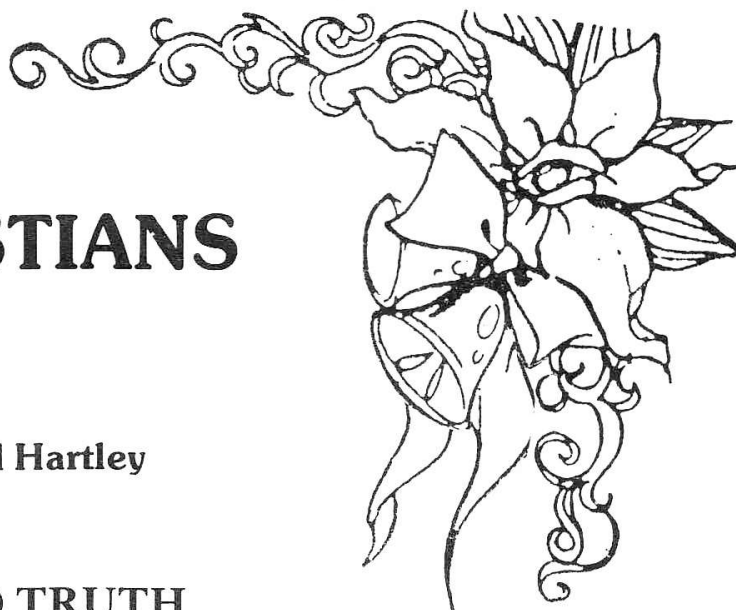


PRAYERS FOR MODERN CHRISTIANS



translated from French by Edmund Hartley

YOU WHO ARE LIGHT AND TRUTH

Holy Spirit, You who are light,
Deliver us from the gloom of sin.
Illuminate our path each day.
Help us to discern the Father's will,
And to observe it throughout our lives.

Holy Spirit, You who are Joy,
Rid our hearts of all sadness.
Permeate us with your joy,
The real joy of knowing that we are God's children,
Children well-loved in spite of our many miseries.
May our whole life sing of the marvels of God!

Holy Spirit, You who are Goodness, Love and Benevolence,
Come and open our eyes and our hearts.
Teach us to see the needs of our brothers,
To listen to their supplications and to respond generously,
So that we may love one another as Jesus has loved us!

Holy Spirit, You who are Truth,
Lead us to that "all pervading truth."
Let the word of God penetrate our hearts.
Teach us to pray.
Illuminate and strengthen our Faith.
Make us faithful witnesses in your church.
You who come to the aid of our weakness,
Come, Holy Spirit!

I AM POOR AND NEEDY

O my God, you are always there,
You are with me, and you are in me,
Make of this evening's hours a long spiritual communion;
Teach me to give myself to you,
To receive you within me and to offer you the poor dwelling of my soul.
I am poor and needy,
Give me the love which only you can bestow upon me.

-- Charles de Foucauld --



SHORT PRAYERS

Lord, extend a helping hand to me, but keep me in awe of you.
Lord, in all my trials, give me patience and discernment.
Lord, free me from ignorance, anger and unkindness.
Lord, deliver me from hardness of heart.
Lord, send me your grace to help me to glorify your name.
Lord of heaven and earth,
In your kingdom be mindful of your servant, a poor sinner.
Lord, in my repentance receive me.
Lord, do not abandon me.
Lord, give me wisdom and humility.
Lord, give me patience and gentleness.
Lord, make me worthy to love you.

Lord, may your will be done in me, a sinner,
Because you are blessed from age to age.
Lord, preserve me from the grasp of passion and pleasure.
Lord, deliver me from all compromise.
Lord, rid me of forgetfulness and insensitivity.
Lord, free me from all covetousness.
Lord, permit my heart to receive the dew of your grace. Amen.

-- Orthodox tradition --

MOTHER OF SALVATION

Mother of Salvation, Sovereign Queen,
You who are radiant with such great holiness,
You who are so powerful and so good,
You who have given birth to Life,
You who are the Temple of Kindness,
I offer you my heart, a heart lacerated with defects.
O Mother, please cure it through the power of your merits
And the power of your prayers.

O Sweet Lady, my soul has become like a stranger to itself.
I greatly desire to confess my sins to you, Dear Lady,
So that you can cure me of them.

You, all powerful and yet all tender,
From you came forth the Source of Mercy;
In the face of my profound misery,
I beseech you to exercise mercy.

If I confess my sin to you,
Will you refuse me your benevolence?
If my grief is more than necessary,
Will your mercy be any less?

O most merciful Lady,
Pray and beseech your Son for me.
Ask and obtain for me everything that I need.
I place all my hope in you.

-- St. Anselm --

BEFORE FALLING ASLEEP

We thank you, O God, through your Son Jesus Christ.
We have completed this day and arrived at the edge of night.
We have been filled with the light of day,
Which you created for our happiness.
And now that twilight has come,
We sing of your holiness and your glory,
Through your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

-- Early Christian Prayer --

LORD, YOU CALL US

You call us, Lord, "Come, follow me."
You address yourself to each one of us, but we are afraid.
You send us to the market place, but we respond by locking our doors.
You urge us to take to the high seas,
But we tie up our boats in the harbour.

May the wind of your Spirit blow
To reawaken in us both the courage to cut ourselves adrift
And the joy of running free.
Free us from a fear that paralyzes.
Help us to depart from roads familiar to us,
To risk discovering new routes having no guarantees.
Clothe us with your freedom,
So that our "yes" may be yes, and our "no" no.
Arouse us from our lethargy;
Let us not fall into the sleep of indifference.
Open our ears to the cry of our sisters and brothers;
Give us a hunger and thirst for justice.

Transform us into adventurers of Love.
Inflame our hearts with the fire of your boldness,
So that together we can lift ourselves up and become your people,
A community of men and women
Who have freely chosen to follow you wherever you go.

PRAYER BY THE CRADLE

Thank you, Lord, for our little child.
You have entrusted him to us, and we in turn commit him to you.
Teach us, Lord to open his eyes to all that is beautiful,
His spirit to all that is true,
And his heart to all that is good.
Instruct us how to love him, and teach him to comprehend what love is.
Hand in hand, we will walk the path of your love together.



COME, HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit; Come, Father of the Poor
Come, Generous Spirit; Come, Light of our hearts.
Heaven bursts with the brightness of your splendor.

Perfect Counselor, wonderful freshness,
You make Peace dwell in our hearts.
In pain, you provide rest;
In our trials, you are our strength;
In sadness, you are our consolation.

O kindly Light,
Penetrate the secret corners of our hearts,
For we are your faithful people.
Beyond your presence, there is nothing in us,
Nothing that is pure.
Wash away our sins, flood our aridity,
Heal our wounds, soften our hardness,
Inflame our tepidity, and correct our disorders.
Heaven bursts with the brightness of your splendor.
Provide all your gifts to those who confide in you
And receive you in faith;
Help them to grow spiritually in you and to persevere in holiness;
And give them the joy which endures. Alleluia!

-- Taizé --

O MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACES

Before you, O well-loved Chosen One of God,
Allow me, a poor sinner, to lay bare my soul.
Mother of all Grace, happily for us
No one needs an intermediary in order to come to you.
The more a heart rejects its sin,
The more it seems it ought to seek access to you.

So may you, the one and only consolation for my sinful heart,
Be my gracious mediatrix,
And reconcile me with eternal Wisdom.

-- Henri Suso (14th Century) --

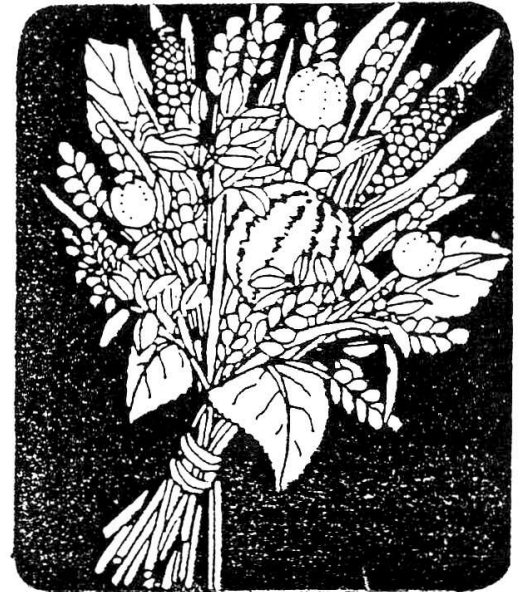


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GIVE US COURAGE EACH DAY

In our daily circumstances,
 Give us courage to take a stand in accordance with our faith,
 That we do not put under a bushel our devotion to Christ.
 We ask you to do this, Lord, even if it means mockery or rejection.

Give us the courage to open our eyes to the injustices
 Which are caused by money,
 Power or the procrastination of administrators.
 Give us the courage to resolve these injustices
 In a manner befitting our faith.
 We ask you to do this, Lord,
 Even if it means disturbing our tranquility.

Give us the courage to actively participate in the church community
 To which we belong,
 So that she will become the place where our life,
 With all its conflicts and quests,
 Will find itself enlightened by our faith.
 We ask this of you, Lord.

Do not let us rest, Lord,
 Rather let our faith stamp its requirements
 On the whole of our lives.
 We beseech you to help us be believers
 In the practical matters of each day.

-- Charles Singer --





THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Blessed are you, Father, for sending your Son
To accompany me on the way and to carry the burden of all my sins.
He it is who travels friendly roads with me,
And who joins in my songs of freedom.
Send me, Lord, your Spirit of Light.
Teach me to walk under a sliver of the moon
As if I were walking in full sunlight.
Teach me to concentrate on what is before me,
And not confuse the things of yesterday
With what will be tomorrow.

Teach me to create with you something new each day,
And not to gather withered flowers.
Send your spirit of strength upon me, Lord,
That my arms heavy with defeat may regain their youthful vigor,
In order to plant a thousand bushes in a new world.
May my perspiration mix with yours in Gethsemane,
And may my blood flow with yours of Golgotha,
To moisten a land dry with injustice and unselfishness.
Bless you, Father, for leading me on the road to Emmaus.
There in the fervor of the breaking of the bread is found
The face of the Resurrection flooded with Peace and with Joy.

-- Cardinal Etchegaray --

FOR STRANGERS

Lord, you have asked us to treat the stranger who passes our way
As one of us and to consider him as a neighbor.
Therefore, we pray for all the foreigners who live in our country;
For refugees and exiles;
For all those among us who are looking for a home and a job;
And for all foreign students too.
Teach us to welcome them and to love them.

-- Liturgy of the Reformed Church --

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

All powerful and eternal God, through the Merits of Jesus Christ and because of Your Great pleasure in His unlimited compassion for All men, we implore You to have mercy on all Priests.

Most kind God, bear in mind that those chosen By Your Son to be His priests are weak and Imperfect creatures of Your hand. We beg You To keep the flame of love burning in their Hearts; let not the evil one overcome them, Nor lead them even for a moment to dishonour Your Holy Name, but preserve them in Your Loving care.

Jesus! I pray now for all priests: for those Who are loyal to You and continuously proclaim Your glory; for those who have become Indifferent or have fallen away; for those who Minister to Your people; for those in the Midst of temptation; for those detained in Prisons; for those who feel abandoned and Deprived of all consolation; for those who are Ill and near death; and for those who have Died in the hope of seeing Your glory.

Jesus! I entrust into Your loving care those Priests who have touched my own life: he who Baptized and confirmed me, those who have Forgiven my sins, offered Mass for my Salvation and fed me with Your Most Holy Body And Blood. I now commit to Your care those Who have nourished me by Your Word, instructed Me in Your way, supported me, protected me, And comforted me in the midst of my distress And anxiety. Repay their kindness, O Jesus; Keep them safe in the sanctuary of Your Most Sacred Heart, and in Your compassion be with Them throughout their lives and at the moment Of their death. Amen.

-- A Catholic in Mainland China --

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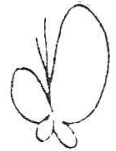
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THE ROOT OF TRUE HAPPINESS

Lord, I give you thanks!
I would love to be able to walk and to run,
But my legs do not respond anymore!
I would love to be able to sew, embroider and cook,
But my hands and fingers are deformed.
I would love to read, to admire nature and all that surrounds me,
But my eyes have grown dim!
I would love to grow old with my spouse,
And with my children in good health and successful in life,
But I have a son who resides in a special home for the handicapped!

However, I give you thanks, Lord,
Because during the course of each day
You help me to discover the roots of true happiness!
You help me to recognize the value of a life that is in slow motion!
You give me time to meet you, time to meet one another!
You show me that there is a strength of heart
Which is greater than strength of muscles,
An agility of spirit greater than the strength in my legs,
And a power to love stronger than achievement in sports!
Lord! You do not love sickness, but you love the sick so much!
You do not send burdens, but you give the power of life!
I know that through Jesus, who is total love,
Our sufferings save the world from selfishness and evil.

-- Catholic Fraternity of the Sick --

