life and conversation. In all truth, righteousness, and goodness, would we experience joy, peace, long-suffering, and gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance, against which there is no law.]

\* Thou, God of our life, and author of every good and perfect gift, accept of our grateful acknowledgments, in the humble hope that thou hast been with us this night, to defend our bodies from harm, and to keep our minds in quietness and peace. Thou hast again made thy all nature-cheering sun to rise upon our part of the world; and with it thou art giving us another day to spend upon earth. May we pass it in thy fear,

in thy love, and in the diligent observance of every duty incumbent upon us. And to this end, may we unceasingly remember that we are under thy immediate inspection and observance; that thou seest all, and hearest all; and that at every hour thou mayest cut the thread of our lives, and bring us to the foot of thy throne, to render an account of our thoughts, our words, and our actions. O God, hear us this morning in behalf of our fellow-creatures. Have respect unto thy covenant; for the dark places of the earth are still full of the habitations of ignorance and cruelty. According to thy express promise, let princes come out of Egypt, and Ethiopia stretch out her hands unto God. We that are in the isles afar off would hear, and gratefully remember the word of the Lord: "He that scattereth Israel, will also gather him." As to our own Nation, and Colonies, Lord, if consistent with thy will, may our outward prosperity continue. Lord, let our ingratitude, and national provocations, be forgiven. From the King upon the throne, to the beggar on the dunghil, send down the much-needed spirit of repentance and reformation. In behalf of all universities and schools, we pray that our youth may be rescued from ignorance and vice; and thus a seed preserved to serve God in this land, for generations yet to come. Our absent relatives and friends, may they be nigh unto the Lord our God day and

night, and have every requisite blessing from him. Continue to us, O God, both healthy and fruitful seasons; and whilst thou fillest our bodies with food, fill our hearts with thankfulness. And now, O Lord, we entreat the acceptance of our weak and imperfect prayers, with the forgiveness of all thou hast seen amiss; ascribing unto the Three that bear record in heaven, salvation, and glory, and honour, and power. Amen.

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**FOURTH WEEK.****TUESDAY EVENING.**

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\* **GOD** of all goodness and grace, hear our prayer this evening, and give ear to the words of our mouth. We would call upon thee, who alone art worthy to be praised, and who hast given us reason to hope that thou wilt send out thy light and thy truth, to lead and bring us to thy holy hill, even unto a throne of grace, where we may obtain mercy to pardon, and grace to help in time of need. We know, and would have ever deeply impressed on our minds, that the Lord he is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Thou remainest for ever the same, and thy throne is from generation to generation. One day is with *thee* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Most High, whom we would now worship, dwelleth not in temples made with hands. Heaven is his throne, and the earth is his footstool: yet his eyes run to and fro through the world: from the place of thy habitation thou lookest down upon all the inhabitants of the earth, and considerest all their works. And must we not add, the Lord is righte-

ous in all his ways, and upright are his judgments. There is no iniquity with the Lord our God: thou art the Lord who lovest righteousness, and exercisest judgment in the earth; and thou hast appointed a day when thou wilt judge the world in righteousness. What then must become of us, O Lord, who have always been ungrateful, and so often broken thy most just and easy commandments? To us indeed, O God, belongeth shame and confusion of face; and more especially when we think of thy holiness, and our impurity and sinfulness.

[Thou didst create us after thy image, but we have let it be defaced. Thou hast favoured us with the light of revelation; but have we not sometimes loved the ways and works of darkness? Thy law, O God, which is exceeding broad, hath been often read to us, and its precepts impressed on our minds; but in how many instances have we transgressed against it?]

O deal not with us according to our folly, but see our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed; that he, like unto Aaron of old, may bear our iniquity, and we be accepted at a throne of grace through him.

[Thou hast said in thy Word, O Lord, unto every sinner: "Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me." Encouraged by this promise, we say, Lord let thy hand be upon the

Man of thy right hand, upon the Son of Man, whom thou madest strong for thyself; who, though smitten and afflicted of God, was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; thereby to make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in an everlasting righteousness; that thus mercy and truth might meet together, righteousness and peace mutually embrace, and God be just, whilst he is the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.]

We look to Christ alone for acceptance with the Father, who blotted out the hand-writing of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; even thy Son, O God, who thus (as it became him) fulfilled all righteousness; and being the Mediator of a better covenant, brought in a better hope; by the which hope we draw nigh unto God. And thus looking, O God, and thus hoping, we would not only humbly expect the pardon of all our sins, but even a comfortable persuasion thereof in our own minds, with all those advantages which invariably accompany, or flow from it.

[Say to all thy professing servants now present, "I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." O that we could say, with a firmer confidence, This God is our God for ever and ever, and he will be our guide even unto death.]

Lord, give us that best of evidences, which ariseth from a conformity of mind and will to thee, and to our blessed Master. Let us have

grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably. None of us would henceforward live unto ourselves. We are not our own, for we are bought with a price. Let us, therefore, glorify God in our body, and in our spirit, which are God's.

[May we have thy grace, which can alone enable us to live in a suitableness to our professions and privileges. Let the time past of our lives suffice us to have lived so much to ourselves, and to the fulfilling of temporal desires and inclinations.]

We would, we hope and trust, form sincere resolutions this evening, to live more and more soberly, honestly, and godly, in this present evil world. And to this purpose, O God, teach us to reflect seriously upon the shortness of life; the inconceivable rapidity with which our days, and weeks, and months, and years pass away. They are, indeed, swifter than a post, or like a ship before the wind sailing quick to its destined port. Help us to consider that our career may terminate every moment, when death shall summon us to judgment, and the consequences be eternal. Lord, teach us therefore so to number and estimate every day as if it were our last. Like the foolish virgins, may we not sleep, or even slumber, in the lap of a cold outward profession; but having our loins girded, and our lamps burning, may we imitate the wise virgins, be ever watching, and making ready for the coming of our Lord;



and thus we *may* hope to appear before him with confidence and holy joy.

\* Keep us this night, O God, under the shadow of thy wings, and defend our bodies and souls from all evil. Refresh us with sleep; and if thou art pleased to grant us the privilege of another day in this state of probation, may our renewed strength be employed to advance thy glory, and promote the best interests of all around us. O Lord continue still to be kind and favourable to all our relations and friends. May we all be united in the same covenant of redemption here, and be permitted to enjoy its more glorious privileges together hereafter. Let the country where we live, and while we live, O God, if consistent with the great designs of thy providence, never be the seat of war, but the enviable residence of liberty and peace. May those who wish us well prosper, and the counsels of all that hate us be turned into foolishness. We long for the time when wars shall cease to the end of the earth, and there shall be nothing to hurt nor destroy in all thy holy mountain. Hasten that happy time, O God, and prepare the world for it. And now the God of Israel cause us to go from his throne in peace, and with the hope of pardon and acceptance: and to the Father, Son, and blessed Spirit, be eternal praises. Amen.

## FOURTH WEEK.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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\* ALL nations whom thou hast made, O Lord, shall come and worship before thee; for thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone: every other object of worship is an idol, which can neither see, nor hear, nor help, their deluded votaries. And, blessed be thy name, thou hast given encouragement to all thy rational creatures to wait upon thee in this ordinance of thy appointment, *and to trust in thee according to thy word.*

[Bow thy heavens, therefore, O God, and come down. When we spread forth our hands, do not hide thine eyes from us; but hear our prayers, receive our acknowledgments, and condescend to accept of us, through the merits and intercession of our adorable Redeemer.]

\* We address thee this morning as the Father of light, and who, upon this day of the week; didst create the great luminaries of heaven, to divide the day from the night, and to be for signs and for seasons, and for months and for years. We would be thankful for the natural sun which thou hast

placed in the skies to give light and heat to all the animal and vegetable world. But we would be still more so, if (as we hope) thou hast caused the Sun of *righteousness* to arise upon our souls, to give us spiritual light and life, whilst so great a part of the world is still lying in gross ignorance and darkness. Forbid, O God, that this Gospel light, or only mean by which we may know thee, the true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent, should at last turn to our severer condemnation, by our loving darkness rather than it, and continuing in our evil deeds.

[But may it enter our minds, and penetrate the inmost recesses of our hearts, to shew us our need of a Saviour, with the propriety and sufficiency of Jesus Christ in all respects to save; to save unto the very uttermost such as come unto God through him. May we hope, O God, that we have not only seen this; seen that there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we might be saved; but that we have been enabled to come to him, and to accept of him, as he is freely offered in the Gospel.]

\* We would say again this morning, Lord, we believe in thy Son; help thou our unbelief; and give us more and more the influences of the Holy Spirit, to make us like unto our Lord and Master; and that we may imitate him in all his imitable perfections, in his meekness, humility, patience,

and self-denial, unbounded charity, diligence, and heavenly-mindedness.

[Into thy hand, heavenly Father, we commit our bodies, as well as our souls. Preserve our bodily part this day from all the diseases and disorders by which it is liable to be infected and afflicted; and deliver our spiritual part from more easily besetting temptations and sins. Banish, O God, from our minds all vain, worldly, and criminal thoughts.]

The Psalmist's prayer would be ours this morning: "Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked desire within us, and lead us each in the way everlasting." So enlighten us in the knowledge of thy will, O God, and confirm and strengthen us in the belief of the truth, as that neither the natural darkness of our minds, nor the assaults of our spiritual foes, may be able to remove, or even weaken our faith. And give us also so great an abhorrence against sin, as that we may not only forsake whatever is contrary to thy will, but even abstain from all appearance of evil; henceforth living just and sober, watchful and holy lives.

[Lord, our hearts would not be haughty, nor our eyes lofty; neither would we exercise ourselves in great matters, or in things too high for us; but may we in every circumstance behave with quiet submission, even as a child that is weaned of his mother; "for whosoever (our blessed Master has said) shall

humble himself as a little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Let us never be desirous of vain-glory; for *thus saith the Lord*, " Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom; neither let the mighty man glory in his might; let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord that exerciseth loving-kindness and judgment in the earth. We would, therefore, O God, considering, and deeply impressed by these words, desire to receive and seek no other honour but that which cometh from God only. And God forbid that we should ever glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto us, and we unto the world.]

Thy servant of old hath said, " Is there not a warfare to man upon earth?" and our Apostle calls upon us to endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Convinced that no man that warreth properly, entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; so let us (who are chosen to be Christian soldiers, and who, though we walk in the flesh, do not war after, or for the flesh,) keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

\* O Lord, we would let no day pass over our heads without some devotional exercise of piety towards thee, and some act of benevolence or kindness to our brethren of mankind. And if it be thy will that this day, or this week, should be the

last of our lives, forbid, O God, that death should overtake us in a thoughtless, unprepared state of mind. May we be habitually living as faithful servants who are waiting for the coming of their lord; and who are enabled to maintain a well-grounded hope, that our dear Redeemer shall at last receive us into those mansions which he is now preparing for all his followers. We would pray that the whole earth may be filled with the glory of the Lord. Let the wrath of man praise thee, and O restrain the remainder thereof. May the British Empire remain the seat of peace and plenty; of civil and religious liberty. Greatly bless and preserve our King and Queen, and every branch of the Royal Family. Our magistrates and ministers, may they do their duty, and be useful in their stations. Lord, put a stop to luxury and profligacy of manners among the great, and to grosser vices in the lower classes of people among us. May we be a reformed, and then we may hope to be a pardoned, and prosperous people. And now the Lord our God be a sun and shield; the Lord give us grace and glory, and withhold no good thing from us. And all we beg is for a Redeemer's sake. Amen.

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## FOURTH WEEK.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

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\* IN the words of an ancient servant of God, we would begin the worship of this evening, by saying, " Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a flock, thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth. Before Ephraim, and Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up thy strength, and come and save us. Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and be not angry against the prayer of thy people. Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and behold, and visit us; and let thy hand be upon the Man of thy right hand, upon the Son of Man, whom thou madest strong for thyself." (Is. lxxx.) Thus quickened and accepted, we would presume once more, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make our requests known unto God. We recognise, O thou Creator and Preserver of the human race, another day, which hath passed over our heads, no more to return for ever. O that we could say we have spent it in thy fear and love, and that our consciences bore a calm and comfortable testimony

to this, that we have lived as thy children, and walked before thee in a more perfect way. But thou knowest, great God! and we know also, from the recollection of memory and conscience, that this hath by no means been the case with regard to us.

[So far from improving our talents, and working out the work of our salvation with fear and trembling, have we not rather augmented our spiritual debts; and are we not more guilty in many respects than we were yesterday? Have we not therefore reason to humble ourselves in the dust, and to say with thy servants of old, " Lord, be merciful unto us, and heal our souls, for we are the objects of thy displeasure, having sinned against thee.]

Lord, we are ashamed, and blush to lift up our face unto thee, for our iniquities have increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up into the very heavens. Surely it is meet to be said unto God by us, if we have done iniquity, or have spent our time in an unprofitable manner, we will do so no more. We will meditate henceforth more carefully on thy precepts, and have respect unto all thy commandments. Resolving once more, O Lord, to adhere to thy testimonies, put us not to shame, but strengthen us according to thy word, that we may keep thy law, and observe it with our whole mind and soul. To this end, create in us,

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O God, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us.

[By reason of our unfruitfulness, cast us not away from thy presence, nor take thy Holy Spirit from us; but restore unto us the joy of thy salvation, and uphold us with thy free Spirit. Lord, if thy mercies were not infinite, and thy Son's merit and grace inexhaustible, we should not dare to ask these favours. But we know, and would most gratefully remember, that the mercy of the Lord is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations. And thou hast sworn, O God, by thy eternal essence, "that thou hast no pleasure in the death of a sinner, but rather that he turn from his wickedness, and live:" and to remove every doubt from our minds, and to establish our faith upon the most solid basis, it is added, "We have Jesus Christ a priest for ever, after the order of Melchisedec, and who is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Not by works of righteousness, therefore, which we have done, but according to thy mercy save us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, that we may at last be presented in the sight of God, holy, and without blemish, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.]

We believe and revere these declarations of Sacred Scripture:—The steps of a good man are

ordered of the Lord, and he alone holdeth up our goings in his paths, that our footsteps slide not. We know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. In all our ways, therefore, would we acknowledge him, that he may guide us with his counsel here, as well as receive us to glory hereafter.

[Whilst in this world, we are, as it were, in an enemy's country. Our blessed Lord hath said, "Because we are not of the world, therefore the world hateth us." We would therefore pray, "Deliver our souls, O Lord, from lying lips, and from the deceitful tongue," and let us not long dwell with them that hate peace. More especially do thou keep us from the hands of the wicked, and preserve us from the violent man, who may have purposed to overthrow our goings. But above all, O God, deliver us from the malice and subtlety of Satan. We would not be ignorant of his devices, and that he is desirous to have every child of God, that he may sift them as wheat. But, blessed Saviour, thou hast prayed for them, that their faith fail not. We would therefore resist him, that he may flee from us; and wait in hope for the accomplishment of that period, when the very God of peace shall bruise Satan under our feet entirely, and for ever.]

\* We this night again purpose and resolve to cease from sin, that we may no longer live the

rest of our time to the lusts of men ; but, as it is our duty and interest, to the will of God. And now, Lord, having confessed our sins, and implored thy grace to pardon and sanctify us, we would afresh commit our souls into the arms of thy Son. Give us, if it be thy will, a calm and undisturbed repose, that our bodies may be refreshed, and fitted for the duties of another day. We pray also for our friends, our relatives, our benefactors, and even our enemies. Bless this land in which we live, and all our governors. Bless thy churches, and all who minister to us in holy things. Bless this neighbourhood, and all who live near and around us. Bless this house, and every branch and member thereof. And now, O Lord, permit us to close this exercise with the prayer which thy Son hath taught us, saying, " Our Father who art in heaven," &c.

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## FOURTH WEEK.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

\* THOU hast sworn by thyself, O Lord! the word is gone out of thy mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto thee "every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess." (Isaiah, xlv. 23.) We would, therefore, seek unto God be- times, and make our supplications unto the Al- mighty; preserving ever at the same time upon our spirits that important consideration; though the Lord's throne be in heaven, and he dwell by his special presence in his holy temple there, yet *his* eyes for ever behold, and his eye- lids try the children of men. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.†

Well may we indeed say, "O Lord, thou hast searched us and known us. Thou knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising; thou understandest our thoughts afar off. Thou compassest our path, and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways; for there is not a word in our tongue, but lo! O Lord, thou knowest it alto-

gether. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain unto it. Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

\* When we consider all this, may we not say, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him; and the sons and daughters of men, that thou thus visitest them?" In us, that is in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing; we are all as an unclean thing; and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? In thy sight shall no man living be justified. And in this guilty and sinful state to which we have reduced ourselves, what can we do but fall down in humble adoration at the throne of thy grace, that according to the multitude of thy tender compassions, thy merited wrath and indignation may be turned away from us.

[Have mercy upon us, O Lord, we therefore pray; have mercy upon us; and as far as the East is from the West, so far do thou remove our transgressions from us. O our God, when we think of thy righteousness and our sinfulness, we have reason to fear; but whilst thy holiness is perfect, thy mercy is infinite; and we feel a joy unspeakable in meditating upon what thy servant of old hath said; "There is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared, and thou hast magnified thy mercy above thy great name."]

When we consider what we have merited, we tremble, and are afraid: but when we consider what thy Son has done and suffered for sinners, our broken hearts and contrite spirits revive. Remember in mercy, O God, that *He* hath satisfied thy justice for us; and notwithstanding we may have been the very chief of sinners, we would through him look for pardon, acceptance, and every spiritual blessing.

\* O thou that bindest up the broken in heart, and healest the wounded in conscience, say unto our souls, "Go in peace, thy faith hath made thee whole." Set us as a seal upon thine arm, and may we be as one who hath found favour in thine eyes. And knowing, O God, that every one who hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as thou art pure, may we be anxious to follow after righteousness and godliness, and to be walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. We will serve the Lord with fear, and let our heart stand in awe of his word. We will love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our mind; and our neighbour as ourselves, for his sake. We bless God, who hath kept and preserved us during the past night, and safely and happily conducted us to the commencement of a new day. If consistent with thy sovereign will, continue thy guardian-

ship and paternal goodness throughout its fleeting course.

[Permit it not, O God, that we fall this day into any open or known sin; but if it should so happen, from our weakness, and the many temptations which surround us, that we do fall, O forgive us, and cause us to return unto thee with unfeigned sorrow and deep repentance.

Lord, we would renew this morning the consecration of our bodies, our souls, our life, our labour, all that is in us, and all that belongs to us. We desire to be more and more engaged in studying thy will, in promoting thy glory, doing good to our fellow-creatures, and working out with fear and trembling our own salvation. O God! all good! accept of this sincere and renewed sacrifice; let it ascend, through thy forbearance, to a throne of grace, and may it be accompanied with the merits of that sacrifice which thy dear Son offered up for our pardon and reconciliation.]

Grant, O God, that we may henceforth detach our affections more and more from the things of time; and whilst we are daily labouring for the meat which perisheth, may we be truly mindful of that which endureth unto everlasting life.

[May we never forget that we have precious and immortal souls, which demand our first and chief attention; and that the gain of the whole

world will profit us nothing, if in too anxiously caring about this we should lose our souls.]

And, O Lord, whilst we are anxious about the salvation of our own souls, we would not be unmindful of the eternal interests of all our fellow-creatures. We earnestly pray for the fulfilment of thine ancient promise, which saith, "As the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations." Let the number of thy spiritual children be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured, or numbered; and let it come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, "Ye are not my people;" there it shall be said, "Ye are the sons and daughters of the living God."

\* For our own Nation and Colonies we would also again, this morning, intercede. O let thy sun still rise upon the just and the unjust among us, and fulfil thy general promise, giving us rain in due season, that our land may yield her increase, and the trees of the field their fruit. O God, for the sake of thy chosen people overlook the infidelity and profligacy of thousands around us. Hear the prayers of thy servants for a general reformation. O that we might be a holy, and then we shall be a happy people. Continue,



O God, to be the guide, the protector, and the portion of all in this family; and, if consistent with the great designs of thy providence, let goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. Hear us, O God, from thy dwelling place, and send us an answer of peace for *his* sake, who alone is worthy, with the Father, and blessed Spirit, to receive endless praises. Amen.

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## FOURTH WEEK.

### THURSDAY EVENING.

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\* O THOU who regardest the prayer of the destitute, and despisest not any who humbly approach unto thee in this ordinance, again vouchsafe to forgive, and accept of us this evening. O Lord God of our life, and of our salvation, it is our interest and our duty to supplicate day and night; evening as well as morning would we wait upon thee: "for thou art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee in truth." (Psalm cxlv. 18). And in thy Word it is also expressly said: "But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him; if thou seek him with all thy heart, and with all thy soul." Lord, make thyself known unto us in all the works of nature around us. With what ease and facility didst thou in the beginning create all things! Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. By thy word, indeed, O Lord, were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of thy mouth.

[Thou didst but speak, and it was done; thou commandedst, and all things stood fast: thou saidst,

Let them be, and it was so. Adored for ever be thine infinite and matchless power. But our praise, O God, is more especially due for thy kind design, in creating this world, with all the creatures that are in it, and upon it, for our sustenance, our conveniency, and our pleasure. By thy mere good pleasure we are men, and not brutes. If thy Spirit had not breathed into our nostrils, we might have been living, but not immortal creatures.]

\* How great thy condescension and goodness in saying, with regard to man, "I have made him; I have formed him; I have created him for my glory!" Surely, then, O God, it ought to be the great business of our lives to shew forth thy praise. But man, being in honour, abode not. We did what in us lay to defeat thy noble purpose concerning us, by the breach of the first covenant. Yet everlasting thanks be unto God, "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: for if by one offence judgment came upon all men unto condemnation, much more by the grace of God is the free gift of pardon, through Christ, of many offences unto justification." Lord, may we hope that we have come to this Saviour, who alone hath the words of eternal life; who was wounded for our transgressions, and by whose stripes only we can be healed. We would say, "Bless the Lord, O our souls! and all that is within us, bless his holy name, who thus forgiveth all our iniquities, and healeth all our spiritual dis-

eases." We would be sensible, and desire to own it, to thy praise, O God, that every good and perfect gift cometh down from above. †

If we have repented, it is because thou hast given us repentance unto life: if we have believed to the saving of our souls, it is owing to the exceeding greatness of thy power toward us.

[If we shall henceforth do what is good and well-pleasing in thy sight, it is, and must be, because we are thy workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. If we work out our salvation, it is because "God worketh in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure."]

Therefore we give all thanks unto the Father, who alone hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; having delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son, in whom we have redemption through his blood, and who was sent to bless us by turning away every one of us from our iniquities; to ransom us from the power of the grave, raise us up at the last day, and bring us to an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled, and that shall never, never fade away.

[O Lord, what shall we render unto thee for all these blessings, both of a temporal and spiritual nature? Well may we say, How precious are thy thoughts toward us, and how great is the sum of them! If we should attempt to count them up,

they are more in number than the hairs of our head. They are new every morning, and they are fresh every evening of our lives. This, O God, is the language which it behoves us to hold every day; and the grateful sentiments contained we would carry to the footstool of thy throne; confessing at the same time with thy servant of old, that we are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies, and of all thy truth, which thou hast shewn unto us.]

Thou art still, O God, preserving us in life, and also continuing us in health. Thou art even averting punishments and chastisements which we have merited for years past.

\* O Lord, in multiplying the days of our probation, thou art manifesting thy long-suffering patience and abounding mercy toward us: for doth not our memories and our consciences tell us, that we have not spent them so piously and usefully as we might have done? nay, that every day we may have been adding something to our ingratitude and guilt. Notwithstanding of this, O sovereign Judge of the universe, we will still look up to the throne of thy grace, imploring forgiveness through the atoning merits of thy Son's blood; and entreating the more abundant down-pouring of thy blessed Spirit to enable us so to number all our future days, as to have thy approbation when thou comest to judgment. We would compose our bodies and souls to sleep this night, in the resolution (God sparing us)

of living more up to the great end for which we were created: and thus, may we not hope and trust that the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ? To thy gracious care and keeping we commit all our friends and relations, with every one whom we are bound to pray for. To none of us may our bed be a grave, until our souls be everlastingly united through Christ to thee in the new and well-ordered covenant. May this, in a more especial manner, O God, be the case with respect to all who are lying on beds of languishing and sickness. Be their guide, their support, their comforter, and, in thy good time, a deliverance out of all their troubles.

Now unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

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**FOURTH WEEK.****FRIDAY MORNING.**

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\* O THOU great Creator, and omnipotent Preserver of our bodies and souls, with the utmost reverence would we now draw near the footstool of thy throne, to offer up our morning sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. It was upon this day of the week that thou didst form our first parents after thy image, but a little lower than the angels, and crown them with honour, and with glory. It is owing to thy distinguishing goodness alone, that we were separated from all the other creatures of this lower world; that we are wiser than the fowls of heaven, and have more understanding than the beasts which perish; and that we are invested with a sovereign dominion over them all. May we not say in the language of our Apostle, "Alas! that by one man sin entered into the world, and that by his disobedience many were made sinners." On this account we are justly said in Scripture to be now but of yesterday, and to know nothing; to be weak, froward, and, to every good word and work, reprobate. Thus we are assuredly fallen from that holy and happy state in which we were created.

And what should we now do, Almighty Jehovah, but for these gracious words of thine: "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thine help?" Yes, we will ever adore that mystery of grace, which, from the beginning of the world, hath been hid in God; who created all things by Jesus Christ, and was in him reconciling a guilty world unto himself, in whom also it pleased the Father that all the fulness of the Godhead should dwell, and that we might be complete in him. Lord, we rejoice that this word of reconciliation was first committed to such as were inspired of the Holy Ghost, and by them again to faithful men, who should act as ambassadors for Christ, beseeching us through him to be reconciled unto God. We rejoice that the offers of salvation are free and unlimited. Blessed Jesus, we trust that thou wilt never have occasion to say unto any of us, "Ye would not come unto me that ye might have life." With humility and gratitude we would now again say, "Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief;" and seeing thou art the express image of God, and hast come into the world to restore this image upon our souls, we plead for the gift and influences of the Holy Spirit, that we may be thereby renewed, and purified in obeying the truth, and that we may follow, as far as may lie in our power, that spotless example which thou hast set before us.

[O Lord, let neither the world with its cares and



pleasures, nor our own hearts, with their carnal appetites and passions, lead us astray, or cause that we forget for one moment, that through Christ we are thy adopted children, and that we are training up for a kingdom of happiness and glory, wherein dwelleth nothing but righteousness. O that we could ever think, and speak, and act, as under the more immediate inspection of an omnipresent and omniscient God, and as liable to be summoned every hour before his awful throne to be judged by him. “Lead us not, O God, into temptation, but deliver us from evil,” from every thing that might unhinge our faith, unsettle our love, and render our obedience reluctant or partial.]

In proportion as we advance in age, may we grow in grace, in the love and practice of every thing that is virtuous and praiseworthy. May we improve all the opportunities which shall be presented unto us, to promote God’s glory, and our neighbour’s welfare; and when it shall happen that we deviate from the paths of purity, or rectitude, come to our immediate assistance, thou blessed Spirit! and give us an unfeigned sorrow, and sincere repentance; and cause us to be more attentive and watchful for the future. With respect to the good things of a present world, we know not absolutely what we ought to pray for. O God, thou knowest better than we, whether a state of prosperity or adversity be fittest for us. We would desire from day to

day to have our will in perfect subjection to thine ; and only pray that all we meet with here below, may be made subservient to the great purpose of our eternal salvation. But we would be thankful to God for our continuance in life, for adding another day to our state of trial and probation : may it be so spent, as not to rise up in judgment against us.

\* Give unto each of us, O God, what thou knowest to be proper for enabling us to pass all our days in thy fear, so as that we may die in thy favour, and at the resurrection of the just be raised in glory.†

[Lord, we would not let thee go, unless thou thus bless us. Bless us, O Father, and hear these our requests for the sake of thy beloved Son, and our beloved Saviour. And now, O God, hear our prayers in behalf of all such as need, or desire an interest in them. Bless our Country, and every inhabitant thereof, of all ranks and degrees. Enlighten the minds of the ignorant, and turn the hearts of the wicked from the evil of their ways. Protect, O God, and purify thy Church, with every society and congregation of thy professing people. Ransomed and redeemed by the blood of thy Son, may the thoughtless be awakened, and backsliders be reclaimed. Let lukewarm and slothful professors be roused from their lethargy, and weak and doubting Christians be strengthened and built up in the faith, and hopes of the Gospel.]

Bless our civil magistrates, from the King on the throne, to the lowest in office. May they reign over us in the fear of God, and for the real welfare of every citizen.

\* We recommend more especially to thee our relations, and all our absent friends, wherever they are. May God's goodness and grace, while here, be their portion, and may they one day be admitted to glory. Let both we and they be faithful unto death, and at last receive the crown of life. Under a deep sense of thy presence with us, and all-seeing eye upon us, we would enter upon the affairs and enjoyments of the present day. May this deter us from all that is evil, and encourage us more and more to every good word and work. And in due time may we each of us be admitted into thy beatific presence. We ask, and hope for all in the name, and for the sake of our glorious Redeemer; to whom, with thee, O Father, and blessed Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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## FOURTH WEEK.

### FRIDAY EVENING.

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\* WITH humility, and with gratitude, we would again this evening praise the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, and his mercy endureth for ever. It is said in our infallible standard of duty, " Let the people praise thee, O God! let all the people praise thee. Let them give glory unto the Lord from the end of the earth, and declare his praise in the islands." We would therefore, with every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are upon the sea, and all that are in them, say, " Blessing, and honour, and glory, and thanksgiving, and wisdom, and power, and might, be unto our God; and unto the Lamb that was slain, for ever and ever. The day past is not only the return of that upon which thou didst create the first Adam, and pronounced him blessed, along with all thy other creatures here below, but it is also the return of that still more important day, when the second Adam, the Lord from heaven, in our nature and room suffered and died upon the cross without the gates of Jerusalem. †

May we not be permitted, O Lord, to turn our minds for a moment toward this most astonishing

and glorious event! In the words of the Psalmist, we would hail the accomplishment of his prophecy, saying, "Surely the salvation of God is nigh to them who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have mutually embraced;" for now truth hath visited the earth, and righteousness looked down from heaven. Because God our Father, and our Redeemer, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, hath sent forth his Son to be the Saviour of the world.

[In the words of the evangelical Prophet, we would say, "Who is this that cometh from Edom, and with dyed garments from *Bozrah*? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength?" Blessed Jesus! may we ever admire thy gracious answer, "I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. And I looked, and there was none to help, and I wondered, and there was none to uphold; therefore mine own arm brought salvation." In his love and in his pity he did redeem and save us. We adore the grace of God which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who not only died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, but rose again the third day in the fulfilment thereof, and who hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.]

Forbid, O God, that any of us should be among that unhappy number, who despise the riches of thy grace in the Gospel, and thereby treasure up unto ourselves wrath against the day of wrath, and revelation of thy severer judgment: but O may we all be amongst that happy number who have believed to the saving of the soul; to whom Christ is truly precious, and in whom, “although they see him not; yet, believing, they rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory.”

\* We would all so receive Christ Jesus the Lord, as that we may walk in him. Lord our God, grant that the life which we now lead in the flesh may be a life of faith upon the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us. Help us to abide in him, and he in us, and so as that we may bring forth the fruits of holiness; for as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can we, except we abide by faith in Christ. Let us never forget, O God, the great end for which Christ gave himself, “to redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

[Thou art good, eternal Father, toward all men. Thou hast been so in a particular manner toward us this day. Thy sun in the firmament hath both enlightened and warmed us; and may we hope that the Holy Spirit hath, in some degree, influenced, and comforted us. Thy bounty hath abun-

dantly supplied all our natural wants, and thy watchful providence hath protected us from many diseases and dangers to which human life is daily exposed. But what have we done for thee, Lord? What, toward the advancement of thy glory, or the salvation of our immortal souls? Are we not the same formal, lukewarm, or back-sliding professors that we have been for some time past? "It is of the Lord's mercies that we have not been consumed, and because his compassions fail not." And art thou still waiting to be gracious unto us? O Lord, let us not abuse thy patience and long-suffering any longer. Turn thou us, and we shall be turned; pardon our past slothfulness, and many failings, and short-comings, and give us grace henceforth to be more diligent, and fruitful, and watchful.]

We would keep our hearts with all diligence, seeing that out of them are the issues of life; and warned by thine own words, most blessed Saviour, that although the spirit may be willing, yet the flesh is weak, we request that we may be enabled to watch and pray, that we enter not into temptation; that we be continually sober and vigilant, because our great adversary goeth about both by night and day, seeking whom he may devour. This night we pray in a particular manner, that the destroying angel may not be allowed to do us any harm, nor that the prince of darkness may have any power

over us, to scare us with dreams, and terrify us through visions.

\* To God's protection, and holy keeping, we again commit ourselves this night. Thou, O Lord, canst make us sleep in quiet, as well as live in safety. Let our bed of rest put us in mind of the bed of death; and may we be prepared for it. O that we may then be enabled to say with the Psalmist: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod, and thy staff, they comfort me." And may the same blessings which we have been asking for ourselves be abundantly shed abroad, and poured down upon the heads, and into the hearts of all those who are near and dear to us. Consistent with thy will, may we often meet in comfort in a present world; but if thou hast otherwise ordered, that we should see each other's faces no more here, the Lord be merciful unto us all: deliver us from every evil work and way, and preserve and keep us safe unto thy heavenly kingdom; from which we shall never remove, and where there shall be nothing to part us any more for ever. Now unto the Three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and praise. Amen.

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## FOURTH WEEK.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

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\* O THOU, by whose word the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of thy mouth; thou, and thou only, art the object of our adoration and worship. We are this morning again put in mind of that interesting period, when this earth upon which we dwell, and all the creatures belonging to it, came formed and finished from God's creating hand. Is it not our duty, then, to begin the worship of this day, with calling upon the whole rational creation to join with us in the devout exercises of thanksgiving and praise? In the words of David we would say this morning, "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together: make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands; serve him with gladness, and come before his presence rejoicing; be thankful unto him, and bless his name; for the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations."

[We adore that Spirit which hath garnished these heavens over our heads; who hath given the sun for a light by day, and ordained the moon and stars for a light by night. We adore thy wis-

dom and power, by which thou hast founded the earth, and hung it upon nothing; that thou didst also shut up the sea as with bars and doors, and set a bound that it may not pass over.]

We adore thee, as the former of every living creature which moveth upon the face of the earth; beast, and cattle, and fish, and fowl, for the use of man.

\* But we bless and praise God in a more especial manner for that rank of being which we hold in the scale of creation; that the Lord made us to have dominion over the other works of his hands, and put all things here below, as it were, under our feet. We know not, O God, how exalted and how happy we might have been, had our federal heads kept their first estate; but to our shame and sorrow we know, that man being in honor abode not; our first parents sinned, and all flesh have corrupted their way upon the earth.

[Even we, who have risen up in our fathers' stead, have sinned against the Lord our God, from our youth even to this day. Yea, we have sinned against light and conscience, and under the most aggravating circumstances.]

Our offences have been of a scarlet and crimson dye: and yet there is hope in Israel concerning such. O Lord, how wonderfully hath thy love and kindness appeared in the great work of our redemption! for which, had we the tongue of

angels, we could not sufficiently give thee thanks. Blessed, for ever blessed be thy good and gracious name, that instead of sending thy Son to condemn the world, as thou in justice mightest have done; thou didst send him to seek and save those who should otherwise have been lost and ruined.

[Adored be thine infinite and matchless grace, that when thou mightest have imputed the trespasses of sinful creatures to them, to their everlasting condemnation; thou wast, in Christ, reconciling a guilty world unto thyself. Praised for ever be his astonishing goodness, that he should die for such unworthy creatures as we are; that he should suffer for our sins, "the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God; that he who knew no sin, should even be made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."]

O Lord, grant that we may be interested in all that Christ did, and suffered, and procured for sinners of the human race.

\* Pardon all our offences, for his sake: may we be justified by his atoning merits and righteousness: give us, through him, to receive the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father; and eternally united to the Lord Jesus Christ by a true and living faith, may we be gradually redeemed from all iniquity, and at last made meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

[Whilst thou art continuing to shower down thy blessings, may we not be thoughtless and unconcerned ; but may we daily remember, and be grateful to the hand that bestoweth them. Instruct us, and teach us in every way that we should go ; and having found the path of duty, may we proceed in it without that fear of man that bringeth a snare.]

Ever contemplating how great is thy goodness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee ; which thou hast wrought out for them that trust in thee, before the sons of men, may we be of good courage, and strengthen our hearts in every good word and work, and may we be patient and resigned under all the events and dispensations of Divine Providence.

[Keeping ever in mind, that in all labour there is profit, and that the thoughts of the diligent tendeth only to plenteousness ; let us not give way to an indolent and slothful temper ; “ but be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord ; and giving all diligence to make our calling and election sure.”]

\* Continue, O God, to protect us this day, amidst all the dangers and calamities which surround us in a present world ; and having withdrawn our chiefest affections from it, may both our desires and hopes be raised to the heavenly country, where, sheltered for ever from disease, and death, and trouble, and sorrow of every kind ; we shall enjoy, in thy beatific presence, perfection, glory, and hap-

piness, for evermore. We long for that promised period, when the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together : when the Jews shall be brought in with the fulness of the Gentiles, to the saving knowledge and faith of the Gospel. Lord God, purify thy Church more and more, in doctrine, worship, duty, and discipline. Let the professors of our day, by their holy life and conversation, shew to an unbelieving world the reality of their principles. May multitudes around, attracted by their example, and influenced by thy grace, be led to mind the things which belong to their peace. Continue, O God, to protect the Government under which we live; and to bless with the spirit of their various stations, our magistrates and ministers ; with all ranks and degrees of men among us ; the rich and the poor ; the young and the old ; such as are in prosperity, or adversity ; the healthy, and the sick. Lord our God, favour us all with that love, and mercy, and never-failing, all-sufficient grace, which thou bearest to thine own. For every blessing we would be thankful ; and all we entreat is for Christ's sake. Amen.

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## FOURTH WEEK.

### SATURDAY EVENING.

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\* WITH MOSES, and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name, we would, this evening, exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he alone is holy, and worthy of all adoration and praise. By the eye of faith we would behold thee, O God, as described in thy word, upon a throne, high and lifted up, and surrounded with the seraphims that cry to one another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory!" How then shall we, who are men of unclean lips, and dwelling in the midst of a people of unclean lips, lift up our eyes and hands unto thee, the Holy One of Israel? Vouchsafe, O God, to send one of these seraphims, having a live coal in his hand, which he hath taken from off the heavenly altar, and laying it upon our mouths, may he say unto us, as he did to thy servant of old: "Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

[Thus shall we find that it is good for us to draw near unto God; declare all his wonderful works;

put our unlimited trust in him ; make mention of his universal goodness and mercy ; with what he hath done for our bodies and souls.]

With our tongues will we then bless God, even the Father ; the God of the spirits of all flesh ; and who alone made the earth and all things that are therein ; yea, every living creature ; which all wait upon God, that he may preserve them, and give them their meat in due season. But we would again, this evening, more especially praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. Thy blessings, good and gracious Father, are innumerable ; they surround us on every side. They were of old, and they have continued unto this day. Thou didst bring us at first out of nothing, into existence.

\* Thou hast made us wiser than the fowls of heaven, and given us more understanding than the beasts which perish. Thou hast created every creature here below for our sustenance, or for our convenience. By thy distinguishing goodness alone, our lot hath been cast in a land of many privileges : neither the sword, the famine, nor the pestilence, for many years have been permitted to approach our Country. But we have to thank thee, O God, for higher and nobler blessings. Thou hast given us a revelation of thy mind and will ; and in this revelation the knowledge of thy Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whom to know, believe, and obey, is everlasting life.†

[Blessed Jesus, we would rejoice that thou hast not only made an adequate atonement for the sins of the whole human race; but "that thou art now risen from the dead, hast ascended up on high, led captivity captive, and received gifts for men, even the most rebellious; that the Lord God might dwell graciously among us." May we trust, O God, that all these privileges have not been bestowed upon us in vain; but that along with them thou hast given us a true and saving faith, without which it is impossible to please thee. The Lord increase our faith; and may we be adding to it virtue and holiness; being assured, that if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we are found sinners, our faith cannot save us.]

Establish us, O God, in the faith and hopes of the Gospel, and seal our hearts unto thee, by giving us the earnest of the Spirit, the Holy Ghost, that dwelleth in all true believers, helpeth their various infirmities, and produceth in them the fruits of righteousness.

\* Again would we say this night, What shall we render unto thee, O our God! who hast preserved us not only during the past day, but all the days of this week? But why do we say this week? Thou hast fed, and clothed, and been kind to us all the days of our past life. Have we been without pain, and in health? It is the gift of thy distinguishing goodness. Have we been kept from



diseases and accidents? It has been owing to thy kind protecting providence. Have we not fallen into the more open and grosser sins of the age, and land, wherein we live? It has been entirely owing to our being kept out of the way of temptation, or to thy renewing and strengthening grace. Thou hast done all for us, O God; and to thee alone would we ascribe the praise.†

We have reason to be covered with shame and confusion, when we think how forgetful of thee we have been, whilst thou wert thus loading us with thy benefits. But, O God, have we not cause also to confess, and lament, that on different occasions this week we may have grieved the Holy Spirit, by doing what in us lay to quench his sacred influences, that were leading us to holy thoughts, and words, and actions? Lord, forgive our failings, our frailties, and imperfections. May our souls be more and more purified in obeying the truth through the Spirit; being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. To thy word and promises would we look, and in them alone we trust for grace here, and glory hereafter. Prepare our bodies, O Lord, by the refreshment of sleep this night, for the sacred duties in which we may be engaged to-morrow.

\* We desire to look forward to thine own day with pleasure, and would hope that the prospect

of every returning Sabbath may be more and more delightful to us. Assist all thy ministers in leading the worship of the sanctuary, and in delivering the truths of the everlasting Gospel: and do thou command the blessing out of Sion, even life for evermore. Lord, let there be nothing to hurt or destroy in all thy holy mountain. The God of patience and consolation grant that we be like-minded one towards another. May a difference of opinion in lesser matters, produce no abatement in our general principle of brotherly love. In all essential matters, may the inhabitants of this Country be joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment. Our absent relations and friends, with this family, and every member thereof, permit us, once more, at the conclusion of this week, to commit to thy peculiar care and keeping. Preserve us, O God, from every snare which may be laid, and from every temptation that shall be presented by wicked men, or evil spirits. And may all the dispensations both of thy providence and grace be so over-ruled and sanctified, as to bring about our greater good, and, in the issue, work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. We beg all in the prevailing name of Jesus Christ, who died for us, and rose again, and ever liveth to make intercession. To him, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises. Amen.

**FIFTH WEEK.****SABBATH MORNING.**

\* WE would praise thee this day with our lips, O thou Holy One of Israel! Our souls, which thou hast redeemed, would greatly rejoice when we are thus permitted again to draw near to a throne of grace. Great and glorious Jehovah! this is the day upon which thou didst begin to form these wonderful and stupendous works of nature around us. Whether we look about toward this earth on which we dwell, or raise our view to the canopy of heaven, we must have the being of a God impressed on our minds; and we must at the same time admire thy wisdom, power, and goodness. We are told in thy Word, more especially, that thou didst, as upon this day of the week, create the light, dividing and separating it from the darkness. Lord, by thy enlightening Spirit dissipate that natural obscurity which hangs upon our minds; and, in fulfilment of thy promise, give us that wisdom and knowledge which is good in thy sight. May we thus with the Psalmist be guided as with thine eye, and taught and instructed in every way which

we should go: for of ourselves we know nothing: in spiritual matters we are born like the wild ass's colt. Lead us, O God, unto Him who is the true light. We would count all things but loss for the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. In, and through him alone may our feet be guided into the way of peace. As upon this very day thy dear Son arose victorious from the tomb, may we also be enabled to rise from the death of sin to a life of righteousness; a life more conformable to that of our dear Redeemer, and where all his graces and virtues may shine more conspicuously. O let that meekness, that humility, that universal charity, and that heavenly-mindedness, which appeared in all his words and actions, be our daily study and prayer to obtain. And seeing thou art granting us another day of the Son of Man, and we hope to be permitted once more to assemble with thy people, may we enter thy temple with the profoundest reverence, and engage in every part of thy worship and service, with a sincere desire to promote thy glory and to receive spiritual benefit.

[May we beware of profaning the name of the Lord: let us offer the sacrifices of righteousness, keeping in remembrance what the Prophet hath said; "For cursed is the deceiver which voweth and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing." O God, let us draw near unto thee this day, not only with our lips, but with our hearts also. Too

often have we contented ourselves with the appearance of godliness : this day let us worship in spirit and in truth.]

\* When we confess our sins, may we feel a broken and contrite heart. When we sing thy praises, let all that is within us be stirred up to bless and magnify thy holy name. Let thy word preached, direct us in every path of duty ; may it inflame our souls with love to God, and all mankind ; may it strengthen us in all our weaknesses, and comfort and support us under every affliction. Grant, heavenly Father, that all the prayers and intercessions which shall be presented, as well in publick, as privately this day, may be offered up through a true and lively faith in thy Son's mediation, and thus an answer of peace be sent unto them.

Lord, we would be mindful of those who, through indisposition of body, are deprived of the benefit of publick ordinances. Neither thy presence, nor thy grace, is confined to temples made with hands. Thou hast said, blessed Saviour, unto all thy people, wherever they are, " I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." Yes, O compassionate Jesus, thou dost love them, and wilt manifest thyself to them.

\* O, that all who are under God's afflicting hand this morning might be enabled to say, " Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ." May they fear

nothing, believing that a covenant God in Christ is their portion, and that he will never utterly leave them, nor forsake them. Let pain or weakness lead them to meditate upon the origin and cause of all trouble. It was sin which brought death into this world with all its harbingers, and horrid train. Let such a meditation embitter it more and more to their souls. †

May their affliction also, O God, both humble and instruct them. O may we, and every one of our friends, be enabled to say at the termination of every such necessary and wise dispensation of Providence, "It was good for me that I have been afflicted. Before I was afflicted, I went astray;" but now, O Lord, I am disposed more carefully to keep thy word.

[Blessed be thy name, that even the severest afflictions are not the tokens of thy irreconcilable displeasure. It is said expressly in thy Word, "whom the Lord loveth, he thus correcteth, even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." O let us never forget that consoling prophecy and declaration made respecting us to our spiritual Head: "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments, then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquities with stripes: nevertheless, my loving kindness will I not utterly take from them, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail." May this be the end, and this the

fruit of all our troubles, to work out the peaceable fruits of righteousness, and at last, a far more exceeding, and eternal weight of glory.]

\* O God, forgive, and in thy due time and way be merciful unto all such as forsake the assembling of themselves together, or who turn thy holy day into a day of idleness, dissipation, or worldly pleasure. Let these words make a deep impression on their minds: "Them that honour me, (saith the Lord,) I will honour, and they that despise me, and my ordinances, shall be lightly esteemed." Help them to consider seriously, that the pleasures of sin are but for a season; and that it shall profit them nothing to gain the whole world, if they lose their souls. Give them, O God, that godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation, and which is never, never to be repented of. And bestow upon us all, O God, the renewing and sanctifying influences of thy Holy Spirit, that we may keep thy Sabbath from polluting it, and keep our hands as well as our hearts from all evil. Thus may we expect to delight ourselves in the Lord, and to be fed with the heritage of Jacob, our father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. And now, blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel, who alone is able to do above all that we can ask, or are worthy to receive. To him, through Christ, be eternal praises. Amen.

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**FIFTH WEEK.****SABBATH EVENING.**

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\* O LORD, let our prayers at this time come up before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands be acceptable as the evening sacrifices of old. For every other being unto whom we might think of applying, is not only an improper object of worship, but wholly unable either to hear, or help their deluded votaries. The Lord God of Israel, the Creator, Preserver, and Disposer of all things, and who once condescended to dwell between the cherubims: thou art the God, even thou alone, and there is none else beside thee. To thee every knee shall bow, unto thee every tongue ought to confess. Under a deep sense of our dependence upon God for what we have received, for all that we are, and for every blessing which we hope to enjoy, would we approach a throne of grace this evening. With every power within us, we desire again to celebrate thy unmerited goodness and mercy to the whole world of mankind in general. We thank thee more especially in a personal capacity, for all thy favours communicated to us, both of a temporal and spiritual kind,



from our birth to the present hour. By thee have we been holden up from the womb; to thy bounty we are indebted for all the necessaries and comforts of life. †

At times there may have been but a step between us and death; but the Almighty did cover us as with his feathers, and under his wings were we protected, as with a shield and buckler; so that when thousands were falling at our side, and ten thousand at our right hand, the sentence of death did not come nigh us.

[In every time of need having eaten and been satisfied, we would thank the Lord for the good land which he hath given us: a land, blessed (so to speak,) like the garden of Eden, with rain in due season, whose fields yield their increase, and trees all manner of fruits: a land, O God, where thy sore judgments, the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, have not, in our day, been sent to cut off both man and beast.]

May we not say with unceasing gratitude, we will remember all the way which the Lord our God hath led us for so many years in this wilderness world. We may indeed, like thy servant of old, set up a stone, and call it *Ebenezer*, saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

[Didst thou not, as it were, set a hedge about us, and about our house, and about all that we had on every side, so that no evil befell us? Yea,

may not some of us say, thou hast blessed the work of our hands, and our substance is increased in the land: our beginning was small, yet our latter end hath greatly increased. O Lord, let us never forget, far less abuse, these invaluable, although temporal benefits.]

\* But we have this day been employed more especially in praising God for spiritual blessings; and we would renew our grateful acknowledgments this night for our religious privileges. Thou hast permitted us to enter thy sanctuary, and to worship with thy professing people. Thy ministering servants have again delivered to us their important message; and it is our fault, O God, if we have not been minding properly the things that belong to our peace. Pardon, O God, for the sake of thy beloved Son, that insincerity and insensibility which may have attended us; the wanderings of our thoughts, with the coldness or lukewarmness of our worship. †

But let it not be altogether said with respect to us, what thou didst say to thy people of old: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouths, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." Can it be said as to any of us, "My people are bent to backsliding from me?" O Lord, let us hear these tender expressions applied to us, which thou didst, by the mouth of thy Prophet, apply to a Jewish tribe:

“ How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? How shall I deliver thee, Israel? How shall I make thee as Admah? How shall I set thee as Zeboim? Mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together: I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim; for I am God, and not man. I will surely have mercy, saith the Lord.”

\* O Lord! who is a God like unto thee, that pardonest iniquity, and retainest not thine anger, because thou delightest in mercy? O let this mercy melt down our hearts into all the tenderness of gratitude, and divine affection. Humbling ourselves greatly before God, we would turn unto him this night with our whole heart. We plead, O God, thine own word and promise, “ I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for mine anger is turned away. Be unto our souls, O God, from this night, (in a spiritual sense,) as the dew of Hermon, which descended upon the mountains of Sion, that we may grow as the lily, and cast forth roots like Lebanon.†

[We would abide for this purpose in Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church, because he hath said expressly, “ He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.” O God, grant that from this time we be neither barren, nor unfruitful; but, going forward from strength to

strength, may we flourish and bring forth fruit, even unto old age.]

\* As we advance in life, may we see more and more the vanity of all things here. Let us never forget that there remaineth a rest for the people of God, and that we are not yet come to it. May we be enabled frequently to say, and more especially upon thine own day: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth our soul after thee, O God! Our soul thirsteth for God, for the living God." When shall we come and appear before God? "Whom have we in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth we desire besides thee." We pray, O God, that thou wouldest mercifully hear all the intercessions which have been presented this day, and send an answer of peace, so far as it may be for thy glory, and the general good. Continue to bless this family, and every relation thereof, our neighbours, acquaintances, and friends. Give us all that may be necessary for a comfortable and holy life, and for a safe and happy death. Prepare us for the temporal concerns of another week. Whilst we labour for the meat that perisheth, let none of us forget that which endureth unto everlasting life. Now, to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, the Three who bear record in heaven, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## FIFTH WEEK.

## MONDAY MORNING.

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\* WE would lift up our face unto God, and make our prayer unto him, in the humble hope, that, according to his gracious promise, he will hear, and give us an answer of peace.

[The day is thine, O Lord; the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun; thou hast arranged the borders of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter every where.]

O Lord of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee, who hast all power in heaven and upon earth? "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever. The sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre."

\* Thy dominion is from sea to sea; and from the river unto the ends of the earth: yea, all kings shall fall down before thee, and all nations shall for ever serve thee. We, Lord, in a more especial manner have reason, every evening and morning, to adore thy goodness and mercy toward us. Thou art the former of our bodies. In these bodies thou hast lodged rational and immortal souls. Thou hast given us a variety of mental powers, to distinguish us from all the animals around, and to enable us to acquire and maintain

an absolute dominion over them. The sweet air which we breathe; the sun that enlightens and warms us; and this earth, which produceth whatsoever is fit for our support, conveniency, and pleasure: these are all the unmerited gifts of thy goodness.†

But until this day thou hast preserved our life; in infancy, in youth, and in riper years; amidst numberless diseases and accidents, to which, in the past part of our life, we have been continually exposed.

\* But above all thy other mercies, and every dealing of thy providence toward us, we would ever express our gratitude and praise for Jesus Christ, thy last, and best, and unspeakable gift; without whom we are nothing, and can do, or hope for nothing: yet, nevertheless in, and through whose mediation and purchase, we behold ourselves again restored to our Maker's favour; and, may we hope, gradually recovering to the divine image and likeness.†

Through him, we again this morning bless God for all that we have, for all that we are, and for all that we hope in time, and through eternity. We would never forget, we would have deeply impressed on our minds, the important declaration, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; and that in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but a new creature."

[Being saved by grace, although naturally dead in trespasses and sins, may we be quickened together in Christ; our old man being crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, and that henceforth we should not serve sin. Are we ready to say, from repeated and ineffectual struggles, "Who shall deliver us from the body of this death?" Yes, O God, like thy servant of old we are tempted to cry out, Wretched creatures that we are! The remembrance of our numberless failings and short-comings, oppress our souls with grief and shame: grief that we have offended thee so often, and that we still transgress daily in thought, word, and deed. "Who shall deliver us from this law in our members, which wars against the law of our minds?" We pray earnestly, that the flesh may no more lust against the Spirit, and that the work of our sanctification might be complete.]

Turn us, O God, wholly from sin, and we shall be turned. "Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us," that we may walk in every respect becoming the Gospel we profess, and the holy vocation by which we are honoured. Submit our reason to thy word, and all our passions to thy law. In thee, O Lord, do we place our confidence; let us never be put to confusion. Thou hast said, let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice, and them also that love thy name be joyful in thee; because thou, Lord, defendest

them, and wilt encompass them with thy favour as with a shield.

\* Give us, O God, submission to thy will in all things, to the end that we may never murmur against thy providence, in whatsoever way thou mayest see meet to deal with us. We would again express our thankfulness to God, for his protection and kindness during the past night, and for the light and blessings of a new day. Deign, O God, to cast upon us this morning a favourable regard; and whilst the natural sun hath returned to enlighten and warm our earth, O let the light of thy countenance be lifted up upon us, and the much needed influences of thy Spirit be communicated, that our souls may be prepared for every act of devotion and duty.

[If consistent with thy will, may our days be prolonged in the land wherein the Lord our God hath cast our lot. With humble gratitude, give us, O God, to enjoy the labour of our hands; and let our rising in the world go hand in hand with the comfortable subsistence of all around us.]

Lord bless the whole human race. Deal gently with those who live and die without the advantages which we possess. We pray that the Gospel may spread over the earth, as the waters cover the channels of the sea. We wish and pray that grace and peace may be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.



\* Protect and bless this Country, O God: bless our civil and ecclesiastical constitutions. Be as a wall of fire continually about us, and let thy grace and glory shine most conspicuously in the midst of us. We pray for a spirit of repentance and general reformation to be poured down, that all our national judgments, as well as national deliverances, may be sanctified, and improved. Lord bless all ages and conditions of men among us: let our young men be sober-minded, and the word of God abide in them: may those who are in the middle of life, and cumbered with its cares and pursuits, "be mindful of the one thing needful:" and let there be many old disciples among us, whom thou hast taught and kept from their youth, and who are still ready to declare thy wondrous works. Our absent friends, and distant relatives, if it be consistent with thy glory, and their good, Lord spare them to us. May we often meet in peaceful and comfortable circumstances before we go hence. But if thou hast otherwise ordered, that we shall see each other's faces no more in a present world, O God be merciful to us all; deliver us from every evil work, and preserve us safe unto thy heavenly kingdom; out of which we shall no more go, and where there shall be nothing to part us any more for ever. Every blessing we implore, is in the name, and for the sake, of our dear Redeemer. Amen.

**FIFTH WEEK.****MONDAY EVENING.**

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\* O LORD our God, and in Jesus Christ may we be allowed to call thee our heavenly Father, in thy august and adorable presence we would this evening bend our knees in prayer. We take encouragement from these words of our Apostle, that " although once we were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world; yet now in Christ Jesus we that were far off are made nigh through the blood of Christ, who is our peace, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, and reconciled us unto God in one body, by the cross; so that now peace is preached unto us that were afar off, as well as to them that were nigh, and both of us through him have access by one Spirit unto the Father." In this new and living way would we again draw near this evening to adore thy perfections, and to celebrate thy goodness and grace.

[O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about

thee? Thy name, O Lord, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O Lord, throughout all generations. The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under the heavens; but the Lord, who is the true and living God, shall endure for ever.

How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.]

\* Well may we say, and it is our duty to say it frequently and solemnly, "The Spirit of God hath made us, and the breath of the Almighty hath given us life." And we are not only thine by creation, Almighty Parent of the universe, who hast also distinguished us in the scale of being from every other creature here below, but by thee we still subsist; thy visitation preserveth our spirits, and thou art daily loading us with thy benefits. As the chief of these, and above them all, we would express our gratitude to the Lord of heaven and earth for his gracious promise to our first parents, that "the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head;" that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, and thereby acquired the power of death; and, but for thy mercy in this Redeemer, would have kept us all our life-time subject to its bondage. Blessed be thy name, O God, for the clear and faithful completion of this promise, when the fulness of

time was come, in not sparing, but sending thine own Son into the world. Well may we say; "In this was manifested the love of God towards us, that he sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved."†

We thank thee, blessed Jesus, for thy general commission and promise, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; and he that believeth not, shall be damned." Again would we say this evening, "Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief.—God be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us."

\* We are assured that thou takest no pleasure in the death of a sinner. Let thy hand be upon the Man of thy right hand; upon the Son of Man, whom thou madest strong for thyself: and by and through him may *we* be justified from all things, from which we could not be justified by the law of Moses. But with this forgiveness, O Lord, grant us the renewing and sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit. To this very end, thou didst promise that the blessing of Abraham should come upon us Gentiles; and that, through faith, we should have a new heart and spirit to walk in thy statutes and keep thine ordinances.

[O! that from this night we may be made a willing people in the day of thy power. Let our

daily, and chief rejoicing be in this, " the testimony of our consciences, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have our conversation in the world. Finally, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, let us think on these things; for the Lord God is a sun and shield, he will give grace and glory; and no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." ]

\* For the benefits of the past day we would, O God, express our peculiar gratitude. We have, according to thy promise, eaten to the satisfying of the soul. Bread, which strengtheneth man's heart, thou hast favoured us all with; and wine and oil, with whatsoever tendeth to cheer both body and soul, thou hast liberally bestowed upon some of us: yea, may we not say, each for ourselves, we have waited upon thee, and thou hast given us our meat this day, and all the days of our life, in due season. Let past favours engage us not only to be more and more thankful, but in a way of duty to trust for every blessing which may be needful for us, both here and hereafter. Lord, look down in mercy toward all our fellow-creatures. Let the ignorant and thoughtless be brought to the knowledge of the truth. May such as have erred, and strayed from the paths of rectitude, be brought

back through the power and efficacy of thy Word and Spirit. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of all temptations: make thy grace sufficient for all who wait upon thee in the use of means. We recommend to God in a particular manner all those in whom we are any way interested; our relations, our friends, and all our fellow-subjects. Protect, O God, our Country, and bless the civil Government under which we live. Be favourable to the rising generation: unto the latest ages may there still be in this land children to rise up in the room of their parents to serve the Lord. And now, O God, permit us once more this night to commit our bodies and our souls to thy care. May we neither be scared with frightful dreams, nor terrified with unpleasant visions, but enjoy that quiet rest which thou givest to thy beloved. And in the morning, if thou art pleased to spare us till then, may we feel thy Spirit within, calling us to gratitude, to praise, to every incumbent duty. Sleeping or waking, let us be thine. And blessed be the Lord our God for evermore. Amen.

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## FIFTH WEEK.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

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\* Most high and holy God, let our words, before thee, this morning be few and well ordered. We would not use vain repetitions, nor think that we shall be heard for our much speaking. Help us to keep in remembrance the wise man's saying, "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin." From the height of heaven, where thou dost eternally dwell, and reign, be pleased, O God, to look down, and graciously accept of our morning sacrifice. Thou hast again kept and cared for us, during the defenceless hours of sleep. Thou mightest have ordained that we should sleep the sleep of death; but, notwithstanding that we have misimproved our past time, and offended thee in so many different ways, still thou art mercifully sparing us, day after day, and night after night. Blessed, blessed be thy name, for thy long-suffering patience, as well as super-abounding goodness toward us. We are ashamed, we have good reason to be angry with ourselves, that we have not loved thee more, and served thee better. †

We have so seldom remembered thee, our best

Benefactor, and so repeatedly done what thou hast expressly forbidden, that we merit the rigours of thy executive justice. O that our hearts were penetrated with that godly sorrow, which worketh out a repentance that is never, never to be repented of!

\* O that we could hear thy gracious voice saying unto us, as it did to thy people in ancient times, "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions, and will not remember thy sins." For thine own name's sake, but more especially for thy Son's sake, our merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, and who came into the world for this very purpose, to make reconciliation for such as we are. Lord, on this ground we plead, and would humbly trust, for the pardon of all our sins. But, O Lord, from this morning our souls would more and more aspire after that gracious end of our Saviour's coming into the world, to be blessed, by being turned every one of us from our iniquities. For this purpose, blessed Saviour, according to thy promise, send thy Holy Spirit into each of our hearts, to regenerate every faculty and desire, so as that we may henceforth do our Maker's will with alacrity, readiness, and diligence.

[O let this Spirit strengthen us when we are weak, comfort us when we are afflicted, and seal our souls unto the day of complete redemption. We must still confess and say, indeed, with our



Apostle, that we are, to a certain degree, "carnal, and sold under sin; that when we would do good, evil is present with us." But our Master has prayed for us to his heavenly Father, and said; "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth:" and again; "for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." To this end we would look unto him continually as our spiritual Head, and abide in him by faith, even as the branch in the vine: and would pray most earnestly, that the very God of peace would sanctify us wholly; and that our whole spirit, and soul, and body, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

Lord, whilst we are in the world, keep us from the evils and temptations which are in it through sin. Evil, as well as few, are the days of the years of our pilgrimage. We know, O Lord, thy judgments are all right, and that thou in faithfulness afflictest us. We would, therefore, in patience desire to bear the chastisements of the Lord, because we have sinned against him.

[Our souls (whilst in this world,) are said to be among lions, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. With thy servant of old, we would cry unto God most high, unto God that performeth all things for us, that "He would send from heaven, and save us from the oppression of the

enemy, and from the reproaches of all those that would swallow us up.”]

O God, let us not too much love a present world: for all that is in this world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world, which soon passeth away. Deeply and constantly impressed with these considerations, may we be as little as possible conformed to it: and that more especially as it is said in thy Word, that the friendship of the world is enmity with God; and whosoever will be a friend of the world, is the enemy of God.

[Above all, O Lord, preserve and keep us from the malice and temptations of Satan. We know that at one time he goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, by his snares leading men captive at his will, and keeping them, through a slavish fear of death, all their lifetime subject to bondage. At other times he transformeth himself into an angel of light, and feigned minister of righteousness; that by any means, even as he beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so our minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. In either case, enable us, O God, to pray successfully, “The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem, rebuke thee.” Give us each to know of a truth that we are born of God, and then to take the comfort of that express promise, that all such shall be kept

so as that the wicked one shall not touch them to their everlasting hurt.]

\* With renewed thanks for our preservation during the past night, we entreat, O Lord, thy presence with us, and thy divine blessing upon us through the course of this day. Preserve us from the numerous accidents to which our life here is continually exposed: or if it be thy will that we should meet with them, give us courage to support ourselves, and grace to bear them with a calm and pious resignation. Take a special concern, O God, in all those who belong to us. Our kindred according to the flesh, make an abundant provision for their natural and spiritual wants. Give them all that may be necessary for their preservation and comfort in this world, and whatsoever may tend to their safety and happiness in the next. And now, blessed be the Lord our God for ever and ever, and blessed be his glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise: to the Three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises. Amen.

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**FIFTH WEEK.****TUESDAY EVENING.**

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\* **GIVE** ear unto our words, O Lord, and this evening be pleased to consider our meditations. Harken unto the voice of our cry, our King and our God; for unto thee will we pray.

[Thou hast said, O Lord, that while the earth remaineth, day and night shall not cease: and we believe it is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord; to shew forth his loving kindness in the morning, and his faithfulness every night. O how great is thy goodness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee, before the sons of men! Encouraged still farther by that express promise, that if we ask any thing according to God's will he heareth us, we would be anxiously careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known unto him. With the voice of thanksgiving and praise, we have reason at all times to draw nigh to a throne of grace. And may we not say now, Father, all good and merciful God! we bend our knees, and would lift up our hearts in thy presence this evening, to thank thee for all the favours,

both temporal and spiritual, which we have received from our birth to the present hour.]

Thou art our Creator, for thy hands have made and fashioned us. In the weak and helpless state of childhood, we were, by thy providence, supported under, and delivered from, many diseases and dangers: and whilst running rashly in the slippery paths of heedless youth, it was thy intervening (although unseen) hand which preserved, protected, and led us safely up to man's estate.

\* To thee alone we are indebted for all the necessaries of this life, and for those numberless conveniences and comforts which we have each of us enjoyed beyond millions of our fellow-creatures in every other part of the world. But have we not reason, O God, again to confess this night that we are unworthy of such distinguished goodness, because we have not rendered unto thee according to the benefits done unto us? Nay, we must indeed acknowledge, with fear and trembling, that if thou hadst dealt with us according to our deserts, we should most undoubtedly have been the objects of thy just indignation.

[Our consciences accuse us of having received many blessings without looking up to the hand that bestowed them. Our consciences accuse us of having omitted many an opportunity to glorify

God's name, and even of having done those things which we ought not to have done. May we not say with the prodigal, that we have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, O Lord, and deserve no longer to be reckoned among thy children?]

\* O what should we have been; and what, alas! should we now be, without a sight and sense of thy pardoning love in Christ Jesus, whom thou hast, in thy wonderful mercy, given to be our Redeemer and Intercessor! Blessed, for ever blessed be thy name, O God, for this unspeakable gift! Surely we ought this night most cordially to join with the redeemed above, in calling upon every creature in heaven, on the earth, and in the sea, to say, "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever. — Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills and multitude of mountains: truly in the Lord our God alone is the salvation of Israel. We will, therefore, take with us words, and turn unto the Lord, and say unto him, for thy name's sake, and for thy Son's sake, take away all our iniquity, and receive us graciously; so shall we render unto thee the fruit of our lips."†

Let thine anger be turned away, O God! heal our backslidings, and love us freely. What comfortable words are these! "If the wicked

will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die; all his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him." Lord, turn thou us, and we shall be turned. Give us a heart to know thee, that thou art the Lord our God; and that we are, and shall be thy people; a people made willing in the day of thy power.

[From this time let our hearts be established with grace; God working in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure; ever knowing that, although insufficient of ourselves, our sufficiency is of God; and through Christ strengthening us we can do all things. Thus strengthened, may we be enabled to cleave unto the Lord our God, and to serve him in sincerity and truth, with a pure conscience, and with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind.]

Most sincerely and cheerfully would we again this night commend ourselves to the grace of God, and the keeping of our souls to him in well doing as unto a faithful Creator, rejoicing in the full assurance of hope, that God is able to make all grace and goodness abound toward us; and that we always, having all-sufficiency in him, may abound to every good work. Thus may he that ministereth seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, so multiply the seeds of

grace in our hearts, as that we may be still increasing in the fruits of righteousness.

\* Lord, hear us now in behalf of our fellow-creatures. Let the whole earth, in due time, be blessed with the Gospel's joyful sound. We lament that where Christianity is professed, so little of its true and peaceable spirit is to be found. O let the pride and the ambition of princes cease to be the scourge and destruction of the human race. May our Country, if it be consistent with the great designs of thy providence, be still the seat of peace, good order, and mild government; and all our magistrates, in higher, or in lower ranks, have the true spirit of their several stations. Let the whole body of the people live sober, honest, and peaceful lives, and their hearts from day to day be filled with food and gladness. Bless the rising generation, and may there be a seed to serve thee, O God, in this land as long as sun and moon shall endure. Let no evil this night befall us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling: may we lie down in thy fear, and rise again in thy favour. To us to live, and while we live, may it be Christ, and when we die, everlasting gain. For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; unto whom be glory for evermore. Amen.



## FIFTH WEEK.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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\* ENCOURAGED, O God, by the declaration of thy servant of old, "that thou wilt hear us," we would this morning call upon thee. In his words we would say, O thou that savest by thy right hand them that put their trust in thee, attend unto our cry, and bear those prayers which, we would hope, do not go out wholly from feigned lips. But will God in very deed open his eyes, and lend a gracious ear unto such frail and undeserving creatures as we are? We are but of yesterday, and our days upon earth as a shadow. Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree not to be relied upon; to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.

[Yea, it may be said respecting every man and woman upon earth, surely they walk in a vain shew, they labour in vain, and spend their strength for nought; that all flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, when the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.]

\* But, O Lord, we are also sinful creatures. We must confess that we are estranged from the

womb. We go astray as soon as we are born. Lord, thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. Nay, when thou hast even written to us the great and weighty matters of thy law; they have been counted by us as a strange thing. We are expressly told, that "to obey is better than sacrifice; and to hearken, than the fat of rams." But have not our presumptuous and adamant hearts been sometimes ready to say, "Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him, and what profit should we have if we pray unto him?"

[Nay, but we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, and from our corrupt minds and hearts. Our bodies and our souls belong to thee; but have we glorified God in both these parts of ourselves? We have indeed been always attentive to our temporal interest, and both sincere and diligent in our pursuit of this world's goods; but how dull and backward in obeying our Saviour's admonition to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness!]

\* We have loved the world, and the things thereof, with ardour, which thou hast commanded us not to do: and our affection toward thee hath been lukewarm and interrupted; toward God who merits our highest, and constant love. †

How far also do we come short of that holiness and sanctity which thou requirest of thy people, in thought, in word, and in deed!

\* We have been guilty of the sins of ingratitude, pride, avarice, envy, and malice; yea, our iniquities are increased, they are gone over our heads, and they press upon our consciences with a painful remembrance. We are again this morning acknowledging and confessing our transgressions unto the Lord, if peradventure he may forgive the iniquity of our sin. We would say, "O God, extend thy compassion toward us, pardon our sins, and blot out our iniquities, for thy name's sake, and for thy Son's sake."

[Let the free gift come upon us unto justification of life, that as sin hath reigned within us unto death, so may grace reign, through righteousness, unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord. And may we, O God, in thy due time, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth, be each of us made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.]

"Thou didst send thy Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Let the law of the Spirit of life that is in Christ Jesus make us free from the law of sin, and of death. Give us all out of his fulness to receive, and grace for grace."

\* Thou art still, O God, sparing our lives, and giving time and opportunities to mind those things which belong to our everlasting peace. We thank

thee more especially for the past night's refreshment of our bodies and souls, which require the frequent returns of the blessing of sleep. May we never see the darkness of the night pass away, and the light of the morning appear, without a humble and heartfelt gratitude to that God, who, in his great goodness and forbearance, lengthens out our days. †

Thou didst, O God, as upon this day of the week, "make two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: thou madest the stars also." By this, we see and acknowledge thee to be the Father and fountain of light, in whom is no darkness at all. We would therefore now more especially pray, that God, who commanded at first the light to shine out of darkness, may, by his Holy Spirit, illumine truly and effectually our darkened minds. Give us, we beseech thee, more and more of the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, who is alone that true light, which effectually and savingly lighteth every man that cometh into the world. Come, blessed Jesus, and say unto each of our souls; "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you; and because I live, ye shall live also."

[O that we could say more and more from this day, that Christ is, of God, made unto us both wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; and that the lives which we shall henceforth live in the flesh, shall be through a true

and living faith in the Son of God, who hath loved us, and given himself for us.]

\* Accompany with thy blessing all that we may be engaged in this day, so as that our honest labours and endeavours may be crowned with success, and *we* be more and more useful in the world. Abundantly bless and protect the Country wherein we dwell, our civil magistrates who rule over us, and our spiritual pastors that teach us. May they all be endued with the true and proper spirit of their several stations. Have compassion, O God, upon all who are labouring under any distress either of body or mind. More especially we recommend to thy care and keeping, all that are, from any circumstance, near and dear to us. May this house be the habitation of the just, and so enjoy the comprehensive blessing promised in thy word, "be blessed in their basket, and their store, in the city, and in the field. Let thy servants see their children's children, and peace upon Israel." And now, O Lord! that we have presumed once more to come to a throne of grace, that we might obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need, may we hope thou hast heard the desires of thy humble servants, and wilt now, according to thy promise, both answer us, and have mercy upon us. All that we beg or hope, is in the name, and for the sake of thy dear Son and our Saviour. Amen.

## FIFTH WEEK:

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

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\* WE would not profane the name of the Lord, but at all times serve him with reverence and godly fear. To this end, O God, help us this evening to offer up the sacrifices of righteousness with a sincere and perfect heart. May we hope it cannot be said unto us altogether, what thou didst say to thy people of old: "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master. If then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear?" We would willingly and cheerfully give unto the Lord that glory and thanksgiving which is due to his name, and worship him this evening in the beauty of holiness.†

O let us have that grace whereby we may draw near, with forgiveness and acceptance, to honour and praise thee. We would be ever mindful of thy right and title to us; for thou art the Creator and former of all things, and thou hast made of one blood all nations of men to dwell upon the face of the earth. And thou art also that omnipotent and beneficent Being who upholdest all things by the word of thy power, so that they continue this

day according to thine ordinances. Good reason have we this night, with thy servant of old, to say, "We will mention the loving-kindness of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, and his great goodness toward all his people, which he hath bestowed upon them, according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his loving-kindnesses."

[But how shall we begin, or where should we end, were we but to attempt to enumerate all God's mercies, temporal and spiritual, which we have received, and do still enjoy? We could not reckon them up in order before him. They would be more in number than the hairs of our head; for they are new each morning, and fresh every evening of our lives. We would say, "Bless the Lord, O our souls! and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth our iniquities, healeth our diseases, and crowneth our lives with loving-kindnesses and tender mercies."]

\* Behold now, O God, another day hath passed over our heads, no more to return for ever. Would to God that we could say we have spent it wholly in the love and fear of our Maker, and that our consciences do now bear a calm and comfortable testimony to this, even that we have lived as thy adopted children, and walked before thee in a perfect way. But thou knowest, infinitely wise and all-seeing Jehovah, and we know also, both

from recollection of memory, and from the checks of our conscience, that this hath by no means been the case in many respects. So far from improving the talents committed to our care, and working out the work of our salvation with fear and trembling, have we not augmented our responsibility? Are we not, in many instances, more blameworthy and accusable than we were the preceding day? †

We would, therefore, plead thine own express promise: "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Lord, be merciful unto us, and heal our backslidings, for we have sinned against thee. We are ashamed, and blush to lift up our face to thee, O God! for our iniquities may be said to have increased over our heads, and our trespasses to have grown up unto the very heavens. Have we not reason to fear they shall separate us from the love and favour of our God; that our repeated provocations may cause that he hide his face from us, and refuse to hear our supplications?

\* Surely it is meet to be said unto God by us, if we have done iniquity, we will do so no more. O that we could each of us say with the Psalmist: "I will wash mine hands in innocency; so will I compass thine altar, O Lord!" We will once more plead in his words: "Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our



transgressions; wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins."

[Lord, if thy mercies were not infinite, and thy Son's merits and grace inexhaustible, we should not dare to ask this favour. But we know, and would most gratefully remember, thou hast sworn by thy eternal Essence, "that thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but rather that the wicked turn from his wickedness and live:" and for this very purpose thy Son was manifested, that he might take away sin, and turn us from the power of Satan unto God. We would say this night, "Turn thou us, and we shall be turned;" for thou art the Lord our God.]

O that our ways may be henceforth directed, by a divine influence, to keep the statutes of the Lord; then should we not be ashamed when we have respect unto all his commandments. Let us this night again resolve to cease from sin, that we may no longer live the rest of our lives to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

\* We would not lie down and compose ourselves to sleep until we have, and unless we had, formed such a resolution, lest we should this night sleep the sleep of death. And now, Lord, having confessed our sins, and implored thy grace to pardon and sanctify us, we would afresh commit our souls into the arms of thy Son. Give us, if it be thy holy will, a calm and undisturbed

repose, that our bodies may be refreshed, and fitted for the duties of another day. We pray also for our friends, our relatives, our benefactors, and even our enemies. Bless this land in which we live, and all our civil governors, from the King upon the throne to the meanest in office. The Lord Jesus watch over his Church, and bless all who minister to us in holy things. Give them the tongue of the learned, that they may know how to speak a word in season, both to saints and sinners. By the blessing of the Almighty upon their and our endeavours, we pray more especially that all our sons and daughters may know the God of their fathers, and serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind; knowing that the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; and if they seek him, that he will be found of them; but if they forsake him, he will cast them off for ever. With such a consideration deeply imprinted on our own minds, would we this evening compose ourselves to rest, that whether we sleep or wake, live or die, we may be eternally safe. Now, to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be equal and everlasting praises. Amen.

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## FIFTH WEEK.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

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\* BLESSED God! thou hast said in thy Word to all thy people, "They shall call on my name, and I will hear them, and bring them from the ends of the earth; and they shall say, the Lord is our God, and he hath saved us by a great deliverance." Encouraged by these words, we would this morning lift up our hearts with our hands unto God in the heavens, and say with an inspired servant, "Lo! this is our God, we have waited for him, and he will save us: *this* is the Lord, we have waited for him, and we will be glad, and rejoice in his salvation."

[But in what manner, and wherewith, "shall we come before the Lord, or bow ourselves, so as to be accepted in the presence of the most high God? Shall we come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall we give our first-born for our transgression; the fruit of our body for the sin of our soul?" Blessed be thy name, thou art no such hard master, "reaping where thou hast not sown, nor

gathering where thou hast not strawed." Thou delightest in mercy more than sacrifice. Sacrifice and offering thou dost not now desire: burnt-offering and sin-offering hast thou not required; but to be merciful to our fellow-creatures, and to humble ourselves in thy sight. Yea, thou hast said expressly, O Lord, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor, and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." And now in Christ Jesus, we, who aforetime were far off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ; for he is our peace, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us, that he might reconcile us unto God in one body, by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby. Thus, infinitely just, as well as most merciful Jehovah! have we boldness to enter into the holiest, through the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated through the veil; that is to say, his flesh: and having such a High Priest over the house of God, we would now draw near with a true heart, and in full assurance of faith.]

\* We come this morning to thank and praise the Lord for his goodness, and that we may also obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. We have again, during the past night, experienced God's forbearing kindness and renewed protection: without this, we could not have seen the light of another day. Grant, O Lord, that we may be sufficiently

sensible of this new act of thy kindness ; and that we may have nothing so much at heart as to be thankful to thee, and to shew our gratitude by our obedience to all thy institutions and laws. †

O that we could love nothing but what thou lovest, and hate every thing which is held in abhorrence with thee. May we hope that we have entered into a fixed resolution to observe all thy commandments ; and that it is owing to thy converting influences that we have made such a resolution. Complete, O God, the good work begun in us. Avert from us, if consistent with a state of probation, every occasion and incidental cause of sinning against thee : but should an opportunity, or temptation, come in our way, may we shun it ; let us fly from it ; or may we have grace to overcome it. O God, submit all our passions to thy government : let us have no fear except to offend thee ; no desire equal to that of pleasing thee ; no ambition so great as to rise in thy favour and esteem ; and no joy beyond this, of seeing God face to face, and celebrating his praises through eternity.

\* Thou hast promised, O God, to keep them in perfect peace whose minds are staid on thee, and because they trust in thee. We will, therefore, trust in the Lord for ever ; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. And we pray that our love may abound in knowledge, and in all judgment ; that we may always approve the things which are

excellent; that we may be sincere and without offence, and be filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the praise and glory of God.

[Let the fear of God be at all times before our eyes, and let us never dread the reproach of men, neither be afraid of their revilings; for our blessed Lord hath said, "They only kill the body, and have nothing more that they can do: but I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: fear him which, after he hath killed, hath power to cast into hell." O let us fear him, and him only, truly and properly. And seeing that the Lord's voice, in the course of his adorable providence, is frequently crying to the nation, to the city, and to each of us in particular, "Hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it;" we would (Eccles. vii. 14.) consider, for "affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; the Lord maketh poor, and he maketh rich; he bringeth down to the grave, and he bringeth up. O let us, then, be dumb with silence, and hold our peace. Knowing, O Lord, that all thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness for ever afflictest us, we will lay our hand upon our mouth, and put our mouths on the dust." O that we could say, upon every such occasion, "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good." Thou hast given us reason to suppose that the afflictions and disappointments we here meet

with, are not tokens of thy displeasure, but rather marks of thy paternal affection and regard. We, therefore, pray, that as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord our God may chasten us; that we may be thereby both humbled and instructed; and that these trials of our faith (much more precious than gold, which perisheth,) may be found unto praise, and honour, and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ.]

\* For the comfortable rest which God hath afforded us during the by-gone night, we would again express our humble and grateful acknowledgments.†

Whilst some around us, through pain of body, and distress of spirit, may have been forced to cry out in the morning, “ would God it were even; and at evening, would God it were morning;” we have been kept easy and quiet, and are still in the midst of numberless enjoyments and privileges.

\* O that we were not only thankful to God for his sustaining and preserving goodness; but that we could be assured he would bestow upon us more and more abundant supplies of his divine influences, that we might live as the children of such mercies and privileges. We pray for all our friendly neighbours, acquaintances, and kindred after the flesh. According to thy word, let it go well with them, and with their

children after them ; and, if consistent with thy will, may their days be prolonged upon the earth, to shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. And now, blessed be the Lord our God, who hath not turned away our prayer, nor, we hope, his mercy, from us. And to the Three that bear record in heaven—to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—be everlasting praises. Amen.

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**FIFTH WEEK.****THURSDAY EVENING.**

\* **WE** would, this evening, lift up our voice unto God most high, unto God who doth all things for us.

Having obtained help of God, we have continued until this day, monuments of his sparing mercy. Thou art God, and not man, and therefore it is that we have not long ere now been cut off from the land of the living.

[We would have these words deeply impressed on our minds: "It is the will of God, in Christ Jesus, concerning us, that in every thing we give thanks; for the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad: and every creature of God is good, if it be received with thanksgiving." Let us, therefore, whether we eat, or drink, or whatsoever we do, give thanks unto God always, and for all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In God we live and move. We are the monuments of his wisdom, power, and goodness.]

\* From our youth upward, we have had food to eat, and raiment given us to put on, with a quiet and peaceable habitation to dwell in; a lodging-place

where we have taken our rest in safety : yea, both lain down, and risen up from month to month; and from year to year, without any daring to make us afraid. But what is all this, O God, to thy spiritual blessings ? It is our privilege, and happiness, that we can now say, " God hath visited and redeemed his people, as he spake by the mouth of all his holy prophets, which have been since the world began ; and hath performed the mercy promised to our fathers, and remembered his holy covenant, even that covenant which thou wast pleased to make with thy servants, Abraham and Isaac, that in their seed should all the nations of the earth be blessed."†

We thank thee more particularly, O God, for the renewal of the promise by good old Jacob, declaring, that " the sceptre should not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh came." This star out of Jacob, thou wast pleased still farther to promise, in the dying words of thy servant Moses, when, to revive the hearts of his countrymen, he declared, " The Lord thy God shall raise up unto thee another prophet like unto me, and unto him ye shall hearken." And blessed be thy name, O God, for the express application of this prophecy to the Lord Jesus Christ, which we have in these words of his Apostle, Peter : " For Moses truly said unto the fathers, a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto

you, of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you: and it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed.

\* This is he that should come, and in vain we look for any other: "The Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world; the one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus: and we believe there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

[We are all by name and profession the disciples of Jesus. Grant, O God, that each of us in thy presence this evening may have truly believed on him. Knowing that this is the peculiar work of God, that we believe on him whom he hath sent to be the Saviour of the world, may we hope that God hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. And we would humbly trust also, that we are not, and shall not be of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe, to the saving of the soul.]

Forbid, O God, that any of us should be among that unhappy number, who despise or abuse the riches of thy goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering patience, not knowing that this should lead us to immediate repentance. For we know

not what another night may bring forth : and  
“ what shall it profit us if we gain the world, and  
lose our own souls?” Merciful and gracious God,  
deliver us from a hard and impenitent heart,  
lest we should treasure up unto ourselves wrath  
against the day of wrath, and revelation of thy  
righteous judgment.

\* O that we could say with an inspired Apostle;  
“ We know whom we have believed, and we are  
persuaded that he will keep that which we have com-  
mitted unto him, (our precious and immortal souls,)  
safe and secure until that day.” O that we could say,  
“ We love God, because he first loved us,” and that  
we have known and believed the love which God  
hath for us : and therefore the desire of our soul is  
to his name, and toward the remembrance of his  
holiness.

[O that we could delight ourselves more in God,  
and that our hearts might become the dwelling-  
place of the Holy Spirit. We would be washed  
and sanctified, as well as justified, in the name of  
the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.  
We would hope in thee, blessed Jesus ; let us never  
be confounded.]

If thou wilt, O God, that we live to-morrow,  
may it be to begin a new life ; a life more con-  
formable to our professions and privileges ; a life  
which shall turn out more to the advancement of  
God’s glory, the edification of our fellow-creatures,

and the eternal safety and happiness of our own souls.†

But if it should please thee to terminate our course during the night, may our souls find pardon and acceptance with thee; and, disengaged from this prison of clay, take their flight to the regions of glory, where they shall behold thy face in righteousness, and be for ever satisfied with thy glorious resemblance.

\* We would remember with affection, and in a way of prayer, all who are near and dear to us. The Lord be their shepherd, that they may never want: not want what may be requisite for the support and safety of their bodies: but more especially we pray, that our God may supply all their spiritual needs, according to his riches in glory, by Christ Jesus. Again we commit this house, with every inhabitant therein, young, and old, and of middle age, to the Keeper of Israel, who never slumbereth nor sleepeth, that he may watch over our lying down, and rising up, and preserve us from all evil. In this hope, we ascribe to the Father, to the Son, and to the blessed Spirit, honour, and glory, world without end. Amen.

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**FIFTH WEEK.****FRIDAY MORNING.**

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\* OUR souls this morning would wait upon God : in him alone is our salvation and our glory : the rock of our strength, and our refuge, is in God. We will bless him at all times, and his praise shall be continually in our mouth ; for the eyes of the Lord are ever upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. Yea, the Lord is nigh unto all them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Thus encouraged, we come again to thy presence, to praise thee for our being, and our blessings ; and to entreat the continuance of thy favourable regard, with every benefit, both temporal and spiritual, which we may stand in need of.

[We adore the Sacred Trinity ; the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit ; who in the beginning of the world vouchsafed to say, “ Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness ; and let him have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over every creeping thing, and over all the earth.” Thus may we say, that we were made but a little

lower than the angels, and crowned with honour and authority; all things here below having been placed under our subjection, and made for our sustenance and pleasure. At the same time, we solemnly recognise thy original injunction, and threatening, to our federal head: "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." And alas! we must confess that in Adam we have all died: "for the woman took the fruit of the tree and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat."]

\* We lament the consequences of our first parents' transgression; that through their disobedience, sin hath entered into our lower world, and death by sin; for it is expressly said, that "in Adam all have died." On this account, "we are born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward. We are shapen in iniquity: in sin do our mothers conceive us: and the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."†

Thus, both Scripture and experience hath concluded all men, both Jews and Gentiles, under sin; that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God.

\* We know, and would have ever deeply impressed on our minds, the Scripture saying, that "the wages of sin is death; and the soul that sin-

neth, it shall die :” but, at the same time, we will never forget ; we will daily rejoice in the Gospel declaration ; “ The gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

We bless thee more especially, that in due time thou didst cause thy beloved Son to take our nature upon him ; that by suffering and dying in our room, he might be a proper, and all-sufficient Saviour for us. Through him, we know that our sins are not only remitted, and our souls accepted in the sight of God ; but that our natures can also be restored to their primeval dignity, and purity : because Christ not only died to redeem us from the curse of a broken law ; but he gave himself for us, that he might cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and thus purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.†

O Lord, according to thy mercy, save us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. Blessed Jesus, according to thy prevalent prayer, may we be sanctified by, and through the truth ; for thy word is truth ; and when truly hid in our hearts, and influencing our conduct, shall cause that we sin no more knowingly and habitually against God. Lord, quicken us, and strengthen us, according to thy word, that we may thus gradually put off the old man, with his deeds, and more and more put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge and holiness, after the image of him that created us.



\* Holy Spirit, come to retrace the divine image upon our souls, which hath been almost defaced by inordinate lusts, and stubborn evil habits. Regenerate our hearts, that they may be like to our blessed Master's, in purity and patience, in humility and meekness, in chastity and temperance, in self-denial and mortification, in a most unwearied diligence to do the will of our heavenly Father. " Whatsoever things are pure, just, of good report, or praiseworthy, may we daily think of; and, through thy grace assisting us, put them in practice. Great God, who hast preserved and protected us during the past night, accept of our grateful acknowledgments, and be entreated this day to continue us under thy paternal providence. Permit not, O God, that we fall this day into any known sin. To this end, leave us not for a moment to be hurried away by our appetites or passions: or, if this should be the case, may we, like thy people of old, immediately return with weeping and lamentation, that we may receive thy divine forgiveness, and returning grace, to make us more circumspect and watchful for the future.†

O Lord, our God in covenant, may we this day form no resolution that is displeasing to thee; may we engage in no amusement where we cannot ask or hope for thy presence. Enable us to do justice to all; to be more and more useful in the world; and to be kind and merciful to the poor.

\* Hear us, O God, in behalf of the whole

human race. If consistent with thy holy will, we pray that all the ends of the earth, and all flesh together, may soon be made to see, and partake of the salvation of Jesus Christ. In the words of thy servant, and according to thy express command, we would say, "O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel." We revere thy justice in their dispersion; but we admire still more thy mercy in these words: "He that scattereth Israel will gather him." We pray that all superstition, heresy, and will-worship, may be banished from the church of Christ; and that holiness unto the Lord may be inscribed upon all our altars, and ordinances. Lord preserve this Nation from all those calamities unto which sin hath subjected a present world; from earthquakes, and stormy elements; from famine, and pestilential diseases; from cruel invading foes, and from domestic troubles and commotions. May our kings be wise, and good, and happy. Let our magistrates be humane, and diligent, and just in all their proceedings. May our ministers be faithful, and holy, and wise, in winning souls to Christ; and may the great body of the people be sober, quiet, and industrious in their callings. Continue, O God, to bless this family. May our house be a Bethel, and every one included within these walls, be included in the bonds of the Gospel covenant. And now, blessed be the Lord God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

**FIFTH WEEK.****FRIDAY EVENING.**

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\* O LORD, our God, with humble gratitude we would appear in thy presence this evening, to bless thy name for our preservation hitherto; and more especially for the renewed tokens of thy kindness and love, during the past day. It is said in thy word, Lo! they that are far from thee shall perish; but it is good for all them that draw near unto thee in that way and manner which thou hast appointed.

[But what are we, O Lord, or what is our father's house, that we should take upon us to speak to thy adorable Majesty? We confess that we are altogether unworthy of thy notice, and that we could have no encouragement to wait upon thee in this ordinance, but for the gracious declarations in thy revealed will. Here we find it expressly declared, that "the same Lord over all, is rich unto all that call upon him;" and that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." We will therefore call upon the Lord, and pour out our heart before him, and unto God will we commit our cause. We are assured, that "it is a

good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High! to shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night." But we know, O Lord, that we cannot properly acquit ourselves of this duty, if thou dost not enlighten our minds, and bend and soften our stubborn and rebellious hearts. Send out, therefore, O God, thy light and thy truth, the reviving and purifying influences of the Holy Spirit, and we shall be led, and brought to thy holy hill, to the altars of thy grace, with becoming thoughts of thee and of ourselves.]

We pray that our humble and sincere thanks to God for all his mercies may ascend now as incense, and the lifting up of our hands be acceptable as the evening sacrifices of old. When we recollect the mercies of the past day, O God, and thy goodness toward us ever since we had a being, our souls should be overwhelmed with wonder, love, and gratitude: but ah, how cold and insensible! and what poor returns of love do we make! O Lord, forgive the past, and make us more grateful to thee in future. It may be truly said of us what was said of thy people of old; that we have forgotten the God who formed us, and been too, too unmindful of his blessings bestowed. We have not certainly rendered unto the Lord according to the benefits done unto us; and if thou, Lord, shouldest be strict to mark our deficiencies, alas!

where would be our hope? What, indeed, should our situation be, wert thou not a God of infinite mercy, and were not severity and judgment thy strange work?

\* It is our glory, and our privilege, that the mercy of the Lord is everlasting, and that his compassions fail not. Most wonderful condescension indeed! Thou hast said, O Lord, "As I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way, and live." And again: "Come now, and let us reason together: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Who, then, is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgressions of thy people; who retainest not thine anger, because thou delightest in mercy? For the display of this darling attribute, and that a solid foundation might be laid for our hope, thou didst not spare thine only begotten Son, but sent him in due time, to suffer and die in the room of sinners. It is a faithful saying, and not only worthy of all acceptance, but of our highest and daily praise; that "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;" and hath committed to his servants in every age, the word of reconciliation; who now, as ambassadors for Christ, beseech us, in his name, to be reconciled unto God. Forbid it then,

O heavenly Father! that any of us here present should be amongst that unhappy number to whom thy servants now, and thy Son shall at last, say, "Ye would not come unto me, that ye might have life." But deeply sensible of our present sinful and miserable state, convinced that there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved, and divinely persuaded of the willingness, as well as all-sufficiency of the Son of God; for this purpose, may we each, in due time, believe, to the saving of the soul.†

Through him alone we look for pardon, for justification, for adoption into the family of heaven, and for a renovation of all the powers and faculties of our mind and soul, to enlighten and fit us for a holy practice.

[We know from past experience that we are not sufficient of ourselves either to will or to do; but thy grace is sufficient for us, and thy strength can be perfected in our weakness. Being assured, therefore, that there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; we pray and hope that the law of the Spirit of life, which is in Christ, may gradually make us free from the law of sin and death. We shall then, O God, enjoy comfort through life, peace at death, and glory in heaven.]

This night would we again recommend ourselves, and all that is near and dear to us, unto thy

fatherly care, and special protection. Preserve us from every danger, and from every temptation: and let us never be separated from thy love in Christ Jesus. Grant, O God, the pardon of all the sins which we may have committed during the past day; as well those that lie heavy upon our consciences, as those which, through infirmity, we have forgotten.

\* Give thine angels charge, O God, in a particular manner, with respect to this family, that heads, and domesticks, and children belonging to it, may all be preserved from the malice and power of the prince of darkness. Should our souls be required at our hands this night, may we be ready to resign them into the arms of a covenant God, in Christ: but should our life be spared, may we more cheerfully and entirely dedicate it to him unto whom it best belongs, and who alone can make us happy here, and hereafter. Now, unto the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory: for of him, and through him, and to him, are all things. Amen.

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## FIFTH WEEK.

SATURDAY MORNING.

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\* By thy good hand upon us, O God, we are still in the land of the living. The last day of another week hath dawned upon us, and we enjoy health of body, tranquillity of mind, and are still surrounded with numberless mercies and privileges.

[Knowing that thou requirest truth in the inward parts, we would this morning seek thee with our whole desire, and serve God with all our heart.]

\* We come to a throne of grace, to thank thee for all thy unmerited benefits bestowed upon us, and to entreat the continuance of them, if consistent with thy glory, and our greater good. As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters for direction and support, so would our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he not only have mercy upon us, but also restore our souls, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake. Lord, have compassion upon us poor sinful dust and ashes; and for the love of thy dear Son, assure us of *thy* love, and give us the enlightening and regenerating influences of the Holy Spirit, to make us comprehend and feel that all in

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this world is vanity, except it be to fear God, and keep his commandments. †

Lord, we wait for the promise of the Spirit through faith. May he convince us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; may he abide with us, and dwell in us, be our guide unto all truth, help our various infirmities, and seal our souls unto the day of redemption. We wish to see and feel more of the fruits of the Spirit,—truth, righteousness, and goodness existing in our hearts, and prevailing in our lives. We would love God and our neighbour better than we have done. We desire to possess that quietude of mind and conscience which arises from Gospel principles and hopes.

[O! that there were such hearts within us, as that we could fear thee and keep thy statutes always, that it might be well with us and our children for ever; for it is expressly said of such, if they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures, and their children are blessed after them. Give us an entire resignation, O God, to thy holy will, and may we cheerfully submit to whatever thou mayest see necessary to bring upon us; and let it never come to pass that we fall into a murmuring, or distrustful temper. Lord, bestow upon us that universal love to mankind, which will lead us to forgive injuries, live peaceably with all men, be just and

liberal in our transactions with the world, and to be especially kind and compassionate to the poor.]

Now, that we are raised, as it were, to a new life, by the return of the morning; in that we live, and as long as we live, may we live unto God. O that we could say with the Apostle, "We reckon ourselves dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Pardon, heavenly Father, for the sake of thy Son, all our transgressions and failings; and help us henceforward more faithfully to discharge the various duties of our station, to the advancement of thy glory, and the welfare of all around us. Teach us to do thy will upon every occasion, for thou art the Lord our God: thy Spirit is good; let him lead us through every dispensation, to the land of uprightness. If it seem well unto thee, avert from us the dangers to which, this day, we may be exposed; and grant us a firm trust in that Providence which hath hitherto watched over us.

\* Whilst occupied in the things that belong to a present life, may we not forget those which pertain to a future and eternal state. We would wish to follow our Lord's advice, and take no anxious thoughts about what we should eat, or drink, or wherewithal be clothed; but seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, knowing then, that all these things shall be added unto us: and thus, after having glorified and served our Maker upon earth, may we be admitted into those mansions

which our Redeemer hath prepared for us in heaven. O Lord, hear us in behalf of all men. We believe there is no other under heaven but Christ through whom we can be saved; but we would not limit the salvation of God unto such only as are outwardly called. We acquiesce and rejoice in the angelic song, "Worthy is the Lamb to receive glory and blessing; for he was slain, and hath redeemed to God by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." According to thy promise, may there be of them who shall fear thy name: and thus, by the good pleasure of thy will, and to the praise of the glory of thy grace, may they be accepted in the Beloved.†

But we would plead thy promise for spreading the Gospel among such. Let the time be at hand, when all the earth shall make a joyful noise unto the Lord, because the Lord hath shewed his salvation openly in the sight of the heathen.

\* Lord, remember thine ancient people, and gather them from all the coasts of the earth; for he that scattereth Israel will gather him. In thy good time remove the veil from their eyes, and convince them that He who should come is come, and in vain do they look for any other Saviour. Lord, let truth and holiness prevail amongst all denominations of Christians; and let both the avowed and secret enemies of the Church be put to silence, and their machinations be defeated. Bless, O

God, our own Nation and Colonies. If consistent with thy will, let our outward prosperity continue. May the Gospel, and means of grace, never be removed. O let our national ingratitude and provocations be forgiven! May a spirit of repentance and reformation be poured out upon all ranks. O thou Governor among the nations, save our King, and bless every branch of the Royal Family. Preside, O God, in the councils of the Nation, and give a right spirit to every one that sitteth in judgment. Let all our priests be clothed with righteousness, that thy saints may shout for joy. Continue beneficent and kind to the whole body of the people. May we be the sons of peace, and obey without envy or malice all that are in lawful authority over us. Take under thy special protection all our relations and friendly neighbours. Be a father to the fatherless, a husband to the widow, the orphan's stay, and the stranger's God. May the young remember their Creator in the days of their youth; those who are immersed in the business of the world, not forget the one thing needful; and let the hoary head be found in the way of righteousness. Accept, O God, of our thanks for the refreshment of another night's sleep, and for the comforts and privileges of the passing day. We ask all for the sake of our dear Redeemer; and would sum up our prayers in his comprehensive words, saying, "Our Father who art," &c. Amen.

**FIFTH WEEK.****SATURDAY EVENING.**

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\* OUR good and gracious God, we would lift up our souls unto thee, at the close of this day, and of this week, to express our gratitude for thy guardianship and goodness, which we are continuing to experience. Lord, when we think how little we have deserved thy favours, and how often we have abused them, may we not say in thine own words: "This is thy name, and this thy memorial to all generations; the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness; keeping mercy for thousands; forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin." Goodness and mercy, O God, are thy darling attributes: thy goodness to us, is manifested in our creation; in the rank of being which we hold; in our daily preservation; and in our numberless comforts. But still it is our duty and our privilege to acknowledge, that thou hast, as to us, magnified thy mercy above thy great name. We bless God, for his original purpose to recover us from a state of sin and misery. We thank him for the early intimations of a Saviour, and many precious promises respect-

ing the Messiah. We read, with faith and love, the clear and wonderful accomplishment of these in the mysterious incarnation of thy Son.

[Let his excellent doctrines store our minds with divine knowledge; may his incontestable and salutary miracles convince us that he is the alone true Messiah: and, O God! let the adequate atonement, and complete redemption, which Christ accomplished by his sufferings and death, be imputed to us for pardon, and adoption into the family of Heaven. We take all our encouragement from the free offers of a complete salvation, which are now made unto every sinner, through faith in Christ Jesus. "Lord we believe, help our unbelief." We would be justified by faith alone, that we may have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.]

By him only we expect to have access, by faith, unto the grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Above all things, we rejoice to know, to our comfortable experience, that "the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins:" he having abolished in his flesh, and by his sufferings, all enmity, and reconciled us unto God by the cross.

\* And being thus reconciled, we pray for deliverance, through him, from the reigning power, as well as guilt of sin. If thy Son make us free, we shall be free indeed. Teach us, O God, to do

thy will, that from this day we may begin a new life. Enlighten our understandings, which are by nature darkened, that we may have proper conceptions both of thee and ourselves. By the regenerating influences of the Holy Spirit, may thy image be traced upon our souls, and every principle and passion within us be gradually submitted to thy good government. This night we would again, in the most solemn manner, renew all the dedications which we ever made of ourselves, our souls, our bodies, all that we have, and are, to God's worship and service. We will love thee, and fear thee, O God, above all things. We would, through grace, obey thy commandments, and submit to thy will; and in the way of duty, and by waiting upon thee in the ordinances of thy appointment, we will trust for every blessing which may be needful and proper for us, here and hereafter.†

O God, may we every day, and every week, be advancing in the personal graces of humility, temperance, and chastity. May we be more and more diligent, watchful, self-denied, and heavenly minded; and thus may we be gradually advancing in true peace, and universal holiness. Not as though we had already attained, either were already perfect, may we sit still, and be slothful in the work of our salvation; but this one thing be ever seriously concerned to do; "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto

those things which are before, may we press towards the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord ;” seeking that we may excel, coveting earnestly the best gifts, and “ always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as we know that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.”

\* Accept, O God, of our most unfeigned thanks for that competency of the good things of this life, which we have received during all the past days of this week. We have tasted of God’s goodness every morning, and have had reason to celebrate his covenanted faithfulness every night. Because we have known thy name, and set our love upon thee ; Lord, do thou, according to thy promise, both protect and deliver us. Under all the evils of life, be our shield and buckler ; to cover us as with thy feathers, and shelter us as under thy wings, so as that we shall not be afraid for the terror by night, nor yet for the arrow that flieth by day. Lord, let no evil befall us this night, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. Accommodate thyself to every individual belonging to this family. Older or younger, superiors or domestics, may we all be interested in the new and well-ordered covenant ; and thus shall we ever, whether in sickness or health, in prosperity or adversity, be favoured with that love which thou bearest to thine own ; have peace through life, safety in death, and glory



through eternity. O God, we would humbly, but earnestly beg, that the same blessings may be communicated unto all whom we are bound in duty to pray for, by the ties of nature, of grace, or of gratitude. May it be their, as well as our happy privilege, to live thy devoted servants here, and to glorify and enjoy thee hereafter. Shouldest thou be pleased to spare us all to see the dawn of another Sabbath morning, pardon and prepare our hearts for the duties thereof. Let all be accompanied with the merits, and accepted through the mediation of thy Son. Yes, O Lord Jesus, be our intercessor with thy Father, and our Father, with thy God, and, might we humbly hope, our God; to whom belongeth all glory and praise, both now and for evermore. Amen.

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## SIXTH WEEK.

## SABBATH MORNING.



\* GREAT and gracious God, behold us this morning in thy more immediate presence, penetrated with a sense of our obligations and our privileges. We are indebted to thee for the blessing of existence. It is owing to thy protecting hand that we are still alive in the world: and from thy bountiful providence we have enjoyed health, nourishment, and every needed temporal advantage and blessing. Our souls would not be ungrateful. Lord accept of our humble acknowledgments. O that we could live in a suitableness to the benefits we have received! Superior to every other gift, we are this morning again called upon to praise God, for the mission of his Son. As upon this day the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and, as the word of truth adds, for our justification, with the Apostle permit us now to say, (1 Pet. i. 3, 5.) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again to a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that

fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us, who are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation." Forbid, O God, that any of us should ever think light of this incorruptible inheritance; of all the blessings included therein, and which have been acquired at the price of thy Son's blood.

[We look to him alone, as "the author and finisher of our faith; who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God, to make intercession for us." Lord, for his sake pardon all our offences. Lift up upon us the light of thy reconciled countenance; and give us this day to have communion and fellowship with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ.]

\* In the multitude of thy mercy, O Lord, we hope this day to go to thy house, and in thy fear to worship toward thy holy temple. There, may we sit before thee as thy people; listen to that word which can alone be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path, and renew our professions of faith and love, with firm resolutions, made in the strength of divine grace, to live more to the praise and glory of God. Help us there, O God, to celebrate thy praises with admiration, gratitude, and joy: and may the prayers we offer up for ourselves and others, be accompanied with those dispositions, and with that faith, which are well-pleasing in thy sight. Let the whole of this day be spent

in serious meditation upon those matters which concern our everlasting peace. Help us, O God, to banish every worldly care; and may we conscientiously endeavour to excite and cherish holy desires and resolutions.

[Next to the salvation of our own souls, we would be anxious for the safety and happiness of our fellow mortals.]

\* Father of the human race, have pity upon a dark heathen world. May every endeavour to spread the Gospel be crowned with success. Heal all breaches and unhappy divisions among Christians. Protect our native land from every temporal and spiritual foe. Let our officers be peace, and our exactors righteousness; and the body of the people live quiet and peaceable lives. May all our kindred be in a covenant relation with God, and their every want supplied from the bounties of his providence and grace. Continue, O God, to preserve and to bless this family; and accept of our particular thanks for the refreshment which our bodies have enjoyed during the past night. To thee we would consecrate the first fruits of this day, and this week. Begun in thy fear, let it end in thy favour, and with gracious acceptance: and may all our days, and weeks, and years, conduct us at last to heaven and happiness. We ask every favour for Christ's sake. Amen.

## SIXTH WEEK.

## SABBATH EVENING.

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\* "O LORD, our God, how excellent is thy name in all the earth, and who hast set thy glory above the heavens!" When we think of thy glorious perfections, with thy superabounding goodness every where displayed, and more especially towards us; well may we cry out with thy servant of old, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him; and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" We would again offer up our thanks this evening for our preservation, and for all the blessings of the past day; but in a more especial manner, for those spiritual favours that have been conferred upon us. We have been permitted to assemble in thy house: there we have sung thy praises; we have read and meditated upon thy blessed word: the Gospel, we trust, has been preached to us both purely and faithfully: on the one hand, the odious nature of sin pointed out to us; and on the other, the necessity and beauty of holiness represented. O Lord, forgive the many infirmities that have attended our worship; and forbid it, that all our religious privileges should be abused or lost. Let the threatenings in thy Word make a deep and indelible im-

pression upon our consciences; and may the promises and hopes set before us in the Gospel, animate and encourage us to every good word and work. "O Lord, search us, and try us, and see every wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting." We would not fall from our steadfastness, but grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. But what is our strength, O Lord, that we should hope? We have no might in ourselves, neither know we what to do: but our eyes are toward thee, O Lord. It is God that worketh in us both to will and to do. Make thy grace sufficient for us; for thy strength is made perfect in our weakness: and thus may we hope, that the law of the Spirit of life, which is in Christ Jesus, shall gradually make us free from the law of sin, and of death.†

Let the fleeting course of the past day put us in mind of the brevity of human life. And may this consideration, that life is short, as it is uncertain, engage us to improve every hour that is given, for the safety and salvation of our souls. "May we give all diligence to be adding to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, and patience; with godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity: for if these things be in us and abound, they make that we shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." To all this, may the work and worship of this day be savingly instrumental.

\* And now the time approaches, when we must give our feeble frames the repose of sleep; permit us, O God, to commit our spirits into the arms of thy mercy in Christ. May we lie down in safety, and go to sleep without a slavish fear upon our minds, persuaded that God's preserving goodness shall keep us from every thing that is hurtful; at least from all that may endanger the state of our immortal souls. If it please thee, O God, to spare us to see the light of a new day, prepare us for the duties and enjoyments thereof. May we pass this week, and the whole of our sojourning here, in thy fear; and at last meet with thy gracious acceptance on the great and solemn day of account. Although unworthy in ourselves, we yet presume to supplicate on the behalf of others. Let thy kingdom come, O God, and Satan's be destroyed. By the spreading light of the Gospel let all spiritual darkness be dispelled. We plead the Scripture promise, that he who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd doth his flock. Preserve our native land from thy severer judgments. May our magistrates, supreme and subordinate, rule over us in thy fear. Bless our families, relatives, and friends: and, if consistent with thy will, pardon and turn the hearts of our enemies. To thee, O God, may we live; in thy favour let us die; and through eternity may we sing the praises of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## SIXTH WEEK.

## MONDAY MORNING.

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\* WE would lift up our hands this morning in the name of the Lord our God, and bless him while we live. We will bless the Lord from this time forth and for evermore, because his loving-kindness is better than life, and our souls have been satisfied with it as with marrow and fatness. With the blessing of existence, thou hast given us wherewithal to support it; the food which we eat, the raiment that covers us, the health we enjoy, and all the comforts and conveniences of this life, are the gifts of thy paternal, unmerited goodness. During the past night thou hast, O God, more especially preserved and watched over us, averting unseen dangers, and keeping us from those diseases to which human life is continually exposed. We would never forget the hand that made us, which sustaineth us, and liberally bestoweth so many temporal benefits. But we have other, and greater blessings, O God, to thank thee for.

[For thou didst remember us in our low and lost estate, and hast blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus. By



thy word thou hast taught us to know thee, and how to have communion with thee.]

\* The Sun of righteousness hath arisen upon us, with healing under his wings. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." O that we could say, "of his fulness have we all received, and grace for grace." We would be more and more convinced of the vanity and insufficiency of all human means and methods to be restored to our Maker's favour, and be brought back to the divine image and likeness. To the Lord Jesus Christ, who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, we would alone, and ever have recourse. Abiding in him, as the branch in the vine, may we have our fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.†

Let the Holy Spirit guide us into all truth. According to thy promise of old, put thy Spirit, O God, within us, and cause us to walk in thy statutes, and to keep thy judgments, and do them.

[Make thy grace sufficient for us, and perfect thy strength in our utter weakness: and let the law of the Spirit of life make us, at last, free from the law of sin and of death.]

As to the things of time, and our situation in a present world, we would desire to say, "the will of the Lord be done."

\* Conduct us through the whole of life in that way which thou knowest to be best for us. If, instead of a day of prosperity and multiplied mercies, which till now we have been favoured with, thou shouldest see meet, O Lord, to visit us with disappointments, with want of bodily health, and even very heavy and trying afflictions, let them all be sanctified to us. May every thing that we meet with in a present world, fit and prepare us for another. During this day, for which we would be thankful to the preserver of life, deliver us from evil. Keep us from all temptations, or give us grace to resist them. May the blessing of the Almighty rest upon our family, upon our relations and friends, on our highly favoured country, and all our magistrates and ministers of every description. Let the poor, that shall never fail out of the land, have those around, who shall be ever ready to support and comfort them. If we have enemies, O God, pardon them, and grant us at all times a forgiving temper and disposition. Wilt thou be merciful to all men? Let animosity cease throughout the world, that at last we may live and die together as brethren. And now, may we humbly hope we have not asked amiss. If so, may the thoughts of our hearts be forgiven us, and the matter of our petitions be denied. To God, all wise and good; to the incomprehensible Three in One, be ascribed, as is most due, all honour and glory. Amen.

## SIXTH WEEK.

## MONDAY EVENING.

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\* O LORD, our God, we would again this evening lift up our hands and our hearts unto thee. Thou art good, and continually doing us good. Thou hast been so in a peculiar manner throughout the course of that day which is now past and gone. Thou hast preserved our life, thou art continuing us in health, and we have enjoyed temporal comforts, and spiritual privileges. Although we could speak with the tongue of men, or of angels, we could not number up all the benefits we are daily receiving, nor the amiable perfections of that Being unto whom we are indebted for all. Permit us, O God, this night to ask, What gratitude have we shewn, what returns have we made? May it not be said of us, that we have lifted up our soul unto vanity, and too often worshipped thee deceitfully? Yea, for days together, God hath not been in all our thoughts.

[We have been looking at the things which are seen and temporal, turning away our eyes and thoughts from those things that are not seen, and of an eternal nature. Like Israel of old, may not

- thy prophet say of us, "They have perverted their ways, for they have forgotten the Lord their God?" (Jer. iii. 21.)]

\* Lord, if thou wert to call us to a strict account, what must become of us? Our forgetfulness of thee, and rebellion against thy holy laws, merit condign punishment. What wonderful language is this: "Go and proclaim these words toward the North; I am merciful, saith the Lord, and will not keep anger for ever." (Jer. iii. 12.) "Return, thou backsliding Israel, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you." We do repent, O God, of every instance of ingratitude to thee; and would return every one from his evil way, that thou mayest, according to thy promise, (Jer. xxxvi. 3.) forgive our iniquity and our sin. See God our shield, look upon us in the face of thy Son; respect his obedience and sufferings in behalf of sinners.†

We see here the evil nature of sin, which made it necessary that the only begotten of the Father should come down to earth, and die.

\* O may the merits of his death be imputed to us, for pardon, and justification; and may the Holy Spirit, through him purchased and promised to all believers, be given unto us in a greater measure, that we may abhor all manner of iniquity, and work out the work of our salvation with fear and trembling. Let thy word, O God, which we

daily read, make a suitable impression upon us. We have through thy grace, we hope, taken the resolution of conforming to it all our thoughts, and words, and actions; but such is our weakness, that without thee we can do nothing. O thou who givest power to the faint, and to them that have no might increaseth strength, regenerate our souls, and enlarge our capacities, that we may not be ashamed when we have respect unto all thy commandments. The hour of repose being nigh, we are about to take that sleep which our frail bodies stand in need of. Father, into thy hands we commit our spirits. Thus may we lie down in safety, and sleep without fear, persuaded that thy goodness shall preserve us from every thing which might annoy or hurt us. Might we presume, O God, once more to entreat thy favourable regards toward the kingdom of which we are citizens, the Sovereign who reigns over us, to the relations and friends thou hast given us, and to all mankind without exception. O God, have mercy upon us all, and let thy gracious Gospel be our guide and consolation through the whole of life, and in the hour of death. We ask all in the name and for the sake of our Divine Redeemer, to whom, with thyself and blessed Spirit, be all honour and praise, now and for evermore. Amen.

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## SIXTH WEEK.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

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\* **RECEIVE**, most blessed God, receive that homage which we would present at a throne of grace this morning. How just this homage, and how requisite to begin the day with celebrating thy goodness, that extends from heaven to earth! Thou art giving us a new and additional proof of thy unceasing care, protection, and sparing mercy, which have followed us ever since we had a being. Having been preserved during the past night, with all that belong to us, we would renew our grateful acknowledgments, at the same time that we do confess that we are less than the least of all thy mercies, and of all thy saints. Another day thou hast given us, O God, to pass in thy fear, to work out the work of our salvation, and to lay up for ourselves a treasure in the heavens. Let us think of the shortness of life, and the vast uncertainty of time and opportunities; that we may work out the work of our salvation whilst it is called to-day, seeing the night of death approacheth, when no man can work.

[Thou hast, O God, more especially enjoined in

thy word, that we should observe (Deut. v. 32.) "to do all that thou hast commanded us, not turning to the right hand or the left; but walk circumspectly in all the ways which the Lord our God hath commanded us, that it may be well with us, and that we may prolong our days in the good land which we possess." May we be stimulated and encouraged by this injunction and promise.

\* O thou who givest power to the faint, and to them who have no might increaseth strength, enable us to walk in all the commandments of the Lord blameless. Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

[Long life, which thou hast promised in general, may not be for our good: to come to the grave in a full age, as a shock of corn that cometh in its season, may not be consistent with thy most wise and sovereign appointment. We would therefore say on this, as on all occasions, "thy will be done."]

\* Thou art all wise, and all good, and thou knowest what is best for us in this vain and uncertain state: give us, O God, what thou knowest to be fittest for us, and train us up in the way that will lead us to a safe and comfortable death. Be with us throughout the course of this day: our heavenly Father, cover us as with thy shield and buckler, and nothing shall then be able to hurt or annoy us.

[The sun by day, no more than the moon by

night, shall favour or further the attempts of either our temporal or spiritual foes. The Lord shall preserve us from all evil.]

\* And now hear us, O God, in the behalf of all those who need, or desire an interest in our prayers. Let a world abounding in misery, and lying in wickedness, share thy paternal pity. O! that cruel wars might cease to the ends of the earth, and to the end of time! We hail the happy period when swords shall be turned into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks. Let the ambitious and the cruel no longer succeed: may their counsels be turned into foolishness, and all their bands be broken asunder. O! for peace on earth, and good will amongst all mankind! To this end, continue, O God, to bless the preaching of the everlasting Gospel. Give thy word such abundant success, as that new converts of all ranks and ages may be daily added to the true Church of Christ. Lord, bless this Nation and all its dependencies. O remove not the speech of the trusty among us, nor take away the understanding of the aged. Let the things which belong to the Nation's peace never be hid from the eyes of those who are intrusted with its counsels. May the ministers of religion be able and faithful workmen, dividing and giving to all their portion of spiritual food in due season. Bless all universities and schools. Let there be a seed to know and serve God in this



Country throughout all succeeding generations. Those who are related to us by the ties of blood, affection, or friendship, Lord lift up the light of thy countenance upon them, and keep and preserve them for thy heavenly kingdom. Continue, our heavenly Father, to be as a family God unto us. " Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we desire to 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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## SIXTH WEEK.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

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\* O LORD, our wise, and good, and powerful Protector, we again adore and praise thy name to-night, in that thou hast preserved our lives this day, and granted every thing that was needful for the wants of our bodies, and the welfare of our souls. We attribute to thee, O God, the honour and glory of all that hath been praiseworthy in us, and we accuse ourselves alone of those instances of forgetfulness, ingratitude, and disobedience, which may have been deservedly laid to our charge. For these we again most sincerely ask pardon, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ. Continue with us, O God, the sweet influences of thy grace, wherever we are, and whithersoever we go. May the Holy Spirit be our light and our strength, to conduct us in every difficulty, and comfort us under every emergency. Let us never be engaged through the day in any business or employment which is either unlawful in itself, or detrimental to society; any occupation of which we shall need to be ashamed when we appear before thy bar.

[We would seriously consider, O God, that one

day more of our pilgrimage here is come to a close, and we know not how many more thou hast appointed to us. O let us be often thinking of that time when this our earthly tabernacle must sink into ruin, and our immortal part enter into a state of perfect happiness, or consummate misery.]

\* Above every thing else, let us be inquisitive and desirous that we may be in a covenant relation with thee, that we be safe in death as in life. This world and all its objects must soon disappear: O that we could say with more assurance and personal application, (2 Cor. v. 1.) "We know that when our earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." O search us, and try us, and see if there be yet remaining any wicked way in us, any sin unrepented of, that shall trouble us in our last moments, and cause that we tremble upon the brink of eternity. Of such sins we would now bitterly repent, and pray for grace to pardon them, and to deliver us from every thing that is evil.

Thus pardoned and accepted, who shall separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord? We will both lay ourselves down in peace, and sleep this night, we trust, in safety; for thou, Lord, art the Keeper of thy people, and as a constant shade upon their right hand. We lift up our eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our aid.

Our help alone cometh from the Lord, that made heaven and earth. Give us, O God, this night a portion of that sleep which thou givest to thy beloved; and if we awake in the morning, let our first thoughts be consecrated to thee, and to the acknowledgments of thy goodness and grace. Lord, be merciful to all mankind. We long to see thy name, and thy Son's name, great in the earth. If consistent with the great designs of thy providence, let cruel wars and fightings cease. Thou must, O God, abhor bloody and deceitful men. Turn to nought their counsels, and counteract their ambitious and bloody schemes. Continue peace and tranquillity in our Country, and give a spirit of wisdom and patriotism to all our governors. Bring back, O God, to the right paths, those among us who have quitted or refused to enter into them. Keep thine own professing people in the good way, and give them that faith which overcometh the world. We now recommend ourselves, with our relations, and all those in whom we are particularly interested, to thy gracious and paternal care. Be with us, to direct and guide us throughout the whole of life; and be our portion, when time, and sense, and sin shall be no more. And now, unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory, to God, our Saviour, be glory and praise, both now, and for ever. Amen.

## SIXTH WEEK.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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\* WILT thou be pleased, O God, this morning, to raise our hearts to thee? Having brought our bodies in safety from the bed of sleep, renew our souls for thy worship and service. Dissipate that natural darkness which may still lie upon our minds, as thy sun now dispels that darkness which lately covered the earth. We bless God that we are still alive, and that the merciful days of our visitation are not passed; that we are still proper subjects for the grace of God, for obtaining mercy, and being delivered from the fatal effects of sin. Grant, O Lord, that we may no longer procrastinate, but redeem and improve the season of grace as yet continued with us. O Lord, how great is thy goodness, and thy compassions beyond what we can express, or conceive. May we from this day testify our gratitude in the only proper way by which we can shew it, by beginning to lead a new life; henceforward conforming our thoughts, our words, and our actions, to thy most just and holy law.

[O that we could say, with thy servant of old,

(Ps. cxix. 174.) " We have longed for thy salvation, O God, and thy law is our delight; let our souls live, and they shall praise thee." To this end, renew and strengthen us more and more in the inner man, that from this day we may detach our affections from earth, and live more like the citizens and heirs of heaven. Let this truth be ever deeply impressed upon our minds, " that the wicked worketh a deceitful work; but to him that soweth righteousness there shall be a sure reward; for righteousness tendeth to life eternal." ]

\* O that we could say, with thy servant of old, " We love thy law, and it is our meditation all the day." (Ps. cxix. 97.) How sweet are thy words unto our taste! Through thy precepts we get understanding, and therefore we hate every false way. Renewed and strengthened by the influences of thy Holy Spirit, may we this day be more diligently employed in the work which thou hast given us to do; anxiously concerned about our own salvation, and ever mindful of the temporal and spiritual good of our fellow-creatures. Be with us, Divine Saviour, during the passing hours of the present day. Cover us, as with thy protecting shield, and no real evil shall befall us. In the world we may have tribulation; but in thine and thy Father's love we must ever have the truest and most solid peace. We beseech the Father of mercies to grant unto all mankind a portion of those

favours which we are humbly asking for ourselves. O let the darkness of nature be every where dispelled! With the light of the glorious Gospel let all mankind be blessed; and then may we hope to see, both peace on earth, and good will, and good offices, universally prevail.

[Upon thine ancient people have compassion. Let the blood imprecated upon that devoted race, now be looked up to by them for their pardon and restoration. And may Christians of every country have more of the spirit of their Divine Master. Then, O God, shall wars cease to the ends of the earth.]

\* To our own land continue to be favourable. Great are our privileges; may our gratitude and love bear some proportion. O let our rulers and judges be just, and our exactors merciful. May our kings (according to thy promise,) be as nursing fathers, and our queens as nursing mothers, to the British Israel. Let the great body of the people lead quiet and peaceable lives, and more godliness and honesty prevail among us. To thy goodness and mercy this day we commend all our relations, our friends, our benefactors, and even our enemies. Have compassion, O God, upon the whole human race. Whatever we ask, and whatsoever we hope for, is in the name, and for the sake of thy dear Son; to whom with thee, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and praise. Amen.

## SIXTH WEEK.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

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\* O THOU Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, behold us again this evening at the footstool of thy throne. Seeing that we have a great High Priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, and who cannot but be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; we would, in his name, draw near in a way of prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. Thou hast, O God, enjoined us by thy servant, that we should be anxiously careful about nothing, but in this way of intercession, and filled with gratitude, present our devotional exercises. Thou art never weary, O Lord, of diffusing thy favours from above. Notwithstanding that we sometimes forget thee, and are often ungrateful for numberless mercies bestowed; yet thou art still, in pity toward us, most abundantly supplying our returning wants. Vouchsafe, this evening, to accept the sacrifice of thanksgiving, which we would now present, on account of the privileges and blessings of the past day; and hear those prayers by which we beseech thee, good Lord, to pardon our offences, and grant the con-

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tinuance of thy favours. Thou pardonest all who truly repent. Thou workest repentance in all that humbly and sincerely ask it of thee. And thou dost every where throughout thy word, invite and encourage us to pray for it. Lord God, should we not this night pray for it so sincerely as we ought, look upon us as in the face of thine Anointed, and for his sake give us a contrite heart, to the end that we may obtain the remission of all our sins. And with the privilege of pardon, give us also, O God, the blessing of sanctification. Banish from our minds whatever may be displeasing to thee; and let the kingdom of God be established in our hearts, which is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Be our defence, O God, during the watches of the ensuing night, as thou hast been our protector throughout the passing day. Slumbering and sleeping under the shadow of thy almighty wings, let no evil befall us, nor any plague come near our dwelling.

[O let us never forget thy long-suffering patience and tender mercy toward us through every period of our by-gone life. Well may we every evening say, with the inspired Psalmist, "What shall we render unto the Lord, for all his benefits bestowed? and what are we, and what is our father's house, that he has brought us up hitherto?"]

\* Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto

night sheweth knowledge, both of thy sustaining and persevering goodness, and our tongues have had reason to speak of it all the day long. Let our thankfulness be shewn by our unreserved obedience. With the sincerity and resolution of the Psalmist help us to say, "We will walk before the Lord in the land of the living." This night we again implore thy protecting providence, with that portion of sleep which thou givest to thy beloved. We pray for our Country, for our relatives, and for all whom we are bound in duty to have upon our hearts before God. The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine, and be gracious unto us all. The Lord God of Israel lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace, and comfortable rest, this, and all the nights of our lives. And now may we add, (Rev. v. 13.) "Let every creature which is in heaven, and on earth, say, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever." Amen.

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## SIXTH WEEK.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

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\* CONDESCEND, O God, to grant us thy gracious presence this morning. Deign to receive our humble but sincere thanks for thy paternal protection and goodness during the past night. By raising us up to see the light, and to enjoy the privileges of another day, thou hast given us, heavenly Father, a renewed proof of that long-suffering patience and tender mercy that hath followed us ever since we were born. We were early devoted to thee, O God, by baptism, and thus made thy children by the most solemn engagements; and thou didst divide unto each of us a goodly portion of early knowledge and principle: but have we not wasted much of this spiritual substance by idleness, or in the pursuit of that learning which is vain and unprofitable? In this famine, not of bread, but of the word and grace of God, and perishing with spiritual hunger, may we hope that thou hast inclined us to say, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against Heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as

one of thy hired servants." We are not worthy to be called thy children; feed us with the crumbs that fall from thy table.

[Thy people did eat manna in the desert, and are dead; but in these latter days thou hast given that true bread which cometh down from heaven, of which whosoever eateth they shall never die. Jesus we believe to be the true bread. He hath said, "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life."]

\* We come to thee, blessed Saviour, that our souls may never hunger; we would believe on thee, that they may never spiritually thirst. Give us that faith which is the gift of God, and by which alone we can be saved; a faith which worketh by love, and purifieth the heart: and to this faith may we every day be adding humility, temperance, patience, and brotherly kindness, that these graces being in us, and abounding, we may neither be barren nor unfruitful. Lord, instruct us, and teach us in every way that we should go. Lord, restore our souls, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, for thy name's sake.

[We would no more be strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. May the Lord God Almighty say unto each of us, "I will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters.]

As a father pitieth his children, we again entreat, this day, that the Lord our God will continue to

have compassion upon us ; forgiving all our iniquities, healing all our spiritual diseases, redeeming our lives from destruction, and crowning us with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

\* “ O bless the Lord, our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name ! Bless the Lord, our souls, and forget not all his benefits. To us, in this family, they have been great and multiplied ; new every morning, and fresh every evening of our lives. O that there were such hearts within, as that we could love God more, and serve him better. Let us never forget that life is short, and time altogether uncertain. O that we could improve every day, and every hour, which thou art giving us, that we may render an acceptable account at the day of judgment. Lord bless all men. Let the Gospel spread, and thy Son’s kingdom be established throughout the world. Protect, O God, our highly favoured Country. Let our religion, laws, and liberties, be handed down to the latest posterity. Our relations and our friends, may they all be in a covenant relation with thee. Though absent in body, may we be present in mind, and often meet at the throne of thy grace. Hear our prayers, O God, for each other ; and bestow upon us what may be needful for the health of body and soul. Lord, forgive our many infirmities, and accept of us in the name, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

**SIXTH WEEK.**

**THURSDAY EVENING.**

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\* O GOD, from whom we derive life and all its blessings, look down in mercy upon us, who would now look up unto thee with grateful hearts. We bless thee for causing another day to pass over our heads in such peaceful and comfortable circumstances. It is not owing to our wisdom, prudence, or watchfulness; but to thy care, protection, and gracious providence, that we still enjoy those advantages which continue to accompany us. O let us not be ungrateful; let us never forget the hand that guides us, which defends us, and blesseth us with so many unmerited favours. And let our thankfulness appear henceforward more and more in our love, obedience, submission to the divine will, and in our endeavours to promote God's honour and glory in the world. But we must confess that we have not hitherto behaved in a suitableness to the benefits bestowed. Every day, O thou omniscient and heart-searching God! every day we more or less violate thy just and sacred laws; and instead of living entirely devoted to thee, we in one way or other offend thee. What

then shall we do? or what shall we say unto thee, O thou preserver and judge of mankind! We will take with us words, and turn to the Lord; and we will confess and say unto him, O Lord, we have sinned and done perversely. We have not kept the statutes, nor the judgments which thou commandest, and we have deserved thy condemnation and punishment on this account. But the Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works: yea, it is said in the volume of truth, "The Lord is pitiful, and of tender mercy." Could we, O God, have a stronger proof than in the gift of thy Son? and not only to take upon him the form of a servant, and be made in the likeness of sinful flesh, but to suffer and die in our room and stead, "the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." Lord be merciful to us, for the sake of thy Son. Through him may we be justified from all things from which we could not be justified by the law of Moses. And thus again loving us freely, may our backslidings also be healed, and we enabled to repent and turn from all our transgressions, that so iniquity may never be our ruin. May we be so abundantly supplied with the communications and influences of God's Holy Spirit, as that we may not only depart from what is outwardly sinful, but even abstain from all appearance of evil. Let us, O God, be thus enabled to put off, concerning the former conversation, the old man, which is cor-

rupt according to the deceitful lusts ; and put on the new man, which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. Lord our God, grant that we may live the life of the righteous, in order that we may die their death. Preserve us this night from every danger to which we might be exposed. We commit ourselves wholly to thy care and keeping ; and with us, all whom we are in duty bound to have upon our memories and hearts before thee ; our relations, our friends, our acquaintances, and neighbours ; and, if consistent with thy will, the whole race of mankind. Lord be merciful to us all ; and be with us always, whether we wake or sleep, whether we live or die, and receive us at the last into thy heavenly kingdom. We ask all in the name, and for the sake, of our gracious Redeemer. Amen.

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**SIXTH WEEK.****FRIDAY MORNING.**

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\* **BEHOLD** us, O good and gracious God, at the footstool of thy throne this morning. We come to present our humble, and, might we hope, our sincere adorations to the Author of our life, and lengthener out of our days: for it is to thee that we are indebted for our preservation during the past night; and thou alone hast caused us to see the beginning of this day. Let thy gracious presence be with us during the course of it, and all the succeeding days and nights of our earthly pilgrimage. And to the end that thou mayest hear us, notwithstanding our unworthiness and sinfulness, look upon us, O God, in the face of thine anointed; and cause us to be partakers of all the blessed fruits of his death and resurrection. We look to the unsearchable riches of Christ, that we may see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God; who not only created all things by Christ, but was in him reconciling the world unto himself; and hath now exalted him to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto his people, as well

as the remission of all their sins. O that our bodies might henceforth be the temples of God, through the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, and uniting us to Jesus Christ by a true and living faith. We would count all things but loss, that we may win Christ, and be found in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith; and that we may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, and be made conformable unto his death: not as though we had already attained, either were already perfect; but this one thing we desire to do; "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, we would press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord." Thou knowest, O God, and we would at the same time acknowledge and confess the weakness and corruption of our nature, and to how many dangers and temptations we are continually exposed. Lord give us thy strength, and thy grace, to preserve and keep us at all times. Let neither the world nor the flesh this day seduce us from the paths of duty: but, ever thinking and acting as under God's more immediate inspection, may we keep in the love and fear of all God's holy commandments. Teach us in every circumstance, O God, to know thy will; and give us inclination

and ability to do it. Continue of thy bounty to provide for all our necessities; and support and comfort us under every disappointment and trial thou mayest see proper to bring upon us.

[May we live in thy fear, that we may die in thy favour, and so be made both happy and glorious through eternity.]

\* For thy distinguishing, although unmerited goodness and mercy toward us, and all who are near and dear to us, we once more offer up our united thanksgivings; saying at the same time, Let every creature that is in heaven, and on the earth, give glory to God for ever and ever. And now, Lord, what wait we for? our hope is in thee. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

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## SIXTH WEEK.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

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\* WE would exalt the Lord our God, this evening. We would humbly worship at his footstool, for the Lord our God is holy. Thou art infinitely pure in thine essence, in all thy perfections, and in all thy works. Most assuredly then, all who approach thy holy mountain should endeavour to worship thee in the beauty of holiness. But who of us, O Lord, can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from sin?" With thy confessing servants of old we are constrained to say, (Is. lxiv. 6.) "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." With them also we would pray; "O that thou wouldest rend the heavens; O that thou wouldest come down, and look upon us in the face of thine Anointed." Behold, O God, our shield, and for the sake of that atonement which he hath made, pardon, accept of us, and bless us. Another day hath passed over our heads, never to return; a day which we shall be called upon to give an account of. But have we acted as accountable creatures; as those who are daily receiving innumerable benefits; as

Christians bought with the blood of thy dear Son? Upon the shedding of his precious blood we found all our hopes and expectations. Father of mercies, we would return this night to thee, in the firm resolution of being henceforward more faithful to our sacred vows and holy engagements. We would be more watchful over our thoughts, more circumspect in our conversation, and more attentive to every duty that may be incumbent upon us. But, alas! from past experience we know how little we can depend upon the strength of our own resolutions. Aid us by thy grace; it alone can be made sufficient for us; for thy strength is made perfect in weakness itself. O that the law of the spirit of life would make us free from the law of sin and of death. We would be complete in Christ, and would work out the work of our salvation, although with fear and trembling; because it is God that worketh in us, both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Prepare us, O God, for every event and dispensation of thy providence. We are going again, by thy good hand upon us, to take that rest and repose which is necessary for our feeble and mortal frames. O God, who hast been our protector hitherto, who hast caused the outgoings of so many mornings and evenings to rejoice over us; help us to lie down this night in the faith that thou wilt keep us from all evil, whether of a temporal or spiritual nature. We entreat also, O

God, thy favour and thy grace, to be bestowed upon all whom we are bound to pray for. Let the world be filled with thy glory, by the spreading far and wide of the Gospel of thy Son; that all the ends of the earth may remember, and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations worship before him. In behalf of such as bear the Christian name we would entreat, that peace, and good will, outward plenty, and temporal prosperity, may prevail every where. Cast a favourable regard, O God, towards our own Country, and, if consistent with thy holy will, let the liberty and privileges we have so long enjoyed, be handed down to the latest posterity. Bless our magistrates with the true spirit of their several stations. Oh that all our great men were good men, to cause justice with mercy to flow down the land as a stream. We pray for thy special blessing upon all our relations and friends; and if we have enemies, Father forgive them, and turn their hearts toward us. We desire to live and die at peace with all men. Keep us, whilst we live, in such a happy disposition and temper of mind; and when we die, let us enter into that rest which remains for the people of God. We ask all in the name, and for the alone sake of our dear Redeemer. Amen.

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**SIXTH WEEK.****SATURDAY MORNING.**

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\* **RECEIVE**, O our God! receive, this last morning of another week, that homage which it is both our duty and our interest to give.

[How natural, and how proper, to begin the day with remembering and celebrating that goodness which is every where displayed around us, and which reacheth even to the very heavens!]

\* Thou hast, most indulgent and merciful Father, given us a new proof of that goodness which hath never failed us from our birth, even to the present hour. Thou hast preserved us, and all that belongeth to us, during the past night, in health of body, and in soundness of mind. With thy servant Jacob we would say, We are not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the favours, which thou hast shewn unto us; for we have forgotten thee times and ways without number, and always fallen short of thy express requirements: yet we would say, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul! and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him." Still thy invitation, blessed Saviour, continues; and we come

unto thee for pardon and rest. Let us never doubt, that "whosoever believeth on thee shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

["Lord we believe, help thou our unbelief." What love and gratitude do we owe to God, who is so gracious as to give Christ and all his precious salvation to us, who may even be the chief of sinners !]

\* Lord we accept of the proffer, and would, this morning, afresh commend our souls into the arms of thy mercy in him, notwithstanding all our former unworthiness, trusting to that gracious promise, (Rom. ix. 25.) "I will call them my people, which were not my people;" and we shall henceforward shew forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. As strangers and pilgrims, we would "abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;" and would have our conversation, and our conduct, honest and exemplary in the sight of all men. †

For this cause, we would again bow our knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family of heaven and earth is named, that he would grant us, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; and that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and



depth, and height of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge; and be filled with all the fulness of God.

\* Holding fast the word of life, may we be blameless, and harmless; the sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, ever shining among them as lights in the world; and thus shall we not run in vain, neither labour in vain, but rejoice in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Father of the human race, be merciful to all men. Let such as name the name of Christ depart from iniquity. Protect the Protestant reformed churches. Let the delusions of Popery come to an end. Bless all those to whom we are united by the ties of blood, of friendship, or of gratitude; give, O God, bread to the poor; clothe the naked; and provide a habitation for those who know not where to lay their heads. Let this week and this day pass over our heads, (if it be thy holy will,) without danger either to our bodies or souls; and may the outgoings of the evening as well as morning rejoice over us. We ask every blessing for the alone sake of Jesus Christ, our precious Redeemer. Amen.

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## SIXTH WEEK.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

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\* O THOU that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. We would ever esteem it as our highest honour, and greatest privilege, to address thy throne. Blessed be thy name, O God, it is not as yet a throne of judgment and executive justice; but a throne of free grace and tender mercy, unto which we are still invited and encouraged to come. We know that we are altogether unworthy, and we feel ourselves but ill prepared to approach the sacred Majesty of heaven and earth: but there is a Mediator appointed; a glorious High Priest, who hath entered into the holiest for us; a prevailing Intercessor at the right hand of the eternal throne. To this Advocate would we alone look. In this Saviour we desire to put all our confidence and trust. And for his sake we now again beseech thee to pardon all our sins; even those of a scarlet and crimson dye. Thou hast said, O God, by the mouth of thine inspired servant, and to whom thou hast graciously given the appellation of a man after thine own heart, that thou "forgivest all iniquities, as well as healest all spiritual diseases; yea, that as far as the East is from the West, so far wilt

thou remove our transgressions from us:" and more particularly still by the Apostle of the Gentiles, (1 Tim. i. 15.) " This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and of them the chief." Thus encouraged, we will again confess that our sins have been of a scarlet and crimson dye; that " our iniquities have increased over our heads, and our trespasses grown up unto the heavens."

[In the words of the Psalmist, therefore, we would venture to say, (Ps. xxv. 11.) " For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity, for it is great." Who is a God like unto thee, that retainest not thine anger, because thou delightest in mercy? And hast thou not said to every sinner of mankind, (Isaiah, xxvii. 5.) " Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me, and he shall make peace with me."]

O most merciful Jehovah, we will again this night lay our hand upon the head of Christ our passover sacrificed for us; and confessing our sins, we will believe that God is just and faithful to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. For the sake of thy Son's intercession we would pray, " Sanctify us, O God, through thy truth; thy word is truth." O that we might henceforth be his workmanship complete, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

[(2 Cor. iii. 5.) "We know that we are not sufficient of ourselves either to think or to do; but our sufficiency is of God." What is our strength, that we should hope; but through Christ, which strengtheneth us, we can do all things.]

\* O then, let the law of the spirit of life, which is in Christ Jesus, gradually make us all free from the law of sin and death; and we pray God, the very God of peace, that our whole spirit, soul, and body, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, O thou God and Father of all, permit us to intercede for the whole human race. We long for that happy time, when the Jews shall be brought in with the fulness of the Gentiles, and all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God. For this purpose, O blessed Saviour, we pray thee raise up, and send able and indefatigable labourers into thy spiritual harvest, that the Gospel may be preached faithfully and fruitfully in every corner of the world. Then may all men love one another, and live together in mutual harmony and peace.

\* For our native Country we would be sincerely anxious. O God, give us that righteousness which alone exalteth a nation; and keep back, or remove from us that general depravity, which never fails to be the ruin of a people. Let all our mercies and judgments be sanctified to us, that in the issue thy glory be promoted, and the real happiness of our

Country secured. If consistent with thy will, may our King be restored, and preserved in soundness of body and mind. Pour down the best of thy blessings upon the Royal Family in all its branches; and give every magistrate throughout the land the proper spirit of their various stations. Clothe thy priests, O God, of every description, with salvation, that all thy saints may shout for joy. Our relatives and friends we commit to God's holy keeping. Body and soul, may they be preserved from danger, and all temptations to evil. To us, and to them, "to live may it be Christ, and then to die will be everlasting gain." Be gracious, O God, to all who need, or require an interest in our prayers. Continue, O God, as thou hast promised, to be a father to the fatherless, and a judge of the widow in thy holy habitation. As also to preserve the strangers, and to give them both food and raiment. Satisfy the poor with bread, and let the needy lie down in safety. Lord be merciful to all men. And now, O God, what wait we for, but for thy forgiveness, acceptance, and blessing, that alone maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow with it. All we ask is in the name, and for the sake of our adorable Redeemer; to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all praise and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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## OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

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### FOR A SICK AND AFFLICTED PERSON.

O LORD! thou remainest for ever, and thy years shall not fail; the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. But man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble; liable to all manner of sickness, and all manner of diseases. In thine infinitely wise and holy providence thou hast, O God, afflicted thy servant before thee, who now desires an interest in our prayers; and thou hast graciously promised, if consistent with thy glory and his good, thou wilt bring health and a cure. O Lord! may we hope that it is consistent with both, that his valuable life should be spared—spared to see more of thy goodness and grace in the land of the living. It is but speaking the word, most compassionate Saviour, and thy servant shall be healed: and in the days of thy flesh, thou didst never reject a humble petitioner. Yea, thou hast said expressly, (John, xiv. 13.) “Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” But God hath appointed means, and we would continue in

the lawful use of them. Confidently persuaded that thy blessing alone can render them effectual, we humbly pray that a healing virtue may accompany every medicine administered; so that thy servant may soon be restored to wonted health. But if, O God! thou hast otherwise determined, give *us* a silent submission, and thy servant a humble and comfortable resignation to thy holy will. This only we would earnestly beg in the name of thy Son; and for his sake, that thou wouldest never separate between the spirit and body, until his soul be united to thee in the everlasting bonds of the new covenant; and thus living, or dying, he shall be for ever safe. (Philip. i. 21.) "To him, and to us all, to live, let it be Christ; and then to die will be everlasting gain." Hear, O God, these our humble requests; and all that we hope is for the sake of thy dear Son, our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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FOR SUCH AS APPEAR TO BE IN A DYING  
STATE.

WE now ruminatè, O God, upon our Apostle's solemn declaration: "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, (*because the wages of sin is death,*) so death hath passed upon all men; for that all have sinned."

Our days are determined, the number of our months are with thee; thou hast appointed us bounds which we cannot pass. Lord, enable us all to be submissive to thy sovereign will, and to wait with patience and resignation all the days of thy appointed time, until our change come. Hast thou said with respect to thy servant, "set thine house in order, for thou shalt die, and not live?" Lord, give him wisdom and strength, that he may, without delay, so set his temporal affairs in order, as that there be no perplexity or confusion after his decease. But for his spiritual house we would be much more concerned. Enable him, O God, in the language of a true faith, to say with thy servant of old, "*Into thine hand I commit my spirit* ; thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth ; and although my house be not so with God, yet hath he made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure ; and this is all my salvation, and all my desire."

Holding fast the form of sound words by that faith and love which is in Christ Jesus, give him experimentally to feel the comfort of these declarations : (2 Tim. i. 12.) " Nevertheless I am not ashamed ; for I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day : " and, in the nearer approach of dissolu-



tion, still to break forth, (Rom. viii. 33.) " Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?" &c. " Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" &c.

Enable him to say: " For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord."

And now, O Father of mercies, and God of all consolation, having thus fortified thy servant's soul by placing it upon the surest foundation, let him never be forsaken or cast down; but entirely and cheerfully resigned to thy holy will, whether for life or death: for nothing is impossible with God; (Ps. ix. 13.) He hath lifted up from the very gates of death; and shouldest thou, O God, at this time, see fit to redeem thy servant's soul from the power of the grave, give him to live more to thy praise, and the good of thy people. Yet if thou hast otherwise determined, may he be wholly submissive, as knowing that thy time, O God, is the wisest, and safest, and best. (2 Cor. iv. 16.) For which cause we continue to pray, although the outward man perish, let the inward man be renewed; and when he shall even walk through the valley of the shadow of death, that he may fear no evil, the rod and staff of his God in covenant supporting and comforting him: and

may he be enabled in his dying moments to say: (1 Cor. xv. 55.) "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

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## UPON THE DEATH OF A CHILD.

O LORD, thou hast said to thy professing people, (Deut. ix. 13.) "I will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee:" and thy servant hath declared, (Ps. cxxvii. 3.) "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward; as arrows are in the hands of the mighty, so are children of the youth; happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them." Yea, (Ps. cxxviii. 5.) "to every one that feareth the Lord, and walketh in his ways, his wife shall be as a fruitful vine, and his children like olive plants about the table; and, moreover, that he shall see his children's children, and peace upon Israel all the days of his life."

But, O Lord, notwithstanding these general promises, thou seest meet, in thine inscrutable wisdom and mysterious providence, to remove many of these dear pledges in their most early days.

[Some just open their eyes to take a prospect

of the world; and then, as if displeased with the view, shut them again, and withdraw to the peaceful mansions of undisturbed repose. Others remain for a few months, or years, the darling favorite of their indulgent parents; and during that period, what a painful proof have we of their peculiar frailty, and great uncertainty! Like a delicate flower, nourished in a warm and rich soil, every inclemency, every rude blast, withers; and, notwithstanding our utmost care, for one that survives, how many are consigned to the icy arms of the king of terrors!]

In the instance before us, a darling child is taken away, the joy and the hope of this family. O teach thy servants to acknowledge and remember that thou art the sovereign Disposer of all events, and *givest not to any an account of thy matters*. Here thy footsteps, O God, may appear as in the dark and deep waters; yet we know that even *this* hath been done, “that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.” Taken away from the evil to come; how consoling the thought to every believing parent! The child might have grown up to struggle with inward corruptions; and, through the power of outward temptations, might have fallen away from heaven and happiness. But now free from actual guilt, and excused from bearing the heat and burthen of the day, [he] [she]

is placed among those *blessed* children of whom the kingdom of heaven is composed.

O God, give parents ever to remember that children are thy gifts, bestowed only during thy pleasure, and to be returned in thine own way, and time, (*which is the best,*) to the paternal bosom of their Father, and their God.

[Tis true they loved the dear pledges of their conjugal union; oh, how dearly loved them! but lead them to acknowledge that thy love is greater, and that thou canst make them infinitely more happy than they could have ever been in a present world.]

Are they tempted to think, or say, that their child is lost, and all their anxiety and care have been vain? let them ever call to mind that [he] [she] is only gone for a season before, to render *their* own departure from this world less reluctant, and their entrance into heaven more joyful.

There, O heavenly Father! thou mayest have placed their beloved child before the eternal throne, as a powerful pleader to send down blessings upon the mourning parents, who are still sojourning in this world of want, and valley of tears. O give them to remember with thankfulness, that they have been instruments in the hand of God to add one more to his worshippers in heaven. Contemplating the happiness, and the employment of the redeemed above, with the unavoidable dis-

appointments and trials of a present state, may they often break forth with the devout Psalmist: (Ps. lv. 6.) "O that I had wings like a dove, for then would I fly away, and be at rest." And may we all love heaven more, seeing that God is gradually removing our relatives and friends; and being ourselves made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light, *let us depart in peace*, with the joyful hope of meeting above, *those* who were near and dear to us here below, to part no more for ever.

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MOURNING FOR THE LOSS OF RELATIVES AND  
FRIENDS.

O THOU who art our great Creator, and, by thy good hand upon us, still our merciful Preserver, may we be permitted at this time to approach the footstool of thy throne, with thy divine forgiveness and gracious acceptance. To whom can we go but unto thee, who art the alone true object of spiritual worship, the Father of lights, and Fountain of every blessing; and who hath expressly said in thy Holy Scriptures, (Ps. l. 15.) "Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." In this word, O God, we find it written, (Eccles. vii. 2.) "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to

the house of feasting; for that is the end of all men, and the living will lay it to his heart."

By thy wise and special appointment, our deceased [brother] [sister] is cut off from the land of the living; [his] [her] body returns to the earth out of which it was taken, and [his] [her] spirit, we trust, hath returned to thee, who gave it. We would desire upon this, as upon every occasion, to submit ourselves to God; (Acts, xxi. 14.) saying, "the will of the Lord be done." Be pleased to grant, O thou Author of every good and perfect gift! grant, that we might be enabled to say with the same resignation as thy servant of old: "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." But we are apt to faint under such bereaving dispensations, and to be too much afflicted and cast down, notwithstanding we know that (Eccles. i. 4.) "one generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; and it is appointed unto all men once to die." How sweet the consideration of the Psalmist, (Ps. xxxiv. 18.) "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." And thus saith the Lord himself, (Is. lxvi. 12.) "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you, and ye shall be comforted. And thy compassionate Son, our Saviour, hath said, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Now, our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God,

even our Father, who hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, &c. Our [brother] [sister] is not dead, but sleepeth : all who thus sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake again : yea, the hour is coming in the which all that are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of Man, and come forth. Blessed Jesus, thou hast said, " I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." O God, let our brethren *here* neither be ignorant, nor unmindful concerning [him] [her] who hath lately fallen asleep in Jesus, so as to sorrow like them that have no hope ; for if they believe that Jesus died and rose again, they must also believe that all those who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him : wherefore, let them comfort one another with these words. And to the same consoling purpose, heavenly Father, help us all to extend our views forward to that day when thou shalt redeem *our* souls also from the power of the grave ; and when these bodies, which are sown in corruption, dishonour, and weakness, shall be raised in incorruption, glory, and power ; and that saying be brought to pass : " Death is swallowed up in victory." In this important and interesting day, when the world shall be judged in righteousness by that Immanuel whom God the Father hath appointed, may we, and all our deceased friends

appear clothed with his righteousness, and hear him pronounce to our enraptured ears, (Mat. xxv. 34.) "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Knowing these things, may we be enabled, O God, to comfort ourselves together, and edify one another, (Rom. viii. 18.) ever reckoning that "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us;" nay, assured (2 Cor. iv. 18.) "that our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

(Jude, v. 24, 25.) Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now, and ever. Amen.

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A GENERAL INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE  
EXTENSION OF THE GOSPEL.

O THOU who art the parent of the universe, we would look up unto thee, as our Father in heaven. In no age of the world hast thou left thyself without a witness; for in all the works of creation and



providence thou hast made thy being and perfections, in some measure, to be known by all thy rational and intelligent creatures. But, blessed, for ever blessed be thy goodness and grace, who hast not left *us* to the mere glimmering of nature's light. For, (Heb. i. 1.) "God, who at sundry times, and in divers manners, spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us more clearly and fully by his Son, his well-beloved and only begotten Son," (1 Tim. ii. 5.) and "who is the one Mediator between God and men, and gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." May we hope, O God, that we have not only been privileged with a hearing of his Gospel by the outward ear; but that, through the effectual working of the Holy Spirit, we have felt its justifying, sanctifying, and saving power. These glad tidings, and this divine operation, we anxiously desire, O thou benevolent Father of all, to see extended to every nation upon the face of the earth; and we thank thee for the promises thou hast given, and for the means which thou hast appointed, toward the accomplishment of this glorious and gracious purpose. (Ps. ii. 8.) "Ask of me," hast thou not said, thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to *this* thy beloved Son; "Ask of me, and I will give thee the Heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." Thou

hast asked, O benevolent Saviour, for thy disciples, that they may be thine, withdrawn from the world, reconciled to the Father's love, and made a habitation for the blessed Spirit. Neither hast thou prayed for these alone, nor for them only who shall believe on thee by their preaching, but for all their successors and followers, in every age, and in every country.

We, O Lord, upon whom the ends of the world are come, have been purposing, for years past, to send thy Gospel to heathenish and foreign lands; and we would neither be unmindful of, nor unthankful for, that missionary spirit, which hath, of late, pervaded so many in this highly enlightened land and age. O may such as have already been sent through all the earth, and those whom thy servants may yet send with the word of salvation to every part of the world, be pure in their minds and motives, indefatigable in their zeal towards God, and for his cause; clear and sound in all the essentials of the Christian faith; and at the same time that they are wise in winning souls unto Christ, may they be prudent in all their dealings, and circumspect in the whole of their walk and conversation; that thus, by the blessing of God upon their exertions, and unwearied labours, the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, may be great among the Gentiles, and the most barbarous nations enabled to present a pure and acceptable offering, even

from the rising of the sun, to the going down of the same. (Mat. i. 11.)

O Lord, enable us all to take encouragement from the latter day promises ; they are many, they are clear, they are full, and faithful ; and no power on earth, or in hell, can prevent their complete accomplishment. Let us all therefore, in obedience to the royal Psalmist's admonition, arise, and be doing, that the Lord may be with us, to bless every word of our mouths, and every work of our hands, toward the fulfilment of this great design of evangelizing the Heathen ; that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified, and his Gospel carried to every corner of the habitable earth. And now the God of Israel cause us to go from his throne in peace, and grant us the things we have requested of him ; because we have come in that new and living way which thy Son hath consecrated for us ; and we have put up our petitions in that name which is above every name, and on account of which, we are assured that whatsoever we shall ask of the Father he will give it unto us. (Rev. vii. 12.) And now would we conclude with the worshippers in heaven ; saying, " Amen, blessing, and glory, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever." Amen.

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING FOR BENEFITS,  
TEMPORAL AND SPIRITUAL, WITH A PIOUS  
RESIGNATION OF OURSELVES TO GOD.

O GOD, who condescendest to regard and to accept of the thanksgivings of thy creatures ; what shall we render unto thee for all thy blessings bestowed upon us ? It is our duty, and our privilege, to remember and enumerate them before thee. But where shall we begin, and how shall we end, (Ps. cxlv. 7.) when we would bless the name of the Lord, declare his righteousness, and abundantly utter the memory of his great goodness ?

Thou, O God, art the Maker of our bodies : how infinite thy power, and how great thy wisdom, displayed in their admirable structure ! But thou hast lodged in this material frame, souls of a spiritual and immortal texture. We thank thee that these were at first made after thine own image, spotless and pure in every faculty and desire ; and that there is still a possibility, and a hope, of being restored to their primeval dignity and purity. We bless thee, O Lord, who hast created this earth upon which we are placed, and for all the creatures that are in it, and upon it, necessary for our support, and wisely calculated for our every convenience, as well as for our pleasure. And we adore and praise that universal, and gracious Providence,

which preserveth both man and beast : for thou, even thou, O Lord, hast not only made the heavens, with all their host, and the earth, and all things that are therein ; but thou preservest them all ; upholding them from the beginning by the word of thy power, so that they continue to this day, according to thine ordinances. But we would more especially call to mind, and thank God now, for that care and kindness which he hath exercised towards us, ever since we had a being in the world. Whilst in the helpless years of infancy and childhood, thou didst sustain us ; through all the diseases and dangers unto which the younger part of life is exposed, thou hast in safety led us up to a mature age. We have never been without the needful supplies of food and raiment : we have been fed and clothed by thy bountiful hand : and with all the necessaries of a present life, thou hast undeservedly bestowed upon us many conveniencies and comforts, that thousands of our fellow creatures are in want of. But, O Lord, thou hast not only bestowed upon us many past favours, benefits of months' and years' recollection ; but thou art still good, and doing us good. (Psal. lii. 1.) The goodness of God endureth continually. By thy good hand upon us, O God, we are all alive before thee this day, in health, in soundness of mind, giving " our humble and hearty thanks" for these, and all other *temporal* blessings. O

God, grant that they may produce a deep and lasting impression of gratitude upon our minds; and may this gratitude appear more and more in our love and confidence, in our obedience, humility, and submission to the divine will, and in our benevolence and beneficence to all mankind. Yet, O our God in covenant, whilst we are thus adoring and praising thee for these advantages and favours that belong more immediately to a present world, shall we forget thy best and noblest gift to the children of men, the gift of thine own Son, without whom we are nothing, and can hope for nothing of a spiritual nature; but in and through whose mediation and purchase we become the children of God, are made heirs of the kingdom of heaven, and have a right to all the privileges of the Gospel.

Glory, glory, to the Eternal Father, who sent his only begotten Son to seek and save us when we were lost. (Rev. v. 12.) "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." Great Comforter, sent from the Father, in the name, and through the purchase of the Son, witnessing and sealing Spirit, descend into our hearts, and unite us, by a true and living faith, to him that was dead, but is now alive, and liveth for evermore. (Rev. v. 9.) We believe that he hath redeemed us to God, by his blood, out of every kindred, and

tongue, and people, and nation. (Heb. vii. 25.) "We believe that he is able to save to the uttermost all that come to God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." We believe that God taketh no pleasure in the death of a sinner, (Rev. xxii. 17:) that "the Spirit and the bride say, Come, and him that is athirst, come, and whosoever will, let him come, and take the water of life freely." O Lord, we have no merit or might in ourselves; we desire to have pardon and holiness upon the terms of free grace: other foundations would we not lay, than is laid, which is Christ Jesus; (1 Cor. i. 30.) May he be, of God, made unto each of our souls, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. By his doctrines and precepts, may we know thy will, O God, with every branch of our duty. In his satisfaction and purchase, give us ever to trust for thy favour in this world, and friendship through eternity; and teach us more and more the divine art of living, by faith in the Son of God, so as daily and hourly to bring forth the fruits of holiness, until, in thy good time, our souls be freed from every remainder of corruption, and presented holy, and unblamable, and unproveable, in thy sight. (1 Cor. i. 22.)

And now, O God, what wait we for? All our hopes and expectations are from thee. Help us all to say, (Ps. xxxi. 5.) "into thine hand we commit our spirits;" and henceforth (Rom. xiv. 8.) "we will

neither live nor die unto ourselves ; but, whether we live, we would live unto God, and whether we die, we would die unto the Lord ; living or dying, we are the Lord's." (Heb. xiii. 20.) And now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every work to do his will ; working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

FINIS.

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