

en my resolutions, and enable me to do my duty with vigour and constancy; that so, when the fears and hopes, the pains and pleasures of this life shall have an end, I may be received to everlasting happiness, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

*At the Close of the Year.*

**E**TERNAL God, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, by whose will all things were created, and by whose providence they are still sustained, I now appear in thy presence, the wretched mispender of another year, laden with its sins, and accountable for its mercies, I return thee hearty thanks that thou hast given me life, and that thou hast continued it even unto this day; that thou hast hitherto forborne to snatch me away in the midst of sin and folly, and hast permitted me still to enjoy the means of grace, and vouchsafed to call me yet again to repentance. Grant, O merciful God, that thy call may not be in vain; that my life may not be prolonged to increase my guilt, and that thy gracious forbearance may not harden my heart in impenitence and wickedness. Let me ever remember, that as days and years pass over me, I approach nearer to that grave where there is no repentance, and to that awful night in which no man can work. Grant then, gracious God, that I may from this day amend my life, and employ the manifold gifts of thy mercy to the honour of thy name, and the promotion of mine own salvation. As I approach nearer the grave let my faith be invigorated, my hope exalted,

and my charity enlarged. Make me to remember that every day is thy gift, and ought to be used according to thy command; that so, when my years are brought to an end, like a tale that is told, and I am summoned to appear before the throne, the awful throne of the great Jehovah, I may be welcomed to the realms of everlasting happiness and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

*For the Blessings of the Year.*

**O** God, the Fountain of all goodness, and the Creator and Preserver of all things, who, with unerring wisdom maintainest the beauty and order of nature, and in whose power alone it is to give fruitful seasons, and to fill our hearts with food and gladness; I look up with joy and confidence to thy gracious power, which hath caused the returning seasons to know their place, hath preserved unto us the appointed weeks of harvest, hath caused the earth to yield her increase, and hath crowned the year with thy goodness. O God, thou hast not suffered the hopes of the husbandmen to fail; continue then, I beseech thee, to bless us with the bounties of thy providence. May the earth be enriched with the rain of heaven; may grass grow for the cattle, and herbs and fruits for the service and sustenance of man; may our pastures be clothed with flocks, our valleys covered with corn, and the year crowned with thy goodness; and may *we* so improve the various blessings of thy providence, by a sober, temperate, and charitable enjoyment of them; and so bring forth the

fruits of holiness all the days of our life, as to be prepared for the unchangeable felicities of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*For a due Improvement of Time.*

**BLESSED** Lord, I adore thine infinite mercy, which hath not cut me off in the midst of my follies; I laud and magnify thy wonderful goodness, which hath hitherto spared and indulged me with a longer time for repentance. Teach me then, O God, by the daily instances of mortality, which are before mine eyes, to see how short and uncertain mine abode on earth is, and so to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom; rest satisfied with the appointments of thine unerring providence in this life; and at last attain the end of my faith, hope, and charity, even eternal salvation. May I spend the remainder of my time on earth in the faithful discharge of my duty; and live in such a manner, as I shall wish to have done, when my change approacheth, and thus be prepared to meet my God. Whatsoever my hand findeth to do, may I do it with all my might; since there is no work, nor device in the grave, whither I am hastening. Knowing that I cannot tell what a day may bring forth, but that even this very night my soul may be required of me, may I be excited to use all diligence in working the work of thee, my God, while it is day, aware that the night of death, in which no man can work, is coming, and may surprise me, heedless of its approach, and unprepared for its

arrival. Daily influenced by these considerations, may I be enabled to live the life of the righteous, that so my latter end may be like his. May I so follow the good examples of those who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, that at length I may with them be a partaker of thy heavenly kingdom. May I glorify thee on earth, and finish the work which thou hast given me to do, that at the hour of death my heart may not reproach me; but that I may be able to exclaim in the triumphant language of the Apostle, O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? And, finally, when I shall stand before thy righteous tribunal at the last day, I may hear this joyful sentence pronounced upon me, Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. Grant this, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*On the Choice of Friends, and the Duties of Friendship.*

**BLESSED** Lord and Father of us all, give me, I beseech thee, wisdom to imitate the example of Christ in the proper choice of mine acquaintance and my friends. Let me, by thy grace, choose such as are honest and virtuous, steadfast and sincere. Let my friendship be generous and faithful, and not founded on mean views of ambition, of interest, or of avarice. By the assistance of thy grace, let me know what ought to be the real end and design of true friendship. Let me learn that by thy providence it is useful for the mutual society, help, and comfort, which one friend ought to afford to another, both in

prosperity and adversity. Give me grace, O God, to remember always that no friendship is true but that which is founded on virtue. Give me grace to follow the example of the first disciples of our Lord, in loving my brother, and in becoming a fellow-labourer for the advancement of thy glory, and the welfare of mankind. And to this end, enable me by the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, so to sweeten mine own temper, and improve myself in virtue and religion, as to become worthy of connecting myself with those who do thy heavenly will. Grant this, O God, for the merits and mediation of thy Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*On the Death of Relatives or Friends.*

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, and who dost not willingly grieve the children of men, but in thy visitation rememberest mercy; teach me by thy grace to bear the loss of that dear Person whom thou hast taken away from me with patience and resignation, and to make a right use of the affliction which thy fatherly hand has laid upon me. Thou hast given, and thou hast taken away; blessed be thy holy name. Make me thankful, O Lord, for the comforts and blessings which I still enjoy, and sanctify to my soul all the sufferings which in the course of this mortal life thou shalt appoint. Let the death of friends and relations help to keep me always mindful of mine own mortality; and grant me the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that I may remember with thankfulness the

blessings which in their society I have so long enjoyed. Make me to imitate whatever in their life was acceptable in thy sight, and to avoid every thing by which they offended thee. And grant that by thy grace I may so apply my heart unto wisdom here, that I may hereafter by thy mercy be received into that everlasting kingdom, where all tears shall be wiped away from every face, and where sorrow and sighing shall be for ever done away. Hear me, O merciful Father, for the sake of thy Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*For a Preparation for Eternity.*

LORD God Almighty, who hast ordained this life as a passage to the future, by confining our conversion to the time of our pilgrimage here, and reserving for hereafter the state of punishment and reward; vouchsafe me the assistance of thy grace, who still have an opportunity of reconciliation to thee, that I may so watch over all mine actions, and correct every deviation in my way to heaven, as neither to be surprised with my sins uncanceled, nor called away with my duties unperformed; but that, when my body descendeth to the grave, my soul may ascend to thee, and dwell for ever in those mansions of eternal felicity, which are prepared for all thy faithful servants, through the merits of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

*On the Last Judgment.*

**O** Lord Jesus Christ, thou most worthy Judge eternal, fit and prepare me, I beseech thee, for the last great day, the awful period of account. Make me so effectually to think on it at present, that I may not dread its terrors hereafter, but be justified by thy sentence, and clear when I am judged. Dispose my heart to pass that true judgment on its state and condition in this world, which thou wilt be graciously pleased to pass on it in that which is to come; and if my conscience should condemn me, grant that I may escape that condemnation by a speedy and effectual repentance, and always live in this world as if I heard that awful and tremendous summons sounded in mine ears, Arise ye dead, and come to judgment. Quicken me, O Lord, that I may daily prepare for this important period, expect it with hope, meet it with humble assurance, and at length, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mine only Advocate and Saviour, rise from this world of misery to a paradise of endless bliss, where I shall live for ever in the presence of God, and where I shall for ever praise him to all eternity. Grant this, O Lord, for the merits, and through the mediation of thy Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*The Husband's Prayer.*

**BLESSED** Lord, who, in the days of primeval innocence, didst appoint and ordain the sacred union of marriage, knowing that it was not meet for man to be alone; accept my humble thanks for having given me a partner in this the nearest

of all relations; and grant that it may be our mutual study to praise and magnify thee, as the Author of all our pleasures, benefits and consolations. Enable me at all times, and on all occasions, to conduct myself as becometh an affectionate husband, and a sincere christian; and may I always consult the present and eternal welfare of her whom thou hast given me, considering; and consequently cherishing, her as mine own flesh. May I never be bitter against her, or insult over her as an inferior; but may I patiently bear with all her infirmities, comply with all her reasonable desires, and treat her as a yoke-fellow and companion, beloved in the Lord. Give unto her, O God, such gracious comforts, as thy wisdom may see proper to dispense; and grant that it may be her grand and chief desire to attain the riches of thy grace, and that meek and quiet spirit which is expressly said to be of great price. May she propose to herself the immaculate Redeemer as the pattern and rule of her conduct; and by the influence of thy Holy Spirit may she be made wise in all those things which pertain to eternal salvation. And grant that, during our pilgrimage here below, we may be lovers of each other's souls, and mutually zealous in every good word and work; that so, when we arrive at that blissful place where there is neither marrying, nor giving in marriage, we may still continue to sing thy praises, and to ascribe eternal honour to him who hath redeemed us by the sacrifice of himself. Grant this, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*The Wife's Prayer.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, whose overruling providence hath ordained that I should be united to thy servant in the bands of wedlock, and in whose sacred presence I pledged my nuptial vows, be graciously pleased to continue thy goodness, and to bestow upon me the spirit of grace and heavenly wisdom, that I may demean myself prudently and consistently in the character which I now sustain; and that in loving, reverencing, and obeying my husband, I may obtain favour in thy sight. May I, on every occasion, consult the happiness and interest of the dear partner of mine affection; may I, by the guidance of thy Holy Spirit, keep myself humble and modest, faithful and constant, mild and patient, careful and diligent; remembering that I am not only called to share the pleasures and comforts, but also the trials and crosses of the married state; and that it will be my highest privilege to sweeten the afflictions of life, by showing myself a follower of wise and of godly matrons. And if at any time occasions of offence should arise, may I be enabled, either by submissive silence, or by soft and endearing words, to quench the flame of strife, and to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace; and when harmony and happiness prevail, teach me to look up to thee, as the Author of every mercy, and be abundantly thankful. Bless my husband, O Lord, with the choicest of thy benedictions, and preserve him from all evil, that he may walk with pleasure in the way of thy commandments, and adorn the doctrine of his Redeemer in all things. And as

we are one flesh by our union, so make us of one heart, and of one spirit, that we may at all times be helps meet for each other, and that we may dwell together, as joint heirs of the grace of eternal life. And as thou didst send thy blessings upon Abraham and Sarah, to their great comfort, so vouchsafe to shower down thy blessings upon us, that we, always obeying thy will, and being in continual safety under thy protection, may abide in thy favour in this world, and glorify thee together in the world to come, through the infinite mercies and merits of thy dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*The Parent's Prayer.*

O Almighty God, and heavenly Father, of whom the whole family, in heaven and on earth, is named, make me, I beseech thee, a kind and tender parent, truly careful and solicitous to promote the welfare and happiness of my children. Let thy Holy Spirit assist me to form in their tender minds the principles of virtue and religion, to teach them to remember thee their Creator, in the days of their youth, to instruct them in thy fear and love, and to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Let me make it my constant care and endeavour to wean them from all pride and vanity, and to set before their eyes the example of a holy and religious life. Let the powerful efficacy of thy Holy Spirit root out of their hearts all corrupt and sinful affections; and instead thereof do thou sow the incorruptible seed of thy grace, that they may become partakers of thy divine nature, and may

bring forth in their lives and actions the fruits of righteousness and true holiness. Defend them, O Lord, against the evils and temptations of this world; and grant that they may never be led away by its wicked customs and examples, its impious lusts and vanities; but obediently keeping thy holy will and commandments, and walking in the same all the days of their lives, they may prove the instruments of thy glory, by doing good in their generations; and after they have served thee faithfully in this world, may hereafter be made partakers of everlasting happiness in that which is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For Parents.*

**O** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and on earth is named, and who hast commanded us to honour our father and our mother next unto thee; I give thee humble thanks, that thou didst of thy gracious providence vouchsafe me to be born of christian parents, by whose care I was first brought unto thy holy baptism, and afterwards instructed in thy holy religion. Recompense them, I beseech thee, their full reward, even out of the riches of thy heavenly goodness. Give me grace so to love and to honour, to fear and to obey, to help and to pray for them, as in thy holy word thou hast charged and directed me. Give them, I beseech thee, the blessings of peace and plenty; defend them from all dangers both of body and soul; keep them in the steadfastness of thy faith, and in the obedience of thy

holy commands; that so, after many days spent here on earth in peace and happiness, they may at length be admitted into thy heavenly kingdom, to join the society of angels and archangels, and the spirits of just men made perfect; and that thou, seeing mine unfeigned heart and reverence towards them in this life, may grant me that blessing which thou hast been graciously pleased to promise to all those that honour their parents; mayest become my heavenly Father, and number me amongst those thy dutiful and obedient children, who are heirs of thy glorious kingdom, through the merits of thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*In Youth.*

**BLESSED** Lord, accept my sincere and hearty thanks for all the mercies which I have experienced at thy hands; for my various powers of reflection, action, and enjoyment; and for every instance of thy fatherly care, from the time I first drew my breath to this present moment of my life. O God, my blessings are more than I can number, and infinitely more than I deserve; let not the commonness of them render me insensible of their value, or of mine obligations to thee, mine unwearied Benefactor. Above all accept the grateful acknowledgment of my heart for the spiritual blessings which I enjoy as a disciple of Jesus Christ; and I beseech thee to grant me thine assistance, that I may walk in all respects worthy of the high and holy vocation wherewith I am called. Pardon all the errors and offences of my past life, and preserve

me from similar errors and faults for the future. In the hour of temptation, may I be preserved from falling by the consideration of thine omnipresence. May I consider how much the happiness or misery of my friends depends upon my good or bad conduct. To my parents and instructors may I manifest my gratitude and love, by being all which they can desire. To my relations and friends may I be kind and affectionate, and to all courteous and obliging; and may I never by a harsh, an inconsiderate, or an unfeeling action, interrupt the comfort of an individual, or disturb the quiet and order of society. May I regard my time, and all the opportunities of usefulness afforded me, as talents for which I must give a solemn account. May I be prudent and circumspect, sincere and faithful, and in all cases of evident duty, firm, independent, and decided. May I never remove mine integrity from me, that my heart may not reproach me as long as I live. May I so receive instruction, so improve mine advantages, so increase the happiness of all with whom I am connected and so walk with thee in this life, that I may repose under thy protection, until that glorious day shall arrive, when I shall awake in thy likeness, and be received into the realms of endless life and perfect happiness. These requests I humbly offer up in the name, and as the disciple of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*For the Aged.*

**E**TERNAL God, the Lord of life and glory, I beseech thee to look graciously upon thine un-

worthy servant, whose hope is only in thine infinite mercy; that mercy, by which my life has been prolonged to old age, and which alone is able to make me eternally blessed. I thank thee for thine inconceivable love in the Lord Jesus Christ, who hath given me such a solid and steadfast ground of hope to support and strengthen my heart, when all the comforts of this life begin to fail; and praise and magnify thy bountiful goodness for those innumerable blessings which, from time to time, thou hast bestowed upon me from the beginning of my life, even unto this day. Help me, O my God, always to solace myself, now the days are come wherein I can have no pleasure, with a perpetual remembrance of all thy past loving kindnesses, and with those hopes which I have of thine endless love in another and a better world. And the more mine outward senses decay, vouchsafe the quicker and more lively sense of those good things, which thou hast reserved for those that have loved and obeyed thee. Preserve me from all discontented thoughts and peevish passions; make me an example unto others of holiness, discretion, temperance, gravity, peaceableness, and patience, that I may with more authority be a teacher of good things, and that my hoary head may be a crown of glory, being found in the ways of righteousness. Pardon me, O Lord, that I have made no better improvement of my time, and experience for furnishing my mind with this wisdom and with those virtues. Pardon all my negligences and offences, and fill my heart with a full sense of thy pardoning mercy through Christ Jesus; that having no other bur-

den but that of age to oppress my spirit, I may rejoice in thee as long as I live; and at last lay myself down to rest in peace, and return my soul with cheerfulness unto thee, whenever thou callest for it, in sure and certain hope of the resurrection from the dead, and of that glory, honour, and immortality, which thou hast graciously promised to all thy faithful servants, by thy Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*For the Ministers of God's Word and Sacraments.*

**L**ORD God Almighty, who didst send thy Son into the world to take upon himself the office and character of a teacher, and to reveal the glorious truths of his Gospel to the sons of men; give thy grace, we beseech thee, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may be enabled truly to preach thy word; faithfully to dispense thy mysteries; and rightly and duly to administer thy holy sacraments. Enable them to discharge the high and important trust committed to their care with diligence and fidelity. Let utterance be given them, that they may open their mouths boldly to make known the mystery of the everlasting Gospel, not preaching themselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and giving to each of thy disciples committed to their charge, their portion of meat in due season. Open their understanding, that they may comprehend and rightly divide the word of truth; and be enabled so to reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine, that they may win many souls unto Christ, and be watchful over them as

men that must render a strict and faithful account of their charge at the bar of Almighty God. Enable them, in their life and conversation, to show themselves a pattern of good works, and to display both in doctrine and in practice uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, and soundness of speech, which cannot be condemned. And grant them such a supply of patience, firmness, and christian fortitude, as may enable them to withstand all the opposition which they may be called upon to encounter in the discharge of their evangelical duties; and when all their work is done on earth, and the appointed number of their days fulfilled, remove them, I beseech thee, to the church triumphant in heaven, where, with thy prophets, apostles, and martyrs, they may ascribe eternal praise unto thee, through the merits and mediation of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*For Magistrates.*

**G**RACIOUS God, who art justly and emphatically styled the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and the only Ruler of princes; and who art pleased to govern the sons of men by the instrumentality of their fellow-creatures; grant that it may be the constant study of all that are in authority, to walk acceptable before thee, in all wisdom and holiness, truth and sincerity; striving to excel in every thing that is excellent, amiable, and praise-worthy. Preserve in them a spirit of humility, that they may never forget themselves in their station, or refuse to listen to the complaint of the poor; but that, without re-



spect of persons, they may in all cases judge with impartiality, and embrace every opportunity of succouring the injured and oppressed; of assisting the needy; and espousing the cause of those who have no helper. May they ever remember the great responsibility attached to their office, and so discharge their trust on earth, that they may give a good account of it before the judgment seat of Christ, when the thoughts of all hearts shall be made manifest, and every secret act shall be revealed. And since the eyes of all men are upon them, and their example is more influential than that of private characters, may they be the more vigilant in the discharge of every moral and religious duty, and more watchful over their conduct and conversation, that they may put to silence the tongues of wicked men. Fill their hearts with the most fervent affection for thy church and people; that they may zealously countenance and encourage all who live godly in Christ Jesus; while the dissolute and abandoned, perceiving that they bear not the sword in vain, may forsake their evil practices, and learn to do well. And grant, that they may truly and impartially minister justice to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue; that so, after this life is ended, they may appear with comfort before their divine Judge, and be welcomed to the heavenly mansions with these gracious expressions of acceptance—Well done, good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of your Lord. Grant this, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast expressly declared that he who giveth unto the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that what he thus layeth out, shall be paid him again; I beseech thee to be gracious and merciful unto all those friends and benefactors for whom I am bound to pray. Of thine especial favour remember and reward all those who have brought me up, and extended to me the blessings of instruction, assistance promotion, or relief. Bless them with every blessing who have done good either to my body by temporal benefits, or to my soul by profitable instruction. Prosper them in all their doings, that in their kind and godly disposition they may have always wherewith to relieve and to comfort others. Give them the consolation of thy Holy Spirit, of a true faith and of a good conscience. And as they have showed mercy unto me, and comforted me, so do thou, O God, help and comfort them in all their distresses, that both they and their families may experience thy gracious assistance in their several estates and conditions here, and find mercy with thy Son our Saviour, at the great, the latter day. Vouchsafe me the assistance of thy grace, that I may not be guilty of any ingratitude, but be always ready and willing, according to mine ability, to recompense them if they should need. Let not that which they have bestowed upon me be cast away; but make it fruitful unto every good work. Grant this, O thou God, who doest good both to the just and to the un-

just, for Jesus Christ's sake, mine only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

*A Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer.*

**BLESSED** Lord, our most gracious Father, who dwellest in the light which no man can approach unto, and yet condescendest to hearken to the prayers of all the children of men; let the adorable perfections of thy nature be every where devoutly revered and glorified. Let thy kingdom of truth and righteousness prevail to the full establishment of the gospel of Christ. Let thy holy will be obeyed with sincerity and truth by men on earth, as it is by the blessed angels in heaven. Give us, I beseech thee, day by day those things which are needful for our daily support, in that state of life to which it hath pleased thee to call us. And of thy mercy forgive us our manifold transgressions and offences, in like manner as we are ready from our hearts to forgive every one who hath offended us. Suffer us not to be overcome by temptations, but deliver us from the power of Satan, and the deceitfulness and corruption of sin. For thy kingdom ruleth over all things; thou art the sovereign Disposer of all events; and to thee alone are due all glory, worship, and praise throughout all ages, for ever and for ever. So be it, O gracious Father, not according to our poor and weak understandings, but according to the true meaning of this full and most perfect form of prayer, which thy Son himself hath condescended to teach us. *Amen.*

MORNING PRAYER.

**ETERNAL** God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, the Giver of all spiritual grace, and the Author of everlasting life; I, thine unworthy servant, bow down before thee this day under a deep sense of thy goodness, and with a full confidence in thy providence. I give thee thanks that thou hast protected me in the hours of darkness; that thou hast brought me safe to the light of another day; and refreshed me during the past night with quiet rest, and undisturbed repose. O thou, who knowest all mine actions, who art acquainted even with my most hidden motives, and who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, I acknowledge before thee mine errors and transgressions, and humbly and earnestly implore thy gracious pardon. Forgive me, O God of mercy, my secret faults, and my presumptuous sins. Remember not against me my disregard of thy presence, thine inspection, and thine authority. Create a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me; and enable me to walk with steadfastness in the way of thy commandments. With the return of this day, may I return with cheerfulness and satisfaction to my station and employments: and not knowing in this changing scene what I may be called to do, or what to suffer, I commit myself to thy protection, and earnestly implore thy favour, thine assistance, and thy blessing. Lay not upon me more than I am able to bear; but under every evil, grant me support, and under every