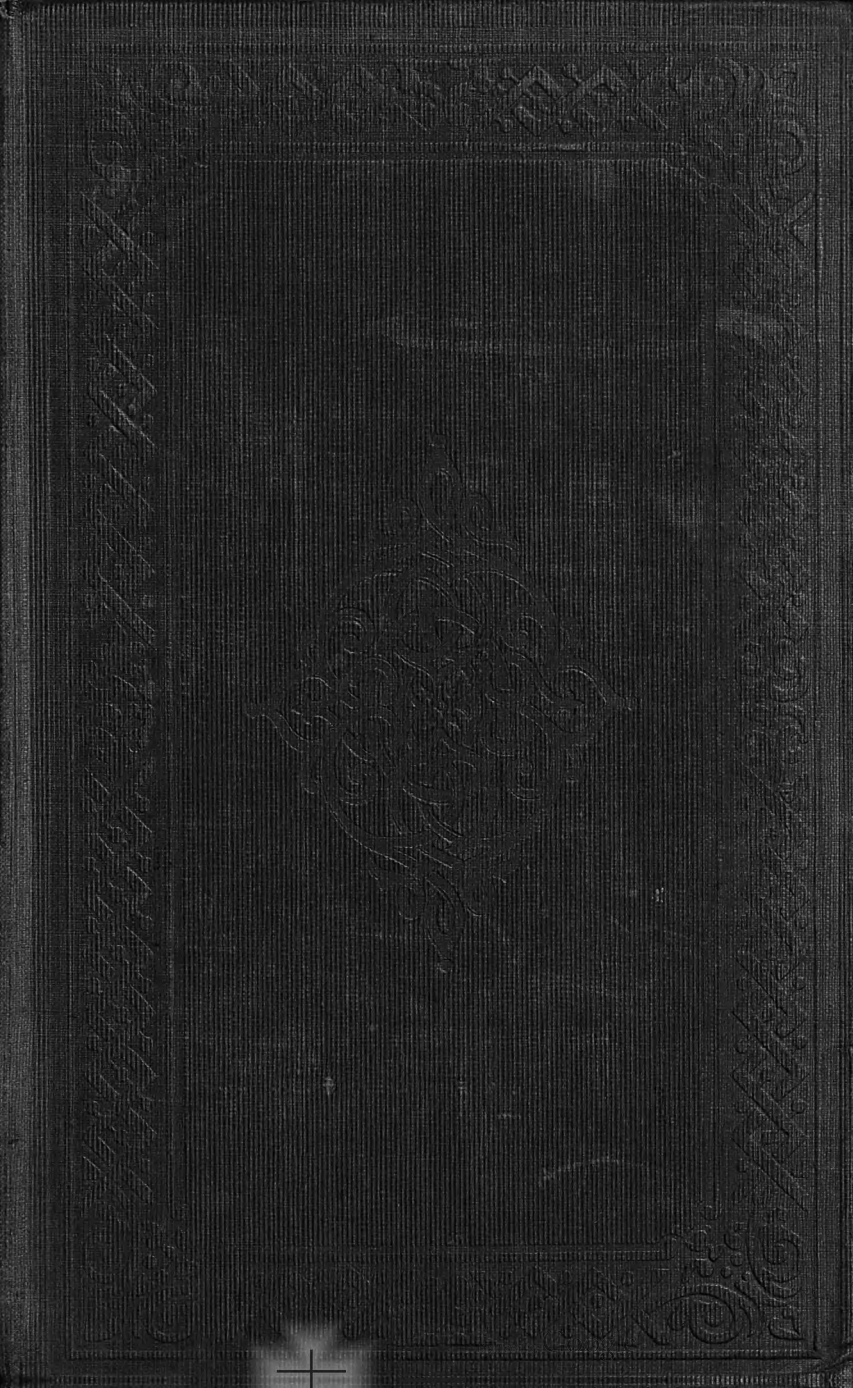

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FAMILY PRAYERS

COMPOSED FROM

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

BY A

L A Y M A N.

EDITED BY

G. W. LEWIS, M.A.

VICAR OF CRICH, DERBYSHIRE.

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P R E F A C E

BY THE EDITOR.

IN the publication of this volume, no idea is cherished that a void in the field of religious literature remained to be cultivated; no pretensions are advanced that to such cultivation, were it needed, the present effort would, in the slightest degree, avail. The aim of the author is far less aspiring. In the engrossing occupations of a commercial life, and amid the din and tumult of a world, in which it pleased God to allot him a portion encompassed with toil and vicissitude, though not with-

out prosperity, he found in the strains of the sweet singer of Israel unfailing solace and strength. He experienced, too, a delight in writing down some grateful and devotional thoughts, while thus engaged; and in restricting them as much as possible to the text of the psalmist, he has adopted a paraphrastic form throughout the whole prayers.

It is trusted that no doctrinal error has escaped their careful revision by himself and the editor—his single and fixed aim having been to extol those glorious truths of redeeming love, of which the Book of Psalms is so often and variously typical. To the charge of imperfect expression or defective application, his little work is, doubtless, liable: and he is but too sensible that he has said nothing new—nothing that has not been already better said by others more conversant with the sources of Biblical learning, and more practised in the style of didactic Theology. It is but as a mite thrown into the treasury of sin-

cere, though inferior offerings, ~~that~~ he ventures to carry his book through the press,—his highest hope being that the gracious Author of all good will deign so far to vouchsafe it his blessing as to enable it to suggest useful or consolatory views of religion to some fellow-pilgrim journeying over the chequered road of life.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS humble Manual owes its origin to Meditations not unlike those which have often refreshed and comforted the Believer's mind, when dwelling on the beauties of the book of Psalms.

As the effort of a Layman, unused to authorship, though aided by valuable Commentaries, its perusal requires the indulgent consideration of any learned, experienced, or discerning individual into whose hands it may happen to fall.

It is submitted to the public, in the earnest hope that, as the production of a

few moments, frequently seized at the commencement and close of the day during an active and anxious life, it may suggest somewhat, however little, tending to encouragement or happiness in others. Ample will be the Author's reward if, through his instrumentality, any reader similarly engaged in life's career be led to improve on the present volume, and to seek in the same inexhaustible mine for the same certain spiritual treasure.

OUR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come ; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven : Give us this day our daily bread ; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us ; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

PRAYERS.

PSALM I.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who seest not only the ways, but the inmost thoughts of men, suffer us not to walk with the wicked and ungodly, nor dwell with scoffers at religion. Incline us to read thy holy word day by day, and to meditate on it every night. Let it take root in our hearts, that we may be as a tree planted by the water side, and that, under the blessed influence of thy Holy Spirit, we may prosper in whatsoever we do in accordance with thy will. Leave us not to be like the ungodly, who are scattered like chaff from the face of the earth. Prevent us by thy grace from falling like them, lest we perish in the day of judgment. Of thy great mercy keep us in

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the way of the righteous; and so continually strengthen, enlighten, and prepare us in our pilgrimage here on earth, that we may gain an eternal and heavenly rest, through the merits and mediation of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM II.

ALMIGHTY God, who rulest over all the nations of the earth, King of kings and Lord of lords, we would deplore the fury and rage of the heathen, and of our own unruly hearts. We would grieve that kings and rulers combine together against thee and thine Anointed, since they and all people shall be laughed to scorn and derision who will not set Christ upon his holy hill to rule over every affection and desire of their souls.

Oh! deign to receive our prayer, that we and all, to the utmost parts of the earth, may be his possession. Let us serve

the Lord with fear, and approach him with reverential gladness. May he in mercy deign to reconcile us to himself. May we not kindle his wrath against us. May we put our whole trust in him for every temporal, for every spiritual good; then shall we be blessed in time, and throughout eternity, for the sake of our adorable Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM III.

ALMIGHTY God, the protector of all who make thee their refuge and stay, in thee alone do we put our trust. Enemies active and powerful trouble us on every side; the envious hate us for confiding in our God; and when distress comes upon us they exclaim, "Wilt thou deliver us?" Yes! Lord, thou only art our defence and our shield. On thee rest all our hopes here and hereafter. Thou wilt deliver us from every trouble, if we seek thee with

our whole heart. Thou in thy great mercy hast hitherto heard us whenever we cried unto thee. We have laid down and slept and risen again, sustained and supported by thee.

In tranquillity and without fear should we have reposed, though thousands of men and thousands of ills had been set up against us. Thou smitest and puttest down all the ungodly, for salvation is in the Lord alone. Let thy blessing continue upon us, and graciously extend it to all that call themselves thy people, depending upon thy power and worshipping thee in spirit and in truth, through the mediation of our blessed Redeemer, by whose all-availing merits it is our faith and assured hope to rise again from the grave to a glorious and blessed immortality. Amen.

PSLLM IV.

O God, the Author and Source of all our righteousness, who hast always succoured us in our distress, continue to have mercy upon us and hear our prayers, not for our own 'merits but for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus. Remove far from us all pleasure in vanity and falsehood. Grant that we may not delight in the things of this world, neglect thy worship, or despise thy kingdom.

Lord, as thou choosest the man that is godly, be pleased to set us apart for thyself, who hast taught us that, when we call upon thee, thou wilt hear us and purify us a peculiar people, by the operations of thy providence and grace. May there ever be retained in us a profound sense of thy awful presence, that we may not dare to sin. May we commune with and examine our hearts in the retirement of our chamber, offering the sacrifice of a holy life, and

trusting in our only and all-sufficient Mediator. Happier than the most prosperous of those who offend against thee, may we lie down and rise up in peace and confidence. Let the light of thy countenance shine upon us as the Sun of Righteousness, that we may rejoice in thee all the days of our life. Cause us to dwell in safety here, and hereafter in endless bliss, through the merits of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM V. 1—6.

O THOU Searcher of the heart, give ear to the petitions which, after serious meditation, we present unto thee our King and our God. Our thoughts, desires, fears and sorrows are all relieved by pouring out our souls before thee. Early in the morning shalt thou hear our voice, O Lord, that, though at an immeasurable distance, we may imitate Him, who arose a great

while before day and departed into a solitary place and there prayed. As thou hast taught us that our first and best employment is prayer, when thou hast refreshed us with sleep, and before our minds are again filled with the cares and pleasures of this world, prepare us with renewed supplies of grace, that we may be armed against the dangers and temptations of the day.

Unto thee, O God, do we look up, and, for thy glory, comfort us in all our sorrows and sufferings. If thou art pleased to vouchsafe what we ask, let us be grateful; if our prayers be denied, grant us patience that we may wait and faint not. Though in thy great compassion thou hast pity on sinners, as we know ourselves to be, yet hast thou no pleasure in iniquity; nor can we hope to walk, or dwell, or commune with thee while sin reigns in our hearts, in opposition to thine infinite purity and holiness. Suffer us not to be insincere in the intercourse of life, nor attempt to deceive thee to our endless ruin. Create in the inmost recesses of our hearts peniten-

tial confessions to thee, and a pure and single trust, for our final acceptance, in the merits of our only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM V. ver. 7, to the end.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, enable us to approach thee, trusting in the multitude of thy mercies. When we go into thy holy temple, when we worship thee in family prayer, or when we offer up our vows to thee in private, we would come before thee in thy fear, confiding in thy great mercy to us sinners, through our all-glorious Saviour.

Lead us, O Lord, in thy righteousness, and in the way of our duty. Thou wilt destroy all enemies that war against thee—the ungodly, the deceitful, and faithless. With all that put their trust in thee, we would love and magnify thy holy name, and evermore rejoice in thee. Remem-

bering that thou wilt bless the righteous, we entreat thee to bestow on us thy power and grace, that we may lead a life of dependence on thee, and be compassed with thy favour as with a shield. Finally suffer not our sins, our troubles, or our temptations, to silence our praises and rejoicings in thee. We ask all in the name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM VI.

O MERCIFUL God, though we deserve to be punished as guilty sinners, yet rebuke us not in thy indignation, neither chasten us in thy heavy displeasure. Have pity on us, Lord, for we are weak and helpless. Deliver our bodies from pain and sickness, and our souls from infirmities, sorrow, and sin. Turn unto us in mercy and spare us. Let not death come upon us before we have proclaimed thy glorious acts. Let us

remember and magnify thy name till we go down into the silent grave.

O God, come to our aid when we groan with pain and pass our nights in tears, when our strength decays, when our bodily and spiritual enemies wear us away. We will shun all that work vanity and deceit, for thou, Lord, hast heard the voice of our weeping. Continue to hearken to our petition, O Lord, and to receive our prayers. Turn our sorrow into joy, and send a gracious answer to us. Leave us not to perish hereafter, but give us some token of thy pardoning love, that we may live on earth remembering and giving thanks to thee; and oh! at the resurrection of the body from the grave, grant us to enjoy thy favour and celebrate thy praises for ever, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM VII.

O LORD, our Rock and Refuge, in thee have we put our trust; save us from all that persecute us, from all the ills by which we are surrounded, and deliver us out of all our troubles. Thou art our God and wilt protect us, while depending entirely upon thee; and it is thy glory to succour the helpless. O thou all-seeing One, if there be iniquity in our hands, if we have returned evil unto him that was at peace with us, then let him tread down our life upon the earth and lay our honour in the dust. We pray that sin may be brought to an end in ourselves and in all others, and that in our inmost thoughts we may be conformed to thy holy ways. Thou, O God, art a defence to the righteous, but thou hast prepared the instruments of death for the wicked. Save us, we beseech thee, out of our troubles on earth, so far as may be good for us; but specially save

us hereafter with an everlasting salvation. Graciously give us timely warning of our great dangers when we run into sin, and grant us space to repent. Let us under all our trials look to our Saviour, who, though perfect in righteousness, was reviled and slandered, and who died, praying for his very murderers. May we look to him, to his spotless example, and to his wonderful meekness, when we are in the path of tribulation, that, with an eye, singly fixed upon him, our minds may be strengthened and our hearts be comforted. May we and the whole world be filled with his truth and righteousness; and as that final judgment will shortly arrive when unbelievers and reckless sinners must perish, may we at that solemn season be numbered with his saints in glory everlasting, through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM VIII.

O LORD our Governor, how excellent is thy name in all the world ! Throughout all nations thou art worthy to be worshipped for thy wondrous works. For not only in this lower world, but thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Thou hast ordained the infant tongue to celebrate thy praises, while thou stillest the very enemy and avenger, subduing all things to the honour and glory of thy great name.

When we raise our eyes to heaven, and behold the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained—when we see thy glory shining throughout the universe in the works of thy mighty hand, we acknowledge that thou art the fountain of all being, power, and perfection, the sovereign ruler, the unfailing protector, and the bountiful benefactor of all thy creatures. With thy devoted servant David, well may we exclaim, “ What is man, that thou art mindful

of him," and that "thou madest him only lower than the angels," giving him dominion over the works of thy hands, and putting all things in subjection under his feet? Especially for the honours put upon the man Christ Jesus, thy condescension and grace call for our never-ceasing praises and thanksgivings. Oh! purify and enlarge our meditations on this great theme, that, in thy strength, they may deepen in our hearts the love of thee our gracious God. Thus honoured and exalted by the atonement and subsequent glory of our Redeemer, may we celebrate the excellencies of creation, and in a livelier strain sing the praises of him who is become our salvation, until, after a life of obedience and faith, we leave this earth for the courts and joys of heaven, through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM IX.

O LORD God, suffer us to call upon thee for strength to praise thee with all our heart, and to shew forth thy marvellous works. We do not presume to ascribe to ourselves any share of all that thou hast wrought for us, but fervently and zealously would we praise thee alone. Grant that we may also be ever active in all our other duties, rejoicing in thy power and righteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord. We are sure, O God, that thy judgment is and will be according to the truth. Take us under thy special protection, that we may flee unto thee as our refuge, and that we may depend upon thy power and promises now and ever. Receive our souls under thy care even unto the end. May we approve ourselves to thee in the whole course of our life and conversation. O God, thou wilt not, thou never didst, disown nor desert those that faithfully seek

and trust in thee. Leave us not comfortless, but finally gather us with everlasting mercies; and suffer us not to fall into that destruction which will assuredly overtake all the enemies of Christ. Oh! forget us not as poor and needy sinners, and let not our expectation perish for ever. Be thou a present help to us; enable us all to wait for thy salvation, though it may be deferred. May we know that we shall be for ever lost unless we gladly welcome our Saviour, and become his willing subjects. Grant that we may not need some sharp affliction, or severe visitation, to bring us unto him. But shouldst thou send the trial, may we be humbled in cordial submission to thy will. May experience in thy ways daily increase our knowledge and confirm our faith; that whether as saints we sing praises unto him, or as sinners we come and trust in him, we may finally in his temple above, rejoice in his salvation, and triumph in his glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM X.

O most merciful God, we look up unto thee in all our trouble. Hide not thy face from us when we are most in need of thy gracious help and deliverance. Keep from us not only the openly ungodly, crafty and covetous, but all those who care not for thee, and who regard thee not in all their thoughts. And oh ! let none of our ways be grievous in thy sight. May we not boast in our prosperity, and say in our hearts, forgetful of thy providential care, that we shall never be in adversity, that there shall no harm happen unto us. May we not deceive ourselves by even so much as imagining that thou, O God, hast forgotten, and wilt never see our deceit and fraud, nor hear our tongue while uttering ungodliness and vanity, or while reviling the poor and the innocent. Impress it on our memories, that if we stand afar off from thee by our

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unbelief and unholiness, thou wilt stand far off from us. Thy omniscience views perfectly the character of every human being. Be thou, O God, the reconciled friend of thy people through the intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we never by our sins become objects of thy righteous anger. Have patience with us, and be pitiful to our numberless iniquities. In all humility would we commit ourselves unto thee, knowing that in due time thou wilt answer our prayers if we faint not.

O God, when thou openly rebukest the wicked, grant that we, and all that are oppressed by enemies and sorrows, be as openly delivered by thee. Thou, O God, art king for ever and ever. Send thy Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, and deign to hear us for the sake of our blessed Redeemer, who now reigns over his people, and of whose dominion there shall be no end. Rescue us from temptation, and bruise our spiritual enemy, that we may reach heaven, whence alone sin and temptation will be excluded, and where all shall be complete in love, purity, and joy.

May we by faith experience a happy foretaste of the celestial life, and at last behold thy glorious majesty in the eternal kingdom, through the merits of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XI.

ALMIGHTY God and merciful Father, in thee do we repose our entire and single trust; we flee not therefore in times of danger, as a bird unto the mountain, but to thy providential care alone would we now and ever betake ourselves for safety. Grant that we may devotedly and continually serve thee, that we may live in thy faith and die in thy favour, through the influence of thy Holy Spirit, and the mediation of our blessed Redeemer. Enable us of thy mercy to remain firm in the discharge of every duty, and never to neglect the great work of our salvation. May we have that confidence and comfort in thee

which will alone survive both the hopes and fears of this fleeting scene. We would build all upon the principles of thy holy laws, the only foundation of the righteous in their varied trials and temptations. We worship thee, O Lord, in thy holy temple, and in gladdened expectation look forward to the time when we shall behold thee on thy throne in heaven. Thy all-seeing eye is now upon us, and all the children of men, trying every one according to his works. Thou knowest what we are, better and completer than the refiner the value of the gold when he has tried it. Drive us not away with the wicked, when thy wrath cometh upon them as a tempest of fire and brimstone; and if thou art pleased to afflict us with the faithful, let not our afflictions discourage our hope and entire confidence in thee. O Lord, if thou art our portion and our cup, thou wilt make us for ever happy in our choice. Let us not reject thy grace, and be made to drink the cup of thy fury. Comfort us as a tender father—enable us as dutiful children to walk in the light of the Lord, and hasten

to the cross of Christ, who is alone our hope, our treasure, and our security. May his image be reflected in us till our work be done, for thou hast in mercy taught us that we have nought to fear, O God, if we have a righteous cause, and a rejoicing conscience before thee. Thou wilt be our almighty Friend, and, faithful to thy gracious promises, wilt lead us to thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM XII.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, we come before thee to pray for thy help. Sinful ourselves, we are surrounded by ungodliness. Truth and integrity fail on all sides. Perverting thy precious gift, too many of us dissemble and revile, flatter and calumniate with that tongue which was bestowed by thee, to whom we are accountable for every word we utter. Too often have we

in effect presumed to say we are sufficient of ourselves—that our tongue and our lips are our own—who is Lord over us? Oh forbid us ever again to be such proud boasters. Do thou in mercy send thy Holy Spirit to control and rule over us in every word and thought. Do thou, O Lord, in whom we live and move, and have our being, deign to rule over us—make our uprightness so sure and abiding, that our word may be as the strictest bond, and that we may be in all things true both to God and man. Fulfilling all thy promises to us, thou wilt redress every unmerited grievance, working our deliverance, and sheltering us from all malicious designs. Though men may deceive us, thou, O Lord, wilt be faithful. Graciously receive and own us in our all-sufficient Mediator, for out of his hand none shall pluck us. He is our rock and our safeguard, though the waves of temptation and persecution may assault us with their fiercest power. Waiting to be gracious, mercifully hear our sighs and prayers. Defend and deliver us from the generation of the wicked, and

the snares of the destroyer. Oh make our cause triumphant, and finally usher us into a better and more glorious world, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XIII.

O LORD God Almighty, how long wilt thou forget us, for ever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from us? How long shall we have sorrow and vexation of heart? We cry unto thee in all our diversified troubles. Be gracious unto us, and cast us not out of thy presence to be no more regarded. Leave us not to be oppressed with melancholy thoughts, without inward comfort, or outward relief. Direct us in our perplexities by giving us heavenly wisdom. Cheer us with divine consolations—relieve our distresses—lighten our eyes, lest we sleep the sleep of death in darkness and deep misery, and lest

Satan, our common enemy, rejoice, and the powers of darkness gain mastery over another immortal soul. While we feel our misery, we confess our unworthiness. With adoring gratitude we own that thy rich mercy to sinners through Jesus Christ originated our salvation. Conscious that all our dependence is on that mercy, and not in any claim we could make on divine justice, we trust in it alone, and our hearts shall yet rejoice in thy salvation. We take courage from this consideration, and become confident that we shall soon be delivered from vain distresses, and be carried forward with truest consolation. Then shall thy gracious interposition in our behalf be celebrated by us in songs of praise. We will glorify thy name for dealing so bountifully with us, our souls shall revive with the return of thy favour. We will draw nigh unto thee, through our Saviour's intercession, and our fears and complaints shall all disappear. Sustained by thy infinite goodness and mercy, we will remember with comfort his gracious words "Father, into thy hand I commend

my spirit," and, as the depth of his humiliation immediately preceded the dawn of his glorious exultation, grant that after a course here of self-abasement in thy sight, we too may be finally raised to joy and peace in the heavenly world, through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XIV.

O THOU infinitely wise, mighty, and perfect One, suffer us, alike helpless and sinful, to approach thee with profoundest reverence, and an astonished sense of the utter and awful folly of those who say in their hearts there is no God. Withered as we are in all our faculties, and fallen as we have into a state of moral decay and worthlessness, we feel that we are corrupt and become offensive to thee by our doings. We would always remember that

such is the depravity of our nature that we and all the world are guilty before thee, and that our hearts and imaginations are continually wicked. Thy word is a discerner of our thoughts. We feel that, since in our own unaided strength we offer thee no service, bring thee no honour, nor do any real benefit to ourselves, whatever good there may be in any of us is of thine own free gift; it is thy sole and entire work through the influence of thy Holy Spirit. Feeling our perpetual need of thy grace to support and save us through Jesus Christ our Lord, we supplicate that we may be born again to holiness, and that we may experience this blessed change, giving thee all the honour and glory of our regeneration. We pray that our fellow-sinners may also be conducted and restored to thy favour. Grant that, strengthened and enlightened by thee, we may all forsake our corrupt practices, be warmed with holy gratitude to thee the Giver of all good, and ever acknowledge thy power, and truth, and justice. Encouraged by thy presence and protected by thy grace,

we entreat thee ever to be our refuge and strength. Our inward terrors evince that we cannot find security or comfort elsewhere; and as, O Lord, thou bringest back the captivity of thy people, and makest Jacob to rejoice and Israel to be glad, we pray for deliverance from the bondage of Satan, for the liberty of thy service, and for all its glorious and joyful results in the spiritual reign of Messiah. We wait for the completion of our own salvation, and for the time when the Jews shall be united to thy covenant people. Oh! grant that we may all at last enter that heaven, where alone the whole company of the redeemed shall rejoice without alloy or interruption, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XV.

O MERCIFUL and everlasting God, thou that dwellest in the highest heavens, who shall venture to approach thee in thy temple here below—who shall ascend thy holy hill? Nothing is in fallen man's power or will, entitling him to abide with thee for ever. O God, thou hast graciously told us that he alone who leadeth an uncorrupt life, in humility, integrity and uprightness, can offer acceptable service in thy earthly courts; and our blessed Redeemer is the only true road whereby we walk as our way to thee and heaven. Sanctify us, then, O God, and conform us to Christ, our perfect example. Teach us to know our duty and give us strength to perform it, working righteousness and holy love in our hearts,—truth and sincerity towards all men, but above all, to thee who spiest out all our ways. Oh! make us what we desire to be, complete

in all thy will—Israelites indeed in whom is no guile,—conscientious, honest and just in our dealings. Prepare us to do all the good we can, to injure no one, to be tender of our neighbours' reputation, ready to do as we would be done by, to repel the back-biting and slanderous tongue, to give no sanction to impiety, and equally to deplore and shun the prosperity and pleasures of the ungodly. Lead us to honour them that fear thee, to rejoice with them in their welfare, and grieve with them when they are in adversity. Incline us to prefer a good conscience to any worldly interest or advantage. If we have sworn to our neighbour, let us, though to our detriment, perform our oath, rather than do wrong by breaking it. Prevent us from increasing our wealth by extortion or unjust practices, and from injuring the innocent. Let the image of Christ be in us, and then shall we not be moved to do evil. Grant thy grace that we may overcome temptations and troubles, that we may fully repent of our sins, and that evincing, in thy power, the faith which worketh by love,

we may enjoy present peace with the hope of future and eternal joy, through the all-availing merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XVI.

O God, the defender of all them that call upon thee, we fly to thee for protection with cheerful, believing confidence. Imploring thy mercies in Christ Jesus, we commit ourselves anew to thy divine care and guidance. We acknowledge and adore him alone as the strength of our hearts. May we be made saints on earth, or we can never become saints in heaven. Incline our hearts, as far as in us lies, to protect the lowly and honour the worthy and righteous. O God, we disown all other help but thine, and no deeds of ours can requite any portion of all thy goodness to us. If we run after other gods,—if in any form we worship the world, our sorrows will be in-

creased a thousand-fold. Thou, O Lord, art our portion, and thou wilt support and never leave us, if we cling unto thee. Thou wilt give us that goodly heritage which our Saviour has bought for us with his blood. Accept our praises, O Lord, and when we meditate upon thee, do thou counsel us, and communicate to us wisdom and knowledge how to act in all the chequered scenes of life,—in the season of adversity and affliction, and when we are chastened with painful or protracted sickness. Quicken us in thy faith and fear, and make us to prefer spiritual and eternal blessings before those that are earthly and temporal. Let thy word and Spirit comfort us in the night season, when we are silent and solitary and retired from the world. Grant that we may then and always set thee before us. Oh, deign to be near us, and we shall be abundantly blessed. Gladden our hearts that we may rejoice in thy glory, and that finally we may rest in assured hope, through the merits of our blessed Saviour. Leave not our souls in the pit of destruction ; and when we put

off the body, carry us, O Lord, through the pains of death, and open to us the path of everlasting life. Justify us through the blood of thy dear Son, and raise our bodies at the last day, when earthly sorrows shall end in heavenly rest. Admit us into thy presence, where there is fulness of joy, and at thy right-hand pleasures for evermore, through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen,

PSALM XVII.

O LORD God Almighty, we come before thee in earnest meditation and prayer. Hear us, O Lord, and let our cry come up to thee, when we reverently approach thee, and when our prayers go not out of feigned lips. In slanders and persecutions, defend our integrity, if approved by thee; and uphold us in daily increasing obedience to the end. We do not fly to thee only in times of distress and danger,

—at all times we are encouraged by faith in thy promises, to expect that thou wilt receive our prayer, while depending entirely upon thee. Grant that we may not in secret indulge in any known sin, nor allow ourselves to speak any sinful words. Prove our hearts, and visit us in the night season. Try us, and preserve us from temptation and transgression, and from the path of eternal destruction. Hold thou up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. Let thy word be our rule and guide; send us daily fresh supplies of grace and strength; and reveal more and more of thy marvellous loving kindness by saving us and all who put their trust in thee. Keep us as the apple of an eye, hide us under the shadow of thy wings, and show the wonders of thy truth and love, in defending us from all our enemies within and without. Encompassed as we are on all sides by foes and frailties, we deplore that mischief and sin are ever lurking in the secret places of our hearts, and carrying us away from thee. Which way soever we turn ourselves, we are in

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danger of falling, unless thou art pleased to interpose for our safety, with the strength of thy right hand. Arise, O Lord, and deliver our souls from the wickedness of this world, as well as from our inborn infirmities, and let us not prefer any earthly portion to thy favour; nor be like infatuated myriads who have their good things only in this life. Whatever may be the event here, make us to walk before thee in lowliness and purity; to maintain a good conscience, and to act as if we were in thy immediate presence; so that whether thou permittest our remaining days to be many or few, we may behold thy face in righteousness; and when we awake from the sleep of death, we shall be satisfied in beholding thy glory. Prepare us for that blessedness by a vital union with our Lord and Saviour; by increasing conformity to his spotless image, and by the sanctifying influence of thy Holy Spirit, that we may ascribe unto thee power, worship, praise, and thanksgiving, world without end. Amen.

PSALM XVIII. 1—20.

O LORD God, we come unto thee with admiring and adoring love. Thou art our strength and our rock, our fortress and deliverer, in whom we trust; but, above all, thou art the horn of our salvation, through our all-sufficient Surety. We magnify and praise thy name for all the deliverances thou hast graciously wrought for us. We would love thee according to the first and great commandment. For all thy mercies let us come before thee with praise and obedience, accepted by thee only for our blessed Saviour's merits. We will call upon thee who art worthy to be praised, and thou wilt save us from all our dangers. When the sorrows of death itself encompass us, and the pangs of hell make us afraid, in all our distress we will cry unto thee, and thou wilt hear our voice. Out of thy holy temple our cry shall come before thee. O God, when

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thou art wroth, the earth will shake and tremble, and the foundations of the heavens shall be moved; smoke and fire, storms, and tempests and darkness shall bow the heavens, and thy Spirit shall fly upon the wings of the wind. Then wilt thou shoot thine arrows, and discomfit all who are opposed to thy sovereignty and counsels; but blast us not with the breath of thy displeasure. O gracious God, sustain us in all our troubles, and in due time deliver us for the sake of our all-prevailing Saviour, thy blessed Son, in whom thou wert well pleased; for his sake draw us out of the many mighty waters which surround us. In David the type, we behold Jesus our Redeemer, compassed with sorrows, enduring for our sakes the pains of death, and the greater pains of thy overflowing wrath. In his name we call upon thee as our Father, with cries and tears, as those rescued from the grave, and triumphant in his mediatorial kingdom. He manifests himself to us in the day of our calamity as our stay. Meditating on Gethsemane and Calvary, we joy in him as the

Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world. Grant us grace to imitate his righteousness, and recompense us according to the cleanness of our hands, through sole and entire faith in him.

Keep us in thy ways stedfast and uniform. Grant that we may not depart from thee, but set thy judgments always before us, and keep us ever in thy statutes, making us upright, and preserving us from all iniquity. Strengthen our souls in sincerity and purity, and raise us to the life immortal through the merits and mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM XVIII. 21—28.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, grant that we may keep thy ways, and not wickedly depart from thee. Let thy judgments and thy statutes be ever before us. May we walk in thy fear all the day long,

watchfully abstaining from that sin, whatever it may be, which most easily besets us. For Christ's sake recompense us not according to our righteousness, but according to his all-prevailing merits. Teach us to be merciful to others, gratefully remembering how ready thou art in thy dear Son to show mercy to us. And cause us to be faithful to thee, rejoicing in all that thou hast promised. We know, O God, if we serve thee with a pure conscience, we shall find that thy words are a rock of sure and eternal reliance, and fraught with all consolation; "with the pure thou wilt show thyself pure, and with the froward thou wilt show thyself froward." Speak comfort to the afflicted, and arrest in their career of danger the proud and the presumptuous. Enlighten our minds, revive our souls, mercifully guide us in thy way and make it plain before us. Leave us not in darkness, but prepare us for opportunities of serving thee and the interests of thy kingdom among men.

Remove all our discouragements, and be a light unto us throughout our career

on earth. Defiled with sin as are we and all the posterity of Adam, we entreat thee to sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit, to create in us clean hearts, and justify us by faith in the all-availing merits of Christ, that we may live a sober, righteous and godly life. Gladdening us with the truth that our blessed Saviour took upon him our sins, and, having borne them himself, made satisfaction for them, and brought in everlasting righteousness. O God, impute that righteousness to us sinners for whom he wrought it. Enable us solely and entirely to trust in his merits, rejoice in his triumphs, and imitate his example. Most fervently would we adore and love thee, O Lord, our strength and our salvation, call upon thee in every trouble, and praise thee for every deliverance. O make our aim single, and ourselves resolved by the help of thy Holy Spirit, to walk in established and true holiness, approving our hearts unto thee, and carefully and daily watching against our own peculiar iniquities, in the strength and grace of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XVIII. 29—51.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, suffer us again to approach thee and offer up our praises and thanksgivings, not for one blessing alone, but for the countless mercies daily poured down upon us. We acknowledge thy fatherly hand in every thing, contributing to our advancement in thy perfect ways. We bless thee for enlightening our darkness and restoring our lost happiness, when our blessed Saviour rose from death and burst the bonds of the tomb. O God, for his sake make our way even in rugged paths through which thou mayest call us to pass in this life, and afterwards through the valley of the shadow of death itself. Uphold us with thy right hand, and gently lead us in the way of thy salvation. Gird us with strength against all our spiritual enemies. Subdue within us all evil passions and habits. Eternally deigning, O God, to be our rock, defend

us, as thou didst thy servant David. Renew us in the inner man, remove every snare that may hinder our progress towards thee; and guard us against every temptation, looking up to thee with all humility and reverence. We adore thy glory and perfection; and when our friends are lost to us by death, we joy in the remembrance that thou livest for ever, and wilt never fail those that wait upon thee. We trust to thy power and grace to save us. Do thou still bless us, and incline us eagerly to attend upon the preaching of thy gospel. Grant that we may not by our faithlessness and misdeeds again nail to the cross our once suffering Surety. Let us not be strangers to the covenant of promise, but incline us cordially to submit to the sceptre of Christ, yielding to him an unfeigned devotedness in all things. May we imitate his perfect obedience even unto death. Through his all-sufficient merits we call upon thee to help us in all our conflicts with sin. Vouchsafe to deliver us in this world, and at last to bring us to thy heavenly kingdom, that we may glorify

thee, and rejoice in the exaltation of that adorable Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

PSALM XIX.

ALMIGHTY God, the Creator of the universe, the heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handy-work. The succession of day and night in constant rotation, instructs us, in the knowledge of thee, our wondrous Maker and Preserver. Without either speech or language, the brilliant orbs in the vaulted hemisphere above, preach to the whole human race. Directed by thy Almighty power, the sun issues forth every morning to diffuse through the whole earth light, warmth, and fertility, and to preserve and invigorate all animal and vegetable life. We gaze upon that luminary as an emblem of the "Sun of righteousness,"

diffusing divine light and salvation by his gospel to the nations of the earth. Gladdened by the assurance that his course of love and mercy will be as constant and unwearied as the sun, till the earth be filled with his light and salvation, we entreat thee, merciful God, that as the "Sun of righteousness" he may shine on our benighted hearts, and that every sinful infirmity of ours may vanish under the power of his saving grace in our souls,—that grace which is of greater use to our best interests than day or night, the air we breathe, or the light of the sun. Deprived of the one we die in this world, deprived of the other we die eternally. Thy law, O God, is perfect, converting our souls from sin and the world to thee and holiness, and restoring and raising us all from our fallen and degraded state. Thy testimony is sure, and entirely to be depended upon. Implant in us by thy blessed Spirit all those truths which relate to the perfections of thy nature, and our own spiritual wants, to thy invitations and promises, and our own everlasting salvation.

Make our hearts to rejoice in thy statutes, and in the purity of thy commandments, that we may lead a useful, holy, and happy life in this evil world. We feel that we are shut up under sin and condemnation; prepare us, O God, to welcome the divine Saviour and habitually to walk in newness of life. Desiring thy favour more than much fine gold, and assured that thou hast great rewards laid up for us if we keep thy perfect way, we entreat thee to cleanse us from our secret faults, to suffer no presumptuous sin to get the dominion over our treacherous hearts, and to grant that we may be preserved upright and innocent from the dire transgression of rebellion against thy righteous will. And, oh! let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer! Amen.

PSALM XX.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, King of kings, hear us, we beseech thee, in the day of trouble. Remembering thy will to be that we should offer supplications before thee for all that are in authority, we pray that our Queen may be defended, accepted and prospered in her reign, but we ask to be blessed, especially, in our relation to the Lord Christ, the King of Israel. We pray for the completion of his work in our souls, the establishment of his kingdom, and its enlargement and prosperity in the earth. Thou wert pleased of old to accept the oblations of the sanctuary, when presented in humble faith and love, and as typically expressed of our Redeemer's atoning sacrifice. O God, answer our prayers for his sake. Keep us safe in every season of trial, preserve us from the fear of evil, and enable us to proceed in

all our undertakings for thy honour and glory, for the good of others, in their immortal concerns, and for the salvation of our own souls. Send us thy mercies to be tokens of thy love, and increase our life and strength in the inner man. Graciously accept the sacrifice and prayer we offer unto thee. Kindle within us a holy fire of pious and divine affection. In thy message of love, and in thy power and promises to save, we will rejoice. In confidence we call upon thee for help, hear us for our Saviour's sake, whose intercession is ever prevailing with thee. Fulfil all our petitions in his name, as far as in thy wisdom and mercy thou seest to be good for us. Reveal thyself to us that we may escape the sin and misery of those who live without thee in the world. In every conflict with our spiritual enemies, grant us the sure power, and aid, promised in thy Holy Word in answer to every fervent petition, presented to thee as our heavenly Father. We enlist under the banners of our all-conquering Lord, assured that by the saving strength of his right-hand we

shall triumph at last over every enemy. We pray for all that are in authority, that under them we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. While some put their trust in chariots, and some in horses, may we ever remember thy name, O Lord our God! We seek and hope to rejoice not only in our own personal victory over sin, but we pray for the success of all others who are striving for mastery over their spiritual foes, and we earnestly look for the accomplishment of the Redeemer's whole counsel, when his dominion over willing subjects shall be extended throughout the earth. To whom, with thee, O Father, and thee, O blessed Spirit, be ascribed all honour and glory, now and ever. Amen.

PSALM XXI.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, the Ruler of the universe, we rejoice in thee and in thy risen Son, who sitteth triumphant on his mediatorial throne, to bless us with his salvation. Thou hast wrought many and great deliverances for thy people, from the Queen on her throne to the humblest of her subjects, as it has been expedient in thy sight. Thou hast always answered the prayers of those who call upon thee faithfully, when their eternal welfare would be promoted. Thou hast given us our hearts' desire, and hast withholden no good things from us. Thou hast mercifully and often preserved our lives when in imminent danger. Thou hast covered us and gone before us with the blessings of thy goodness. To many of us thou hast given length of days on earth, and we pray thee, of thy great mercy for Christ's sake, to bestow on us length of days in heaven, even for ever

and ever. Our great glory is in thy salvation, and thou makest us glad with thy countenance. Trusting in thee alone, we shall dwell in safety. But, O God, if in any way or degree we are despisers of thy authority and holy word, we know that ruin will await us. Our sin will be sure to find us out, and thou wilt make us as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger. Thou wilt destroy our fruits from the earth, and root us out from among the children of men. Thy omnipotence will crush all evil against thee. However artfully disguised, our sinful devices will be laid bare by thee, and thine arrows shall pierce us in our perversity. We cannot escape thy avenging eye, nor go out of the reach of thy hand. Rocks and mountains will be no shelter for us, and our own consciences will condemn and torment us, if we reject our blessed Saviour and his precepts. But, merciful God, strengthen us in thy faith and fear. Take the work into thine own hands. Cause us by thy grace continually to serve thee. Receive us into thy favour, and deliver us from the wrath

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to come. Destroy within us all the strongholds of sin and Satan; then shalt thou, O Lord, be exalted in our hearts, and we will sing and praise thy power. Suffer us to hope that, after this toilsome pilgrimage is over, thou wilt confer an exceeding and eternal weight of glory on us poor sinners, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM XXII. 1—21.

O GOD, our God, we thy creatures, though so sinful and wrath-deserving, cry unto thee in the words of David and of our blessed Lord, why hast thou forsaken us? why art thou so far from the words of our complaint? O God, we cry unto thee in the day time, but thou hearest not, and in the night-season we are not silent. In imitation of our great Master's spirit, would we, in the use of his very words, exclaim, each for ourselves, "Not my will

but thine be done," and his supplications were heard, as soon as he appeared in his resurrection triumphant over the grave; and, oh, grant that we may like him, and for his merits, rise to the life immortal. Celebrating, as did Israel of old, thy works and perfections, we trust in thee as our fathers did; and as thou didst deliver them, good Lord, deliver us. If, like our Saviour, we become reproached and despised of men,—like him, let us be humble, silent and harmless, when oppressed. Like him, who for our sakes was laughed to scorn by all ranks of men, let us trust singly and firmly in thee; and as thou didst rescue him, so may he rescue us, and keep us in perpetual safety. Be not far from us, O God, for trouble is ever hard at hand, and there is none to help us. We feel that we deservedly suffer for our sins, those sins which were heaped upon our Saviour, when he bore for us that dreadful wrath of thine, which caused his sharpest agony and woe, when his strength was dried up, when his painful thirst made his tongue cleave to his mouth,

and he was brought down to the very grave itself. Be not far from us, O Lord, when our distress comes upon us; hasten to help us, and deliver our souls. When we are pressed down and overwhelmed with grief and terror, we cry unto thee for consolation. Though thou dost not immediately come to the relief of thine afflicted people, yet thou lovest them, and art true to thy covenant with them. Withdraw not from us thy tender mercies. Thou wert not only the God of our fathers, but thou hast been our God from our infancy to this day. Thou who hast done so much for us in our helpless state, leave us not till thou hast reared us up to serve thee in purity and holiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXII. 22 to the end.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, again we come before thee to praise thy holy name, again to contemplate the ransom obtained for us by our Saviour, who is accepted by thee, and exalted to his glorious throne. Viewing him by faith at thy right hand, rich in inestimable gifts for sinful man, and not ashamed to call his poor disciples brethren, we will declare him to the whole world, and we will call upon all who seek and fear thee, to rejoice and to praise and glorify thee for his name's sake. While so many despise and perish, raise us up to serve thee, in thine all-powerful grace, not going about to establish our own righteousness. May we, when tempted, learn to imitate his faith, patience, meekness, persevering prayer, and fervent zeal, and cheerfully to await a sanctified issue to every trial. Enable us and all the kindreds of the nations to wor-

ship thee, for the kingdom is thine, and thou art the governor of all the world. May we give up ourselves to thee to be thy willing and devoted subjects, assured that this is the only road to peace here and happiness hereafter. Poor in spirit, we pray for spiritual blessings. Hungering after righteousness, we supplicate of thee the bread of life. Retiring awhile from the world and worldly trifles, to behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of our whole race, we would take a solemn but profitable review of his agony and temptations, of the cruelty and contempt with which he was treated, and of his intense sufferings for our sins. O God, we would look up to thy justice and holiness, and consider the inestimable worth of our immortal souls. O send us grace and consolation by thy Holy Spirit; conform us day by day to the spotless example of our Saviour; and enlighten our souls when we fall down and worship thee. Entirely unable to atone for sin, we come to thee, only through his all-availing sufferings and satisfaction; and remembering

our vast obligations to him, we pray that all, to the very ends of the earth, may become thy accepted servants, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXIII.

O MERCIFUL and compassionate Lord, be thou our shepherd, then shall we lack nothing. Graciously vouchsafe to prevent and guide us when we are tempted to stray from thy fold. By thy constant care be pleased to supply all our wants and necessities, both temporal and spiritual, Gratefully remembering all thy former mercies, we pray thee to continue them to us. Make us to lie down gently in green pastures, guarded and preserved under thy ever-watchful eye. Lead us by the still waters of comfort and bring us back to thee the Creator and Protector of our souls. Grant us the cheering and satisfactory consolations of thy Holy Spirit.

Whenever we wander from the true path, direct us aright by thy kind rebukes. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and peace for the honour of thy gospel, and the glory of thy great name. Thou art the refuge of every believer; and even those who have strayed the farthest from thee, are not below or beyond thy care and cognizance. May we thankfully receive all the comforts and enjoyments of this life, as thy free gifts, as emanating solely from thy goodness and bounty. Whatever may be our lot, grant us a holy contentment, and make every pasture green to us. Permit us to remain and abide under thy care, that our souls may be daily fed by thy divine grace, and that we may drink from the refreshing fountain of living waters. And, at length, when our knees become feeble, and we must walk through the dark valley of the shadow of death, be with us that we may fear no evil, support us with thine own staff, with the word of thy promise, and with inward strength and grace. Provide for us by thy good Providence, while we

remain on earth, and grant that thy mercy may follow us all the days of our life. Continually dwelling in thy house of prayer here, oh ! bring us to thy house of praise above. Leave us not to be lost in this dark valley ; fearless of evil, and trusting in thee, we will sing, " O death, where is thy sting ? O grave, where is thy victory ?" until, through the merits of our blessed Saviour, we come in a heavenly form and nature to dwell with thee in bliss for evermore. Amen.

PSALM XXIV.

O God, the Creator and Sovereign of the whole earth, all regions are thine, under thine eye, and in thy hand. Wherever we go, we are thine. Thou hast founded the world upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. The kingdom of grace is thine, in which thou rulest over thy people ; disposing of us as seem-

eth best to thy good pleasure. Oh! cut us not off as an apostate race; but excite in us admiring gratitude for thy distinguishing kindness to us. O God! grant that we may be subjects of thy kingdom; and that, in thy strength, we may ascend into thy holy hill—give us clean hands and a pure heart—take from us vanity and deceit—enable us by the grace of thy Holy Spirit, to be watchful against all corrupt affections, and to beware of hypocrisy and deceitfulness. Enable and incline us to fulfil with punctuality and fidelity every vow and engagement both to God and man. May we be acceptable worshippers, and receive blessing and righteousness from thee, the God of our eternal salvation! We lift up our heads to praise thee, the King of glory. We look up to thee, O! blessed Jesu! as our all-sufficient and ever interceding Mediator. In human nature thou didst suffer on the cross for our sins, and triumph over the powers of darkness. As our Forerunner, thou didst open the everlasting doors of glory, and re-enter heaven amidst the ad-

miring acclamations of the angelic choir. Adored be thy holy name for securing the like access to heaven for us and every sinner who receives thee as his Lord and Saviour. Oh ! that we may remember our unceasing obligations to love and serve thee with all our powers ; to rejoice in all our comforts as thy gifts, and to employ every faculty we possess according to the will of our heavenly Father.

Needing thy mercy, O God, we desire to appear in continual humiliation before thee ; and having hitherto been, at best, unprofitable servants, we pray that, throughout our course hereafter, we may wait patiently in the way of conscientious obedience. Grant that we may not madly refuse to open our hearts to welcome our Saviour, lest he should justly refuse to open the gates of heaven to us at last. Grant, O thou once suffering, but now triumphant Friend of our souls, that we may receive thee as our Lord and Saviour, and be willingly and wholly thine, so that we may be finally numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

PSALM XXV. 1—11.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God, we wait upon thee, praying for thy protection and guidance, and lifting up our souls unto thee. We approach thee with renewed and deep contrition for sin; renouncing all dependence on ourselves, and all expectation of help but from thee, in and through thy blessed Son. We know that our prayers will be answered, and that none who so wait upon thee shall be ashamed. Be pleased, O Lord, to show us thy ways, and to lead us in thy paths. Send thy Holy Spirit to govern our actions, and that they may be pleasing in thy sight. Lead us in thy truth and teach us, for thou art the God of our salvation; and on thee we wait day by day. Oh, direct us in every step of our pilgrimage here below. To thine infinite mercy we appeal, casting ourselves on thee, and not pretending to any merit of our own. Re-

member not the sins of our youth, but thy tender mercies, which have been ever of old. If thou pardon our sins and remember them no more, we desire nothing more to make us happy. Blessed be thy name, the blood of the great sacrifice can wash away every stain. Great and holy God, teach us, and all other sinners, to tremble in the fear of offending thy Majesty, and to draw near in humility, lowliness and meekness, distrustful of ourselves, and desirous of being taught by thy word. Oh! direct and incline us in all our remaining days to walk in the paths of mercy and truth, and in the way of peace and holiness. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon our iniquities, for they are great, and suffer us not heedlessly to run into the snares of the world, lest we be caught by the wiles of Satan. O Lord, when our sin has abounded, let thy grace much more abound, for thy perfections will be displayed and glorified in the remission of our sins. Oh! let our plea prevail, or we must sink in hopeless misery. That our souls may find rest, permit us to repose

all our care upon thee, as our reconciled God, cheerfully waiting for more complete joys in heaven, through the merits and sole mediation of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM XXV. 12—22.

O MERCIFUL and gracious God, who art to be adored above all gods, the fear of thee is the beginning of wisdom. We reverence thee, we dread thy displeasure and seek thy favour as our great concern in this life. Whatever may be our circumstances, however great our sin, or our present spiritual darkness and discouragement, mercifully teach us, and lead us by thy Holy Spirit in the way that thou shalt choose for us. Send us thy preventing grace, that we may be instructed and comforted to persevere in every known duty. We rely on thy mercy and the great redemption wrought out for us by our

blessed Saviour. Fix in us good resolutions, not to be shaken by the temptations of the world, nor disturbed by the crosses and troubles which may befall us. We feel our ground firm under us, when we delight in serving thee. Grant us food and raiment, and whatever else is necessary, that we may dwell in contentment and peace, and that our souls also may dwell at ease. Vouchsafe us thy grace, that, at least, in some faint degree, we may live like Christ Jesus, holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and privileged by thee to be, to some small extent, an example to those who are to follow us, that they also may lead a godly life, and inherit the earth. The knowledge of thy divine perfections, encourages us to trust and love thee as an infinitely holy God! Grant us to enjoy that sweet communion which the holy Psalmist calls "the secret of the Lord," and which springs from thy heavenly spirit, bringing our souls into a sanctified and comforting acquaintance with the purity, wisdom, and equity of thy purposes, and with the security and bless-

ings of the new covenant, when we feel the assurance of an interest in it. But we cannot possibly enjoy this satisfaction, unless thou create us anew in Christ Jesus. We look up to thee to pluck our feet out of the snares which entangle us in this world. Turn unto us, and have mercy upon us when desolate and afflicted. When the sorrows of our hearts are increased, bring us out of our distress. Look graciously upon our varied trials and forgive us all our sins, for Jesus Christ's sake. Oh! let integrity and uprightness preserve us, for we wait upon thee. Redeem thy people, O God, out of all their troubles. Blessed Saviour, without thee we can do nothing; do thou graciously lift up our whole hearts and affections, that we may follow thee to thy kingdom in heaven, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, thou livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

PSALM XXVI.

ALMIGHTY and merciful Father, be thou our judge; if we have endeavoured to walk innocently, and if our trust hath been in thine unfailing power, we shall not fall. Grant that, strengthened by thee, we may advance in every devout affection, relying wholly in thy grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Examine, O Lord, and prove us—try and search our inmost soul. Convinced by thee of the deceitfulness of our own hearts, we earnestly desire to detect and mortify every sin, and to be in the inmost heart conformed to the holy truths which we believe. By meditating on thy loving-kindness, mercy and faithfulness we learn to walk in thy truth. Upheld and prevented by thee, we will have no fellowship with vain and deceitful persons, nor with evil doers, who would lead us into the unfruitful works of darkness and iniquity. Grant us repentance and con-

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scientific obedience, with serious preparation of heart, that we may wash our hands in innocency, and publish all thy wondrous works with the voice of thanksgiving. Lord, we have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth, and where thou wilt graciously meet thy worshippers and bless them, and be glorified by them. Having given us the desire to separate ourselves from the wicked, oh ! gather not our souls with sinners, nor with those who crucify again the Prince of life. Let not our lot be united with theirs in this world, and when, in a short time, our souls return to thee who gavest them, let us not be companions with them in misery, but grant that we may die the death of the righteous, and be admitted with thy saints to everlasting happiness. Send to us thy Holy Spirit, that, humbly but firmly, we may walk in our integrity. Redeem us, and be merciful to us. Confiding in thy good providence and gracious promises, we would cleave stedfastly to thee in unreserved faith and obedience, and with glad hearts we would

bless and praise thee in the midst of thy assembled people; trusting that we shall hereafter join the great assembly in heaven, in singing praises "to God and to the Lamb for evermore." We would, in no degree, depend on ourselves for this blessed consummation, but fixing our firm, single, and entire confidence in the redeeming blood, and infinite goodness, and all-availing intercession of our Saviour Christ, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

PSALM XXVII.

O LORD God Almighty, thou art our light and our salvation—whom shall we fear? thou art the strength of our life, of whom then shall we be afraid? With lively faith we glory in thy holy name. In thy light permit and enable us ever to

go on our way, and we hope to see that light for ever. Revive and gladden our hearts when we sorrow—guide us into the knowledge of thy truth, and the comforts of thy salvation. We entreat thee, Lord, to give us stronger, and brighter, and purer faith, that we may be delivered from tormenting and dishonouring fears. Thy gracious promises, thy power, thy readiness to hear prayer, the witness of thy Spirit—in all these thy saints find cause and aliment for holy security and peace. Thy service is our choice and our privilege. Grant that we may always dwell in thy house when thy ordinances are administered. Desiring communion with thee, we will seek after it with all diligence, adoring thy transcendent perfections, holiness, and mercy. Whatever this life may be to us, we consider thy favour and service as the one thing needful. We contemplate thy glory in the person of Jesus Christ. We would anxiously inquire thy will, by studying thy word and praying for the teaching of thy Holy Spirit. In the time of trouble, hide us in thy pavi-

lion, in the secret of thy tabernacle hide us, and preserve us in safety. Thou art the Rock of ages. In the midst of all our enemies, temporal and spiritual, we will offer in thy temple sacrifices of joy, and we will sing praises unto thee, O Lord. Thou glorious Being, who sufferedst and conqueredst for us, wilt conquer in us, and we will celebrate every mercy with thanksgiving. Hear, Lord, when we cry unto thee, and answer us. We seek thy countenance, hide not thy face far from us—put us not away in anger—thou hast always been our help; leave us not, nor forsake us, O God of our salvation. When our nearest and dearest relatives and friends forsake us, then, Lord, in mercy take us up. Teach us in thy way, and lead us in a plain path, because of the enemies of our souls so thickly strewn around us. Deliver us not over to those that rise up against us. Let us not be faint and weary, but go on our way believing that we shall see thy goodness here and hereafter. Incline and permit us, therefore, to wait upon thee with patient expectation and

fervent prayer ; and oh ! strengthen us to the last through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXVIII.

ALMIGHTY and all-gracious God ! we cry for deliverance to thee our Rock. Be not silent to us, lest we become like them that go down into the pit. Hear us, good Lord, and answer our prayers, offered in remembrance that we shall soon be cut off and laid in the grave, never more to glorify thee on earth. Deign to receive us when we lift up our hands toward thy mercy-seat ; sincerely desiring, and humbly hoping for the blessings purchased for us by the sufferings of Christ our Lord. Draw us not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity. Dreading the path of sinners, oh ! do not leave us to ourselves, but enable us earnestly and continually to pray for thy grace to keep us in

the way of salvation. Thou givest the wicked after their inventions, for they regard not thy works. To be dealt with according to their deservings, must be most tremendous to every sinner. But blessed be thy name, O Lord, because thou hast heard the voice of our supplication: our prayers and tears have come before thee, and often hast thou delivered us from our dangers and temptations. Thou hast mercifully assured us that those who pray in faith, shall rejoice in hope. Thou art the strength of every believer in the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ. Our hearts have trusted in thee, therefore we greatly rejoice, and praise thee with songs of deliverance. Save thy people, O Lord, and bless them. Feed us with food both for our bodies and souls. Ruling over and directing us by thy Holy Spirit, deign to controul all affairs for our good; when we are depressed and desponding, comfort our souls and raise us up. Having made us willing to be taught, and guided, and governed by thee, save us from our numberless sins and offences against thee. O thou

good Shepherd of thy sheep, lift us up for ever from the dust of death, thou who art the resurrection and the life. Prepare us for the close of our life here, and of thy great goodness lead us to true and lasting repentance. Suffer not sin in us to alienate our hearts from thee, or to pour contempt on thy redeeming love. Rejoicing in the exaltation of our anointed King, once crucified for us, we ardently beg in his name to present all our supplications, in the full assurance of hope that thou wilt comfort thy people on earth, and lift them up for ever in heaven. Amen.

PSALM XXIX.

O GOD, sovereign Lord of the universe, before whom the most mighty and the highest are vile, and the proudest of the sons of men need to tremble, enable us to offer thee holy worship. We would bow ourselves down in an awful sense of thy

greatness, for thou commandest the water, and thou, glorious God, makest the thunder and lightning and rain. Thou art upon many waters; thou shakest the ocean as well as the earth. Thy voice breaketh the cedars; the power of thy lightning divideth the flames of fire. Thou shakest the wilderness. The wild beasts are terror-struck in their dens at thy tempests and earthquakes. But we thy people hear thy voice, when we worship thee in the sanctuary; in thy temple we speak of thy majesty and glory. Thou who sittest on the flood, and once directedst the rising of the deluge; thou who rulest over every tempest, thou art established King for ever. O God, give strength and support unto thy people—bless us with peace all the days of our life. Make the effects of thy word, under the influence of thy Holy Spirit, far greater upon our souls than the thunder of the material world. By the energy of thy word, cause the very stoutest to tremble; the proudest to feel abased; the secrets of all hearts to be detected, and sinners to be converted. Convert the

ficree, the worldly, the unclean, that they may become gentle, and harmless, and pure. O God, if we have heard thy voice, let us flee unto thee for refuge in the hope that is set before us in Christ Jesus our Saviour. Let us remember that it is the same glorious God who causes the thunder, and while the wicked shake with terror, let us thank thee for our security, and speak of thy honour. We plead thy promises to give us strength to resist temptation, to bear trials, and to perform every duty in earnest and faithful obedience. Bless us with a quiet conscience and a contented mind, and grant us the peace of God, which passeth all understanding. Earnestly hoping and imploring to be numbered among thy people, we would with composure encounter death, in the blessed prospect of that new heaven and earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXX.

O God, merciful Father, permit us again to offer up our praises and thanksgivings unto thee; again to extol thee, for having lifted us up, sometimes from dangerous illness, sometimes from a forlorn and hopeless condition of mind, body, and estate, when utterly unable to help ourselves. O Lord, our God, we cried unto thee; and when given over by all earthly physicians, thou hast heard us and brought up our souls from the grave. Quicken us, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit, that we may not go down into the pit of destruction. Continue to bless us with thy providence and grace; the more our dangers assail or threaten us, the more strength be pleased to vouchsafe us, while with holy gratitude we look up to thy power and goodness. Often hast thou raised our drooping heads, and relieved us when we cried unto thee. Sing unto the Lord, all ye that have re-

ceived mercies, and ye saints of the Lord, draw nigh with us to the mercy-seat in grateful and admiring love. Thy anger, Lord, endureth but a moment; in thy favour is life; we weep in penitence for a night, but thy consolations come to us in the morning. By thy clemency we are comforted, after correcting us for a little time. When our lamentations are heard overnight, let our shouts of joy be heard in the morning; when our comforts are interrupted and again restored, incline us always to renew the dedication of ourselves to thy service. Devoting our habitations daily to thee by prayer, we would shun all that is displeasing in thy sight; in the height of our prosperity too often have we said, we shall never be moved; we deemed that thou hadst made our mountain so strong; but thou didst hide thy face, and we were troubled. We cried unto thee, O Lord, and unto thee we made supplication. If thou hadst permitted us, thy offending servants, then to be slain, or die of disease, should we have praised thee in the pit, or have declared thy truth in

the dust? Hear us, O Lord, now that we still live to glorify thee; be thou our Helper. Many a time hast thou turned our mourning into dancing, and put off our sackcloth to gird us with gladness; to the end that our tongues might sing praises unto thee, and not be silent. O Lord our God, we will give thanks unto thee for ever, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

PSALM XXXI.

ALMIGHTY and merciful Lord, in thee do we put our trust; defend us from shame and confusion. Receive us in thy righteousness, bow down thine ear to us in mercy; deliver us speedily; be thou our strong Rock, and a house of defence to save us; for thou art our Rock and our Fortress; for thy mercy's sake, therefore, lead, guide, and preserve us. Draw us out of the net that is privily laid for us,

for thou art our strength. In our blessed Master's words would we each for himself exclaim, "Into thine hand I commend my spirit!" for thou hast redeemed us through his merits, O Lord God of truth. Make our chiefest care to be about our souls, our better part. Let our earthly afflictions increase our concern for our spiritual state; the outward man may perish, but grant, merciful God, that the inward man may be renewed day by day. Sanctify us by thy grace; employ us in thy service and fit us for thy kingdom. We depend not on lying vanities, but on thine unwearied mercy, for thou hast considered our trials and known our souls in adversity. Thou hast searched, if, when cast down under affliction, we have been humbled for sin; wholly submitted, and looking up to thee with true devotion. Have pity upon us, O Lord, when we are consumed with grief, and when our years are wasted with sighing, and our strength faileth because of our iniquity. In following the example of our blessed Saviour, we become a reproach,—our neighbours and acquaintance

flee from us; we are forgotten as the dead; and we are like a broken vessel. But, O God, we seek our present security, our comfort, and our salvation, entirely from thy all-sufficiency and mercy, thy truth, and unchangeable love. Our troubles and our deliverances alike—the continuance and end of our lives are wholly at thy disposal. Liberating us from all the enemies of our peace, make thy face to shine upon us, and save us for thy mercies' sake. Let us not be ashamed, O Lord, for we have called upon thee; thou hast taught us that the wicked shall be confounded, and that all lying lips will be put to silence; but, oh! how great is thy goodness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, and which thou hast wrought for them that put their trust in thee. Thou shalt hide them in thy secret presence from the strife of men; blessed be thy name, thou hast shewed us marvellous kindness: often in our impatience have we said, we were cut off from thy presence; but thou hearest the voice of our supplications, when we cried unto thee. We will love thee, O

Lord: thou wilt preserve us, if we are faithful; we will be of good courage, for thou wilt strengthen our hearts; and to the last, we will hope in thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXXII.

O LORD, our strength and hope, surround us with those glorious privileges with which he is blessed, whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered. Bless us as those unto whom thou imputest not iniquity, and in whose spirits there is no guile. Our conscience smiteth us, and we are tortured continually by reason of the remembrance of our transgressions. We sit in silent self-reproach, while day and night thy hand is heavy upon us for our numerous sins. We acknowledge our iniquities, and that we cannot hide them from thee. Relieving us from our anguish, and forgiving us for Jesus Christ's

sake, enable us by the aid of thy Holy Spirit to pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found, in an acceptable time. Let not the floods of sin which surround us come nigh unto us. Thou art our hiding-place; preserve us from trouble; compass us about with songs of deliverance. Control, instruct, and teach us, in the way in which we should go; guide us and watch over us with the eye of thy providence; let us not become obstinate sinners, as brute beasts which have no understanding. Oh! surround us, not with the sorrows of the wicked, but with the bright assured hope of those who have made thee their rock and portion for ever. O Lord, let us be glad and rejoice as the righteous, and shout for joy as those who are truly upright in heart. Change our tears of contrition into songs of grateful triumph. Make our ways the ways of holiness and peace, and our end eternal rest and safety, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Mediator. Amen.

PSALM XXXIII.

O GOD, our supreme object of praise, permit us to rejoice with the righteous, for thanksgiving and praise well become the upright. We praise thee for thy mighty works of creation and redemption; thy word, Lord, is all glorious, and all thy works are done in truth and equity. Inspire us with adoration of thy righteousness and judgment, while acknowledging that the earth is full of thy goodness, O Lord, and that by thine almighty hand were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of thy mouth. Thou gatherest the waters of the sea together, as an heap; let us and all the world learn to fear thee, and let all the inhabitants of the earth stand in awe of thy name. Thou didst speak, and it was done: thou didst command, and it stood fast. Thou, Lord, bringest the counsel of the heathen to nought; thou makest the devices of the

people to be of none effect. Grant us thy favour which standeth for ever; and which, like thy thoughts, extendeth to all generations. Abundantly bless and create us all, by the help of thy grace, a nation serving thee; and graciously choose us as a people for thine own inheritance. Lord, look down from heaven, and perfect us as thy servants. With pitying mercy, look down upon the inhabitants of all the earth. Fashion our hearts after thy holy will, and regard with forbearance the defects and infirmities of all our works. There is no king saved by a host, nor any mighty man delivered by much strength. Behold us, O Lord, with favour, that we may fear thee, and hope only in thy mercy. Free us from the fear of death, and bestow on us tranquil trust in famine and sickness. Our soul waiteth for thee, O Lord, thou art our help and our shield. Our heart shall rejoice in thee, because we have confided in thy holy name. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according to thy gracious promises, in our adored Immanuel, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM XXXIV.

O LORD God Almighty, we will bless thee continually—in youth and in age—in prosperity and in adversity : our heart and tongue shall ever be employed in celebrating thy praises. We will make a holy boast of thy mercy, love, and goodness, while, with humility and fear, we look up to thee, in the deepest conviction that that man is indeed blessed who with all his heart trusteth in thee. We will adore thee, O Lord, with all thy saints on earth ; for there is no want to them that fear thee. We will magnify and together exalt thy holy name. Through thy grace we sought thee, and thou hast heard us, and delivered us from all our fears. We looked up to thee, and were not ashamed. Poor sinners as we are, we cry unto thee to save us out of all our troubles ; for, by thy mercy alone can we escape. Send thy good angels to encamp round about

us, who desire to live in thy fear throughout our lives. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they that seek thee shall not want any good thing. Come, all ye children, and hearken unto us; we will teach you the fear of the Lord. Desiring to live and to be at peace with thee, O heavenly Father, and with all men, enable us to keep our tongue from evil and our lips from speaking with deceit; and to depart from all iniquity, in thy strength doing good, and assured that thine eyes, O Lord, are upon the righteous, and thy ears are open to their cry, but that thy face is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. When the righteous cry unto thee, thou hearest and deliverest them. Be nigh unto us who approach thee with a broken heart, and with a contrite spirit. Though many may be our afflictions, yet graciously deliver us out of all. Humbled before thee under a deep sense of our sins, we renounce all self-confidence and submit to thee, placing our entire and only hope in thy never-failing grace, through Jesus Christ

our Lord. Mercifully redeem us all, and let none that trust in thee be desolate. Comfort and deliver our often tempted souls, and encourage us to look unto thee, through our blessed Mediator, who, "though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor." Always would we remember with gratitude, how he who once suffered is now glorified to save all that trust in him. Grant, O God, that we may be daily more and more conformed to his blessed and spotless example. Oh! preserve us from darkness and the grave, and continue with us till we possess a happiness durable as eternity itself, and surpassing our most sanguine expectations, through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXXV.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in mercy take up our cause against our enemies, the world, the flesh, and the devil;

and as thou didst deliver Daniel, thy servant, from his persecutors, so be pleased to deliver us in thine own good time and way. Oh! vanquish the opposers of our holy faith; stand up for our help; and speak sweetly to each of us, "I am thy salvation." We are thy servants, and will endeavour in thy strength to promote thy glory in the way of our duty, putting to shame all the enemies of our souls, and causing them to be as the chaff before the wind. Protect us as travellers benighted, and as sinners walking in the slippery and dangerous paths of temptation, while enemies are in pursuit of us, whom we can neither resist nor avoid, except by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. Rejoicing in thee as our sleepless Protector, both in body and soul, we adore and praise thee that thou dost deliver the poor and needy sinner from that Enemy of our peace, who is ever too strong for us. When false witnesses rise up against us, and we are rewarded with evil for good, we will humble our souls before thee with fasting and prayer, and be in sorrow for our sins, as the

sure and only cause of our sufferings. Graciously rescue our souls from destruction, and we will praise thee among much people. Let not our enemies rejoice over us; neither let them hate us without a cause. We desire not their overthrow, so much as that of our own lusts and failings, and of those evil spirits who would compass our destruction. Let them not swallow us up: and judge us, O Lord, according to thy righteousness. We bless and adore thee that our preservation is insured by our Saviour's resurrection and exaltation; who will shortly "change our vile bodies, and make them like unto his glorious body" In the mean time, prepare us for the crosses of this life, deigning to pour out on our souls somewhat of the Redeemer's Spirit, and we shall not marvel or repine if the world hate us. Teach us, O God, to possess our souls in patience and meekness, endeavouring to "overcome evil with good;" and in due time rescue us from peril and destruction. Incline and enable us to give ourselves unto prayer, and keep us however injured or de-

ceived, at peace with all men. Intreating thee to uphold us, that Satan and his emissaries may not prevail against us, and remembering that thou hast pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants, we will speak of thy righteousness and praise all the day long, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXXVI.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, grant that we may not be like the wicked, who have no fear of thee before their eyes. Let not the deceitfulness of our own hearts flatter us until our abominable sin be found out. We deceive ourselves, and all mankind, until, conscience-stricken, we see our sins in something of their true deformity; and we discover into what awful depths of impiety, injustice and malevolence we have fallen. Oh! suffer us not to leave off to be wise and to do good

but send us thy Holy Spirit, that we may offer thee acceptable prayer to attend on thy ordinances, and to do our duty to thee and to our neighbour; that we may devise no mischief, but devoutly meditate on thee and thy holy word. In our solitary hours let us not occupy our minds with polluting and evil imaginations. If we have hitherto done thus wickedly, grant us repentance that we may abhor sin and ourselves, in deep and unfeigned remorse of spirit. With thee are truth and mercy, judgment and justice; thy righteousness is like the great mountains, resistless and immovable; thy judgments are a great deep of unsearchable wisdom and design. Thou preservest man and beast; and thy infinite loving-kindness encourageth the children of men to put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. Confiding entirely in thy love and protection, and assured that the chief of sinners may come to thee through Jesus Christ our Lord, and receive pardon and peace, we trust in thee for the supply of every want, that with the communications of thy divine grace

and favour, we shall be abundantly satisfied, and that thou wilt make us to drink of the river of thy pleasures for evermore. We desire nothing more in this world, but to live a life of communion with thee, and to have the comfort of thy promises. Grant us to drink of the fountain of life, and in thy light to see the light, and strength and comfort of a sanctified soul. O continue thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee, and thy righteousness to the upright in heart. Permit us to know and love and devoutly serve thee, sinful though we are; then the foot of pride shall not come against us, nor the hand of the wicked remove us; nothing shall separate us from thy love, and we shall be established in happiness, when all the workers of iniquity are cast down, and shall not be able to stand. Oh! grant these, and all other mercies, in time and eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXXVII. 1—9.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, give us a thankful and contented mind, that we may not fret because of evil doers, nor be envious against the workers of iniquity. When we look abroad, we see in the world wicked men flourishing, living in ease, and armed with power to do mischief. But we know that if, after their example, we become fraudulent, covetous, sensual or profane, we shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. In thee alone, O Lord, would we trust, enabled by thee to go about doing good: and then, under thy gracious favour, we shall dwell safely in the land, and thou wilt feed us. Incline us to rely not on ourselves, or on our own righteousness and strength, but to live confiding in thee, and praying for thy Holy Spirit, that we may endeavour to do good in however small degree. If we delight in thy

statutes and ordinances, thou wilt give us our hearts' desire—not the gratification of our appetites, and the pleasures of the body, but all the desires of a renewed, purified, and sanctified soul. Committing all our ways unto thee, we would bow entirely to thy guidance and disposal, knowing that if we cast our burdens upon thee, all our troubles and perplexities shall be made to issue in our good. We wait upon thee in patience, confident that in due time thou wilt disperse all the clouds which surround thy faithful people, and that thou wilt bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noon-day. We will rest in thee, O God, thankfully satisfied that thou wilt make all to work good for us, though we know not how, when, or where. Remove far from us all murmuring and discontent, because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Grant, O Lord, that we may cease from all anger and wrath, that we may never fret ourselves in vain, but go onward in faith and reliance on thee,

striving again and again to resist and renounce the temptations which surround us. Remembering that if we are evil doers, we shall be cut off from thy favour, we will wait upon thee with thankfulness, and use all thy gifts with temperance and charity. Thou givest us far, very far beyond our deserts, when we have food and raiment, and everything suited to our comfort; but all the earth cannot make us happy, unless thou be pleased to grant us peace with thee, and not only the promise of the life that now is, but of that which is to come. Give us but that peace which the world can neither give nor take away, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXXVII. 10—24.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, the whole duration of the world is nothing in thy sight, and as for the wicked, yet a little while and they shall not be. We may

search their place, but shall not find them. Having taught us this, thou hast shown us that if we are wicked, our prosperity will soon be at an end: our ruin will be sure and near. Be pleased to grant that we may be meek before thee, and then shall we, of thy great mercy, inherit the earth, and as much of abundance and peace, as thy infinite wisdom sees good for us. O let us not, in any sense or way, plot against the just, for thou wilt laugh us to scorn, and frustrate all our designs. Having shown us that the envy of the wicked is excited against the holiness and happiness of the righteous, deign to preserve us against their plots and malice, by thy special favour. Grant to us a spiritual and true enjoyment of that little which the righteous hath, secured by faithful promises, given in answer to prayer, after the use of lawful means, and which is better than the abundance and riches of the wicked. Having learnt from thy word that thou wilt break the arms, and bring to nought the devices of the wicked, while thou upholdest the righteous in his ways,

—let us ask ourselves this great question, Art thou with us, great God, or against us? Thou knowest what we need, what enemies and dangers await us, and what trials and sorrows we have to endure. Thou art omnipotent and all-sufficient for us,—oh! never leave us, nor forsake us. Whatever evil times may come upon us, let us not want anything good; and even in the days of famine, let us trust in thy bountiful care of thy people. O God, grant that we may not perish with the wicked, and like them be consumed, and vanish as the smoke. Forbid that we may borrow, and, as the wicked doth, pay not again; rather may we, like the righteous, feel true pity, give liberally to him that needeth, and be ever ready to do all acts of charity and beneficence. Forsaking all our sins, and learning to do well and cleave to righteousness, we entreat thee to make thy law the ruling principle in our hearts, and then will our conversation be regular and correct. O God, order our steps, enabling us to delight in thy ways. Though we may fall, and have disappointments, let us

not be utterly cast down. Uphold us with thy merciful hand; direct, counsel, and support our steps, and give us thy grace to renew us to repentance. Be our strength when flesh and heart do fail, so that our spirit shall not fall before thee; and oh! reject us not finally, but save us by thy mighty power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXXVII. ver. 25, to the end.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, thou art ever the friend and protector of the faithful and consistent believer. From youth to old age we do not see the truly righteous man forsaken by thee, or his seed begging their bread. Thou dost not promise us absolutely that we shall always be exempt from the changes and chances of this world, but, O God, thou hast taught us that if we are merciful to others, thou wilt be merciful to us; if we depart from evil, and in thy strength go about

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doing good, thou wilt protect us and our children from want, or give us pious resignation under it, and bless us in the security of all real enjoyments. Direct and dispose of us as may be most for thy glory. Send thy Holy Spirit to influence our thoughts, designs, and actions. Make our way plain before us. Lead us step by step as thy children, and keep us in constant dependence upon thy goodness. But though we may inherit the land, give us continual remembrance that there is no continuing city here on earth, and sustain us with an encouraging hope that we may dwell with thee for evermore, through the merits of our blessed Redeemer. Our mouth shall speak of thy righteousness, and our tongue shall ever be talking of thy judgments and mercies. Impress thy law deeply in our hearts, and let not our steps slide from it. Defend thy servants from the designs of wicked men, and rescue them from the malice of their enemies. We wait upon thee, O Lord. Keep us in thy way; enable us to persevere in it, and never to turn out of it;

still leaving all events to thy merciful and all-wise disposal. Let us be encouraged in our duty by considering the certain destruction of the wicked, and the no less certain salvation of the righteous. O let us not be like the prosperous wicked ones in this world—extending their branches on every side, in forgetfulness of thee and thy holy laws. Thou blightest the projects of the wicked man—he passes away and is not; we seek him, and he cannot be found. Oh! make us more and more upright, consistent and faithful servants, who, whatever trials, temptations, and disquietudes may await us, shall have our end in tranquillity and peace, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us take warning by the transgressors and the wicked, who are betrayed and cut off from thee for ever. Grant us the salvation of the righteous, O Lord, and be our strength in the time of trouble; help and deliver us, and cause us to place our sole and entire trust in thee. With our eyes fixed on eternal things, and on thy great mercy, enable us to meet death with composure,

and fit us for admission into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM XXXVIII.

O MERCIFUL God, rebuke us not in thy wrath with bodily sufferings or anguish of spirit, neither chastise us in thy heavy displeasure. O God, there is no soundness in our body, because of thy wrath with our transgressions; nor is there any rest in our bones because of our sins, which have exhausted thy patient and forbearing mercy. Our nature is depraved by the prevalence of sin; our iniquities are gone over our head, as a burden too heavy for us to bear, under a sense of thy divine wrath. Our souls are stricken with remorse; we go mourning all the day long under the oppression of sin on our consciences. We are feeble and sore smitten; we have groaned by reason of the disquietness of

our guilty hearts. We fly to thee in submission and repentance, and application to the atoning blood of Christ. Our heart panteth for fear; our strength faileth; the light of our eyes is gone from us; our neighbours and friends fail us when under thy visitations, and our near kinsmen stand afar off; we are left in mourning and misery before thee, O God; our enemies also speak against us, and imagine deceits all the day long. In the complication of our sufferings we become deaf and hear not; we become dumb and open not our mouth. In simplicity and truth would we imitate our great Master, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; for we are conscious that our troubles and chastisements are far less than our deserts for our trespasses and sins. In thee alone, O Lord, do we hope. Let not the ungodly magnify themselves against us when our foot slippeth; but do thou ever uphold our weakness. Conscious of our unworthiness, and of our proneness to fall, our sorrow is continually before us. We confess our iniquities; fervently desiring

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an humble spirit before thee, and pleading, as guilty sinners, only the name of our Saviour. When the ungodly render us evil for good, and our adversaries are multiplied against us, grant us grace more earnestly to endeavour to follow the thing that good is, and to lead a holy and useful life. Forsake us not, O God, be not far from us. Make haste to help us, O Lord of our salvation. Pardon and subdue all our iniquities, when we kneel before thee in confession and contrition, and declare our sins unto thee freely and fully. Desert us not, O God, but look upon us in mercy, and raise us to thy kingdom in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XXXIX.

O LORD, merciful God, through thy preventing grace often have we exclaimed, we will take heed to our ways; it is a

covenant we must always be mindful of; if an evil thought arise, we will suppress it, and not give utterance to it. We will not sin with our tongue; we will keep our mouth as it were with a bridle; we will watch every word. O God, continue thy grace to us, that we may keep our tongue from evil, and our lips that they speak no guile; and above all, let us take heed of saying anything which may give occasion to others to blaspheme. When the wicked has been in our sight, it has been in thy strength alone that we held our tongue and spake nothing; we kept silence, yea, even from good words, though it was pain and grief to us. Our hearts burnt within us, and meditation fanned the fire. At length we spake with our tongue; Lord, let us know our end, and the number of our days, that we may be certified how long we have to live. Make us sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of life, and the near approach of death, when our state of probation and preparation will be at an end. Thou hast made our days as a span, and our age is as

nothing before thee ; verily every man, in his best estate, is altogether vanity. Send thy Holy Spirit to convince us of the speediness of death, and to teach us our every duty. Enlighten our minds with divine knowledge, and fill our hearts with grace, that we may live every day and hour, as if it were the day and hour of our death. Walking in a vain shadow, we are absorbed in the interests, and pursuits, and distinctions of a world which passeth away as a shadow. We disquiet ourselves in vain with transitory griefs and fears, and neglect the contemplation of important and eternal realities. We toil and labour to heap up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what is our hope ? our hope truly is in thee. We fix our expectations on thee as the fountain of happiness. Looking up to thee as our chief good, solely and entirely through the mediation of our blessed Saviour, we despair of finding happiness in the things of this world. Deliver us then, O God, from our numberless transgressions, that we may not disgrace our Chris-

tian profession, and become a reproach to the ungodly. When we are afflicted, though we become dumb, we would yet rejoice, because we are afflicted by thee for our eternal good; but, in compassion, be pleased to remove thy heavy visitations. Thy chastisements for our iniquity make our beauty and strength to consume away like a moth fretting a garment; and fully do we learn that every man, therefore, is but vanity. Hear our prayers, O Lord, and let our cry come unto thee. Hold not thy peace at our tears, for we are strangers and pilgrims, as all our fathers were. O spare, guide and support us, till the measure of our service on earth be finished, that we may recover our strength before we go hence and be no more seen; and oh! accept us finally and eternally, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XL.

Most gracious and merciful God, we wait patiently for thee; incline thine ear unto us, and hear our cry. Thou hast brought us up out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set our feet upon a rock, and ordered our goings. Thou hast perfected the work of our redemption, through Jesus Christ our Lord. He was, for our sake, as one sinking in a dark and noisome pit, waiting on thy sovereign will, O God. At his resurrection, he was brought forth from the grave, and in his exaltation, his remaining work became delightful, and his full success was insured in the complete salvation of lost sinners. We thank thee, O God, that Christ is our rock, on which our poor souls may stand secure and firm, and on whose mediation we build all our hopes. Grant us this stedfast hope. Oh! that all our walk and conduct may be steady and regular, in and

through the riches and power of thy grace. O merciful God, thou hast put a new song into our mouth, even praise unto thee; thou hast filled us with joy as well as peace in believing; and multitudes, with us, by faith beholding the sufferings of our spotless Deliverer, and the glory which followed, shall fear thy justice and trust in thy mercy, through the same all-sufficient Saviour. Blessed are they that trust in him, and in his righteousness. Many, O Lord, are thy wonderful works towards us, both in providence and grace. If we would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. Sacrifice and offering thou didst and dost not require, so much as cheerful and practical obedience, proceeding from faith and love. All legal sacrifices were deemed insufficient, when our Redeemer promptly answered, "Lo, I come, in the volume of the Book it is written of me." Enable us to imitate him, and say, We delight to do thy will, O God: yea, thy law is written in our hearts. Glory be to thee, if, with any truth, we can aver, we have not re-

frained our lips from declaring thy righteousness, O Lord: we have not hid thy righteousness within our hearts, but have declared thy faithfulness, thy salvation and thy loving-kindness. Withhold not thy tender mercies from us, O Lord; let thy loving-kindness entirely and continually preserve us. For innumerable evils have encompassed us; our iniquities have taken such hold upon us that we are not able to look up, they are more than the hairs of our head; and indeed, indeed, our heart faileth us. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver us; make haste to help us. Cause our sins and the enemies of our souls to be driven backward. Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee, and let such as love thy salvation say alway, The Lord be magnified. We are poor, and needy, and wrath-deserving sinners, yet the Lord thinketh upon us with sparing and pardoning mercy. Thou art our help and deliverer; remove us from sin in every degree and form, that we may behold thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XLI.

O God, merciful Father, thou art full of kindness and compassion towards us wayward, sinful creatures. Though we are thy children, we are not exempted in this world from poverty, sickness, and numberless other afflictions. Teach us to consider the poor and needy, and deliver us in the time of our trouble. Reserve our lives and give us temporal benefits, as long as they are good for us. Deliver us not over unto the will of our enemies outwardly or inwardly. Strengthen us in body and mind. Comfort us when we languish on the bed of sickness, till our health is mercifully restored, or till a peaceful death terminate all our sorrows in the hope of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Give us grace to show the reality of our faith, by supplying the wants of others when we have opportunity. Reminded by pain and sickness to

pray for thy pardoning mercy, and still more for the spiritual healing of the soul, Lord, be merciful unto us, restore our souls, for we have sinned against thee. If deceivers whisper together, and slander and reproach us; if our own familiar friend, in whom we trusted, and who did eat of our bread, hath laid great wait for us, let us ask ourselves searchingly if *we* have been perfidious toward God: we eat of his daily bread, and are forgetful of his bounty; and, O God, if the holy Jesus was despised and rejected of men, betrayed and sold by one of his very apostles, well may the most humble and upright of his followers in any and all time expect enmity, treachery, and ingratitude. But be merciful, O Lord, and raise us up, that our enemies may be disappointed. Prevent us from returning evil for evil, and enable us to fly to thee for protection. Uphold us in our integrity; set us before thee for ever, and suffer us to commit ourselves to thy keeping. Let us continually look unto Jesus, that we may not stumble nor be discouraged; remembering

that he met with far baser treatment in every respect than we can do. Let us walk in his steps, and follow his example of meekness and forbearance, and not desire to avenge ourselves, never forgetting that he prayed for the forgiveness of his very murderers. In faith and hope let us solace ourselves on earth, by beginning the work of heaven, responding with the faithful of every clime and age in their song of praise: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and amen."

PSALM XLII.

O LORD God, our chief good and happiness, we turn to thee in faith, and love and hope; we fly to thee as our only refuge and strength. As the hart panteth for the water-brooks, so panteth our soul after thee, O God. Longing for thy gracious presence and favour, and for com-

munion with thee, our soul thirsteth for thee, the living God. When shall we come to appear before thee? Nothing can afford us satisfaction but the consolations of thy Holy Spirit. Temptations and afflictions make us thirst the more for the waters of eternal life. Our tears have been our meat day and night, troubled as we are continually by that harassing though vain taunt of the ungodly, "Where is now thy God?" When we remember these things, we pour out our soul in silence, for we had gone with the multitude to thy holy temple, with the voice of joy and praise, upon thy sabbaths and other holy days. Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for we shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. Upheld by thee, we will not yield to despondency; we will remember thee, O God, with faith, and hope, and patience, though banished to the remotest parts of the earth. We are now in the midst of outward calamities and inward anguish; as

in a ship in a violent storm, when assaulted by one billow after another, we are like the astonished mariners, overwhelmed by the impetuous force of the ocean,—all thy waves and billows are gone over us to overwhelm us for our sins. We commune with our heart in bitterness, and find no relief, unable to still these winds and waves. Therefore we turn to thee, O God, for relief. Thou in thy mercy wilt yet command thy loving-kindness in the day-time, and in the night thy song shall be with us, and we will pray unto thee, the God of our salvation; sensible that thou chastenest us for our sins, we would in unfeigned penitence and humility appeal unto thee, O God, our Rock. Why hast thou forgotten us? why go we mourning and oppressed? Our bones are smitten asunder as with a sword, while it is daily said unto us, “Where is now thy God?” It behoves us under every distress to call ourselves to account, feeling we have great cause to mourn for sin; and if one trouble follow hard upon another, let us remember that they are all appointed

and over-ruled by thee, and that we deserve more, far more, than thou callest us to endure on earth. Only in thy name, O Lord Jesus, do we hope and pray. One word from thee will calm every storm, and turn midnight into day. Why, then, art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? for we shall,—well may we each for himself exclaim—we shall yet praise him, who is the health of our countenance and our God. Amen.

PSALM XLIII.

O GOD, merciful Father, we approach thee in faith and prayer, as our righteous Judge, our strength, and our salvation, our guide, and our hope. In lowly but firm dependence would we come before thee, day by day, under every return of distress and sorrow. As David exclaimed, “ Judge me, O God, and plead my cause

against an ungodly nation." So we beseech thee, O God, to deliver us from the malicious, the deceitful and unjust. Thy favour and protection are all-sufficient for us; without thy support, we are weak and unable to do any good thing. We rely solely upon thee, O God, for thou art our strength: why dost thou cast us off? why go we mourning because of our adversaries? O send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead us through the innumerable snares of this world—that light of heavenly wisdom which will teach us how to walk before thee in the onward path of duty. Lead us, O God, to thy holy hill and to thy tabernacle—then will we go to thy altar. Send us the grace of thy Holy Spirit to bring us into communion with thee, and prepare us for the sight of thee, and of thy glory in a heavenly world. We will come unto thee with exceeding joy; yea, upon the harp we will praise thee.* The nearer we approach thee in faith and prayer, the better for our happiness here and hereafter; thee, the unfailing source of our joys and of our triumphs

over the world, the flesh, and the devil. We will praise thee, O God, with the best member we have. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God, who is the health of my countenance and my God." Thou, O God, art our hope, our never-failing hope. We have done wrong in yielding to despair and despondency. Oh! strengthen us with the all-reviving hope that thou wilt send forth the truth of thy word, and the light of thy Spirit, to guide us in the way of holiness, peace, and salvation. We bless and praise thy name for our joys in thee here, through our all-glorious Intercessor, and we will ever be looking forward to the time when thou wilt end our sorrows on earth, and, for his sake, complete our happiness in heaven. Blessed be thy name that our chief desire now is to be saved from sin as well as sorrow, to be instructed in the way of righteousness, to see the light of heavenly wisdom shining upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and by his merits, and grace, and strength, to be led from the

land of our pilgrimage here to thy holy hill in the new and ever glorious Jerusalem. Amen.

PSALM XLIV.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, the noble works that thou didst in their days, and in the olden time before them, how thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them in; how thou didst afflict the people and cast them out. For they gat not the land in possession by their own sword, neither was it their own arm that did save them, but thy right hand and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them. Thus shall one generation praise thy works unto another; and thus have we, thy servants, found experience of thy power and goodness, while we are unfailingly supported

by faith and prayer under our present calamities. Thou, O God, didst fight for Israel, else had they fought in vain. Prevent us from confiding in any human policy and power, but in thy mercy and goodness. Protect our country and the church of Christ here and throughout the world, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Taking thee for our Sovereign Lord, we fly to thee in prayer for deliverance in every hour of distress. Thou art our King, O God! command thy sure mercies to fall upon us. Thou art the same Almighty God, who of old didst effect deliverances for thy people. Through thee will we tread down all that rise up against us, while serving thee. We will not trust in our strength: it is not our own sword that will save us. Renouncing all self-confidence, we have nothing to glory in, but our relation to thee, through Jesus Christ our Mediator. Thou hast saved us from the enemies of our happiness, and put to shame our deadly foes. In thee we trust all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. But sometimes

thou hast permitted thy church and people to be cast down for their iniquity. Thou puttest us to shame; thou givest us like sheep appointed to be slain: we suffer insults, mockings, and reproaches; our confusion is daily before our face; we have deserved all these calamities which have come upon us, yet have we been by thy mercy prevented from forgetting thee, or dealing falsely with thy covenant. Our heart has not turned from thee, nor our steps declined from thy way. Though thou hast sore smitten us, and almost covered us with the shadow of death, yet even then, hast thou graciously been present to our souls, enabling us to maintain a holy watchfulness, and follow out the searching inquiry,—if we have forgotten thy name, or stretched out our hands to any strange god, wilt not thou search it out, for thou knowest the secrets of all hearts? For thy sake are we persecuted and killed all the day long. Awake! why seemest thou not to see us, O Lord? Cast us not off for ever. Wherefore hidest thou thy face and forgettest our afflictions and con-

flicts? for our soul is bowed down to the dust of the earth. Arise and help us, and deliver us, for thy mercy's sake, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XLV.

O GOD, merciful Father! suffer us each to approach thee in the words of thy servant David, and say with him, "My heart is inditing of a good matter, I speak of the things which I have heard concerning the king. My tongue is the pen of a ready writer." Thou, Lord Christ, art "fairer than the children of men; full of grace are thy lips, therefore God hath blessed thee for ever." Thy words are replete with instruction, persuasion, and consolation, to guide the ignorant, restore the doubtful, comfort the mourners, reclaim the wicked, and heal the contrite, and thy words controlled the elements and raised the dead. Graciously waken and affect

our hearts, when in the light of thy glorious truth we admire and adore thee, and fly to thee as our gracious Mediator. Thou art more excellent than this lower world and all its charms; thou art more worthy of our love. Pierce our hard hearts with the sword of the Spirit, and in the might of thy glory and majesty. Ride forth as a resistless conqueror in unrivalled greatness and majesty, to spread truth, meekness, and righteousness in the earth, and to bring us all into a state of peace and acceptance with the Father; and teach us to live in continual and holy fidelity and meekness with each other. Thy arrows of conviction are very sharp, when, in any sense or degree, we become the enemies of thy righteousness and holiness, and till we are humbled, subjected, and reconciled; and all who persevere in opposing thee shall fall under thy power. Thy throne, O Jesu, is for ever and ever; and the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity; therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of glad-

ness above thy fellows. Thou, Lord Christ, wast anointed above all, whether kings or priests, and art now exalted to power and glory. Thou art clothed with garments which diffuse a refreshing fragrancy over thy church on earth. That we may joy in thee, O blessed Lord Jesus, as our portion and salvation, we pray to be separated from sin and the carnal interests of an unconverted state. The richest of the nations shall consecrate their wealth to thy name, and with joy and gladness shall thy people be brought unto thee. Created in thee, by the regenerating Spirit, a bright array and succession of spiritual converts shall arise as thy children to spread over the earth. Thy name, blessed Lord, shall be remembered throughout all generations, and the people shall praise thee for ever and ever. Amen and amen.

PSALM XLVI.

O MERCIFUL Father, thou art our refuge and strength, a very present and unfailing help, when dangers and troubles press upon us; a firm faith and trust in thee exclude all alarm, when in the prospect of events the most dreaded. Be but our faith, as strong as our security, and we need not fear, though the earth be removed, and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, and though the mountains shake with the swelling of the same. Lord, though the waves of calamity and sin roar around us, our souls shall abide in peace, while we look up to thee as our life and joy. The sacred stream of thy holy word strengthens our fainting souls in dark and cloudy days. There is a river, "the river of the water of life," the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, and fill thy temple

and thy people with abiding strength and consolation. Be thou in the midst of us, O God, and then shall we not be moved; and when there is any danger, send us seasonable and speedy relief. The heathen raged, and the kingdoms were moved, but when thou utterdest thy voice the earth melted, and the full accomplishment of thy power has been the success of thy glorious Gospel, notwithstanding all opposition to it, which melted away before thy blessing on the preaching of the apostles and evangelists. Thou, Lord of hosts, art with us, thou, God of Jacob, art our refuge. If thou redeem us from all evil, according to thy merciful promise, what have we to fear? Come, all ye people, and contemplate what wonders God hath wrought for us, and what desolations he hath made among our powerful enemies. Thou makest wars to cease unto the ends of the earth: thou disablest all that delight in war: thou breakest the bow and cuttest the spear in sunder, and burnest the chariots in the fire. The trembling world is awed by thee into

peace. Let all the earth keep silence before thee. Let thy own people calmly confide in thee, and learn to their comfort that thou art God, and wilt be exalted above the heathen, and over the whole earth. Thy counsels shall be fulfilled throughout the world; thou, Lord of hosts, art with us; thou, God of Jacob, art our refuge. With reverential love and homage, we worship and trust in thee, our Almighty sovereign. Having received thy glorified Son as our Lord and Saviour, we desire to live in grateful obedience to him, and to make his power, wisdom, and truth, our refuge and strength. O Lord, secure our welfare against fightings without; quiet our minds from fears within: comfort us through life, and in death support us till we reach thy heavenly and eternal kingdom, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XLVII.

ALMIGHTY Sovereign Lord, we come before thee with all people to acknowledge thy Divine Majesty, and thine universal dominion over all. Thou art high and terrible, and a great King over all the earth. Thy holy sovereignty would strike us into hopeless despair, were it not exercised by thy Son our all-availing Saviour, but thou hast designed and made it alarming only to the workers of iniquity. Thou hast subdued the people under us, and the nations under our feet. We bless thee for showing us that the victories of Israel were but shadows of our spiritual triumphs—confiding in thee, we submit as sinners to thy authority, and trust in thy unwearied mercy. O deign still to guard us and all that concerns us with thy special care; subdue our affections, and make us a willing people; bringing all our thoughts into obedience unto thee.

Thou, God, hast chosen an inheritance for us; thou knowest the real wants of our souls, and what will make us happy here and for ever. Thou hast laid up for them that love thee an inheritance incorruptible, that fadeth not away. Confiding in thy wisdom, and submitting to thy will, we would be thankful for all thy mercies. Thou, O God, art gone up with a shout, and with the sound of a trumpet. Thou, Lord Jesus, hast ascended on high, amidst the acclamations of the heavenly hosts. We praise thee, O God; we sing praises unto thee, our King; for thou art the King of all the earth, let us sing praises with understanding. Even the heathen who worship other, and those whom they call gods, are ruled by thee, the true God, whether they will or not. Thou sittest on the shrine of thy holiness; that shrine which is for ever and ever. Having set up not only the kingdom of thy providence, but the kingdom of thy grace, in the Gentile world, oh! do thou rule ever in our hearts, and advance thy holiness among the children of men. The

princes of the people were the people of the God of Abraham to praise thee, for thou art highly exalted, and dost defend the earth, as it were, with a shield. Lord Jesus, is it not thy glory and delight to give repentance and remission of sins, now that thou art exalted as a Prince and a Saviour? Lord, do thou rule in us, and for us! Set up thy kingdom in our hearts. Constrain all the faculties of our souls into obedience, fear, and holy delight in thee, that we may praise thee both here and ever, as the Rock of our salvation, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PSALM XLVIII.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God! great art thou and greatly to be praised! possessing sovereign and universal dominion. Thou art worthy of all blessing and praise in thy holy temple, in thy gospel church, of

which Jerusalem was a type—in all places and by all people. Beautifully stand the temples of thy grace! wherein thou art sought and known as a refuge in distress. How brightly shines thy salvation through all thy churches; and on those who worship thee on the mountain of thy holiness. Kings of the heathen assembled against thy holy Sion—they saw it and marvelled, were troubled, and hastened away; but the pious princes of Judah confided in thee, as their ark and fortress. Fear took hold upon the heathen, and they fled with terror. Thou breakest the ships, and bendest thy roaring tempests to destroy the enemies of our peace. Oft have the fathers of Israel declared thy wonderful deliverances. Establish thy goodness for ever, and encourage us to trust in thy faithful and powerful protection, and confidently to expect that thou wilt support thy people in safety and prosperity throughout all generations. We have often thought of thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. We have waited in silent contemplation and

patient hope for thy mercy and loving-kindness, with believing prayers, and relying solely on thy aid, and not on our own power and strength. According to thy name, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth. Thy right hand is full of righteousness. With continual and fervent adoration would we rejoice in the operations of thy providence, wrought in wisdom, and working for the good of thy church throughout the world. We will walk about thy Gospel church, and go round about her, and tell the towers thereof. We see its bulwarks in thy precious promises; which, in thy strength, we will declare to them that are to come after us—that with full purpose of heart we may all cleave unto thee, for thou, God, art our God for ever and ever; thou wilt be our guide unto death. Remembering with glad and thankful hearts that, in thy triumphant Son alone, are righteousness, sacrifice and satisfaction for all our sins, we would now and for ever take thee, O Lord, for our God and our guide. Having, to our great comfort, assured us

that death shall not do us any hurt, so conduct us, O Lord, through this life, that we may be at last conveyed in safety to thy heavenly kingdom, where thy saints enjoy uninterrupted peace and felicity for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XLIX.

O LORD God Almighty, pour out upon us abundantly of thy grace, that we may with our whole soul attend to thy divine instruction. O grant that both the high and the low, the rich and the poor, and all the sons of Adam, may meet together to make one common acknowledgment, that we are all guilty sinners in thy sight. May we apply this truth to ourselves. If thou hast given us wealth beyond our fellow-creatures, teach us, Lord, to consider the vanity of worldly possessions, and the insecurity of their enjoyment. If we are

poor and lowly, make us content with the little we have, and prevent us from envying those who have abundance. Strengthened by thee, we will meditate on thy truths, and apply our hearts unto wisdom. Wisdom crieth without; she lifteth up her voice in the streets; but, alas! how few of us attend to her heavenly instruction! The mouth of our blessed Lord always spake wisdom and instruction, yet none regarded him. But if we give diligent heed to thy precepts, blessed Jesus, why should we fear in the days of evil? In the time of tribulation and judgment, it is only iniquity unrepented that will compass us about. Every work will be brought into judgment, and every secret thing before thee, O God, the searcher of hearts; but wherefore should the believer fear death and the grave, who has thee for his guide and support? When the hearts of others fail for fear, enable us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to lift up our heads with joy. Guard us from the sinful folly of trusting in wealth, which cannot satisfy thy justice, O God, nor ran-

som our nearest and most beloved friend from death, nor redeem our own precious soul. We depend not on anything earthly as our portion and happiness—yea, though we should live long and see not the grave. We see that the wise die as well as the foolish and ignorant; how many are the vain men who think that their houses shall continue to all generations, calling the lands after their own names; when, with less trouble, both of mind and body, they might have attained to a sure and blessed immortality in thy kingdom, through the grace of our Saviour and Redeemer. Soon must all the honours and distinctions of this short scene be relinquished; and like the beasts that perish, we too should be lost for ever, but for our assured hope in Jesus, of a future glorious resurrection. As far as our withering bodies are concerned, we are carried to the grave, and death feeds upon us, but O merciful God, redeem our souls from the power of the grave, and render us incorruptible and glorious. We envy not the vain of heart, who are made rich, and whose glory is in-

creased; for, when they die, they shall carry nothing away; their glory shall descend after them. Though while they lived, they blessed their soul, yet the worldly are carried from the light of this world, and shall not see the light eternal. O deign to visit and convert their souls, ere it be too late; and make us all so to live here, that we may live for ever in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM L. 1—15.

ALMIGHTY God, Creator of all things, thou hast called the world from the rising of the sun until the going down thereof: out of Sion hast thou appeared in perfect beauty. Thou wilt come to judgment, and wilt summon all the inhabitants of the earth to appear before thy august tribunal, and the dead shall rise from their graves; no longer shall the wicked and blasphemous

mous say, the judgment will not come; no longer shall they abuse thy patience and long-suffering. All nations shall be gathered together before thee; every one of us must appear to receive our final doom, and to give account of ourselves to thee. Throned in clouds, thou wilt come, O God, and shalt not keep silence. Thunder and darkness, fire and storms, shall lead on the dreadful day. Thou wilt call the heavens from above, and the earth shall be summoned; thou wilt sit in judgment on thine own people. In strictest equity will thy voice go forth, "Gather my saints together, those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice"—those who have made their peace with thee through the sacrifice and blood of thy only Son, their blessed Redeemer. Lord! suffer us never to forget that both our faith and our works shall be brought forth to the light of thy all-searching eye; and the heavens shall declare thy righteousness, for thou art thyself the judge. True and righteous will be thy irreversible decree. Even the consciences of sinners will subscribe to it,

and be found to acknowledge thy perfect justice. Thou hast said, "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against thee; I am God, even thy God." Thou wilt not reprove us because our sacrifices and burnt-offerings are not always before thee; thou requirest neither bullock nor beast of the forest, nor the cattle upon a thousand hills; all the beasts of the field are thine, and all the world, and the fulness thereof. Oh! then in mercy prevent us either in thought or deed, from placing dependence upon any legal sacrifices. To obey is better than sacrifice, and to love and fear thee, and to love our neighbour as ourselves, far better than burnt offerings. Thou requirest the heart, and wilt not be put off with unmeaning offerings. Resting not in our performances, or in anything that we can do, but entirely on thy wisdom, power, and goodness, we would bring before thee a broken and a contrite heart, that sacrifice which thou wilt not despise. Forsaking our sin, and performing our covenant with thee, we beseech thee to

deliver us, O Lord, from all our dangers and difficulties; we will fall down before thee in prayer under trials, and with praises in our deliverances. Graciously answer our petitions in thine own good time and way; and oh! mercifully carry on the work of our salvation to the last, and we will glorify thee through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM L. 16—23.

ALMIGHTY God, to whom all hearts are open, and from whom no hypocrisy can be hid, thou who hast said to the wicked, "What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth?" If our hearts continue their covenant with sin and death, we know, O Lord, that the day is coming when thou wilt thrust us out as intruders, and when thou wilt set our sins

in order before us. Grant that we may not, in wretched forgetfulness of thee and thy laws, abuse thy patience and neglect our eternal salvation! While thou art just, and holy, and gracious, thou wilt be terrible also to us if we turn not from the error of our ways. Teach us daily not to cast thy precious words behind us. If in any degree, or from any quarter, we are tempted to dishonesty and impurity, keep us from consenting to evil, or to be the associates of the ungodly. Restrain our tongue, O Lord, and our lips from deceitful words; preserve us from slander, from treacherous conduct towards our neighbour, and from wickedness of every kind. If we have indulged in any sin, let us not deceive ourselves by thinking that thou, O God, will not see it, for we know that thou wilt say, "These things hast thou done and kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thyself, but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes." O keep in us an influential remembrance that thou, O God, wilt one day set the things we have

done before the assembled world, and that the pages which record our sins will be read to our confusion. Incline us to judge ourselves, and take warning by thy threats, that we may escape thy Almighty indignation. Send thy Holy Spirit, that we may embrace thy gospel, and praise thee for thy mercy, and endeavour to glorify thee in the strict and faithful homage of a self-denying life. If we forget thee, we forget ourselves, and it will never be right with us till we consider our ways. We cannot deliver ourselves, nor can any friend in this world deliver us. Oh! enable us practically, continually, and earnestly to fly to thee our merciful God with prayer and praise, endeavouring to glorify thee in word and deed through our blessed Redeemer. Send us thy preventing grace, that we may walk in a circumspect and conscientious conversation. Let no impurity stain our lives, let no lying delusion possess us, that we shall escape, though we transgress. Thou, the Judge, wilt come to strip off all masks, to reprove, convict, condemn. May we timely consider our

danger, for who then can rescue us? Let us delay not a day to prepare to meet thee, our God; let us thankfully embrace the gospel, and humbly wait for complete and eternal salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LI.

ALMIGHTY and ever-gracious God, we fly to thy loving-kindness, and the multitude of thy tender mercies towards us and towards all men. According to thy great goodness, we pray to thee to blot out our transgressions through Jesus Christ our Saviour; to wash us thoroughly from all our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. We acknowledge, and bewail our transgressions; our sins are ever before us; we can offer no palliation for our conduct, from any peculiarity in the temptations which surround us. As vile and miserable sinners, we supplicate thy mer-

ciful forgiveness, too well knowing that no endeavours of our own can cleanse us, or keep us from pollution. We seek redemption and support entirely and solely through thy grace and the blessed influence of thy Holy Spirit—submitting to thy righteousness in the contrite remembrance that we have done evil in thy sight, and deserve to perish, we will joyfully ascribe the whole honour and glory of our salvation to thy rich mercies in Jesus Christ our Lord. How fallen we are by nature, we, alas! daily evince by the depravity of our hearts; yet, notwithstanding our guilt, graciously and effectually teach us thy truth, and communicate to us true wisdom, cleanse us by the blood of our Saviour, and sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit. Make us to hear of joy and gladness, that our souls, though weary and sunk under a sense of indwelling corruption, may rejoice in thee. Hide thy face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation, and uphold us with thy free spirit. Then shall we teach other sinners by our example and experience thy ways of peace, reconciliation and holiness, and be alike permitted and enabled by thee to draw and accompany them towards thy mercy-seat, there to intreat of thee grace to repent and turn in faith, and to do the works meet for repentance. Deliver us then, O God of our salvation, and our tongues shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth thy praise. Thou desirest not sacrifice, else would we give it; already has the only availing sacrifice been made and accepted for us by the blood of the Lamb; our humble offering is a penitent, believing, thankful heart, and a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Help us to walk with increasing watchfulness, and to pray more both for ourselves and our fellow-sinners. Build us up in our most holy faith, then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness; and

granting us peace of conscience, and purity of heart, thou wilt graciously and for ever accept us, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

PSALM LII.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God, who lookest down upon the children of men, and knowest all their ways, we not only sin and trespass in secret, but often boast of mischief and of our success in treachery; and yet thy goodness endureth continually; our tongue deviseth mischief, and cutteth like a sharp razor—that same tongue which was made to praise and glorify thee, and to speak of all thy glorious works; and above all, thy great and wondrous goodness in our redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord. But, alas! we love evil more than good, and often indulge in slander, calumny and untruth, rather than to speak righteously, charitably and truly. Too often not only do

we corrupt ourselves, but we even prefer others of like disposition, with devouring words and a deceitful tongue. Wretched as it is to do ill, we feel that it is far more so to boast and glory in it, and that it is the very height of sinful folly to attempt to justify it in thy sight. We abuse thy forbearance and patience with us, by hardening our hearts in vain and froward ways. But what will become of us, if with hearty repentance and remorse of conscience we do not turn unto thee! Thou, O God, wilt destroy us, thou wilt take us away, and pluck us out of our dwelling-place, and root us out of the land of the living in this world, and will destroy us for ever! Anticipating this destruction, the righteous become more afraid of the dreadful effects of sin, and more strengthened in true religion; and, deploring the folly of all who vainly trust in wealth and prosperity, and encourage themselves in iniquity, they exclaim when the wicked fall, "Lo, this is the man that took not God for his strength." Make us like a green olive-tree in thy house, O God.

Depending on thy free and unmerited mercy, we will praise thee for ever, because thou hast performed thy precious promises ; we will wait on thy name, for it is good to praise thee before thy saints, to meditate on the virtue and power of that saving name which is as ointment poured on the soul, to calm and quiet our anxious and disturbed spirits, and to keep us in the way of simple, onward duty. Though now in sin and affliction, we desire, in thy grace and power, to live in faith, and be conformed to our suffering Redeemer ; and, waiting in peace for thy salvation, O God, we will praise thee for ever, through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour. Amen.

PSALM LIII.

O LORD God Almighty, we again presume to come before thee, as guilty sinners desiring to be more fully convinced

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of our many transgressions. To our shame, we feel we often fall into sin! Alike amazed and sorrow-stricken that "the fool hath said in his heart, There is no God," we confess, and joyfully adore thee as our Lord and God. Thou lookest from the place of thy holiness upon the children of men, and all their wicked ways are before thee; corrupt are we, and become abominable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Every one of us has gone back, and swerved from the ways of thy holy commandments. We are altogether become debased in thy sight; to any practical, abiding effect, there is no fear of thee before our eyes. Though professing to know thee, we yet, in our thoughts, words and works, deny thee and thy Omnipresence. Have we, as workers of iniquity, no knowledge? Persecutors have eaten up thy people as it were bread, and have not called upon thee; but thou hast scattered those persecutors, and put them to shame. Thou hast stricken them with fear, and put them to confusion. We thank thee, O Lord, that we are not called upon, as in

past times, in this our land, to prove our belief in our blessed Saviour by bodily tortures ; not by sufferings, like holy martyrs of old, by flame and faggot ; our happier lot being only to prove our faith and trust in our Saviour, by walking peaceably in humble imitation of his pure and holy life. Let not a guilty conscience and a dread of deserved vengeance fill us with fears. Deign to own us as his spiritual followers : then Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad. Then shall they who pray and wait for redemption see all the Gentiles gathered in, the Jews converted, and all Israel saved. Grant us thy grace, that, under a deep sense of our guilt and ruin, we may rest our only hope of recovery in thy once-crucified, but now glorified Son. O God, let us not be led captive by our iniquities. Mercifully save thy people from their sins ; bless us, and keep us from evil, that we may live righteously here, and be received hereafter into everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LIV.

O God, merciful Father, we come to thy footstool in all our dangers and difficulties. Beset by temptations from without and within, our hearts are desperately perverse and wicked, yet do we appeal to thee with confidence in all the fervency of prayer; flying to thee for succour and deliverance, in proportion to our emergencies and necessities. Save us, O God, for Christ's sake. Hear our prayers, and give ear to the words of our mouth. Taking refuge in thy mighty power, and under the shadow of thy wings, we will set thee before us at all times, and never cast off the thoughts of thy continued daily and hourly mercies to us. Behold, O God, thou art our helper, strengthen and uphold us. If thou art for us and with us, we need fear no power that may be against us. In due time thou wilt deliver us. Meanwhile, sustain and support our doubt-

ing and drooping hearts, that we fail not before thee: for there is truth in thy threatenings, as well as in thy precious promises. If we continue in sin and repent not, we shall find this to our terror and ruin. Cut us not off in thy wrath. We will freely offer the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgivings unto thee for all thy goodness to us. A joyful and profitable thing for us it is to sing praises unto thee, for thou hast delivered us out of many troubles and afflictions. Many trials and troubles may yet beset our course. Rescue and deliver us from them all; but especially from the evil of sin. Lord, help us to bear our cross without repining. If our relatives become unkind, or our friends become our foes, do thou forgive them, O God, and be thou our Father and our Friend. Thou art our surest guard and Protector. We depend not on wealth and power, nor on any earthly stay—our health will fail, our joys will fade, but, whether we have times of poverty, sickness or grief, all must come at last to an end on earth. Throughout all changes

and chances of this decaying scene, comfort us with the assurance that we are ever in thy Almighty hands. Conduct us throughout our course in this life by the influences of thy Holy Spirit, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LV. 1—15.

O MERCIFUL God, give ear to our prayer, and hide not thyself from our supplication; disregard us not—leave us not to ourselves when we cry unto thee in our distress. Take heed unto us, and hear us, how we mourn in our prayer. Manifest thy favour unto us, while contrite under the heavy burthen of sin, and flying to prayer to relieve the spirit under every oppression. We open our case, ourselves, our hearts, unto thee? Oh! comfort and support us. We draw nigh in the name of our blessed Redeemer, who, while on earth, was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

Encompassed with sin, and sorrow, and deceitfulness, our hearts are often pierced within us, and the terrors of death are come upon us. Fearfulness and trembling fall upon us, and an horrible dread hath overwhelmed us. The remembrance of our transgressions then torments us, with an oppression too heavy to be borne—our guilty conscience gives Satan power to assault our peace. We retire to some secret place to hide ourselves from the noise, and tumult, and enmity of the world; we say, “Oh, that we had wings like a dove, for then would we fly away, and be at rest.” “Lo, then, would we wander far, and remain in the wilderness,” but we are recalled by the remembrance that we are not at liberty to desert our post. Give us patience under our temporary trials, and make us useful in that station which thy providence has assigned to us. We can find no rest anywhere but in thee, O God, with whom we can commune in the midst of the noisiest crowd. Enable us to wait patiently for our perfect rest through Jesus Christ, till we have

served our generation in this world. In our greatest troubles, may our prayer be that of our blessed Exemplar: "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." If we would hasten our escape from the stormy wind and tempest, check our impatience, yea though we must see violence and strife, mischief and sorrow, wretchedness and guile, and be deceived, not only by our open enemy, but by our own familiar friend, with whom we had taken sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God as friends. Yet let us say with Samuel, "Behold, here am I, do to me as it seemeth good unto thee," and let us remember that even our Divine Master was betrayed by a disciple, and an apostle. Having taught us that death will seize upon the wicked, and they will go down quick into hell, and everlasting ruin, 'oh! enable us to hold fast our faith without wavering, and accept us for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LV. 16—23.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, whatever others may do, we will call upon thee to protect, guide and sanctify us with thy Holy Spirit. Evening, and morning, and at noon-day, we will pray and cry aloud; be pleased in mercy to hear our voice, when in all our trials we approach thee. Weak and helpless sinners as we are, oh! enable us to pray aright, with all our hearts, and not to give over our importunity till thou graciously grant our petition, and send us relief for Christ's sake. Our souls need spiritual nourishment far more than our bodies need strengthening food. Give an answer, if not of worldly comfort, yet of inward peace to our souls. When all appears against us, do thou raise us up faithful friends. Changes and afflictions are better for us than uninterrupted prosperity, in which we are apt to live in neglect of thee, our Almighty Father, and in forget-

fulness that we owe every thing to thy bounty. The burthen of sin is the heaviest of all burthens under which we groan ; our only relief under it is to look to Christ our Saviour, who bore it, and will deliver us from its curse if with true faith and amendment of life we turn to him. We are encouraged to “cast our burthen upon the Lord, and he will sustain us. He will never suffer the righteous to be ruined.” Whatever thou wilt, O God, whatever thou hast either withholden or allotted to us, we commit all to thy keeping in faith and prayer. Do unto us as seemeth good unto thee, and we will be satisfied and thankful. We may not be freed immediately from our troubles, yet graciously provide that we are not tempted above what we are able. Trusting not in our own strength or merits but in thy providence, power and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, we intreat thee to prevent our sinking into the pit of destruction with wicked and deceitful men, who live not out half their days. As we advance in heavenly zeal and purity, we may be

more traduced and hated by the ungodly, but grant us peace of conscience and a grateful and all-sustaining sense of thy divine favour. Let not our sufferings from men deprive us of our consolations in thy holy religion. Suffer us not to fly from our post of duty and usefulness, through any disappointment, ingratitude or treachery. Prevent us from being weary of well-doing; none of us can be so overwhelmed with anguish as was the holy Jesus. Grant that we may imitate his meekness, patience, and submission to thy will, and that we may ever trust in thee, through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LVI.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we fly to thee when we are encompassed with dangers and troubles, and when men contend with, and oppress us. Be merciful

unto us, O God, for there be many that fight against us; the world, our own bad passions, and the temptations of the evil one. If we obtain thy protection, mercy and saving grace, we need no more to make us happy here, and blessed for ever. We may not find compassion with men; we pray for acceptance with thee, not for our own righteousness, but for the merits of our adored and all-prevailing Saviour. What time we are afraid, we will trust in thee. We will praise thee because of thy word, we will put our trust in thee, and not fear what flesh can do unto us. Supported by thee, we bid defiance to all adverse powers. We lean not on an arm of flesh when engaged for us, neither must we be afraid of that arm when stretched out against us. If we, or others, think to establish ourselves by wicked practices, then, O God, thou wilt desert us, and our downfall is certain. Who knows the power of thine anger and displeasure? Teach us, by the many trials through which thy faithful servants have passed, to be silent and patient under our compara-

tively light crosses and reverses. Too often are we tempted to be dissatisfied, and to repine at our lot; though thou knowest most intimately, all our griefs and trials, and wilt never cast us out of thy care and love, if we are found in the path of duty. Thou tellest our wanderings, and all our tears of contrition are noted in thy book; and when we come to thee, all opposition to us shall be turned back; this we know, for God is on our side. We will praise thy unfailing word, and in thee reposing our unshaken trust, we will not be afraid what man can do unto us. Thy vows are upon us, O God, not as a grievous burden, but as an accepted badge, by which we are known to be thy servants, to restrain us from what is hurtful to our souls, and to guide us in the way of righteousness. Deliver us, O God, from sin and death. Uphold our feet from falling, that we may walk uprightly before thee in the land of the living. Having begun a good work in us, be pleased to carry it on, by thy Holy Spirit, that we may be quickened in Christ; bring us

to heaven by his merits, that we may walk before thee for ever in thy bright world of perfect knowledge, love, purity and happiness. Amen.

PSALM LVII.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, to whom we daily look for thy providential care, be merciful unto us. O God, ever be gracious to us, for our soul's trust in thee; yea, under the shadow of thy wings shall be our refuge, until the calamities and sorrows of life be past. We will cry unto thee, O God most high,—unto thee that performest all things for us. We can do nothing for ourselves requisite for our security or advancement in holiness. Put into our minds good desires, and, oh! provide that, under the guidance of thy Holy Spirit, all things necessary for the fulfilment of them be granted us in thy own appointed time and manner. The

sons of men, among whom we live, are often fierce and hostile, and with slanderous tongues as sharp swords, and with Satan, a still more subtle and powerful enemy, would swallow us up. But we are safe, if we belong to the Lord. From the wrath of this world and from the wrath to come, we fly unto thee, Lord Jesus, and to thy promises and perfections. Our blessed Redeemer bowed himself willingly to far greater rage and malice than any to which we can be exposed, and by wicked hands was crucified and slain, and yet was he raised from the dead and advanced to his glorious throne in heaven. Through the merits of the same blessed Saviour, send forth, O God, thy mercy and truth; and graciously accomplish thy promises in us. Rescue our souls from all temptations and trials, and angels shall join with men in celebrating thy praises. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth. The wicked fall into their own pit which they have digged for others. As for us, we will ever pray unto thee. If our cup of sorrow pass not from

us, we will say, "Father, glorify thy name"—"Hallowed be thy name"—turning our petitions into praises and thanksgivings. Our heart is fixed, O God, our heart is fixed; we will sing and give praise. Awake, psalter and lute, we will awake right early; we will praise thee, O Lord, among the people; we will sing unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds. Magnifying thee with body and spirit, which are thine, we pray that the blessings of thy gospel may be extended throughout every land in all the earth; and desiring others to join us in praising thee, our speech, which is our glory, is never so much so as when employed in praising thee. Stir up our dull, cold and wayward hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, and accept our humble prayers and praises, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LVIII.

O LORD our Governor, who reignest in righteousness, we approach thee with serious reflections on our own departure from thee, in thought, word and deed, and we may ask ourselves, in judging of others, do we always speak righteously? Having, not once or twice only, pretended to weigh the cause in the balance of justice, while we have been acting under the influence of inwardly wicked designs, we dare not appeal to our consciences in our judgments. In our hearts we naturally work wickedness, being alienated and estranged from thee, our righteous Judge. By nature, we go astray with the wicked and speak lies; we become poisonous, like the serpent, and a generation of vipers. We are like the deaf adder, stopping our ears against conviction and persuasion, and declining to hearken to the voice of the charmer, charm he never

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so wisely. We refuse to listen to thy voice of pardoning love through the merits of our blessed Saviour. We rush into rebellion and enmity against thee. We ruin our present peace and endanger our future bliss. We know, O God, that neglect of our religious duties, deception, envy, anger, and immorality, will over-run the mind, if not prevented by prayer and the control of thy Holy Spirit; they will melt us away, as waters that run continually; they will pierce us like arrows in the hour of death, and they will bring us into that dreadful region where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Visit us not in thy wrath, O Lord. Overwhelm us not, when our numerous sins as a whirlwind would drive us over a precipice into the pit of destruction. Thy judgments often take the wicked by surprise, and they are made quickly to lie down in sorrow; when destruction cometh on the wicked, may we be rejoicing with the righteous in the triumph of truth and piety, and may we be convinced of the reality and comforts of true religion. May we ever diligently

serve thee in holiness of life, and humbly confide in thy providence, which ordereth all things aright in heaven and earth. Remembering the terrible destruction of Jerusalem, after the Jews had crucified their Messiah, may we be kept in constant fear of the sin of rejecting, in any respect, the precious Saviour of our souls. Grant that we may persevere in the faith of the gospel to the end, and be enabled now and ever to say, through the merits of Christ, "Verily, there is a reward for the righteous—doubtless there is a God that judgeth the world." Amen.

PSALM LIX.

O ETERNAL Lord God, we daily feel ourselves here below in the midst of dangers from within and without. We come before thee to pray for deliverance from all our troubles, from the enemies of our temporal and spiritual peace,

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and from the opposition which may be raised against our christian course. Deliver us from the workers of iniquity, from temptations, affliction and persecution. We cry unto thee, as those ready to perish. Support us by thy Holy Spirit against the corruptions of our own hearts. Increase our fear of suffering with the evil-doers, who lie in wait to entrap the innocent and unwary, and who daily prepare themselves for mischief. Thou, O Lord God, wilt awake to visit all the workers of iniquity—the opposers of Christ and his people—the wicked transgressors who proceed as with swords in their lips. Thou, Lord, wilt laugh them to scorn, and hold them in derision; but we will wait upon thee, for thou art our defence; thou wilt graciously go before us in our doings, and with mercy will protect us. O Lord, let not the end of the wicked be ours, lest thou slay and scatter us, and bring us down; lest thou consume us in thy wrath, and we be not; and lest with fear and trembling we are made to know that thou rulest unto the ends of the earth. Trusting in

thee, as the God of mercy, we will have recourse to thee, through the alone mediation of our blessed Saviour, in every season of temptation and sorrow. Our trials will then terminate in joy and praise. When the night of affliction is over, in the morning we will sing of thy power and untired goodness. We are comforted when we look up to thee in prayer, not only as to the God of mercy throughout the world, but as the God of mercy to us, specially and individually. Let the grace of thy Holy Spirit create in us a heart for prayer and praise, and we will sing of thy power : we will sing aloud of thy mercy, for thou hast been our defence and our refuge in the day of trouble. Unto thee, our strength, will we sing, for thou art our defence and the God of our hope now and for ever, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LX.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, often in our troubles and distress we fear that thou hast cast us off, and left us to our own destructive sins, grievously displeased with us. O turn thyself to us again for Christ's sake. Thou makest the earth to tremble, and in mercy showest us hard things, that we may not be too much at ease, and take up our rest in this world; but whatever our trouble may be, we would own that thy righteous hand is in it. Thou hast given a token to them that fear thee, that they may triumph over all crosses and disappointments, because of the truth, that thy children may be delivered. Help us with thy mighty power, and hear us in thy favour; when thou art pleased to turn thine eye of pity on us, it is good for us to remember past calamities, that we may not forget the impressions they made upon us when we prayed, de-

sirous of amendment of life. Our souls must still feel humbled and dependent upon thee, when we look back upon the tribulations from which thy goodness has raised us; never secure for a moment in this life, we must always rejoice with trembling, knowing not how soon we may be again plunged in the furnace of misery, from whence we have been graciously taken. In our darkest days, give us a hope in Christ, that we may have strength to war with the powers of evil, and under his banner to take courage. Conscious that thine anger against sin is the cause of all our miseries, personal and public, may we return to thee with repentance, faith and prayer. Send the sanctifying influences of thy Holy Spirit to quicken us in the way of our duty. We are weak, and timid, and diffident of ourselves; inspire us with courage and resolution in our christian warfare. Our confidence is in thee, and in thy gracious power to save us. O give us deliverance from trouble, for vain is the help of man. Through thee, O God shall we do great acts; it is thou

that shalt tread down our enemies,—the world, the flesh and the devil. Ere long all our temporal concerns will be at an end. May we daily attend to our infinitely more important spiritual interests, and be looking forward to things eternal, with the hope of a joyous and complete salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXI.

O LORD God of hosts! when we approach thee with penitential tears, hear our cry, and graciously attend unto our prayer. From the ends of the earth will we cry unto thee, under whatever circumstances,—and in whatever land our lot may be cast, we will offer our supplications and praises unto thee. May the Sun of Righteousness shed his bright beams upon us in every corner of the earth, from whence we may look up unto him. When

our heart is overwhelmed with complicated distresses, as by an inundation, when the tempestuous waves of adversity dash upon us and rage below, lead us by thy Holy Spirit to look up to thee, the rock of our salvation, with firm and undivided trust; when the raging billows of our worldly and carnal passions toss us to and fro, be with us in the midst of them, that we may find a way of escape by prayer, and faith and dependence upon thee. For thou hast been a shelter and strong tower for us from the enemies of our peace. Grant us by thy special grace such assurance of safety, that we may stand composed and unshaken in thy faith and fear. For thou hast heard our vows, and hast given an heritage to those that fear thy name. Thou art the witness and the rewarder as well as Creator of our solemn promises of obedience. We bless thee, that amidst all the distractions and changes of the world, thou securest to us the comfort and benefit of thy public ordinances and private worship. We are enabled by thy grace thereby to look through the shadow

of thy earthly temple, to the holy places not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, where we shall abide before thee for ever. O prepare us by thy mercy and truth, that we may be preserved to see the faithful performance of all thy gracious promises; so will we sing praise unto thy name, and, strengthened by thee, will daily perform our vows. Grant that we may partake of that grace and power which come by the gospel, whatever may be our outward condition and circumstances. When other comforts are removed, incline us to seek more earnestly for consolation from thee. Let no untoward situation exclude us from communion with thee through Jesus Christ's sake, for whose sake deign to accept our prayers and receive us finally for ever. Amen.

PSALM LXII.

EVER gracious God, our soul waiteth upon thee, for from thee cometh our

salvation. Thou only art our rock and defence, so that we shall not greatly fall. Though tempted by Satan to murmur against thee, we will, by the help of thy grace, bridle our affections, and bear our cross patiently, resting upon thy un-failing promises. Depending upon thee, and upon thee only, for our temporal and spiritual food, we cheerfully refer all our affairs to thy will and wisdom. Enable us humbly and faithfully to submit ourselves to all the dispensations of thy providence, and patiently to wait thy pleasure. Many a time have we been effectually delivered by thy righteousness and goodness, when thou, the Rock of Ages, hast been our Rock. If thou art for us, we need not fear the mischief and malice of man; envy and deceit shall not hurt us. In thee is our glory, and our refuge is in thee. If, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, we have done any good thing, may we strive to continue in the path of duty and holiness, and unworthy as our best services are, obey thee yet more and more, through the comfort and support of

thy grace. Save but our souls, and we will submit to all thy dispensations for or against us. The more we meditate on thy statutes and promises, the more does our experience raise us above all fears, and the more are we kept in peace. Oh! strengthen our faith, and hope and joy in believing. Having found comfort in thy ways, O God, we would invite others to trust in thee at all times. All ye people, pour out your hearts before him, for God is a refuge for us. We rely not on men, whether of high or low degree, for, when laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity itself. Suffer us not to be guilty of oppression or injustice, and if riches increase, forbid us to set our hearts upon them. O God, power and mercy belong all unto thee, so that the wicked shall feel thy wrath, and the godly thy mercy, for thou, O Lord, renderest unto every man according to his works, whether they be good or evil, Be pleased, O Almighty Father, not to punish and destroy us, but to accept our imperfect and unworthy services; and bless us for ever with thy grace

and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PSALM LXIII.

O OMNIPOTENT Father! thou art our God, early will we seek thee. Our soul thirsteth for thee, our flesh longeth for thee in a dry and barren land, where no water is; may we awake each morning to greater earnestness in thy service, and let our first aspirations be raised up to thee to ask pardon for our manifold transgressions, and to praise thee for all thy goodness, and more especially for the great work of redemption, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We thirst after those spiritual consolations which the world cannot buy; weary and exhausted in the wilderness of this world, we have recourse to thee, the fountain of the waters of life; for nothing on earth can satisfy the longings and desires of our immortal souls. More and

more do we long to see thy power and glory, of which we have had some foretaste in thy sanctuary, while attending on thy ordinances in worship and thanksgiving. Thy daily loving-kindness unto us is better than life ; our lips shall praise thee ; we will bless thee while we live ; we will lift up our hands and hearts in thy glorious name, and employ all our powers of body and soul in praising thee. The remembrance of thy grace and mercy is more sweet unto us than all the pleasures and distinctions of the world. When we lie down at night, we will remember thy sparing goodness, and thy providential care of us ; and, should we awaken at dead of night, in the silence of our chamber we will meditate on thee, because thou hast ever been our help in trouble ; therefore under the shadow of thy wings will we rejoice. Our soul cleaveth unto thee, as a child in alarm clings to a fond and cherishing parent. Thou art our reconciled Father, through the mediation of thy blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Uphold us by the power of thy divine grace,

while pressing forward in our heavenly course. Leave us not to cleave to the dust, but quicken our heavenward affections. Let nothing keep us from prayer and praise, which are the nourishment of the soul. We look up to thee, O glorious Jesu, as King of righteousness and peace, in the assured hope that we shall, through thy merits, find acceptance on the morning of the resurrection. Blessed Lord, let our desires towards thee be increased every hour, and let all our joys be in thee. Continue with us by thy Holy Spirit, while we remain in our present state of being, and bring us home at last to the everlasting fruition of thy presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXIV.

O GOD Almighty, merciful Father, we beseech thee to hear our prayers, to pre-

serve our lives in health and strength, and shield us against the enemies of our peace, outwardly and inwardly. Hide us from the secret counsels of the wicked, as well as from the workers of iniquity. Their tongues are sharp swords. They shoot out bitter words, and deal in false representations, calumnies, and slanders. They encourage themselves in evil matters, and lay snares privily, saying, Who shall see them? Often to a mortal eye are the malice, dissimulation, and unbelief of their breasts deep and unfathomable. Grant, O God, that we may not, after their example, evince a practical disbelief of thy omniscience and omnipresence, so truly awful and dangerous. Thou are about our path and about our bed, and spiest out all our ways. If we do wickedly, thou, O God, will shoot at us, as with an arrow, and we shall suddenly be wounded. The deceitful words of our tongue will fall upon ourselves, the weight of our guilt will fall upon our consciences, and thou wilt bring upon us the evils which we imagined or imprecated on others. Our neighbours

will flee away and shun us, afraid of being involved in our ruin. May thy judgments have an influence on ourselves and others, and may all men fear, and declare it is thy word. Trembling before it is too late, at thy warnings, may we all be taught to reverence thy providence. Grant us ever the help of thy Holy Spirit, that, with the righteous, we may be glad in thee, and with the upright in heart be affected with holy pleasure and glory in thy name. Encourage our faith, and lead us in the way of duty. May we fear thy judgments, and flee from the wrath to come. Since in Christ Jesus are our wisdom, and righteousness, and strength, for his sake hear our prayers, O God. Enabled by thee to shun the rocks on which others have split, may we declare and consider thy works and thy judgments, trusting not in ourselves, nor in any help of man. May we glory in what Christ is to us, and what he has done for us, that, growing to the last in the life of faith in Him, we may come unto thy heavenly kingdom, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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PSALM LXV.

O THOU ever merciful God, praise waiteth for thee, and unto thee shall the vow be performed. Thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. We cannot worthily express thy praises, and our iniquities prevail against us; but thou hast graciously provided a way of access to thee, through thy blessed Son and Saviour Jesus Christ. Through him thou hast been mercifully pleased to blot out and forgive all our transgressions. Through thy mercy and grace take away not only the guilt, but the power of sin. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest and causest by thy Holy Spirit to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts, and be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple where we may fly to lay hold of thy covenant, and enjoy a foretaste of the heavenly life in special communion with thee; may we

each be constant in the exercises of our sacred duties, abounding in righteousness and all the comforts and graces of thy Holy Spirit. Grant us acceptance with thee, and our souls shall be satisfied; we desire no more. By wonderful things in thy righteousness thou wilt answer us, O God of our salvation. Thou art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off. There is no region or people hid from thy presence, and, O God, be with us ever by thy providential grace. Do thou, who settest fast the mountains, establish us, thy servants, by the power of thy faith. Do thou, who stillest the noise of the seas, and the tumult of the people, deign to still our tumultuous and sinful passions. Thy judgments and tokens have made them afraid that dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth. Again, thou makest them rejoice in the regular course of thy providence by the daily outgoings of the morning and evening. Do thou, who visitest the earth and waterest it, be pleased to visit and enrich us with the dews of grace

and truth, and bless us in the springing up of the seed sown by thy Holy Spirit in our hearts. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; the valleys also are covered with corn; they shout for joy and sing. Let us be thankful for our portion of thy abundant liberality, and, remembering our unworthiness, ascribe and use all to thy glory. Favoured with the means of grace, may we bring forth more abundantly those fruits of righteousness which are through Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PSALM LXVI.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God, suffer us again to draw nigh thy mercy-seat with prayer and praise. O be joyful in God, all ye iands, sing praises unto the honour of his name, and make his praise to be glorious. O how wonderful art thou in thy holiness,—through the greatness of thy

power thine enemies submit themselves unto thee. For all the earth shall worship thee, sing unto thee, and praise thy name. O come hither and behold the works of God, how wonderful he is in his doings toward the children of men. As Israel rejoiced in the miraculous passage through the Red Sea, and in blessings without number thou daily conferredst upon them, so we rejoice in our wonderful and gracious redemption by Christ Jesus, our great Mediator and Saviour. O God, by the effectual grace of thy Holy Spirit, create our hearts anew unto holiness, that we may bless thee ; and oh ! make our voice of praise to be heard for thy glorious deliverance of us vile and perishing sinners. Our Lord Jesus Christ, and his offices,—his kingdom, grace, and glory, shall be the precious subject of our song. O God, hold our souls in life through him, and suffer not our feet to be moved. For thou, O God, hast proved us ; thou hast tried us like as silver is tried. Thou hast saved our natural life from impending danger, thou hast established our health after

dangerous disease, and hast upheld our steps in many a precipice of sin and sorrow. Graciously maintain our spiritual life. Though, in our afflictions, we go through fire and water, grant that we may see thy grace and love in the midst of them; and that they may all be sanctified by thee, to our own ultimate benefit. The issue then will be glorious, and we will go into thy house with the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. We will pay the vows which our lips have uttered, when we were in trouble. Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and we will declare what he hath done for our souls. We called unto him with our mouth, and gave him praises with our tongue. But if we have malice and wickedness within our hearts, thou wilt not hear us, O God. With a consciousness of sin latent in our hearts, and a determined desire to be rid of all evil thoughts, when, in watchfulness and humility, we have prayed unto thee, thou hast heard us. Blessed be God, who hath not cast out our prayer, nor turned his mercy from us. Accept us, now and for ever,

for the sake of our Saviour and Mediator,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXVII.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, permit us to approach thee in prayer, for a continuance of thy mercies, and be merciful unto us, thy humble servants, sinners though we are; bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us, and not only upon us, but upon all mankind, that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Send thy Holy Spirit to lead us in that blessed way, the way of truth and holiness, and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. May truth and righteousness, charity, peace, joy, and all the fruits of the Spirit, flourish throughout the world. Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee; for thou only art to be praised. Thou art the true and living

God; we acknowledge and cheerfully submit to thy divine government. Thy providence ruleth over all the kingdoms of the earth: let thy kingdom of peace rule in our hearts. Let all nations be blessed with the preaching of thy Gospel, that we may all become thy willing and obedient people, and that, in the day of thy power, the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdoms of the Lord and of his Christ. Then shall the nations be glad and sing for joy; for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Establish thy kingdom, O God, throughout the earth, and fill the world with righteousness. Subue in all, and especially in thy humble servants now met together at thy footstool, all iniquity, fraud, licentiousness and impiety. Rule over us entirely, convert our sinful hearts, comfort us by thy Holy Spirit, and strengthen us against all temptations. Let thy Gospel be spread over all people; then shall the earth yield her increase, and thou, God, even our own God, wilt give us thy blessing. We re-

ceive the increase of the earth as coming from thy fatherly hand, and thy blessings sweeten all our comforts on earth, and our hopes hereafter in the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. May we and all, to the very ends of the earth, worship thee in reverence and holy fear. May we go forth daily in thy strength, O Lord. Then shall the whole race of redeemed sinners fear, adore and bless thee for ever, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Mediator. Amen.

PSALM LXVIII. 1—13.

LORD of all power and might, be merciful unto us when thou shalt arise to scatter thine enemies, and to make them flee before thee—when they shall be driven away as smoke, and shall melt as wax before the fire, and perish at thy presence. That we

may not be scattered, make us to see thy unerring word that we cannot prosper, or be happy if we harden our hearts against thee. We look back with gratitude to all thy unceasing mercies, to the deliverance of thy peculiar people, to our own safety and hope of salvation, through thy promises to all sincere believers in thy blessed Son. Enable us by thy Holy Spirit to be glad with the righteous, and to rejoice before thee. We will sing praises unto thy name, we will magnify him that rideth upon the heavens by his name Jehovah, and rejoice before him. Be thou ever a father to the fatherless, and a protector of the widow—even thou, the great, all-glorious One in thy holy habitation. Full of compassion as thou art to the lonely and destitute, and despising not the humblest penitent, bring us all out in safety from this present wilderness, when we are bound with the chain of our sins, and leave us not, in dry, barren and disconsolate places to perish for ever. O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wil-

derness, the earth shook, and the heavens dropped, at thy presence. Thou, O God, didst send a gracious rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary. The Spirit of thy grace, and thy Gospel of peace, are the plentiful rain with which now, O God, thou confirmest our inheritance. O may thy precious truth descend upon us, as showers that water the earth. Thy congregation hath dwelt in these blessings; thou, O God, of thy goodness, hast prepared for the poor—for all contrite souls, redeemed by our blessed Saviour. Be pleased to call into thy service great numbers to preach and publish the glad tidings of the Gospel. Rulers and empires shall be subdued by it, and, blessed be thy name that, age after age, millions have shared its soul-refreshing fruits. Though we have been the poor and mean slaves of Satan, O deign to convert, justify, and sanctify us, that we may be pure and comely as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers like gold, until all the remains of our pollutions disappear, and we shall

reach heaven itself, through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXVIII. 14—35.

O God, who by thy mighty power didst scatter kings; thou art seated in majesty above the hills; the angels are thy chariots, and thou art among them as in the holy place of Sinai. Look down upon us from thy radiant throne, in which thou wilt dwell for ever. Graciously complete thy salvation in us, all mean and loathsome through the defilement of sin, and render us pure and white as snow in Salmon. Thou, Lord Christ, hast ascended up on high, thou hast led captivity captive, thou hast received gifts for men—send us by thy Holy Spirit all the graces needful for the conversion of sinners, and the establishment of believers; even to us the rebellious deign to send them, that the Lord God may dwell among us, as our Father and

our Friend. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation, the glorious and Almighty One, by whom we escape death. Having taught us that those who persist in enmity to thy commands will certainly be ruined, be pleased to keep in us the continual remembrance that, if we go on in our trespasses, and will not be reformed, thou wilt wound us as thy enemies, and wilt smite and destroy us for ever. But, as thou hast graciously promised to bring thy own people again from the depths of the sea, grant us, by virtue of Christ's victory over death and the grave, that we and all true believers may be brought back to thee in this world, and that which is to come. Gratefully observing how thou directest all thy goings as our God and King for our good, we bless thee in the congregation, and will sing salvation, and glory, and honour and power be unto thee, O Lord, for ever and ever; not only a single tribe of the Israelites, but all nations now praise thee. Strengthen, O God, by thy Holy Spirit, the principles of purity and righte-

ousness which thou hast wrought in us. Lord, thou wilt rebuke pride and vicious desires, till we are conquered by the convictions of our consciences, and dwell at peace in communion with thee, acknowledging thy power in the kingdom of providence and grace. We adore thee with reverence and holy fear; out of heaven dost thou send out thy voice, and that a mighty voice. We have no might or power of our own; all our sufficiency is of God. It is through Christ strengthening us that we can do all things. Blessed Lord! give us that strength, and graciously accept the works of our hands which we are enabled to offer up, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXIX. 1—15.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God, we cry unto thee for help as did holy David when

typifying our Lord Jesus Christ ; he prayed, in words we would from the heart repeat, " Save us, O God, for the waters are come in unto our soul ! We sink in the deep mire " of this lower world, where there is no standing upright. We are come into the deep waters, the floods of sin flow over us. We are weary of crying ; our throat is dried and our eyes fail, while we wait for our God. When meditating on the sufferings of Christ for us, and for our salvation, may the deep anguish he endured from scornful and wicked men, from the powers of hell, from divine justice, from outward torments and inward agony ; lead us to bow low at the foot of his cross, in deep humiliation for our sins, and in lowly gratitude for our infinite obligations to him. O God, thou knowest our follies and our transgressions ; our sins are not hid from thee. If we have borne reproach for thy sake, and shame hath covered our face ; if we are become as strangers unto our brethren ; if we have mourned in sackcloth, and become a byword and a proverb, let us remember that, far beyond all

this, the Lord of glory voluntarily became a man of sorrow, and wept, and fasted, and prayed, and was despised, and reproached, and suffered pain and death, and reviling and tortures, as our great sacrifice and atonement for our sins. Whatever may be our afflictions or temptations, we have now an Advocate with the Father; and as for us, our prayer is unto thee, O Lord, offered through him in an acceptable time. O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear us, even in the truth of thy salvation. Rescue us out of the mire of this lower world, and all its sins and follies, and let us not sink into perdition. Deliver us from our enemies, temporal and spiritual, and out of the deep water; let our blessed Redeemer's deliverance from the water flood which did not overflow him, from the deep which did not swallow him up, and from the pit which did not open her mouth upon him, assure us, that, depending on his power alone, we too shall be delivered and raised again, in his own good time and way. Till that day come, we will persevere in prayer, and in wait-

ing upon thee, O God, in the comforting and sustaining hope that thou wilt carry us through the troubles of this life, and finally grant us a joyful resurrection and exaltation, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXIX. 16—36.

O ALL-FORGIVING Father, graciously hear us in thy loving kindness; turn unto us according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, and hide not thy face from thy servants. When we are in trouble, hear us speedily. Draw nigh unto our souls, and redeem them. Deliver us for Christ's sake, who for our sins suffered reproach and shame, and dishonour and heaviness; who looked for some to take pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but he found none. In their sinful malice they even gave him gall for meat, and in his thirst, vinegar to drink. But, after

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thy glorious ascension, blessed Lord Jesus, their table of the passover in Jerusalem became a snare to them, and that which should have been for their welfare proved to them an occasion of falling. Their eyes became blinded, that still they see not, and they are constantly bowed down. Thine indignation has been heavy upon them, and thy wrathful anger has taken hold of them: their habitation is become desolate, and there are none to dwell in their tents; and Zion is ploughed as a field. They had smitten their own and our long-predicted Messiah, whom it pleased God to bruise for our sakes. They added iniquity unto iniquity, and have not come into thy righteousness, and if *we* do not repent and rely upon his all-availing merits, our doom will be like his, and thou wilt blot us out of the book of the living. Sin has made us blind, and poor and helpless, but thy salvation, O God, has set us up on high. For our sakes our Redeemer in his humiliation became poor and sorrowful, but God highly exalted him. For thy continued and ex-

haustless mercy we will praise thy name, O God, with a song, and will magnify thee with thanksgiving. Taught by thy word that this will be more pleasing to thee than the sacrifice of bullocks, we present unto thee the spiritual sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart. For thou, Lord, hearest the *poor*, and despisest not the prisoners of Satan, when returning to thee in contrition. Let the heaven and earth praise thee, for thou wilt save Zion, and rebuild the cities of Judah. Thou wilt raise up a seed to serve thee, and they, and we, and all that love thy name, and obey thy will, shall rejoice in one salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXX.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Creator,
graciously vouchsafe to deliver us; make
haste, O God, to help us; our pressing

needs make us fly to thee for succour, as undone and needy sinners. Our entire dependence is upon thee, through the merits of our all-sufficient Saviour. The poor in spirit have thee for their helper and deliverer. Let us not be ashamed and confounded, as those have been who, being the enemies of the cross, were put to confusion. Let us not tread in the steps of those who persecuted him, and now dislike his image in his believing and faithful followers. Drawing nigh to thee O Lord, in all our sorrows, we will not forget that every good we are permitted to enjoy comes from thy bountiful hand. Let all those that seek thee be joyful and glad in thee, and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified; that salvation, through Christ, for which we ever pray, as our great, our only real support and consolation in this world, and our eternal hope hereafter. As we are helpless and dependent creatures, running astray from thy fold like sheep from their shepherd, make haste to bring us back, blessed Saviour! Be thou our

helper and deliverer from troubles of body and mind, and from every impurity of soul. Intercede for us, O Lord Jesu! and make no long tarrying, that joy and gladness may be vouchsafed to us, and grant that we may eternally magnify thee, to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

PSALM LXXI.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God! we again approach thee, to offer up to thee the prayer of faith; encouraged as we are to come unto thee through the mediation of our blessed Saviour; resorting unto thee amidst all our troubles and alarms, and under the oppressive weight of our sins, we lay hold of thy gracious promises. In thee, O Lord, do we put our trust, let us never be put to confusion. Deliver us in thy righteousness, and cause

us to escape from sin and its numberless attendant sorrows. Incline thine ear unto us, and save us, or we perish. Be thou our stronghold, whereunto we may continually resort for help and support. Thou hast promised to save us—for thou art our rock and our fortress, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Deliver us, O God, out of the hands of the wicked, out of the hands of the unrighteous and cruel man. For thou art our only hope and trust, even from our youth. Experiencing day by day more and more of thy faithfulness and mercy, our praise shall be continually of thee. Let our mouths be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day long. Cast us not off in the time of old age; forsake us not when our strength faileth. As there is none upon earth who can deliver us, O God, be not far from us. Make haste to help us. Our mouth shall ever show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation, for we know no end of it. We will go forth to wage war against the temptations of the world in thy strength, O Lord God. We will make mention of

thy righteousness, and of thine only. O God, thou hast taught us from our youth up, therefore will we tell of thy wondrous works. Forsake us not, O God, when we are old and grey-headed, and no longer capable of labouring in thy service as hitherto. Strengthen us with vigour in our souls, that when nature is sinking, we may show to all around what a faithful and unfailing friend thou art to thy people. Thy righteousness is very high—thou hast done great things for our souls. Thou hast carried us through many grievous troubles. Quicken us by thy Holy Spirit, and bring us again to thee. Graciously increase our comforts on every side. Our lips shall then greatly rejoice: our tongue shall tell of thy righteousness all the day long, until our souls are saved, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXII.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst give thy judgments unto Solomon, the king's son, we now praise thee that thou hast given thy judgments and thy righteousness unto thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. He shall cover thy people with the shield of his love, and thy poor he shall defend and support in their distress. O blessed Saviour! bring peace unto us, and enlarge our faith, that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth, as long as the sun and moon endureth, and throughout all generations. Let the gentle influences of thy Holy Spirit descend upon us as showers that water the earth. Grant that we may flourish as the righteous, and that thy peace may rule in our hearts; and through all lands may thy dominion extend as the Prince of peace, until all kings shall fall down before thee, and all nations shall serve thee, and all the kingdoms of the

world shall become thy kingdoms. Under thy blessed gospel kings shall reign in righteousness, and men shall be just, rendering to all their due, until every knee shall bow before thee, and be blessed in time and for eternity. Deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. Spare us who approach thee under a deep sense of our corruption, and graciously redeem our souls, thou who livest for ever. We offer unto thee the tribute of our grateful hearts; prayer shall ever be made unto thee; we will daily praise thee, O Lord. From the very smallest beginnings thy pure truth shall flourish, like grass upon the earth. Thy name, blessed Saviour, shall endure for ever, and all nations shall bow down before thee. Magnified be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things; and blessed be thy glorious name for ever. Let the whole earth be filled with thy glory. Be ever unto us our gracious benefactor. Come to us, Lord Jesus, quickly. Oh! bestow on us abundantly of thy righteousness and peace.

Adoring thee for the wonders of redeeming love, may we spend our days and end our lives in thy service, longing for the whole earth to be filled with thy glory. Amen and amen.

PSALM LXXIII. 1—15.

ALMIGHTY and merciful Father, who wast always truly good to Israel of old, deign to continue thy grace on such, in all generations, as are of a clean heart, being purified by the blood of our Saviour, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and thoroughly hating all the pollutions of sin. Sometimes our steps have well-nigh slipped when, having through the deceitfulness of sin been tempted to doubt thy good providence, we have envied the prosperity of the wicked, who are in no bonds of death, and firm in their strength, while many of thine own people scarcely know what health is, and die with great suffering!

We have, too, done dishonour to thee by murmurings, when we have seen the wicked not in trouble, nor plagued like other men, full of pride, and violence, and corruption. They open their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. When we, or any of thy people, have been tempted to lean to the wicked in their prosperity, the bitter waters of a full cup have been poured out to us. Preserve us, O God, from the impious workers of iniquity, who say, "How doth God know, is there knowledge in the Most High?" When we behold the ungodly prosper in this world, and increase in riches, again we are deluded, and in our waywardness exclaim, "Verily, we have cleansed our hearts in vain, and washed our hands in innocency." "For all the day long have we been plagued, and chastened every morning." But since, when speaking thus, we offend against the generation of thy children, O God, grant that we may always endeavour to attain a fuller understanding of the mysteries of thy providence. If we appear to be under

thy frown, while the wicked seem to enjoy the bounties of thy providence, send thy Holy Spirit to sanctify us, to suppress all murmurs, and keep us unspotted from the world, that, when the wicked perish, we may be raised to thy kingdom in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXIII. 16—28.

ALMIGHTY and omniscient God, who rulest over all the children of men, in every class and condition, grant that we may never murmur at the present unequal distribution of thy bounties, especially when we see the wicked in such great prosperity. When we go into thy sanctuary, we discern, by the light of thy truth, and with the eye of faith, that ungodly, prosperous men, stand in slippery places, and on the summit of a fearful precipice. Brought to destruction as in a mo-

ment, they are utterly consumed by thy terrors; yea, as a dream when one awaketh, thou makest their image to vanish. Thus, if envy has entered into our hearts, it becomes grievous and painful to us that we have doubted the ways of thy providence, and, taught by thee, we are ashamed of our disquietude and impatience: so foolish have we been, and ignorant before thee, as the beasts that perish. Assured by thy never-failing power and goodness, and remembering our unbounded obligations for thy saving grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, we ought not to complain of any present calamity, nor despair of thy carrying us through all temptations. Be ever graciously present with us, through thy Holy Spirit, that our faith and trust in thee fail not. Having preserved us continually under thy care, thou hast holden us up under many urgent temptations, and thou wilt graciously guide us with thy counsel, and at death receive us to glory. Whom have we in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that we desire in comparison of thee! The

world and its glory vanish ; soon will flesh and heart fail with us all ; but, O merciful God, we desire more earnestly and completely to look up to thee as the strength of our hearts, and our portion for ever. Drawn away by sin, we are indeed often far from thee, and shall perish if we repent not. They who refuse thy gracious offers will be destroyed. But it is good for us to draw near to thee ; entirely and solely trusting in thee, O Lord God, that, with patience, and contempt of worldly objects, we may at last attain to our heavenly rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXIV.

O GOD Almighty, the governor of the world, why hast thou cast us off? Wherefore art thou absent from us so long? Why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? but because, alas! by

our many transgressions against thy holy laws, we have deserved to be cast off for ever! Yet remember us in mercy, O Lord, for Christ's sake, who hath purchased and redeemed us by his precious blood. Having deserved worse than all that is inflicted, graciously relieve those desolations to which our souls are continually subject, even by our enemy Satan, in thy sanctuary. Like the enemies of the Israelites, who rushed into the temple and shouted for victory amidst thy affrighted worshippers, so now Satan goeth about seeking whom he may devour. To this day thine ancient people continue hapless and despised wanderers, and we ourselves, though blessed with the light of thy gospel, are by many ways, unthought of even by ourselves, the destroyers or corrupters of the religion of thy dear Son. O God, let us not be a reproach unto thee; withdraw not thine hand from us, for thou art our King of old, working salvation throughout the earth. Thou didst divide the sea, thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood, and thou driedst up mighty waters.

The day is thine, the night also is thine : thou hast prepared the light and the sun ; thou hast set all the borders of the earth. Thou hast made summer and winter. We pray unto thee, O God, in like manner, to provide for us securely, through all the vicissitudes of our lives, and especially against our spiritual enemies. O deliver not the souls of thy servants unto the multitude of the wicked. Forget not the congregation of sinners, who come unto thee defenceless as a dove, solitary, timid, meek, and mournful. Enlighten the dark places of the earth, which are full of wickedness and cruelty. Preserve the oppressed, and let the poor and needy praise thy name. Arise, O God, plead thine own cause, make thy people to praise thee in holiness. Be unto us all in all, in every situation and circumstance. Suffer us to drink of those waters which flow from our smitten Rock, even the sanctifying influences of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM LXXV.

UNTO thee, O Father of mercies, do we offer praise and thanksgiving. That thou art ever near unto us, thy wondrous works declare—in the creation and preservation, but, above all, in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thou, Lord, wilt receive thy congregated people, and wilt judge all uprightly; and when the earth with its inhabitants shall be dissolved, thou wilt remain our chief stay and supporter. Having said unto the foolish and wicked, deal not so madly—suffer us not to harden our hearts to our own destruction. We lift up ourselves for that promotion which comes from thee alone, and is therefore good in thy sight, the supreme Judge of all, thou who puttest down one and settest up another. None of us can prosper who do not submit our wills and affections, and all our doings, entirely unto thee, O God, the

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Searcher of all hearts. From thee alone must we receive our doom. In thy hand is the cup of salvation, and the wine is red—that precious blood of our Saviour, ever cheering to the souls of penitent and believing sinners. But as for the dregs thereof, all the wicked and ungodly of the earth shall wring them out and drink them. None can prosper, O God, who do not submit to thee, and own thy beloved Son to be their only Lord and Saviour. Though we drink of the cup of affliction, yet let it be mixed, O Lord, with mercy and grace. Let not that outpouring of thy wrath which is reserved for the wicked be our portion. Create in us holy obedience, praise, and joy, and cast us not off with the ungodly, but exalt us with the righteous. Enable us to live a life of purity and holiness, as becometh believers in the sacrifice of our glorious Emmanuel; who, to save us sinners, took upon himself our mortal nature, and died on the cross. May we imitate his example, and finally obtain everlasting life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXVI.

O God Almighty, as it was their peculiar and inestimable privilege that thy glorious name was known and extolled in Israel, so are we blessed that our land is filled with the knowledge of thy crucified Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we may all have our hearts filled with that knowledge. In Zion was thy dwelling-place. Oh! deign now to erect thy temple in our hearts by thy Holy Spirit. The Israelites of old came to thy tabernacle to sacrifice unto thee, and thou saidst, "Here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein." It is our supreme happiness to have thee with us through the merits of thy blessed Son. Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey. The stout-hearted were spoiled, they have slept their sleep; at thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse were utterly cast down. Thou, even thou, art

to be feared, and who may stand in thy sight when thou art angry? Thou didst cause thy judgments to be heard from heaven; the earth trembled, and was still: yet we poor, vain, and sinful creatures, continually throughout our short space of existence, provoke thee, O God. When thou shalt arise to judgment, save us, Lord, with the meek of the earth. Restrain the wrath of man against us. Enable us by the Spirit of grace to renew our promises of obedience unto thy holy laws, and submit to thee, our merciful God, to whom we look up for all our blessings. Sooner or later all princes and kings and people shall be subdued unto thee. May we fear thee, and thy sovereign will, and dedicate ourselves to thy service. We seek thy favour, O Lord, as our best portion, and commit ourselves to thy providential care. From the gratitude of the Israelites, when delivered from their earthly enemies, may we learn how much, how very much greater should our gratitude be for deliverance from our spiritual enemies, and not merely for our

temporal, but for our eternal rescue and safety, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, now and ever. Amen.

PSALM LXXVII.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, in all our troubles we cry unto thee. Oh! graciously give ear unto us. We seek thee, O Lord, when our bodily pains trouble us in the night season, when our souls refuse comfort, and when the whole of our pilgrimage seems a dark and wearisome night. When we raise our hands and voice unto thee, O God, vouchsafe to us thy gracious and powerful aid. We remember thy care of us, when all but overwhelmed by a tumultuous sea of troubles. Thou holdest our eyes waking, and our grief is so great we cannot speak. Yet we bless thee, that in the midst of our

sorrows we can consider thy mercies and goodness to us in the days of old, and the years that are past. With songs of gratitude in the night, we commune with our own wayward and sinful hearts, and our spirit searcheth diligently for thee. O Lord, cast us not off. Let not thy mercy be clean gone, let not thy promises fail us for evermore. Hath God forgotten to be gracious? will he shut up his loving-kindness in displeasure? Let us reject such an unworthy thought. It is our infirmity that harboured it, the disease and weakness of our souls. We will remember the years of the right-hand of the Most High; and in the grateful and devout retrospection of all thy wondrous mercies, we will talk of thy gracious doings to ourselves and to others. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary—who is so great a god as our God? Thou art the God that doest wonders; but our favourite theme, above all, is that all-precious one of redeeming love, through our blessed Saviour. The waters saw thee, O God, and were afraid. The voice of thy thunder was heard in heaven, and

the earth trembled and shook at thy crucifixion, most blessed Jesu! We cannot trace thy footsteps, O God, in the sea, and thy paths in the great waters of this world, but we believe and trust in thee, to guide us with thy counsel, and receive us after death for ever through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXVIII. 1—31.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast graciously invited us to give ear unto thy holy laws, which we have heard and known, and of which our fathers have told us, send the aid of thy Holy Spirit to engraft them in our hearts, that we may conform our lives to thy precepts, and by our example carefully transmit them to after generations, showing them the praises of the Lord, and his mighty power in the wonderful works he hath done for the children of men. Thou, O Lord, didst raise up a testimony

in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel; and thou hast established in us a new testimony in the mission of thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we may set our hope in him, and not forget thy works, O God, but keep thy commandments ever in view, and that we may not be a stubborn and rebellious generation, not setting our heart aright, nor keeping our spirit stedfast with thee; nor, like those who refused to walk in thy laws, forgetting thy works and wonders, which thou showedst unto them. Marvellous things didst thou in the land of Egypt for thy people of old; dividing the sea, thou leddest them with a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, and cleaving the rocks, thou, in watchful love, gavest them to drink in the wilderness. Permit us now, by the mediation of Christ, to drink, in our present wilderness, of the waters of life. Grant that we may not sin yet more after all thy goodness to us, nor, like too many of old, murmur against thee, the God of heaven, lest thine anger come up against us, and lest we practically believe

not in thee, and trust not in thy salvation. If thou art not pleased to send us abundance, let not our hearts be estranged from thee, but let us eat our bread with joy, humility and thankfulness. Thy daily provision for us is a mercy which should excite our lively gratitude. Withhold from us what we desire, if in our sinfulness thy bounty estrange us from thee; and, choosing what is good for us, satisfy us with that bread which comes down from heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXVIII. 32—54.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who by thy mighty power didst divide the Red Sea, and perform other stupendous miracles for the preservation of thy chosen people, who, notwithstanding, sinned against thee with a high hand, forbid that, after their awful example, we Christians, for whom the wonderful work of redemp-

tion has been wrought, be faithless murmurers or rebels. Suffer us not to consume our days in vanity, and our years in trouble. If we sin, we must expect to be overthrown. Still, when thy chastening hand falls upon us, may we seek thee, not only when we are at ease, enjoying thy bounties, but in our varied troubles, may we return and inquire early after thee. Reminding, O God, that thou art our Rock, and Christ our Redeemer, prevent us from again becoming self-flatterers and deceivers. Alas! too often have our hearts not been right with thee, neither have we been steadfast in thy covenant, and in walking uprightly in the ways of thy holy laws. But thou, Lord, being full of compassion, we pray thee to forgive our iniquity, and destroy us not. Many a time, when we deserved to be punished, has thine anger been turned away from us. Oh! deign still to remember that we are but flesh, and wind that passeth away and cometh not again! Often, alas! have we provoked thee, and forgotten thy providential care, and the occasions on which

thou hast delivered us from trouble. But for thy sparing mercy, our sins might have brought down upon us all the visitations which came upon Egypt, with the fierceness of thy wrath and indignation; oh! continue to guard our souls from death, and give not our life over to the pestilence. But make us to go forth as the sheep of thy pasture, and guide us through the wilderness of this world like a flock. Lead us safely, so that we may not fear; bring us to the border of thy sanctuary,—to that redemption purchased for us by our Saviour, and to our final promised inheritance, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXVIII. 55—72.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God! we condemn thy people of old for their ingratitude, when thou didst cast out the heathen before them, dividest them an inherit-

ance by line, and madest the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents: but far, indeed, are we from being better than they! Blessed in our inheritance of thy holy gospel, we yet continually tempt and provoke thee, the most high God, and keep not thy commandments, and turning back from thy righteous ways, we are unfaithful to thee, as the generations before us; like a deceitful bow which drops the arrow at the archer's foot. We provoke thee to be angry with us, and to be jealous of our worship of the graven images of our more worldly and sinful hearts. When our sins come up to thee, O God, thou wilt be in wrath with us, and greatly abhor us. Thou wilt forsake our temples, and withdraw the hope of salvation which thou hast given us. Yet, gracious God, spare us for Christ's sake; deliver not our strength into the captivity of sin, nor our glory into the hands of our great spiritual enemy. Awake not, as one out of sleep, to smite us, and to put us to a perpetual reproach. Refuse not our petitions, offered up in the name of our blessed Saviour. Let not our sanctuary be

trodden under foot, as was thy holy temple at Jerusalem. Visit us in our walk of life, however humble, as thou didst raise David from the sheep-folds. Make us in some small degree, though at an infinite distance at best, like our blessed Lord, that we may be raised up as his followers, and as the sheep of thy pasture. If we have strayed, draw us back,—but too apt as we are to stray. Oh! direct us again to thy fold by the guidance of thy Holy Spirit. Spare and pity us as a Father doth his children. Let us no more offend thee, our heavenly Father, by distrust and forgetfulness of thy manifold mercies to us. Seeing our hearts deceitful above all things, create them anew by the influence of thy Holy Spirit, and pour down thy mercies upon us, now and for ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXIX.

O God Almighty ! we contemplate with awe the defilement of thy holy temple, and the destruction of Jerusalem. By the infuriate heathen of old, the dead bodies of thy servants were given to be meat unto the fowls of heaven. Their blood was shed like water on every side round about Jerusalem, and there was none to bury them. O may we, taking warning by their sad example, not become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us. O Lord, be not angry with us for ever, and remember not against us our former iniquities, but let thy tender mercy speedily deliver us when we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name ; deliver and effectually rescue us from our sins for thy mercies' sake. Thou hast covered them with a great atonement, even the

atonement of Christ our Lord, which has removed the guilt of all believers. Enable us, by thy grace, daily, consistently and perseveringly, to walk in his pure and holy precepts. Wherefore should the heathen still say of us, Where is thy God? Oh deign to make thyself savingly known among the heathen in all lands. Let the sighing of the captive come before thee, and of ourselves, the prisoners of hope; according to the greatness of thy power, preserve thou those that are now at the point of death, conduct us onward to the great day, and then receive us into glory, for the sake of our risen and triumphant Saviour. So we, thy people, and sheep of thy pasture, giving thee thanks day by day, will show forth thy praise to all generations; a succession of believers shall praise thee and thy mercies, till time shall be swallowed up in eternity. We thank thee that we have not now to endure the murderous rage of persecution; and, though sin and sorrow are still our lot for a season, enable us to endure them till the end of this life, when we trust to rise to the life

immortal, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXX.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God, thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leddest Joseph like a flock, thou that dwellest between the cherubims, give ear unto us, and, as of old, shine forth upon us in the splendour of thy power, truth and love. Turn us again unto thee, O God, cause thy face to shine upon us, and accept us as thine own for the sake of the ransom price paid for our redemption by the glorious Lord Jesus. Revive in us true religion, by the power of thy converting grace ; though we are fallen into sin, be not angry against the prayers of thy people ; feed us not with the bread of tears, and give us not plenteousness of tears to drink, unless they be the tears of repentance unto holiness. Turn us again, O God of hosts ; cause thy

face to shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Turn us from the world and the flesh, and graciously pour thy Spirit upon us. Thou hast planted a vine in the wilderness of this world, thou hast prepared room for thy church to take deep root, and to fill the land. The hills are covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof are like goodly cedar trees. She has sent her boughs beyond the seas, and her branches unto the rivers. May she not be as of old, unfruitful, and bring forth wild grapes! May we not be mere professors of Christianity, and be cast into the fire! Make us branches of the true vine, and let us abide in him, without whom we can do nothing. Cast us us not off like thorns and briers, though we deserve to be visited with sharp correction. Look down from heaven, behold and visit us, to engraft us into the true vine, and into the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest so strong for thyself. Oh! make us all living branches, not to be burned with fire and cut down, nor to

perish at the rebuke of thy countenance. Let thy hand be upon the Son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thyself, to glorify his name and advance the interests of his kingdom among men. So will we not go back from thee. Quicken us by thy Spirit, and we will call upon thy name. Turn us again, O Lord God of Hosts: cause thy face to shine upon us, and we shall be saved, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXXI.

O God, our strength, permit us to come before thee with songs of thanksgiving, and with a joyful noise unto thee the God of our salvation. It is our duty, happiness and privilege, to abound in praise and thanksgiving, for thou hast redeemed us from sin and wrath, and hast kept us grateful for all thy mercies and conde-

scending love to us. Our solemn services are ordained for a testimony unto thee, while by them thou hast graciously provided that we may know and remember all that thou hast done for our eternal salvation. When we have called upon thee in our sins and troubles, thou hast delivered us. Thou hast answered our prayers, and preserved us when the waters of affliction have nearly overwhelmed us. Thou hast in thy holy word said to us, as to the Israelites, "Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee, if thou wilt hearken unto me; there shall be no strange God in thee, neither shalt thou worship any other God. I am the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." That we may by sweet experience make our own what thou spakest as gracious words unto thy worshippers of old, bestow on us this bread of life, and enable us to hearken unto thy merciful invitation. O give us not up unto our hearts' lusts, and to walk in our own counsels. Inclining and strengthening us to advance in thy holy

ways, oh! subdue all our sins and the enemies of our peace under our feet, and our time shall endure for ever. Feed our undying souls with spiritual food, and satisfy us with the water of life from the rock of our salvation. Convert us from the error of our ways, and inclining our hearts, by the power of thy Holy Spirit, to obey thy laws unto the end, assist our prayers, inspire us with humiliating convictions of sin, and bring us into a state of holy, active, living faith; and since our sins make our troubles grievous, and our repentance difficult, graciously strengthen and revive us, that we may drink deeply from the wells of salvation, and live for ever, through Jesus Christ, our Advocate and Redeemer. Amen.

PSALM LXXXII.

O God Almighty, the great comptroller of the universe, who rulest over all the

mighty and powerful of the earth, and art pleased to use their service in the government of the lower world for the good of thy people, and particularly for the punishment of evil doers, and the protection of those that do well, grant that thy supreme authority may be reverently acknowledged by all rulers and magistrates, and that under their sway, in submission to thee, we may live in godly tranquillity. Defend the poor and fatherless; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked; spare thy people, O God, and grant that we may all know and understand the words of thy laws, and the ways of thy commandments, without which all the foundations of the earth, and the happiness of nations and individuals, will be out of course and disordered. Let none of us be puffed up with any power or authority, either great or small, over our fellow-sinners; remembering that we shall all die, whether as ordinary men, or like one of the princes, and that at last we must all alike give an account of the things done in the flesh, whether they be good or whether they be

evil, after all have been laid equally in the dust. Arise, O God, judge the earth, for thou shalt inherit all nations, and thy providence ruleth over all. In all our dangers and difficulties we fly to thee, the righteous God, and depend on thy providential care; and since thou, O blessed Jesu, wilt come and judge the earth, and take possession of thine inheritance, and welcome all nations in truth, righteousness and peace, send thy Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts and lives for thy second coming. Grant that we may daily grow in grace, and be more and more purified from the corruptions of our nature, and that, after our probation here, thy looked-for advent to us may be to our everlasting acceptance, and ushered to the ears of each of us with the gracious and all-reviving words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Amen.

PSALM LXXXIII.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, we appeal unto thee against the enemies of our peace. The world, the flesh, and the devil, all take crafty counsel against us, and warring against thy hidden ones, in potent league are confederate against us. Grant that being preserved under thy special protection, our life may be hidden in Christ with thee. It is the wish of the wicked that there may be no religion; it is the nature of our sinful bodies to resist the pure and holy desires of the spirit, and it is the subtilty of Satan which still beguiles and tempts us to sin. O God, make these our adversaries as the stubble before the wind, and as the flame that consumeth the mountains. Persecuting them with thy tempest, and making them afraid with thy storm, thou wilt deal with these our enemies as in the days of the Israelites. Let them be confounded and

troubled for ever, yea, let them be put to shame and perish, that they may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth. But suffer us not to forget that this will be our end also, if we continue in wickedness. Leave us not in the misery of our sins, and in the terror of our own hearts, when we call to mind our transgressions. Convert us by thy Holy Spirit, that we may seek thee: bring us to repentance before we are overtaken by thy divine displeasure, that we may flee from wrath, and seek thy favour. Trusting only in thy mercy and grace, we pray to be made willing, devoted, faithful followers of the cross. Let danger and temptation excite us to greater fervency in prayer, that we may be ashamed of our sins and humbled before thee. Let the judgments of thy power and justice warn us to flee from the wrath to come. Mercifully grant that we may escape the final doom of the wicked, and reach thy heavenly kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXXIV.

O LORD of hosts, how great is the pleasure of entering thy holy temple, where our souls may hold communion with thee in prayer and praise. Blessed be thy holy name, that amidst all our corruptions, we still in pious aspirations long for thy courts, O Lord, and the day of our solemn assembly on thy blessed sabbaths, enjoying then a foretaste of the happiness of heaven,—a peace which this world can neither give nor take away. We learn that blessed indeed are they that dwell in thy house, who will ever be praising thee, and that still more blessed are they whose strength is in thee, and whose hearts are in thy holy ways, having their sufficiency in the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. We thank thee that thou permittest us to approach thy throne in private prayer also, trusting in thy mercies. Our hearts and flesh cry unto thee, the living God; our

way lies through a valley of tears. Strengthen us in our pilgrimage and trials through this low vale to our heavenly rest in Christ our Saviour; enabling us to press forward in our course to go from strength to strength, until we appear before thee in glory. O Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed, who came into the world to save us sinners, and now sits at thy right hand, as our Intercessor and Advocate. We approach thee confidently as our merciful Father, whether in public or private, and can from the heart exclaim with holy David, "A day in thy courts is better than a thousand: I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness." For thou, Lord God, art our sun, to give us light, warmth and fruitfulness. Be also our shield to protect us against all our adversaries. Grant that we may, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, walk before thee in uprightness of heart, then wilt thou withhold no good thing from us. Grateful for

what thou art pleased in thy bounty to grant, and in thy wisdom to withhold, we would declare to all our fellow-sinners, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee, now and ever, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

PSALM LXXXV.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God, we come before thee with a lively recollection of all the mercies and providential care with which thou hast been favourable unto our land; as when of old thou broughtest back the captivity of Jacob. We acknowledge with profound gratitude the great things thou hast done for us; thou hast forgiven our iniquity; thou hast covered all our sin by the sacrifice of our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, and though our provocations have deserved all thy wrath, thou hast graciously turned away from the fierceness of thy anger, by the mediation of our great

Intercessor. Turn us, O God of our salvation, from our sinful ways. Convert us by thy saving grace; be reconciled to us through the blood of thy covenant, and cause thy just anger towards us to cease. Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? Wilt thou draw out thy anger to all generations? Pour out upon us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Redeem us from the bondage of sin; when we stray from thy holy ways, since we may expect to be visited with affliction, we call upon thee in humble prayer to keep us from despair, enabling us to hold on in thy strength, and in the reviving recollection that thou wilt speak peace unto thy people and to thy saints. O let us not turn again to sin and folly; surely knowing that thy salvation is nigh unto them that fear thee, and that thy worship is the glory of all lands. Mercy and truth have met together in our blessed Saviour; in him righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Through him truth hath sprung out of the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven; for thou, God,

art just, and the justifier of them that believe in Jesus. Give us for his sake that which is good, that truth and purity may prevail among us. Let the sun of righteousness go before us, and lead us in the way of his steps to the kingdom of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXXVI.

O LORD God Almighty, bow down thine ear and hear us, helpless and miserable sinners. Let our wretchedness and penitent faith plead for us at the throne of grace, through the merits of our blessed Saviour. Preserve our souls in holiness. O God, save us and all thy servants who put their trust in thee. We cry unto thee with humility and importunity to grant us the blessed privilege of hoping that we are in a state of grace. Be merciful unto us, O Lord, when making our daily prayer unto thee to pardon our sins;

supply our wants, and answer us in every time of trouble. Gladden the souls of thy servants, for unto thee, O Lord, who art good and ready to forgive, do we lift up our suppliant souls. Both in giving and forgiving, thou art plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee faithfully. We commit our ways unto thee, and we shall not trust in vain. There is none like unto thee, O Lord, neither are there any works like unto thy works ; and in the chief of all thy works—the redemption of the world by Jesus Christ our Lord—our rejoicing and glorying shall never cease. By him all nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name, for thou art great, and doest wondrous things ; thou art God alone. O savingly write in our hearts thy truth as it is in Jesus. We will glorify thy name evermore, for great is thy mercy towards us. Thou hast, by the mediation of thy blessed Son, delivered our souls from the lowest hell, preserving us against the adversaries of our eternal salvation. Deign to be to us a God full

of compassion and gracious; long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth; and, oh! enable us to rely wholly on our Saviour, and, copying his example, in infirmity at best, to wait for a happy issue out of all our trials, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXXVII.

O GOD Almighty, the foundation of thy temple of old was in thy holy mountains; and of our holy temple the chief corner-stone is that which the builders rejected, Jesus Christ our Lord. Thou, O Lord, didst love the gates of Zion, more than all the dwellings of Jacob, and glorious things were spoken of thee, thou city of God. But Jerusalem, which was the joy of all the earth, is laid low, because she rejected the Messiah, whose blood is upon her, and upon her children. Her streets were honoured with the footsteps of the Re-

deemer of the world; by his death and resurrection were laid the foundation of that Gospel church, which now is gradually extending her wings to be the nurse of all nations. And since other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, even Jesus Christ, oh! send thy Holy Spirit to build up our souls on that foundation, and let the Highest establish himself in our hearts, and abide there. In the joyful hope that we may be numbered with thy people in the last day, as having been born again of water and of the Spirit, let us ascend joyfully as minstrels, and let the burden of our song be unto Christ, saying, All our fresh springs and fountains of life are in thee. When thou, O God, wilt render unto every man according to his works, grant that we may be found to have in thy strength lived up to our profession. Our springs of life and joy lie not in this world of vicissitudes, for our consolations are in Christ. Grant that we may be true believers, led and strengthened by thee to be daily working out our salvation through his mediation;

possess our souls. Grant that we may, in some distant degree, resemble and imitate thee in holiness,—that holiness which becometh thy house, O Lord, for ever. Send to us the renewing grace of thy Holy Spirit; pardon, deliver, and protect us, and oh! for ever set up thy kingdom in our hearts. We bless thee, O heavenly Father, that at the time appointed in thine infinite wisdom, thou didst send thy Son to make atonement for our sins, and to purchase our salvation. May he be our anchor in every storm, sure and stedfast! In a daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life, O God, make us entirely devoted to thy service! Sustain our faltering steps: keep us in conformity to thy holy laws: enable us more fully to obey thy precepts, and finally grant that we may inherit thy promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XCIV.

O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth, it not being for us to punish the wicked, mercifully grant that we may neither join their sad temporary triumphs, nor give utterance to hard and harsh words; especially root out of us every allurements to persecute or afflict any of thy saints and servants, or to be unkind to the widow, the stranger, and the fatherless. Let us not virtually say to ourselves, Thou, O Lord, wilt not see, neither wilt thou regard it. Let us be wise and consider, "He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that teacheth man all true knowledge, shall he not know?" O Lord, thou perceivest the innermost thoughts of man, that they are but vanity. We confess and lament that our thoughts are only evil, and that continually. Send us the aid of thy Spirit to inspire good desires, and

to keep within us a strict watch over every thought of our hearts, which must be known to thee. Blessed is the man whom thou chasten, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law; that thou mayest sustain him and give him rest of soul, when the day of vengeance overtakes the wicked. O God, let all thy dispensations assure us that thou wilt not finally cast us off, nor forsake us in our trials and temptations. If we suffer, let thy protecting love return unto us, that we may struggle righteously and for uprightness in heart. Since thou alone canst defend us against the enemies of our salvation, O deign to be our help, and our souls will not sink into silent despair. When our feet slip from the path of duty, in thy mercy hold up our goings. In all our varied perplexities, let thy consolations delight our souls. Having taught us that thou wilt have no fellowship with us, if we are the workers of iniquity, daily be thou our defence, and the rock of our refuge. O God, visit us not for our wickedness, but unite us with

those who, through Jesus Christ our Lord, are mighty to prevail for evermore. Amen.

PSALM XCV.

O MERCIFUL and gracious Father, permit us again to come before thee with grateful hearts, fervently rejoicing in the strength of our salvation. Suffer us to approach thy sacred presence with thanksgiving, and be thankful unto thee with psalms. For thou, Lord, art a great God, and a great King above all gods. In thy hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is thine also. The sea is thine, and thou hast made it, and thy hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For thou art our God; we are the people of thy pasture, and the sheep of thy hand. To-

day, make us all anxious to hear thy voice ; let us not harden our hearts, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness. Our Lord has graciously said, " My sheep hear my voice ; " O may we attend to his blessed words, the words of everlasting life, which he has given unto us. May we not only hear, but heed his holy laws, which, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, can alone lead us in the way of salvation. Our opportunity will only be short ; now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation, and to-morrow it may be too late. Convince us, O God, of the evil of sin ; harden not our hearts ; and leave us not to ourselves. O let us not provoke thee to say of us, " It is a generation that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways." Condemn us not with the dreadful threat, " They shall not enter into my rest." To gain that heavenly rest, we desire to give ourselves up to thee, hoping, by the aid of thy good Spirit, to live a life of faith and obedience. Oh ! justify and sanctify us, and reconcile us to thee, through Jesus Christ

our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

PSALM XCVI.

ALMIGHTY and merciful Father, we glorify and worship thee, as the great God of heaven. Let all the earth sing unto thee; let thy praise be universal. Adoring thy name, for all the wonders of thy love, especially for that greatest wonder of all, the redemption of the world by Jesus Christ, we desire, O God, to show forth in our lives, from day to day, his finished work of salvation. Renew us by thy Holy Spirit, and shower down thy compassion and mercy upon us every morning when we rise, and every night when we retire to rest. Bringing and receiving all nations into thy fold, oh! declare thy glory and wonders among all people. Thou, Lord, art great, and greatly to be

praised : thou art to be feared above all gods. Whilst thou, in mercy, keepest us a people free from outward idolatry,—the worship of mere figments of metal, wood, or stone,—suffer us not to set up any worldly idols in our hearts. Glory be to thee, for assuring us that if with contrite and submitted souls, we appear before thee in public worship, and ascribe unto thee majesty and honour, strength in every good purpose will be afforded us in thy sanctuary, and then shall we behold the beauty of holiness. Entering, then, into thy more immediate presence with pious awe, we pray that thy kingdom may come, that our Saviour may be known to all the nations of the earth, and, as the whole creation shall rejoice ultimately in him, we intreat thee to forbid our sins from impeding, in any degree, the glorious course of his gospel. O let us remember that he will come again to judge the world in righteousness, and the people with his truth, and may the thought of that day be made more and more awakening and solemn to our hearts. Grant us, O God, the aid of thy Spirit,

that we may prepare to meet thee. Renew our souls in holiness. Bear us up in difficulties; make us circumspect in our christian course, that we may the more earnestly desire and look for the second glorious advent of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XCVII.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, let the earth rejoice that thou reignest over all. Let the multitudes of the isles be glad thereof. We rejoice in the establishment of thy righteous kingdom, to overthrow idolatry, and of thy blessed Son to be our example, and guide, and Redeemer. Grant that the government of our Saviour may not be a terror to us, by reason of our disobedience to his holy laws. If we disobey thee, we shall see clouds and darkness round about him; for righteousness and judgment are the habitation of

his seat; and a fire, the fire of a consuming conscience, goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies on every side. The worshippers of idols of old were terrified by lightnings and earthquakes; the earth saw and trembled; the great ones of this world melted like wax at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. So shall we tremble, O God, unless thou graciously control and guide us, that we may put away all the idols of this world from our hearts, and worship thee in spirit and in truth. The heavens declare thy righteousness; let us, and all people, see thy glory. Confound us not, O God, with all them that serve idols; inspired by thee, we will join the angels in singing to the Lamb that was slain for our transgressions, and is worthy of all honour, and glory, and blessing. For thou, Lord, art high above the earth, thou art exalted far above all gods. Gracious Father, grant that, loving thee, we may hate evil, and forsake sin. Preserve us with thy faithful servants in purity and peace. Shew us by thy Holy Spirit the light of thy know-

ledge, holiness, and joy, in a life of righteousness. Grant us that godliness which is given to the upright in heart. May we be worthy to rejoice in the Lord as the righteous, and to give thanks for a remembrance of his holiness. By thy justice, truth, and goodness in Christ, support and deliver us in every temptation. Sanctify us in in body and soul, and finally receive us into heaven, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XCVIII.

Most gracious God! suffer us to come before thee with a new song of praise and thanksgiving for thy redeeming love in our salvation by Christ,—that marvellous work; for thy holy arm hath gotten him the victory. We praise thee, O God, for making known thy salvation; thy righteousness is openly showed in the sight of all people. Let thy great goodness to us

in this mighty work go on by the aid of thy Holy Spirit to complete thy work in our hearts, that we may be perfect in Christ when time shall be no more. Thou didst remember thy mercy in sending the Messiah to the house of Israel, and also, blessed be thy name, to us poor Gentiles, who, with all the ends of the earth, have seen the salvation of our God. Oh! set up in our hearts the kingdom of Christ, that Satan and sin may no more have the dominion over us. Then shall we make a joyful noise, and sing praises unto thee, the Lord of all the earth, who art exalted far above all gods. Specially direct and strengthen us to show our love to thee by avoiding and abhorring evil, by overcoming the snares of the world, and our in-dwelling sin. Preserve our souls from evil, and deliver us out of all wickedness within and without. Before thee, O God, there is joy over every sinner that repenteth. Prepare us for that day when our Lord and Saviour will come to judge us and all the earth. And since that judgment will be in righteousness and in

equity, incline us to find rest to our souls by single, firm, and influential reliance on the merits of our Saviour. Make us watchful and diligent in our christian calling, that we may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And, oh! mercifully grant that we may be partakers of the general joy of thy ransomed ones at the great day, and be received into thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XCIX.

ALMIGHTY God! who reignest over the universe, let us and all people, in profoundest reverence, adore thy power, equity, and holiness. Thou art King, be the people never so impatient, thou sittest between the cherubim, be the earth never so unquiet. Thou art eternal, and above all. We give thanks unto thy name, which is great, wonderful, and holy.

Thou reignest especially for us, on the throne of mercy and grace. Approaching thy footstool through the merits of our blessed Redeemer, we submit ourselves entirely to thy will, and confess that we are miserable sinners. We would remember, too, that, although thy power be wielded in mercy, yet is it established in equity. Thou executest righteousness and just judgment. We worship thee in the greatest humility, knowing that thou art holy, and yet, for our comfort, mighty to save; and, as Moses, and Aaron, and Samuel, all called upon thee, O Lord, and thou didst answer them, so wilt thou now also hear all true believers. And, O Lord Jesus, our great Mediator, thou who art able to save to the uttermost all that come to God through thee, graciously make intercession for us, and prevail for our pardon and acceptance. May we dread the reign of impenitent sinners; and believers as we desire to be, we pray to be kept by thy Holy Spirit from falling into sin. When thou, O God, condescendest to speak in the cloudy pillar, thy servants kept thy

testimonies, and the ordinances that thou gavest unto them. Enabling us also to persevere in a constant course of worship and obedience; deign to answer our prayers, O Lord our God, forgive us our many sins, and let not thy vengeance fall upon us. Raise our thoughts and affections to holiness and purity, for as thou art infinitely holy, and requirest us to be holy, abhorring as thou dost hypocrisy, and deceitful worship, teach us to be sincere and faithful, to exalt thee, not only with our lips, but in our lives, and, oh! finally receive us to glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM C.

ALMIGHTY God, the great Jehovah! we come before thee again in solemn worship; with all lands, and with a joyful hope, to present ourselves at thy mercy-seat, through the merits and mediation of

Jesus Christ our Lord. Drawing nigh to thy throne with thanksgiving and gladness for all thy bounties and blessings, and in acknowledgment of thy wonderful love to us through Christ, deign to receive us by thy Holy Spirit; create us again to good works; let us partake of true joy of spirit in piety and holiness. Put away from us all sin and its sure consequences, sorrow, confusion, and remorse. Thou, Lord, hast made us, and through thy redeeming mercy, we are thy people, and the sheep of thy pasture. Make us thine by spiritual regeneration, and keep us from straying away from the fold of Christ, our true, faithful, and sleepless Shepherd. Entering the gates of thy temple with thanksgiving and thy courts with praise, we will be thankful unto thee, and bless thy name. Mercifully grant that we may serve thee with uprightness of heart; then shall we be enabled to approach thee with gladness. Remembering that we are upholden by thy arm, fed by thy bounty, redeemed by thy mercy, and compassion, and love, we rest ever upon thy goodness, mercy

and unerring truth, which endureth from generation to generation. May the inhabitants of the whole earth be brought to know that thou art the God and Father of us all, and may the heathen become true worshippers, and all the families of the earth have only one Lord and one Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Thy mercy is as a fountain which can never be exhausted; may we and all other sinners come to it in faith, and truth, and hope; to refresh our weary souls during our earthly pilgrimage, and, at last, to become monuments of thy sparing mercy, through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CI.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, unto thee do we lift up our hearts in prayer and thanksgiving. Inspire us continually through thy Holy Spirit with good resolutions, that we may, with the pious David,

not trusting in broken cisterns, and the objects of time and sense, but ever praying that we may come into thy kingdom, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXXVIII.

ALL gracious and merciful God, our only sure refuge in this vale of tears, we have cried day and night before thee; let our prayer come before thee. Our soul is often full of troubles, and our life draweth nigh unto the grave. Give us, O blessed Jesus, somewhat of the lowly and meek, patient, and submissive spirit, which thou didst manifest in that dreadful hour, when thou wast under the burden of the sins and sorrows of a ruined world. For our sakes, willingly wast thou counted with them that go down into the pit, and as a man that hath no strength. When we lie down in the grave, we seem to be cut

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off from thy hand, and to be remembered by thee no more ; very often,—but, we would not forget, most justly,—thy wrath for sin lieth hard upon us, and thou dost surround us with all thy waves of sorrow. Thou puttest away our acquaintance ; we are shut up, and cannot come forth. Deeply have we groaned in our affliction—we have called daily upon thee—we have stretched out our hands unto thee. But blessed be thy holy name, thou hast of old shown wonders to the faithful, and the dead in our Saviour shall rise again and praise thee. Thy loving-kindness in Jesus has been declared in the grave, and thy faithfulness in destruction. Thy wonders have been known in the dark, and thy righteousness in the land where all things seemed to be forgotten. Permitted and privileged as we are to approach thee, in the name of our Saviour, early in the morning shall our prayer come before thee. Lord, cast us not off ; hide not thy face from us. We have been afflicted and ready to die, when thy wrath and terrors have gone over and encompassed

us ; but we would not forget our Master's greater agony in the garden, when he was entirely forsaken by all his friends and disciples. O forbid us, in our extreme sufferings, to yield to impatience or despair, but enable us, in faith and hope, to wait for our final deliverance and acceptance, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXXIX. 1—18.

O GOD Almighty, through our vain expectations we are sometimes disappointed, yet will we sing of thy mercies for ever. We will make known thy faithfulness to all generations. Afflictions and persecutions may come upon us, but graciously plant in our souls thine everlasting truth, which, with thy faithfulness in Jesus, is established above in the heavens, beyond all the contingencies of this world. Deign to erect in our hearts the throne of thy Holy Spirit,

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and to rule over us with that sceptre of righteousness which thou wilt wield through thy blessed Son to all generations. The heavens extol the wonders of thy redeeming love, and we celebrate thy faithfulness in the congregation of saints. For who in the heavens can be compared unto the Lord? Thou rulest the raging of the sea, and when the waves thereof arise thou stillest them. Control also, and subdue and soothe the raging of that sea of passions which rolls over us. The heavens are thine; the earth also is thine, and the fulness thereof. Make us, as part of thy new creation, also thine, in righteousness and true holiness. By thy justice and judgment, let mercy and truth go before thy face. Enable us to serve thee as a devoted people, and know the joyful sound of salvation, and walk by faith in the light of thy countenance. In thy name let us rejoice, and in thy righteousness let us be exalted. Be thou the glory of our strength; be thou our defence,—thou Holy One of Israel, be thou our King, to rule over our wayward hearts.

May we believe and obey thy blessed Gospel in all things, and bring forth the fruits of it in our daily and hourly conversation. Drawing all our comforts from thy favour, we entreat that all our griefs and joys may be regulated by conformity to thy holy will. Save us for Christ's sake, our only Advocate and Mediator. Amen.

PSALM LXXXIX. 19—37.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, glory be to thee, that thou hast spoken to us in divers times and ways to make known to sinful men the most stupendous of all thy mercies,—that thou hast laid help on one that is mighty to save, Jesus Christ our Lord. Thou wilt beat down his foes before his face: O may thy faithfulness and truth be always with us through his mediation. Glory be to thee, that his blessed Gospel shall endure to the end of the world, and his throne in righteousness be

established for ever. Entreating through him forgiveness of all our sins, we beseech thee to send us grace, that we may not, in any known way, forsake his laws, but strictly walk in thy judgments, and keep thy commandments. In thy pity visit not our transgressions with a rod, and our iniquities with stripes. Take not thy loving-kindness from us, and suffer not thy faithfulness to fail. Since thy covenant of mercy through our Saviour will never be broken, and the good seed of the word shall continue for ever as a faithful witness in heaven, graciously draw us sinners towards thee by the influences of thy Holy Spirit, and incline our hearts to accept and live up to thy everlasting promises. We fly to thee for consolation, and gladly lay hold of the blessed hope that is set before us. We seek an interest in thee, O Lord Jesus, that our names may be written in the Book of Life, for thou art alone able to accomplish the work of our salvation. Compassionate our condition; strengthen us by thy power in the hour of temptation, that we

may be pure and holy in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Correct us, O God, but not to destruction; be gracious to do what is best for us; assist and increase our strugglings with all that opposes our faithful devotion to thee, and bring us at last to thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM LXXXIX. 38—52.

O GOD, infinitely holy, notwithstanding our obligations to thy covenant of mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, our sins are often so grievous, that we are deservedly abhorred by thee, and thou dost cast us off. The strong defences of thy grace are broken down; we seem to be on the verge of ruin; we become a reproach to our neighbours and to our own consciences. The tempter rejoices, and we cannot stand in battle against his assaults and delusions. With pain we

feel that the peace of the christian life ceases ; we become abased and cast down, and, as guilty sinners, we are covered with shame. How long, Lord, wilt thou hide thyself from us? for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire? O be merciful to us, and send thy Holy Spirit to comfort and support us. Remember how short our time is! What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? but, oh! blessed be thy name, that thou hast revived us by the glad remembrance that the second Adam, the Lord from heaven, hath subdued the power of death, and risen again to live from age to age to provide for the eternal happiness of his people. Lord God, in all our troubles, remember thy former loving-kindness to us, in our creation and redemption. In mercy forget not the calamity which our sins bring upon us, and how we bear in our bosom the reproaches of our mighty adversaries. But blessed be the Lord for evermore ; neither scoffs nor calamities shall hinder us from prayer and praise.

Thou, O God, wilt in the end deliver us. We beseech thee to sustain our hopes, and, making us faithful to thee during our few remaining days on earth, to grant us eternal felicity in heaven, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XC.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God, we approach thee with all lowliness and humility; remembering both the frailty of our nature, and thine untired goodness. Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another: thou art our rest, and comfort, and hope. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, thou art God from everlasting to everlasting. We pass a short time here in the bondage of sin and of our earthly pilgrimage; thou turnest man to destruction, and again, in Christ Jesus our Lord, thou

sayest, "Come again, ye children of men." For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday, seeing that is past as a watch in the night. Our time glides away, while we sleep in sin and danger. We are cut down and fade away as the grass of the field. In the morning of our life we flourish and grow up; in the evening of our days, we are cut down and withered. We deserve to be consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath we are troubled; for we feel that thou hast set our iniquities before thee, and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. For when thou art angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end as a tale that is told. The days of our age are threescore and ten, and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow, so soon passeth it away, and we are gone. But who knoweth, or can conceive, the extent of thy righteous indignation against us as sinners? By the shortness, uncertainty, and sorrows of life, so teach us, that we may apply our hearts

unto that true wisdom which is from above. Return, O Lord, and deign to relent towards us Satisfy us with thy unfailing mercies, and that speedily; so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. Comfort us now, after the years wherein we have suffered adversity. Shew thy servants thy great work of redemption, and their children thy glory; and may the glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; guide us with thy Holy Spirit, and prosper the work of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XCI.

OMNIPOTENT Lord, we pray to be ever under thy divine protection, in the cheering recollection that whoso dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Be unto us, O Lord, a refuge and a fortress, for in thee will we trust.

In delivering us, O God, from the snares which surround us, and from the noisome pestilence, cover us under thy wings, and let thy truth be our shield and buckler. Guarded by thee, we shall not be afraid of the powers of darkness, nor of the noon-tide evil. We shall be safe alike from temporal and spiritual dangers. In thy mercy keep us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and from the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. When thousands are falling at our side, may our tranquil and entire trust be in thy special providence; not forgetting that if we are taken away with others, it may be to remove us from the evil to come; by the influence of thy Holy Spirit, root out of our hearts the evil of sin. If we are appointed to see the reward of the wicked, let us take heed to ourselves, making thee our refuge, and the Most High our habitation. Let not evil befall us, and let not any plague come nigh our dwelling. If thou permit trial of any kind to befall us, let it be for our good, though at present grievous. Give thy good angels

charge over us to keep us stedfast in all thy ways ; let them bear us up, lest our feet stumble into sin, and its numberless attendant sorrows. Grant that through thy grace we may triumph over Satan, in sincere, though remote imitation of the great Captain of our salvation. We have known thy holy name, O Lord, and though in infirmity, have cleft unto thee with reverential trust : be pleased, therefore, graciously to deliver us, and set us up on high. We will call upon thee, in mercy succour us ; be with us in trouble, and deliver us. Continue us in this life, if it please thee, fully to finish thy work, and, oh ! manifest to us thy salvation. Our conflict will soon end with trials, temptation, and sin ; keep us in the path of duty, correct us when we wander, and grant us length of days, even for ever and ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XCII.

O LORD God, merciful Father, how much have we to be thankful for in thy wondrous love by our creation and redemption! Desiring to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness in the night season, enable us, both in going out and coming in, continually to bless thee. Having inclined us to rejoice in the works of thy hands, which manifest thy power and goodness, oh! lead us by thy Spirit to contemplate with admiration and gratitude the greatest source of our hope and joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. But since in our natural state we know thee not, and do not understand, we spring up in wickedness as the grass, forbid us now to flourish in iniquity, to be destroyed at last for ever. Preserve us from worldliness and sensuality, and scatter us not, O Lord Most High, with the workers of iniquity. Grant us, by thy

Holy Spirit, fresh accessions of wisdom, strength, and grace : and when we reflect on the present misery and future doom of the wicked, let us take warning ; remembering that our blessed Saviour triumphed over all his enemies, and will witness and decree our final ruin also, if we continue impenitent. May we imitate the righteous in all our diversified trials, flourishing like them as the palm-tree, and growing in strength and grace like the cedar in Lebanon. Plant us in thy house as trees of righteousness, that we may dwell in thy courts, deriving our fulness from Christ. Make us to grow and bear fruit in him to our old age. Let us shew that the Lord is upright, that he is our rock, and that there is no unrighteousness in him. Negligent and backward as we have hitherto been in acknowledging his condescension, enable us henceforth to fulfil his will in offering ourselves, our souls and bodies, a reasonable sacrifice, and perseveringly to seek and prepare for the joys which are set before us. Graciously help our infirmities ; look upon us with pity, and bring

us to everlasting happiness, for the sake of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM XCIII.

O EVERLASTING God! great Ruler and Governor of the universe, thou who reignest with majesty and power, and hast established the world that it cannot be moved, graciously look down upon the humble sinners now before thee, whom thou hast created. Establish thy throne in our hearts, and show us that though the floods and tempests of our ungovernable passions lift us up in awful folly against thee, yet thou art mightier than all their noise and waves, and tumult. Thy testimonies are very sure; send down thy Holy Spirit, that they may rule over and calm our troubled hearts. When the floods of ungodliness threaten to overwhelm us, do thou, blessed Jesus, rebuke them all with, "Peace, be still," and a great calm shall

behave ourselves wisely in a perfect way praying to be governed by that true wisdom which is from above. Graciously come unto us, and visit us with thy great salvation in Christ our Lord. In our domestic life, with our families, and in our whole course onward, both public and private, create in us an earnest desire to walk with a perfect heart, loving thee above all things, and our neighbour as ourselves, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world. Perfecting the good work which thou hast begun in us, be pleased to raise us above the temptations of the world, and keep us in peace all the days of our life. Let us set no wicked thing before our eyes. Let us fly from the works of those whom we see turning aside from the path of uprightness; let not their iniquity cleave unto us. Strengthened by thee, we will turn away and have no familiarity with those of a froward heart. We will not know a wicked person; those who slander their neighbour, as well as those who are vain, haughty, and self-willed, we desire to shun, for by prid-

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cometh contention. Send us as our friends and companions those who are faithful and just, that they may dwell with us; raise us up to be near us such as walk in a perfect way. And grant that we ourselves may not, as workers of iniquity be driven from Christ's family. Oh! enable us to purify our hearts, and amend our ways; making daily preparation for the coming of our Lord in judgment, to cut off all wicked doers for ever. Grant that we may then escape, and be admitted into heaven, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CII.

O LORD God Almighty, hear our prayers, and let our cry come unto thee. Buried in sin and misery, we fly to thee in prayer for pardon and consolation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Withdrawing not thy face from us when we are

in trouble, incline thine ear to us, in the time when we call, and in mercy answer us speedily. For our days are consumed like smoke, and pass away; our bones are burnt up as a firebrand; our heart, by sin and sorrow, is sore smitten, so that we forget to eat our bread. By reason of the voice of our groaning, our bones scarce cleave to our skin; we become like a pelican in the wilderness, and like an owl in the desert. We watch as a sparrow alone on the house-top; our days are like a shadow that declineth; and we wither like grass. We view thy hand, O God, alike in lifting us up and casting us down, since each is designed by thee in mercy for our eternal good. Thou, Lord, shalt endure for ever, and thy remembrance unto all generations. When the Psalmist saw Jerusalem in ruins, he said, "Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Sion, for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come." And thou wilt yet restore again the Israelites by the true Messiah, and we shall all become united in Christ the Saviour of all. Regard, O God, the prayer

of the destitute, and despise not their application ; generations to come shall praise thee, for thou hast looked down from heaven in pity upon this lower world. By the redemption of mankind, through our Lord and Saviour, thou didst hear the groanings of the prisoners of sin, and of those appointed to death. In thine own good time, gather together thine ancient people, that all the kingdoms of the earth may serve thee. Our own strength will soon be weakening, and our days on earth will be short ; but, O God, take us not away in the midst of our days. And oh ! continually make us more and more prepared to meet thee. Thy years are throughout all generations ; thou hast laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure ; yea, they shall wax old like a garment ; as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed ; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. Great God, because Jesus lives, let us live also, through his all availing and eternal merits. Amen.

PSALM CIII.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, with deep and unfeigned gratitude for thy countless mercies, we bless and adore with all our hearts, and forget not all thy benefits. Thou, through Christ, graciously forgivest all our iniquities, and thou healest all our diseases, both of body and soul. Let not trials, conflicts or disappointments, make us forgetful of thee, the source of all good. If thou art pleased to chasten us for our sins, let thy correction amend us, that, in thy good time, our life eternal may be redeemed from destruction, and that we may be crowned with loving-kindness and tender mercies for ever. If thou art pleased to lift us up again in sickness, and restore our vigour and strength, we would especially bless thee for thy goodness in allowing us further time for repentance and amendment of life, before we go hence and be no more seen. Be

gently inclined to us when we are down-cast and distressed, either inwardly or outwardly. Thou, Lord, art merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in goodness. Thou wilt not always be chiding, nor keep thy anger for ever. O Lord, thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; truly our sufferings are never so great as our sins. For, high as the heaven is above the earth, so great is thy mercy towards them that fear thee; as far as the east is from the west, so far hast thou removed our transgressions from us. Pity us as a father pitieth his children, when we love and fear thee. Thou knowest our frame, and rememberest that we are but dust. As for our days, they are but grass; the wind passeth over us, and we are gone. But thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, if we fear thee, and remember thy commandments to do them. Thou hast prepared thy mediatorial kingdom, for which our souls join the angelic host in blessing thee. May that kingdom reign in our hearts! May our fellow-creatures,

by the aid of the all-converting Spirit, be obedient to thy holy laws, and may we finally be partakers of thy covenant mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CIV.

ALMIGHTY and ever-living God, beholding thy divine perfection in creation and providence with awe and admiration, we would specially contemplate thy wondrous love in the redemption of the world by Jesus Christ with feelings of unutterable gratitude. Our souls bless thee, O Lord God, that thou art clothed with majesty and honour—thou, who coverest thyself with light as with a garment, stretchest out the heavens like a curtain. Having laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed, thou hast also set a bound to the waters; thou causest grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the

service of man, and thou givest wine, that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make him a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen him. Thou hast appointed the moon for seasons, and the sun knoweth his going down. Man goeth forth to his labour until the evening. O Lord, let our labours and undertakings be blessed, if they are honestly pursued with singleness of heart, and consistently with our duty to thee and thy holy laws. When we look round upon thy creation, enable us to exclaim, from hearts truly grateful, O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all, the earth is full of thy goodness, and so is the great sea. O God, we wait upon thee; give us our meat in due season; open thy bountiful hand and fill us with good. Hide not thy face from us, or we shall be troubled. Before thou takest away our health, and we return to dust, send thy Holy Spirit to renew us, as thou renewest the face of the earth. Glory be to thee, O Lord, for ever! When thou shalt look down upon the earth at the last conflagra-

tion, the hills shall smoke at thy touch. Praying unto thee, and praising thee, as long as we have any being, our meditation on thee will always be very sweet and full of comfort. Consume us not, O Lord, with the impenitent and unbelieving, but grant us increasing delight in devoting ourselves to thee; and oh! make us holy and happy for ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CV.

· GRACIOUS and merciful God, we humbly give thanks unto thee for all thy goodness; suffer us to proclaim thy works, and give glory unto thy holy name, trusting that for Christ's sake, thy favours may be continued to us. O Lord, if we seek thee, we know that our hearts shall rejoice in thy support and countenance for evermore. Tracing thy judgments

abroad in all the earth, we see thy visitations to ourselves in mercies and in warnings. Lord, remember thy covenant with us in Christ, and in thy word, which extends to a thousand generations. As thou didst give the land of promise to the Israelites of old, and hast promised to us another Canaan, grant, O Lord, that we may reach that happy land through the merits of our Saviour, and dwell there for ever. And as thou didst send Joseph before thy people, to provide for them in the time of need, and at a later day, Moses and Aaron, to show signs and wonders, so enable us to rejoice in the truth that, at the time appointed, Jesus came to show still greater signs and wonders. Having opened to us, through his bleeding side, the rock of salvation, graciously let the streams of mercy in him flow to us sinners, depending only on his intercession. O God, remember thy holy promises. Bring us forth from the temptations which surround us, as thou broughtest forth thy people of old with joy, and thy chosen with gladness, that we may gratefully ob-

serve thy laws, and keep thy statutes. O let us not persist in rebellion against thy righteous judgments. Restoring our souls to health and holiness, guide us throughout our pilgrimage by the help of thy Holy Spirit; and satisfy us with the bread of heaven, and the water of eternal life. Set us at liberty from the snares of sin which entangle our path; purify our thoughts, incline us to good; redeem us from all iniquity, and at last bring us safely to our incorruptible inheritance, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CVI. 1—15.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, we gratefully offer up our praises and prayers unto thee, whose mercy endureth for ever. Who can utter thy mighty acts? who can show forth all thy praise? O God, grant that we may be enabled to make some

slight return by leading a watchful, pure, and holy life. Blessed are they that keep thy judgments, and do righteously at all times. Remembering us, O God, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people, O visit us with thy salvation, the salvation procured for us by Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may rejoice with thy people, and see the good bestowed upon them, and upon ourselves. Having sinned, like the generations that have gone before us, we confess with pain our extreme unworthiness. If the Israelites remembered not the multitude of thy mercies, and soon forgot thy wonders in Egypt, and at the Red Sea; we, like them, though we believe thy promises for a season, and sing thy praise, soon forget thy works and mercies in creation, providence, and redemption, and wait not for thy counsel, nor pray earnestly for the graces of thy Holy Spirit. Led captive by our own evil passions, in the time of temptation we fall away—our wayward, worldly, and carnal wishes are granted, but they bring leanness into our souls

Having no abiding apprehensions of thy all-seeing eye, we make no proper preparation for self-denial and obedience. We practically forget thy power, and truth, and love. We do not rely entirely upon thy fatherly goodness. If we are blessed with abundance, we commit excess; and bring on disease of soul; if we are in poverty, we do not submit to thy will, but murmur and complain. O God, correct us in all our ways and conditions. Have mercy upon us, miserable sinners, and carry us through our pilgrimage here, to our rest in heaven, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CVI. 16—48.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, suffer us to come before thee, confessing our sins—in distant imitation of thy righteous saints who follow thee in holiness. Open our

eyes to see that we are joining the bands of those for whom a fire is kindled ; so long as we run after the idols of our own hearts, and neglect God our Saviour, who hath done such great things for us. Of old thou wouldst have destroyed the children of Israel, had not Moses thy chosen stood before thee in the breach to turn away thy wrath, lest thou shouldst destroy them. And our destruction was certain, had not our blessed Saviour and Mediator stood in the breach to save us from everlasting ruin, both of body and soul. Grant, merciful God, that we may not now, in our day of probation, despise that pleasant land which is promised to them that believe thy holy word. May we not murmur, while for a short time only, our tents are pitched on earth ; may we hearken unto thy gracious voice, O Lord : O God, lift not up thy hand against us to overthrow us while we are straying away from thee in the wilderness of sin, though conscious that we provoke thee to anger with our wicked inventions, and deserve a plague to fall upon us. We

are defiled with our own doings; but let not thy wrath be kindled against us for Christ's sake. Abhor not thine own inheritance; deliver us, O God, and bring us not low for our iniquities. Graciously looking upon our afflictions, and hearing our cry—remember thy covenant with us, according to the multitude of thy mercies. Save us, O Lord our God, that we may give thanks unto thy holy name, and triumph in thy praise. Blessed be thou, Lord God, from everlasting to everlasting. Bring us at last to praise thee with saints and archangels round thy throne in glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CVII. 1—20.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of all mercies, thou art good and gracious; thy mercy endureth for ever. Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord, and gathered us from oursoul-ruining ways in the wilderness of sin,

when we have wandered from thy righteous paths, and found no city of refuge for our souls to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, faint and weary with the burden of our sins, we cry unto thee, O Lord, and beseech thee to deliver us out of all our distresses. Graciously lead us forth in the right way, through every danger and difficulty, through all troubles and temptations; that, at last, we may arrive at that city, which thou hast prepared for the habitation of thy ransomed saints. We praise thee for thy goodness, and for thy wonderful works to the children of men. Be pleased, O God, to satisfy our longing souls, and to fill our hungry souls with goodness. When we sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, when we are in affliction because we have despised thy counsels, when our heart is bowed down, and we feel there is none to help, we will cry unto thee, O Lord, to save us out of our distress. Bring us out of darkness, and the shadow of death, and, for Christ's sake, break asunder our bonds of sin; we will then praise thee for thy goodness to

us, and for thy wonderful works to the children of men. Often afflicted because of our transgressions, with their multi-form trials, our soul abhors all manner of meat, and we draw near unto the gates of death. Mercifully invited and encouraged to come, we cry unto thee, O Lord, in our trouble to send thy word with power to heal us, and deliver us from everlasting destruction for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CVII. 21—43.

O MERCIFUL God, we praise thee for thy goodness, and for thy wonderful works to the children of men. As mariners on the unstable and tempestuous ocean of life, we see thy wonders in the deep waters of trouble and sin. Tossed up and down by the storms of passion and temptation which surround us, our soul is melted because of our trouble; we reel to and fro

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on the voyage of life, and stagger from good purposes like a drunken man, and are at our wits' end by reason of our tumultuous emotions within. But we cry unto thee, O Lord, in all our trouble. Graciously bring us out of our distress. Make the storm of our sins a calm, so that the waves thereof be still. Speak peace unto us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Ever gladden, control, and quiet our souls by the influences of thy Holy Spirit, and bring us in peace, joy, and safety, to our desired haven. Praising thee for thy goodness, and for thy wonderful works to the children of men, we will exalt thee also in the congregation of thy people, and in thy holy temple. O God, turn not our streams of gladness into a barren wilderness, nor our fruits of righteousness into decay for our wickedness. But visit us with thy salvation in Jesus, turn our waste wilderness of life into fruitful and flourishing grounds of hope and comfort, refresh our dry and unprofitable hearts with the water-springs of christian purity, and let us for ever drink at the wells of

salvation. Pity us as spiritually hungry and thirsty; prepare for us a dwelling with thee. Bless us, so that we may yield fruits of increase; when we are minished and brought low, through sorrow and affliction, raise us up again, that we may rejoice with the righteous. Make us wise, that we may observe the ways of thy providence, and understand thy loving-kindness, now and ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CVIII.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God! we approach thee confiding in thy mercies with gratitude and hope, with hearts fixed to give praise unto thee, and with tongues tuned to set forth thy glory. We will praise thee in the face of all people, for thy mercy is great above the heavens, and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds. Deign to receive our humble petitions to be

delivered from death eternal. Save us with thy right hand through Jesus Christ our Lord. Answer our prayers when we call upon thee, and speak to us, O God, in thy holiness. Who but thee can bring us into the strong and abiding city of thy saints? Cast us not off, but go forth with us day by day through our pilgrimage here below: do thou release us from trouble, for vain is the help of man. We pray unto thee with assured hope for the aid of thy Holy Spirit to bring us into thy strong and holy city; mercifully invigorate, arm, and sustain us in all our conflicts with temptation, sin, and Satan. Give us help from trouble, for vain is the help of man. Enable us to do valiantly when we have to combat against the enemies of our everlasting peace. We rely upon thy gracious promises to communicate strength to us by thy never-failing love and mercy. Send us help in distress, and victory in conflict, and make us more than conquerors over every spiritual foe within and without. Visit our souls with the favour that thou bearest to thy chosen people. Of what-

ever we gain or accomplish, not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be the praise; to thee alone, and altogether, would we ascribe the glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord, for whose sake save us everlastingly. Amen.

PSALM CIX.

O GOD of our prayers and praise, hold not thy peace when we fly unto thee from the slanders, malice, and deceit of the world. But why should we complain when, to a far greater degree, the persecutors of our blessed Master compassed him with words of hatred, and fought against him without a cause? For his condescension alone they were his adversaries, but he prayed unto thee, and encouraged us in our approach to the throne of grace, to supplicate thee as our Father in heaven. They returned him evil for good, and hatred for his love; and above all who

acted so cruelly and sinfully, was Judas the traitor, when Satan stood at his right hand; but he was judged and self-condemned. His prayer became a sin, and he was cut off from the earth. Grant that we may not betray our Lord by our practical unbelief, that we may not persecute the poor in spirit, and the broken in heart, but show mercy to all in imitation of thee, the God of mercy and forgiveness. Deliver us, O God, for thy mercies' sake, from all our difficulties and trials. Convinced of sin, our heart is wounded within us in contrition and self-abasement, for our misdeeds rise up against us. Advancing in years, our life declineth, and we are gone like a shadow. Our knees grow feeble, and we become more and more exhausted. Come thou to our help, O Lord our God. Save us everlastingly according to thy mercy, that we and all may know that in plucking sinners as brands from the fire, the work is thine, and that thou hast done it all. We will greatly praise thee, O Lord, with our mouth, yea, we will praise thee before all people.

Stand near us, O God, undone and wretched sinners. Save us from all those evils which would lead our souls to perdition; our incarnate Redeemer condescended to become poor, and to submit to pain and suffering and contumely for our sakes. We fly for refuge to him in poverty and sickness and sorrow. We raise the suppliant mourner's eye to him alone, who with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Spirit, reigneth one God, world without end. Amen.

PSALM CX.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of heaven, who saidst unto our Lord Jesus, "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool," thou hast come in thy strength out of Sion, and hast triumphed over all thine enemies. We, thy willing people, reverently owning thy

power and holiness, intreat thee to convert us by thy grace from the corruptions of our nature. Turn us from the world, and adorn us with humility, faith, hope, and charity. Let thy gracious influence spread over all the earth, as the morning dew. Thou who art a priest for ever, continue to intercede for, and bless us as our great Mediator. As both king and priest, deign to rule over us, and be our merciful advocate. When thou shalt destroy and smite opposing kings, in the day of thy wrath, when thou shalt judge the heathen, and bring to nought all anti-christian powers, and set up thy kingdom over all the earth, we will fly to thee, blessed Saviour, adoring thee first for all thy humility on earth, stooping to take of the brook in the way, and content with hardships and suffering when, for our sakes, thou didst drink of the deep waters of affliction ; and, secondly, for thy glorious exaltation to thy mediatorial kingdom in heaven. Reign over us, blessed Jesus, till our hearts are knitted unto thee, and till death, our last enemy, shall be destroyed by thee, causing thy

gospel to be unto us the power of God unto our salvation. Turn us from an ensnaring world, and from our own evil passions, to rely entirely upon thy merits and mercy. Let us not neglect the means of grace, and be driven into outer darkness, for dreadful will be the day of thy second coming to all who remain under the bondage of sin and Satan. Grant that we may love thy appearing as the fulfilment of our happiness for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXI.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God ! we praise thee with all our hearts, offering our unworthy but thankful acknowledgments to thee in our own private retirement, in the society of the lowly, and in the public congregations of thy people. We bless thee for thy works of creation and providence, for the wondrous displays of thy

power and majesty, but, above all, for thy glorious work of redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful Father! be gracious and full of compassion towards us; give us food and raiment, and all that is necessary for our pilgrimage in this world towards that eternal state to which we are approaching. Day by day, nearer and nearer, show us the power of thy work of grace upon our souls, and enable us to see that all thy dealings towards us are full of verity and judgment. Grant only that we may follow thy commandments, which are pure, holy, and just. Oh! keep us within thy covenant for ever; holy and reverend be thy name! and preserve us in thy fear, which is the beginning of wisdom! Give us that good understanding which all have who strive to obey thy commandments, and grant us that praise of knowing and doing thy will, which will support us here, and endure with us for ever. May our hearts be sincere, and our gratitude lively towards thee for all thy mercies. As sinners, we tremble before thee; but, as the redeemed of

thy blessed Son, we go on our way full of hope and joy in believing. Lead us, then, to repentance and amendment of life, and to increasing watchfulness over all our sins and follies; and oh! mercifully carry us forward by thy grace from strength to strength, until we come to thy everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXII.

GRACIOUS and everlasting God, we praise thee for all thy mercies and goodness towards us unworthy sinners, desirous to serve thee, and to obey thy holy laws. "Blessed is the man who feareth thee, O Lord, and hath great delight in thy commandments." Grant that we may be blessed, with the generation of the upright, and—whether thou givest or withholdest earthly wealth or riches,—that in thy Son, our glorious Surety, our righteousness may

endure for ever. In this world, sin has made affliction our inevitable lot, but let the light of thy Holy Spirit beam upon us in our darkest days, and let us imitate our gracious Master, though feebly at best, by suffering, as well as doing thy righteous will. May we be just and liberal, not living for ourselves only, but for the benefit of mankind. Keep us by the power of faith, that when we lie down in the dust, our names may be recorded by thee among the righteous, and in heaven be had in everlasting remembrance. Trusting in thee, O Lord, we will not be afraid of any evil tidings. Make us strong in faith and hope; fix and establish our hearts, and we shall not be afraid; only let us see our desire upon our spiritual, and, therefore, direst enemies, sin and Satan. Inspire us with kindness and generosity to the poor; let us not be as the wicked, who gnash with their teeth and melt away, and all whose thoughts do perish. Deal not out to us our own measure of selfishness and uncharitableness; but soften our hearts to that active benevolence which distin-

guishes from all else the sincere follower of the cross. Gracious God! form us by thy Holy Spirit to the character of thy redeemed people, and grant us life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIII.

O MERCIFUL God! again we approach thee with our praises and thanksgivings, unworthy though they are of thine acceptance. Blessed be thy name, O Lord, from this time forth for evermore. Let thy true religion prevail in our hearts, and from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, thy kingdom come among all people. Exalted as thou art above all nations, and pre-eminent as is thy glory above the heavens, O Lord, deign to behold the whole of thy creation, the things that are in heaven and in the earth; and raising us, helpless sinners, through thy grace out of the dust of this lower world,

lift us up in the time of our need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Through his all-availing merits place us in the eternal and heavenly world, even with the chief of thy people; and make us all here below to be a joyful family in worshipping and praising thee, and in leading a pure and holy life. Though seeing us not only suppliants and debtors, but deceivers and traitors in our faith towards thee, as in effect we too often are, yet be pleased to make us, in thy mercy, devoted and obedient children. If our comforts are removed or delayed, let us wait in patience, ever trusting in thee. Let the power of thy gospel come among us. Let thy kingdom of grace prevail. And, oh! throughout eternity, let the radiance of thy glory cover us. Despise not the work of thine own hands; but deign to receive the polluted sinners whom thy blessed Son came down from heaven to seek and to save; accepting his blood-bought ransom of our guilty souls, that we may be raised to life everlasting, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. . Amen.

PSALM CXIV.

O God Almighty! we remember thy powerful arm in bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, when Judah was thy sanctuary, and Israel thy dominion; the sea saw it and fled, and Jordan was driven back, but we desire to remember also, and that continually and gratefully, that still greater has been thy merciful deliverance of us through our blessed Lord, and that all our failings and sins fall before the power of thy grace. As the earth trembled at thy presence, O Lord, so make us to fear and tremble, lest we should be overwhelmed in a sea of sin and sorrow. Oh! may the remembrance be ever with us that the whole earth shall tremble when the day of judgment is at hand; separate us, O God, from sinners and sinful ways; remember thy gracious promises, and make us thy peculiar care. Bring us out of the bondage of earthly customs; divide

for us the waves through which we must pass, and open to us a safe passage to heaven, through Christ our Lord. Thou turnedst the rock into a standing water, and the flint-stone into a fountain of waters for thy people Israel ; but we are blessed with the Rock of ages ; grant that we may drink ever of that fountain of living water opened for us by our Mediator, to wash away our sins : suffer us not to neglect thy great salvation ; cause that nothing may obstruct our onward pilgrimage towards heaven. Send thy Holy Spirit to prepare us day by day to meet thee our Judge. When the whole creation shall melt away, and vanish at thy presence, be with our undying souls. Ere it be too late, admit us, through the blood of the covenant, to make our peace with thee. May we not be terrified, but have confidence before thee, trusting entirely in the all-atoning merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXV.

O LORD God! not unto us, not unto us, but unto thy name we give glory for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake. Ardently do we entreat thee to help us, not for our own deserts, but for Christ's sake, that thy name may be glorified by thy mercies to thy faithful worshippers. Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now our God? Seated in the heavens, thou hast done whatsoever hath pleased thee; but we, like the heathen, have still practically our idols of silver and gold. We have mouths, but we speak feebly indeed thy praises; we have ears, but we listen not to the voice of paramount duty and instruction. We have hands, but we use them not in works of piety and charity. We have feet, but we walk not in the ways of thy commandments. Similar, in effect, to the idols of the heathen, we are spiritually deaf and dumb, and blind,

and lame, and impotent. Relying on thee alone as our helper and our shield, O may we that fear the Lord trust in the Lord. Be mindful of us, and bless us all, both small and great, and increase thy followers more and more. The whole heavens are thine, and thou hast given the earth to the children of men. While we remain on it, mercifully grant us the aid of thy Spirit, that we may more uniformly and watchfully walk in the ways of thy commandments. Since we shall be soon with the dead who praise not thee, neither any that go down into silence, we will bless thee from this time forth for evermore; trusting entirely in thee, O God, to assist and protect us, to sustain, and comfort us on our way here below, and to raise our bodies from the grave, to join the blessed company before thy throne in heaven, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXVI.

O MERCIFUL God! suffer us to approach thee with gratitude and love, because thou hast graciously heard the voice of our prayers and supplications. Be pleased still to incline thine ear to us, that we may call upon thee as long as we live. As sinners, we feel the sorrows of remorse, and a troubled conscience; as if the alarms of death encompassed us; as if the pains of hell got hold upon us. But we still call upon thy great name. Fervently we beseech thee to deliver our souls. Gracious art thou, O Lord, and righteous; be merciful unto us; simple and sinful creatures as we are, and destitute of any wisdom or power in ourselves; oh! preserve and help us by the comfort of thy grace, when we are brought low and are in dejection by reason of our manifold transgressions. Say to each earnest suppliant, "Return unto thy rest, for the

Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee." Deliver our souls from ruin and death eternal, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling; that we may walk before thee, O Lord, in the land of the living, as ever in thy sight, and under thy constant guidance. Believing and trusting in thy providential care, we call upon thee in our affliction; we can place no reliance on the race of men who are deceivers, like ourselves. Thy goodness and benefits overcome us; what return shall we render unto thee? We will partake in faith of the cup of salvation, and call upon thee, O Lord; paying our vows unto thee, in the presence of all thy people. Let us at last die the precious death of thy saints. O Lord! we are thy servants, thou hast loosed all our bonds. We offer thee gratefully the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and when our trials are accomplished, we beseech thee, for Christ's sake, to let us enter into thy rest and happiness for ever. Amen.

PSALM CXVII.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God! we approach thee with our praises and thanksgivings, and may all nations adore thee for thy mercy and truth; for sending thy dear Son to give salvation to all people. Mercifully grant that, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, we may belong to that blessed company which shall praise thee for ever. Have pity upon us, sinners of the Gentiles, who are now, by thy grace, become thy professing worshippers. Grant that none of us may seek the grace of God in vain; but that every one of us, personally and individually, may endeavour to serve and glorify thee, in every word, and deed, and thought. We pray that we may be enabled to do thy will in all things, in glad obedience to the Captain of our eternal salvation. Bring us that were afar off nigh unto thee. Make us thy willing and devoted subjects, who

were by a fallen nature at enmity with thee. In thy merciful kindness towards us, we beseech thee to continue to us thy perfect and victorious truth. We look up to thee, through Christ, as the fountain of all our comforts, and the foundation of all our hopes. May we each be owned and accepted of thee, O Lord, here below, and, at last, when we have passed through this vale of sin and sorrow, may we, purified through the blood of Jesus, be raised again to life immortal, through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord and only Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXVIII. 1—18.

O GOD! we give thanks unto thee, for thou art good, and thy mercy endureth for ever. Grant us, when calling upon thee, O Lord, in distress of mind or body, O grant us, for Christ's sake, in thine own

time, a gracious answer. O Lord, be for us ; who then can be against us ? we will fear no evil. Be gracious to those that help us in our christian course. We know that it is better to trust in thee, than to put any confidence in man, or the rulers of man in this world. Like David, we are compassed about with the spiritual enemies of our peace, and have temptations on every side ; but vouchsafe the help of thy Spirit, that we may overcome and destroy them. Our frailties and our trespasses thrust sore at us ; but, O Lord, help us against them. Oh ! be thou our strength and our song ; and we will go to thy temple with the voice of rejoicing and salvation. Let thy right hand bring to pass mighty things for us. The voice of thankful and holy joy shall be heard in our dwellings, however mean and poor. Subdue in us discontent, and murmuring, and complaining. If it be thy gracious will, let us live to declare thy works, O Lord, and, above all, our glorious redemption from death eternal. Lord ! for our good, thou hast corrected and chastised

us, to bring us nearer to thee; but give us not over to death, till, in thy strength, we are prepared to meet thee, our God; and, above all, give us not over to death eternal. Because our Saviour, Jesus Christ, liveth, let us live also for ever, through his merits and all-availing mediation. Amen.

PSALM CXVIII. 19—29.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God! who hast given us all the good we here enjoy; but, above all, who hast opened to us the gates of righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord; deign to receive our thanksgivings that thou hast heard us, and art become our salvation. Glory be to thee that that foundation which the builders refused is, through thy mercy, become to us as the head-stone of the corner; it is thy doing, O Lord, and it is marvellous in our eyes. That our blessed

Saviour should condescend for us, miserable sinners, to suffer humiliation, pain, sorrow, ignominy and death, is the greatest wonder of love for men and angels eternally to celebrate. He is our gate of righteousness to lead us to thee, our heavenly Father. Oh! send us thy Holy Spirit, that we may be doing our proper work until he come again to judgment. Save us, Lord, we beseech thee; send us now prosperity in the way of godliness. Blessed be he that cometh to us in the name of the Lord! O God! enlighten our perverse understandings; be our portion and our choice, that we may render a willing obedience to thy holy laws. May we strive continually to imitate our great pattern in holiness and meekness, charity and humility. Let our souls enjoy that peace and righteousness which his rule over us will surely bring us. We offer ever our spiritual sacrifices of prayer and praise unto thee, the God of our salvation. Thou art our God! we give thanks unto thee, O Lord, for thou art good, and thy mercy endureth for ever.

Renew thy gracious deliverances day by day, and bring us at last to thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 1—8.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God! keep us undefiled in the way of life, and lead us by thy Holy Spirit in thy law; and oh! enable us to seek thee with our whole heart. Preserve us from iniquity, and incline us strictly to walk in thy ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently; but we are constrained to confess our many sad deviations from thy pure and righteous laws. With wicked hearts leading us continually astray, we are ashamed that we have not a respect unto all thy commandments. Abased to the dust by a sense of our imperfections and transgressions, we desire to amend our lives, that they may be entirely con-

formed to thy holy will. Pour down upon us thy divine grace, that we may praise thee with uprightness of heart, when we shall have learned thy righteous judgments, and have made thy statutes our rule, in thought word, and deed. O, for Christ's sake, forsake us not utterly, nor leave us without help to overcome temptation, and to shrink from all evil. Sin has brought woe and ruin upon our nature ; and our own personal iniquities have brought further misery upon ourselves. Pardon us, gracious God, and reconcile us to thyself, by the blood of the new covenant. Renew our hearts and dispositions, that we may sin no more. Accepting our imperfect services, grant us both the will and the power to become both pure and holy. We desire to have respect unto all thy commandments. Oh ! leave us not to ourselves in seasons of temptation and weakness. Be pleased more and more to strengthen our spiritual life, until we come to thy heavenly kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 9—16.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God! enable us to approach thee with pure and contrite hearts. Wherewithal shall not only the young, but the middle-aged, and the old, cleanse their way? even by taking heed, in all we think, and say, and do, that our whole life be in strict conformity to thy word. Mercifully grant the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that we may not seek thee in form alone, in cold unconcern, or only on particular occasions, but always, and with our whole heart. O! let us not wander, like lost sheep, from the ways of thy commandments. Let us hide thy precious word in our inmost heart, beyond the reach of our spiritual enemies, who would rob us of it, and so shall we be preserved from sinning against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord; teach our lips to declare all the judgments of thy mouth. Let our conversation be in heaven, for our own

advancement in holiness, and for the good of those around us. Make us to rejoice in the way of thy testimonies, more than in all riches, which make themselves wings and fly away. Enable us profitably to meditate on thy precepts, and in all things to have respect unto thy ways. May we delight in thy statutes, which elevate the soul above the sordid and selfish pursuits of this transitory world. May we never forget thy law, nor the example of our blessed Saviour, who, after expounding it to the people, devoutly in the synagogue, went about doing good. For his sake hear our prayers, and bring us at last to thy kingdom in heaven, through the merits and mediation of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 17—24.

O! gracious God! be pleased to pour down thy spiritual bounties upon us thy

humble servants, that we may live, only to keep thy commandments in love, and faith, and holiness. Open our eyes, that we may behold the wondrous things out of thy law. Remove from us the veil of all worldly and carnal desires, by which our spiritual sight is impaired, and we are hindered in our way to heaven. Send thy Holy Spirit to purify our sinful hearts, that we may understand the nature and glory of thy divine truth, and that by thy heavenly teaching we may discern more and more of thy wisdom, power, and goodness, and be filled with all joy and peace in believing. As strangers and pilgrims upon earth, having here no continuing city, and fleeing as it were a shadow, we entreat thee to hide not thy commandments from us, lest we lose our way to our eternal home in glory. Desiring earnestly the knowledge of thy truth and precepts, our souls break out with fervent supplication to be kept at all times in the way of thy holy laws. O God! rebuke us not with the proud and self-righteous, who err from thy commandments. Re-

move from us that reproach and contempt which follow the wicked, and enable us by thy grace ever to obey thy testimonies. The great and mighty of the earth, even princes, may sit and speak against thy servants, but oh ! let us be found and preserved in humble meditation on thy statutes. Let thy testimonies be our delight and our counsellors, that they may direct us to enduring faith and repentance here, and to our eternal rest in heaven at last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 25—32.

O LORD God Almighty ! too seldom, alas ! do we look up to thee as the source of all good ; grovelling on in this lower world, our souls cleave to the earth, and the objects of sense, which are but as dust before the wind. Quicken us by thy enlivening grace to be more spiritually-minded according to thy word. Make us

to declare thy ways by a holy and consistent course of life. Hear us for Christ's sake, when we call upon thee. Teach us thy statutes; cause us to understand the way of thy precepts, which alone are able to make us wise unto salvation; so shall we talk of thy wondrous works in our creation, preservation, and glorious redemption from sin, and misery, and death. When we call to mind our various and multiplied iniquities, our souls melt for very heaviness. Daily do we need the strength of thy supporting grace, O Lord, to resist and overcome temptation. Remove from us the way of hypocrisy and deceit, and make us to abhor all false ways, and everything contrary to the faith and purity of the gospel. Graciously providing that thy law may direct and influence all our doings, pour thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may always and in all things choose and prefer the way of thy truth, and keep thy judgments before us. Draw us to cleave unto thy testimonies, that our souls may not be hindered in our course heavenward by our doing

anything contrary to them. O Lord, put us not to shame and confusion, but deign to open, enlarge and soften our sinful hearts, that we may eagerly run the way of thy commandments. Hear these, and all our prayers, for Christ's sake, and by his merits and mediation receive us into thy glorious kingdom for ever. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 33—40.

O MERCIFUL God ! be pleased, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, to teach us the way of thy statutes, and we shall, by the same gracious help, keep it unto the end. Except thou teach us, and lead us forward, we shall fall back again into our hateful sins. Give us understanding, and enlighten our minds, that we may in patience, faith, and hope, keep thy law ; yea, observe and obey it, not outwardly before men, but inwardly, and with our whole heart. We anxiously pray that thy holy laws, which

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are just, and pure, and good, may be our delight. Make us to walk always in the path of thy commandments. Incline our hearts unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness, not to riches, which perish in the using, nor to the possessions of our neighbours, on whom, though more deserving of thy truth than ourselves, a sinful nature often ensnares us to look with feelings of envy, hatred, and malice. Enable us to avert our eyes from the vanities and follies of this world, which fade away, and are not worth a thought; much less ought they to occupy our precious time and labour, and to lead us into temptation. Oh! quicken us in thy way, and in the pursuit of thy favour and blessing upon us, and all that belongs to us. Establish firmly thy word in us, thy humble servants, who desire to be devoted to thy fear. Let that holy fear over-rule the deceitfulness of our hearts, and the strength of every temptation which may cross our path. Turn away from us the dishonour and reproach of falling from thy precepts. Behold us, O God, longing after thy pre-

cepts,—quicken us in thy righteousness by thy enlivening grace, and lead us in the way of life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 41—48.

O GOD of our salvation, let thy mercies come unto us, even with thy salvation, according to thy word; so shall we have wherewith to answer those that revile us, in the cheering remembrance that the resurrection of our Redeemer has put to silence all reproaches. In all our trials and difficulties, may we ever trust in him. Take not the word of truth utterly out of our mouth. Inspire us with hope unto the end, in thy word and gracious promises. In all our troubles and perplexities, grant us the help of thy Holy Spirit. Though we may be left for awhile in uncertainty and distress, let our confidence in thy faithfulness never be abated; with

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all our hearts desiring to keep thy law continually, and waiting in patience, and perfect obedience to thy commandments, we intreat thee to bring us, even on earth, nearer to the happiness of heaven, where thy will alone shall prevail for ever and ever. Deliver us from the slavery of sin and Satan, that we may walk at liberty, for we seek thy precepts, in the assured conviction that thy name, O God, is perfect freedom. As thy devoted servants, we will speak of thy testimonies and loving-kindness to us, even before kings, and will not be ashamed. Inspire us with heavenly joy, that we may delight in thy commandments, which we have loved, when we lift up our hands and hearts in earnest prayer unto thee. When laying hold on Jesus our Saviour, and applying his merits to our comfort and hope, we intreat thee to grant the aid of thy Spirit, that we may practise his life-giving precepts, and imitate his spotless purity and holiness. Without thy aid, all our judgment and affections are vain and worldly; in thy great mercy, help us on the way to

eternal rest and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 49—56.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God! remember those gracious promises unto thy humble and faithful servants, upon which thou hast caused us to build our eternal hope. In all our afflictions, send us the comfort of thy holy word, to quicken our faith and trust in thee. Though the worldling may deride and ridicule us, let us not decline from thy law. When we recall to mind thy judgments of old, O Lord, we take comfort, and when we fall into calamities, we forget not how many good men in all ages, as well as in our time, have been afflicted, and in trouble, and have been raised up again by thee, to peace and joy, either directly in this present life, or through believing thy promises, in the life which is to come. Grant us, like them, submission to thy will, and the support of thy grace,

that we may so pass through this short scene of fleeting things, that we may not lose the things eternal. Horror hath taken hold of us while we have reflected upon our wickedness in forsaking thy laws, and have called to mind the last words of our Redeemer, when he was led to be crucified for the sins of all people. "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." But too sensible that we have crucified the Saviour afresh by our sins, we may well feel the stings of conscience and remorse, and weep for ourselves, and for our friends and families. Oh ! teach us, merciful God, to apply thy statutes to our sinful hearts ; let them be our songs in our pilgrimage on earth ; let them be remembered by us, O Lord, in the stillness of night, and let it be our solace, if with a true heart we are striving to keep thy laws. We ascribe all our composure and cheerfulness of mind to thy protection ; and we pray that we may henceforth more faithfully follow thee, for Christ's sake. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 57—64.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God! graciously be our portion, that, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, we may keep thy words. As fallen sinners, seeking thy favour with our whole heart, we intreat thee to be merciful unto us, according to thy word, for the sake of our blessed Saviour. When calling to mind the ways in which we have walked after our own wicked desires; we are deeply grieved and stricken with remorse. Enable us henceforth to do the works meet for repentance; and be pleased to turn our feet again towards thy testimonies. Increase our desire to forsake every evil course, and to make haste to comply with thy holy commandments. The bonds and snares of wickedness have robbed us of our peace, and disturbed our conscience; but, oh! blessed be thy name, through thy preventing mercy, we have not utterly forgotten thy law. Our dis-

tresses and dangers make us cling to thee, O God, for deliverance. At midnight, we will rise to give thanks unto thee, because of thy righteous judgments. From the heart we desire to bless and thank thee for all thy mercies ; but especially for that wonder of love, our redemption from sin and death eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we may ever fear thee ourselves, and incline us to choose as our friends and companions, only those who diligently keep thy precepts. Search and try and purify our hearts through thy grace. With bitterest shame we feel that we can find time to meditate upon and execute all our plans of pleasure and profit, and that we can rise up early, and late take rest, when roused or detained by the temptations of the world ; and yet that too often we are slow or indisposed to meditate upon thy goodness, full of mercy as thou art to us, and to all our race. Good Lord, teach us thy statutes, and day by day bring us nearer to thy heavenly kingdom, in purity and holiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 65—72.

O LORD God Almighty, thou hast dealt graciously with thy servants according to thy word. Thankfully remembering and acknowledging all thine unfailing mercies, and, above all, our redemption by Jesus Christ, we offer up our prayers with faith and trust in thy disposal of us for the future. Teaching us to form a sound and sober judgment in all things, enable us, in some small degree, to imitate thy goodness. Before we were visited with affliction, we went astray; but now have we kept thy word. In our health and prosperity we forgot thy fatherly hand; we saw not that we were indebted to thy bounty for all the good we were enjoying; but reverses of fortune, loss of health, desertion of friends, the trials of those nearest and dearest to us, have, with other afflictions, when sanctified, brought us to fall down before thee, as the only

stay of our hopes; our sure comforter, and omnipotent deliverer. Perfect in holiness and wisdom, thou art good, and doest good. In thy kindness teach us thy statutes; and, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, enable us to keep them all the days of our life. Shield us under thy protection when misrepresentations are forged against us; and oh! restrain us, that we may not speak or deal falsely with others. Rule over, and control us, that we may obey thy precepts with our whole hearts. Let us not be insensible to thy promises and threatenings, nor become puffed up by prosperity, luxury, and ease, and let our delight be in thy law. Since in thy good providence it is good for us that we have been afflicted, let our afflictions work in us, by the power of thy grace, to learn, and diligently to observe thy statutes. Let the law of thy mouth be dearer unto us than thousands of gold and silver, which perish in the using. Bless us with the true riches—a spiritual understanding and delight in thy holy scriptures, the gain whereof is incomparably better than

fine gold. Incline our hearts to dwell upon the ever-flowing abundance of these riches in Christ Jesus, and save us for his sake for ever. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 73—80.

ALMIGHTY God, our Creator and Preserver, who hast made and fashioned us, give us understanding that we may learn thy commandments, and make us wise unto salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Bringing upon us sorrow and trouble, as do our sins daily, vouchsafe to deliver us from them, and they that fear thee will be glad and confirmed in their faith when they see us comforted, because we have hoped in thy word. We acknowledge, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in very faithfulness hast afflicted us. All the dispensations of thy providence are righteous, and if we faint not in serving thee, will work

together for our good. We pray thee that thy merciful kindness may be our abiding consolation under every trial. Let our hearts and consciences be assured by the power of thy Holy Spirit, that our sins are pardoned, and that thou art reconciled to us, through the blood of the covenant. Without thy pardoning mercy we have no enjoyment here, and no hope hereafter; but, judicially given up, we remain under the sentence of condemnation for our abounding iniquities. Let thy tender mercies come unto us, that we may live in peace, and delight in thy law. When men deal perversely with us, and slander us without a cause, oh! grant us support, and enable us to persevere as conscientious followers of our blessed Lord in our meditations upon thy precepts and promises. Let not our infirmities estrange or alienate from us any of thy good and faithful servants; but let those that fear thee, turn unto us in friendship and kindness. Let our hearts be sound in thy statutes; and, in strict sincerity and integrity, devoted to thee;

depending entirely on thy fatherly goodness to us, and glorying only in our blessed Saviour and his life-giving words, and oh ! may he mercifully not be ashamed of us in the day of judgment; but may he, with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Spirit, accept, pardon, and save us for ever and ever. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 81—88.

ALMIGHTY and ever gracious Lord ! we beseech thee to listen to us whose souls faint for thy restoring pardon, and to deliver us from our sins, and all our apprehensions of deserved punishment. Nothing short of an assured hope in thy promises can satisfy us, and our eyes fail us, while we languish and droop for thy holy word, saying, when wilt thou comfort us ? Toil, and grief, and infirmities press us down and wear us away ; yet, we pray thee, suffer us not to forget thy sta-

tutes. Whatsoever be the space thou allottest to our days on earth, grant that our remaining time, and especially the close of our life, may not be spent in spiritual dangers and distress. Entrapped as we are by the entangling cares and nets of the world, and numerous and craftily dug as are pitfalls for our souls on every side, we intreat thee to establish us in the comforting assurance that all thy commandments and promises are faithful and true. When we are persecuted wrongfully, help us, O God. When we are in the midst of sickness and sorrow, though we feel that we are almost consumed upon earth, let us not forsake thy precepts, which will support us under every trial, Let us sooner forsake all and everything in this world, rather than a steadfast trust in the comfort of thy grace. In every period of life, and under all circumstances, sustain and quicken us according to thy great loving-kindness. Preserve us from a torpid indifference to thy service; raise us from a death-like condition of slumber or rest in the things of

earth. Depending entirely upon thy support for power to do any good work, we pray for thy gracious favour, that we may hold fast to thy testimonies; and leaving ourselves, and all our concerns in thy hands, be pleased to dispose of us in time, and receive us in eternity, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 89—96.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God! all glory be to thee, that thy word is established for ever in heaven, beyond the reach of all the changes of this world; and that its full accomplishment is beyond all possibility of doubt, for thy faithfulness has extended through all generations, down to us at this moment. Be merciful unto us, pilgrims and strangers upon earth; establish in us firmly thy faith and fear, as thou hast

established the earth, and it abideth. Continuing to this day, as do the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, according to thine ordinance, oh ! forbid that we thy professing servants, and the creatures of thy hand, pre-eminently endued with reason, and destined for immortality, stand alone, in opposition to thy will ! remembering that unless thy law is our delight, we shall perish for ever in affliction and despair. Grant, merciful God, that we may never forget thy precepts, but entwine them round our hearts by day and by night. Quicken us, O Lord, when we read thy holy word. Let some passage be our comfort in trouble, our check in the time of temptation, and our controlling power in the season of prosperity. We are thine, O merciful Father ! Increase our desire to obey thee, and oh ! forbid that sin of any kind may longer rule over us. Satan is ever watching to destroy us, but we will consider and be directed by thy testimonies ; having, by the teaching of thy grace, witnessed the vanity of all pretended perfection on earth,

and more clearly seen the vexation attending every state of merely earthly happiness, we praise thee that thy commandments show us the narrow extent of all knowledge, and the poverty of our own self-righteousness. Deepen our experience of the spirituality and excellence of thy holy law; and, giving us grace diligently to obey them, lead us to seek thee alone as the source of all our happiness, and to look to Christ Jesus for our everlasting redemption from sin, and misery, and death. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 97—104.

OMNISCIENT and all-seeing Lord, we intreat thee that all the day long, in every trial, change, or sorrow, we may be enabled to maintain our study in thy law. Mercifully grant that, wherever we go, and whatever we do, we may rule ourselves according to thy word. In the

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busiest haunts of men, and in the retirement of our chamber, may we constantly dwell on thy love to us through the covenant of grace in thy dear Son. Make us, by thy commandments, wise unto salvation. Surrounded on all sides as we are by sin, and the enemies of our peace, we confess that we constantly fall from the purity of thy holy laws. Giving us more understanding, as does thy word, than any other teachers, and imparting to us, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, a good understanding in the ways of godliness, it will both instruct and enable us more watchfully to keep thy precepts. Direct us in our daily walk of life, that we may refrain our feet from evil ways, and stedfastly adhere to thy word. Suffering us not to depart from thy judgments, do thou graciously continue to teach us, that we may persevere unto the end; and bestowing upon us, by thy grace, the disposition to study thy precepts, and the ability to perform our duties in conformity to thy teaching, oh! deign to make thy words sweet unto our souls, yea, sweeter than honey to our mouth. Blessed

be thy name, that, though alas! too often we have no pleasure in them, being corrupted by the tastes of the world and the flesh, thou hast yet mercifully taught us that thy precepts and love impart a perfect understanding. Sanctify them to our souls, that we may hate every false and deceitful way. Preserve us against cares and delusions, devious from the path which alone leadeth to salvation. Put us not away like dross, nor drive us from thee like chaff before the wind. Be merciful to us sinful creatures, and let us finally enter into thy heavenly rest, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 105—112.

ALMIGHTY God! our Ruler and Guide, mercifully grant that thy blessed word may be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path, through our dangerous and difficult way on earth. In our deepest and

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darkest tribulations, let it pour into our hearts the beams of hope; and when despair overshadows us, by reason of our many sins, sustain and cheer us by the abounding consolations held out to us in its unerring page. Incline us by thy preventing grace and continual help to keep thy righteous commandments, and to perform the vows which we have often made unto thee. Contrite and distressed, because we do not the things that we ought, we pray for thy quickening grace. Accept, we beseech thee, for Christ's sake, the free-will offerings of our mouth, and teach us thy judgments. Though our soul is continually in danger, and our life constantly perplexed by oppressions and fears, let us never forget thy precepts, nor depart from them, even to save ourselves from hardships or trials, however severe. With St. Paul, let us not count our life dear unto us, so that we may finish our course with joy. Suffer not the snares of the wicked to entrap us into evil, or tempt us to err for one moment from thy holy precepts. Grant that thy testimo-

nies may be our portion now, and our heritage for ever. We acknowledge with gratitude, how much they daily gladden our hearts; and we intreat thee to incline us more and more to perform them alway, even unto the end of our days, aided and strengthened by the motions of thy heavenly grace. Make our hearts earnest in our heavenly work, as a pledge of that eternal happiness for which we supplicate, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 113—120.

O GOD! the Searcher of all hearts, to whom our inmost thoughts are as open and clear as the sun at noon-day, thou seest that though we profess to love thy law, we are constantly indulging vain and wandering, and wicked imaginations. In solemn warning thou hast declared that our sinful thoughts will all appear against

us, and we therefore intreat thee that they may not again lead us into temptation and transgression. Teach us to watch and pray against them, and to make always predominant in our hearts those pure and heavenly aspirations which will dispel every low and vicious tendency or desire. Be thou, in all seasons of distress, our hiding-place and our shield. Separate us from evil-doers, and strengthen us in keeping thy commandments, our God and King. Uphold us according unto thy word, that we may live a life of faith, and die the death of the righteous. Delighting and glorying alone in Christ Jesus our blessed Lord and Saviour, we implore thee to hold us up, and we shall be safe; and so shall we always have respect unto thy statutes. O let us not be trodden down with all them that err from thy statutes, nor practise vanity, deceit and falsehood, with those that boast of worldly wisdom. Put us not away as the dross of the earth, like the wicked; but make us to love thy testimonies. When we look into ourselves, and our numberless imper-

fections and failings, our flesh trembleth for fear of thee, and we are afraid, lest thy judgments should deservedly fall upon us. But, imploring the aid of thy Holy Spirit, we rely on thy gracious promises, and we pray for thy favour, and for a hope of heavenly joy at last, through the merits and mediation of our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 121—128.

Most merciful God, we acknowledge with contrition that we have sinned before thee, and come short of thy requirements. Enabling us ever to do judgment and justice towards others, oh! leave us not to our oppressors, nor to unavailing anguish, remorse, and despair. Graciously undertake for us, and by the aid of thy Holy Spirit prevent the world and our own evil propensities from prevailing against us. Our eyes fail for thy salva-

tion, and for the word of thy righteousness. Deal with us, thy servants, according to thy mercy, truth and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Teach us thy statutes, and deign to give us a spiritual understanding, that we may know thy testimonies, and through thy grace, strenuously endeavour to do our duty to thee, to our neighbour, and to ourselves. Lord, thou hast in mercy taught us that now is the accepted time, be pleased to work in us both to will and to do. Alas! we ourselves, and too many around us, make void thy holy laws; practically denying both their obligation and authority. Our lives are not in conformity to the example set us by our blessed Saviour, who was pure, and undefiled, and separate from sinners, and continually went about doing good. Nothing but the influence of thy grace can convert us from the error of our ways, and save us from the road to perdition. Make us to devote ourselves to thee, to holiness, and heaven. Increase our zeal and faith, that we may love thy commandments above gold, yea, above

fine gold, and value thy precepts as right concerning all things. Enable us to renounce every false way, our follies, and our sins. Make us true Christians, living in thy faith and fear, and looking for our salvation alone, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 129—136.

ALMIGHTY and all-wise Creator! suffer us reverently to approach thee to confess our wonder at thy gracious testimonies. Grant that thy people may ever hold them fast as our surest guide and stedfast hope. Looking up to thee with adoring praise for the redemption of our souls by Jesus Christ, the way of our acceptance, and the only medium of grace to us all, we intreat thee to grant that our depraved hearts may be won over by gratitude and love, to be entirely obedient and devoted to thee. Let the entrance of thy precious word into our minds give us spiritual light and understanding, and a holy de-

light in thy commandments to comfort, invigorate, and refresh our weary and despairing hearts. Look thou upon us, and be merciful unto us, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name, and as thou ever wilt do unto those that trust in thee. Order and direct all our steps according to thy word. Let not any iniquity have dominion over us. Depending entirely upon thee, and upon the aid of thy Holy Spirit, we supplicate thee for thy fatherly care of us, and for the forgiveness of our numberless sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Deliver us from all oppression and hindrance from without, and so shall we keep thy precepts. Make the light of thy countenance to shine upon us, thy humble and confiding servants; teach us to observe more strictly all thy statutes; bring our souls more and more into conformity with the example of our blessed Saviour, who lived unspotted from the world. Let that mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; and, oh! leave us not to our own strength, for when we faithfully look upon ourselves and others, tears

perforce run down our cheeks, because none of us keep thy laws with our whole hearts. Grant that we may not remain in impenitence and neglect of our eternal concerns. Purify us here, and admit us at last into thy heavenly kingdom, for the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 137—144.

O LORD God Almighty! righteous art thou, and upright in thy judgments. Confiding in thy providential care, we submit to thy will in all our trials and calamities on earth, while we feel that thy law requires righteousness of us, faith in the merits of our Saviour, and truth in the innermost soul. When we think of thy holiness, we are bowed down by remorse and contrition, because in our temptations we have forgotten thy word, which always and in all things demands of us purity, spiritual-mindedness, and its unreserved adoption in our hearts.

Though, tested by thee, we are small, and of no repute, and even despised, yet let us not forget thy precepts, but, oh! enable us ever to remember that thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and endureth beyond all generations. Grant that we may continually endeavour, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, to be alike consistent, and immovable in the ways of righteousness, believing thy law to be the standard of all truth. Trouble and anguish take hold upon us, when we look back upon our past lives. Daily, and almost hourly, in thought, word, and deed, we offend against thee; yet, mercifully grant us such repentance that we may henceforth delight in thy commandments, which, instead of grief and remorse, will inspire us with peace and confidence in thy gracious promises, through Christ our Lord. In thy power and grace, may we become new creatures, and lead a new life. Comforting us in our trials, and by thy everlasting righteousness giving us understanding, and a right judgment in all things, incline us always, and under all changes, to

walk in the ways which belong unto our peace. May we live a life of faith and holiness, and when the day of our death arrives, may we depart to life eternal, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 145—152.

O MERCIFUL God! we cry unto thee with our whole heart; hear us with pity, and preserving us from the power of sin, enable us by thy grace to keep thy statutes, now and even unto the end. We cry again unto thee for deliverance; save us, and grant that we may keep thy testimonies. Lead us away from all temptations, and from the numberless hindrances to holiness, and from the dominion of all iniquity. Let not sin reign in our mortal bodies; make us anxious at the dawn of every morning, to raise our thoughts and meditations to the throne of

grace. Keep us early and constant in fervent prayers to thee; let the Sun of righteousness shine upon us, and dispel all the clouds and darkness and fears, which fill our minds. Encourage us to hope and trust in thy holy word. In the quiet hours of night, may we prevent our eyes from taking any rest, till we have meditated upon thy word and upon thy providential care of us during the past day. Continuing in prayer, till we are at peace with thee, we entreat thee graciously to hear us at all hours; when we fly unto thee in trouble, no less than when we are thankful to thee in our happiest moments. Hear our voice, and listen to our meditations. O Lord, quicken us, and give us spiritual life, according to thy judgment. Stir up our minds to that which is pure and holy in thy sight, and enable us, first to form, and then to carry holy resolutions into effect. While we are employed in praying to thee, suffer not mischief of any kind to enter into our thoughts. Let us not go with those that are far from thy law. Be ever near us,

O Lord, and continually impress upon us, by thy grace, the truth of all thy commandments. Whenever we have reflected upon our past life, we have dwelt with thankfulness on thy testimonies: oh! be pleased to confirm us in them; permitting us to trust in thee and thy faithfulness, that thou wilt for ever pardon us for Christ's sake, and through his merits and mediation bring us at last to thy kingdom in heaven. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 153—160.

O LORD God Almighty! graciously condescend to look down upon us, and consider our diversified afflictions. In all our perplexities especially, we are reminded of our continual need of thy help. Deliver us, and in mercy leave us not utterly to forget thy law, though we too often forsake thy righteous ways. Cleaving unto thee, O God, as our support and stay, we implore

thee to emancipate us from all our follies and sins. Blessed Saviour! plead our cause, and quicken us by thy Spirit and grace, that we may no longer be dead to good works. When we are weighed down by our trespasses and transgressions, revive us again, according to thy word. Salvation is far from us, while we continue in wickedness, and seek not thy statutes; our eternal salvation is with thee alone, O blessed Jesu! Let us not deceive ourselves by imagining that we are on our way to heaven, while we persist in sin of any kind. Many are the hindrances to our spiritual life; yet let us not, in any emergency, decline from thy testimonies. We behold other transgressors, and are grieved, because they keep not thy word; but let us also look to ourselves, and be abased for our own many imperfections, and violations of thy holy word. Make us, by the aid and light of thy grace, to consider our ways, and to love thy precepts. Quicken us, O Lord, in thy mercy, and according to thy loving-kindness, inspire us with vigour to overcome temptation and suffer-

ing, and, in every trial, to be firm in obedience to thy commandments. Thy word is true from the beginning, and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. Preserving our hearts in faith and love towards thee, deign to establish in us the conviction, that thy sayings are true, and worthy of all acceptance, and may they continue with us to be our support unto the end. Under all circumstances, fix us firmly on the Rock of our salvation, and hear us now and ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 161--168.

ALMIGHTY God! Sovereign of the universe, graciously look down upon, and pity us. The prince of darkness has persecuted and tempted us to iniquity, and we have fallen under his bondage; but, oh! help and deliver us from our capti-

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vity, and establish our hearts in awe of thy word. Enable us to rejoice in thy truth, as those that find great spoil, and to take delight in doing thy will, and, in thy strength, to triumph over all the temptations to sin by which we are surrounded. Make us to hate and abhor all manner of deceit and falsehood; and to love thy law in honesty and purity of heart. Having made us desirous seven times a day to praise thee, because of thy righteous judgments, be pleased in the midst of our worldly vicissitudes and disappointments to give us that great peace which they have who love thy law. Let nothing disturb us while we rely on our reconciliation with thee, through the merits and mediation of our blessed Saviour. Lord, we have hoped and longed for thy salvation. Grant that we may continually strive to keep thy commandments, and oh! make our obedience constant and unvarying. Enable us to say, "Our soul hath kept thy testimonies, and we love them exceedingly." Before we venture to expect from thee any pledge of eternal

felicity, enable us, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, to say from our hearts that, in sincerity and truth, we have striven to keep thy precepts and thy testimonies; for all thy ways are continually before us, as our surest road to the realms of bliss. Subdue, and mortify, and root out, all our evil passions and propensities. Sanctify and renew us in the spirit of our minds. Govern us by thy pure and holy precepts. Support us by thy gracious promises; and, ever remembering that thine eye is directly upon us, may we be employed in glorifying thee here, and be permitted to glorify thee hereafter, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXIX. 169—176.

O MERCIFUL God! let our cry come unto thee. In the midst of innumerable dangers and temptations, have pity upon

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us. Send thy Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen us, and to prevent our many failings and short-comings before thee. Give us understanding according to thy word, that we may know the things which belong unto our peace. Enlighten our minds, and correct our weak and imperfect judgments. We ask of thee to give us true knowledge after thy perfect will. Let our supplications come before thee through the intercession of thy blessed Son, and, for his sake, save and deliver us, notwithstanding all our unworthiness. Waiting upon thee in faith and hope, our lips shall utter thy praises when thou hast taught us thy statutes. We pray for thy continued grace, and bless thee for thy unwearied care of us here, and for the hope of glory hereafter. Let our tongues tell of thy pure and holy word, and speak of all thy righteous commandments. Help us by thy divine grace. Succour us in our temptations; support us in our troubles; guide us in the right way; direct us to choose thy precepts; to long for thy salvation, and to make thy law

our delight. Give us a cheerful and willing mind in following thy commandments ; and, in strictly obeying thy holy laws, let our souls live, and they shall praise thee. Give us grace, and strength, and peace, that we may be prepared to lift up our hearts unto thee, and that thy judgments may both defend and control us. We have gone astray like lost sheep; receive us, and bring us back to thy fold. We have wandered out of the right path ; but suffer us not utterly to forget thy commandments. May we know the voice of our chief Shepherd, and faithfully follow him. Let us examine all our hopes and fears, with the design of finding whether they are truly and solely based upon scriptural principle. Advance us in holiness, and lift us up at last from this evil world, to the purity of heaven, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXX.

EVER gracious God! we look up to thee at all times, but especially in the hour of spiritual need; in our distress we cry unto thee, O Lord, and we beseech thee to hear us. Deliver our souls from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. Let us avoid all crooked ways. May we ever live in sincerity and truth towards all with whom we have to do; may we be true to ourselves, not being deceived by self-love and self-righteousness; but, above all, may we never be betrayed into the madness and folly of attempting to deceive thee, to whom our inmost thoughts are as clear as the noon-day; oh! what shall be our doom if we have a false and deceitful tongue? Let us, when we are tempted to deceive, ever bear in mind thy threatenings, and ask ourselves this question; shall we not be visited with mighty and sharp arrows and hot burning coals,

with all the tokens of thy wrath, which will overtake and strike us before we are aware, in the midst of our sins. By thy terrors and the fear of that portion which will certainly fall upon us if we transgress, keep us from making our course in this world a living lie. If we profess to fear and obey thee, and do it not, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Our consciences alarm us when we reflect on our evil ways ; since it will be woe unto us if we sojourn with the wicked, and dwell in the tents of sin. Be pleased to prevent our being entrapped into the company of those who are far from thy righteous ways. Surrounded as are our souls here by the enemies of our purity and peace, we would look up ever to the great example and model of all true holiness. Though our evil passions tempt us to war against the everlasting interests of our souls, we cry unto thee to help us by thy grace. Grant that we may possess our souls in peace, and that we may live in meekness and charity with all. Give us true repentance ; and, at last, acceptance

and happiness in heaven, for the sake of
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXI.

O ETERNAL God! we lift up our eyes
unto thee, from whom cometh our help
on our way, as we trust, to the Jerusalem
which is above; we pray for thy grace,
thou omnipotent Maker of heaven and
earth; thou art all-sufficient for us in our
dangers and necessities, through the medi-
ation of our blessed Saviour. Depending
on thee alone, and not on ourselves, nor
in any strength of our fallen nature, we
pray thee to suffer not our feet to be
moved from the right path. We know
that thou, who keepest thy people, shall
neither slumber nor sleep. Be unto us a
shade, so that the sun shall not smite us
by day, nor the moon by night; so that
we shall not be betrayed into any active
sin by day, nor become by any torpor of

spirit subdued in our desire to serve thee at night. Our souls now dwell in bodies which, by their frailties, are opposed to our spiritual rest. We long for the peace which passeth all understanding, but when we speak of it, our unruly passions make ready to war against ourselves. By thy gracious and ready help, preserve us, O Lord, from the snares of sin, which lay in wait for us on every side. Make all things work together for our good. Watch over us with thy providential care, in our going out and coming in. Protect us in all our ways. Prevent more distress coming upon us: remove or sanctify that which we now endure; suffering us not to be defiled by sin or disturbed by affliction. Preserve us in the morning of our days, at the noon-tide of life, in the evening of old age, and from this time forth, even unto death. Both now and to the end, let us look unto Jesus our righteousness and strength, and for his sake own and accept us evermore. Amen.

PSALM CXXII.

ALMIGHTY and merciful Father, we are always glad when it is said unto us, "Let us go into the house of the Lord," there to fall down on our knees before thy footstool, to confess our sins, to offer up our praises, to pray for peace, and to draw nearer to our blessed Saviour for our final salvation; deeming as nought all personal inconvenience and fatigue, when we have the opportunity of going to thy earthly temple. May we there, by sweet foretaste, anticipate that time when we hope to reach and become inhabitants of the heavenly Jerusalem. Approaching again to offer our earnest prayers in christian communion, may we all, as the disciples of Christ, keep the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life; and supplicating for the peace of thy gospel church, we pray that our feet may stand in it securely, and that it may be

built up, to the edification and nourishment of thy faithful worshippers in all the corners of the earth. Set up thy throne of judgment in all lands, and may Christ our example reign in all our hearts. Invoking his spirit of peace, and love, and holiness, we pray for the prosperity of every christian community, and of every devoted family. Heal all strifes and contentions by the graces of our holy faith, and make us all to be of one mind. For our brethren's sake, and the companions of our probationary pilgrimage, pour out on us all the spirit of peace and love. Because of the house of the Lord our God, and for Christ's sake, may we seek to promote true religion and spiritual fellowship. Gracious Father, excite in us a continual desire to imitate the example of our crucified Master, in giving up ourselves to increasing labours for the salvation of others, and the promotion of thy glory. Vouchsafe unto us the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that we may continually aspire after those things that belong to our everlasting peace, and oh! finally admit us into thy

heavenly temple, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXIII.

AGAIN in faith and prayer unto thee do we lift up our eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. In all our calamities, we intreat thee for power to keep ourselves in calm acquiescence with thy will. Endeavouring by thy grace to be stedfast in our obedience and service, we would patiently wait the issue, trusting to thy mercy for our deliverance. Our Lord Jesus hath graciously taught us to look unto thee as the giver of all good, and as our Father which art in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress, so our eyes wait upon thee, the Lord our God, until thou art pleased to have mercy upon us. Led

astray as we are by our evil inclinations, we are assailed by temptations from which we cannot rescue ourselves without thy special grace preventing us. We may look elsewhere for help, but we look in vain. Thou alone art both able and willing to deliver us. Direct us in all our doings; give us our portion in due season; our daily bread, and grace sufficient for us. We appeal to thee. we are entirely thine: have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us; for we are exceedingly filled with contempt for ourselves, when we call to mind our manifold trespasses. Under self-reproach we feel a burden too heavy to bear. Scorn and contempt may be our lot from those that are at ease and filled with pride; but it is ever our comfort to be humble in thy sight, and feel that there is mercy with thee. As thy willing servants, always would we endeavour to copy our blessed Saviour in meekness and patience; looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, we intreat thee to afford to us the gracious aid of thy Holy Spirit, granting us true

and lasting repentance. Purify our desires, and bring us safely at last to thy heavenly kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXIV.

O LORD, merciful God! we feel more and more all thy goodness towards us. If it had not been thou, O Lord, who wast on our side when men and the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, rose up against us; if, Lord, thou hadst not been on our side when their evil passions, and our own degenerate natures rose up against us, all these enemies of our salvation had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us. But still, in the midst of shoals and quicksands, we need the help of thy grace to guide us into the way of safety, and into the harbour of thy refuge. O God! let not the

waters of sin and despair overwhelm us. Let not the stream of destruction go over our souls. Thou indeed, O God! hast been our all-powerful, and all-merciful helper; we will confide in thee alone as our protector and guide; our protector in this uncertain life, our guide to the gates of heaven. In thy great goodness thou hast not given us as a prey to the enemies of our salvation. Deliver our soul, and let it escape as a bird out of the snare of the fowler; break the snare for us, and make a way for us to escape out of trouble here, and out of condemnation hereafter. When we call to mind our manifold dangers and difficulties, and our follies, weaknesses, trespasses, and backslidings, not only do we see that our only help is in thee, O Lord, who made heaven and earth, but that without thy preventing grace all is lost for time and eternity. Be pleased then to continue to snatch us away from the jaws of our devouring sins, and to disentangle us from the cares of this world. Let us rejoice in the glad theme, "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the

throne, and unto the Lamb." Help us, good Lord, in our heavenly way, and save us for Christ's sake for ever. Amen.

PSALM CXXV.

GRACIOUS and everliving God! under whose mighty protection there is perfect security to those who firmly put their trust in thee, mercifully make us as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains round about Jerusalem, so, Lord, stand round about thy faithful people from henceforth, even for ever. But as the inhabitants of Jerusalem were faithless and disobedient, and therefore became weak, let us take warning by their example, and immovably be grounded by thee in a firm and constant faith and trust in the merits and intercession of our blessed Redeemer. Inspire us ever, by faith unfeigned, to rely alone on his mediation, to imitate his example of holi-

ness of life, and kindness to all our fellow-creatures. Purify our thoughts by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. Cleanse our consciences from all the foulness and deformity of the many sins which we have from time to time committed. Though the rod of the wicked may come upon us, yet strengthen us in uprightness, for it shall not long continue as the lot of the righteous, lest the righteous put forth their hand unto iniquity. O Lord, proportion our strength to our trials, and make all things work together for our good. If temporal calamities overtake us in our circumstances, our health, our families, and our friends, mercifully sanctify the trial, and support our souls. Correct us, O God, in thy loving-kindness, not in thine anger, lest we be destroyed for ever. Shorten the days of our trouble, and do good, O Lord, unto those that by thy grace are upright in their hearts. Deal with us mercifully, graciously, and with forbearance; suffer us not to turn aside unto crooked and sinful ways; and lead us not forth with the workers of iniquity.

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Let thy peace rest upon us. We ardently supplicate for thy upholding power, for thy supporting grace, for holiness, integrity, sincerity, and the spirit of kindness, that we may be Israelites indeed in whom there is no guile. Number us with thine elect in time and eternity, for Christ's sake. Amen.

PSALM CXXVI.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God! we call to mind the joyful surprise of thine ancient people, the Jews, when thou didst turn again the captivity of Zion; the sudden and extraordinary manner of which was more like a pleasing dream than a reality; and we desire continually to remember that if their deliverance from outward and temporary captivity was so delightful how great should be our gratitude and delight for our deliverance from the captivity of sin and Satan, and for our eternal redemp-

tion in and through Jesus Christ our Lord ! Trembling sinners as we are, full of guilt and despair, we look up to a crucified Saviour for our peace and joy, amazed at the prospect of happiness which has burst upon us as a reality. Our heart is filled with joy, and our tongue with singing. O Lord, in the glad remembrance that thou hast done great things for us—whereof we may, indeed, rejoice—turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the rivers in the south. Perfect our deliverance from evil. Suffer us not to remain in worse than Babylonish captivity, the captivity of our fallen and sinful nature. Stir up our worldly and grovelling hearts to seek for the liberty of the gospel. Dried up as we are, and wasted away in the drought of this desert below, oh ! refresh us with the streams of thy grace, and replenish our souls, as a thirsty, desolate land when again filled with moisture. Sowing in tears of unfeigned repentance, may we reap in joy ; persevering in well-doing ; though now going forth weeping, we intreat thee to enable us, in thy good time, to bear precious seed, and

to come again with rejoicing, bringing our sheaves with us. In all our sorrows, make our light to shine as that of true Christians; and send thy Holy Spirit to support and strengthen us. Teach us ever to continue in prayer, to exercise faith and patience, to trust in thy goodness and mercy, and to repent of our sins. Keep us in thy holy ways, and in every good word and work; humbly, but, in thy strength, influentially remembering always that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Oh! for ever save us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

PSALM CXXVII.

O LORD God Almighty! though we depend entirely on thy providential care of us, we take our chief thought, and care, and trouble, and anxiety, about our own pursuits, and the objects of our desire; too often forgetting that our labours are as nothing without thy blessing. Except

thou, Lord, build the house, we labour to no purpose that build it; except thou, Lord, keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Be with us, O Lord, in all our doings, so far as they are consistent with our christian character; in public, in private, in our daily walks, and in the retirement of our chamber. Build us up in thy perfect faith and fear; send thy Holy Spirit, that we may grow in grace, and be armed against all temptations. In vain do we rise up early and late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety and care, unless thou art pleased to prosper us, and give us ease of mind. Enable us to live according to thy will, and to enjoy that repose of soul which thou givest to all who rely alone on thee. If we are blessed with friends and relatives who show us kindness and affection, we acknowledge that we are indebted to thy goodness for favourably influencing their hearts towards us. Continue to draw our connexions to us by the chords of love, that, in our need, they may be as arrows in the hand of a mighty man; and each of us as the happy man that hath his

quiver full of these, so shall we not be ashamed to face our enemies. Whatever be our respective positions, whether that of parents, or children, or friends, bless us in our efforts to serve and trust in thee. Teach us to remember all our obligations to each other; to study the comfort and happiness of those around us; to minister to their wants, to sympathise with their sufferings, and to pardon all their trespasses against us; and after finishing our course here together in thy fear and favour, may we all at last meet in thy heavenly kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXVIII.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God! entirely depending upon thee in all our concerns, whether temporal or eternal, we intreat thee to lead us in the only way to obtain thy continued blessings, by fearing thee, and

walking in thy holy ways. Grant, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that we may follow steadily, and without deviation, the path of godliness and righteousness all our days on earth. Then will it be well with us, and then may we eat the labour of our hands, and enjoy that happiness which the world cannot give. Bless us in our families, in our parents, in our wives and children, and all our other relatives. Suffer us not, in our ease and prosperity, to fall into idleness, carelessness, and forgetfulness of thee ; but let us be up and doing, in whatever is good in thy sight ; providing only for ourselves that which is honest in the sight of all men, and before thee ; and ever actively employed in works of benevolence and kindness to all around. And since thou hast declared the man blessed that fearest thee, oh ! grant us all the days of our life the good things out of Zion, which thou hast graciously promised to all who love thee. If it be thy good pleasure, let us see another generation rising up to worship thee ; with abundance of peace upon thy church, and upon our native land. Let

those who come after us behold the religion of our glorious Saviour extending in its purifying and blessed effects upon the lives and prospects of the human family ; and carrying us all onward in our progress to greater holiness and happiness. Grant that we may, in some measure, by the purity of our lives, receive from thee a foretaste of that serenity and felicity which we hope, by thy mercy, hereafter to enjoy ; finally bless us with the sight of the New Jerusalem, and fix our abode with the faithful in everlasting peace and joy, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXIX.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God ! we look back with thankfulness and gratitude, not only to the many deliverances experienced at thy hands by our fathers, but to thy manifold mercies to ourselves, in preserv-

ing us from numerous dangers and trials. Many a time past might we have been more sorely afflicted from our youth up, and many a time to come must we be tried with trouble and sorrow, yet let not temptation and sin prevail against us. Spare us from outward persecution and inward remorse. By thy mysterious, yet infinitely wise permission, the ploughers have ploughed upon thy church and faithful followers, and made long their furrows; but in all our adversities send thy Holy Spirit to strengthen and succour us; and let us be encouraged by the remembrance, that for our sake, and to cleanse us from all sin, our blessed Saviour was delivered up to be first scourged and then crucified. Carry us safely over the waves and billows of this troublesome world, and build us up securely above all opposing elements, on the Rock of our salvation, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Thou infinitely just and holy Being, cut asunder the cords of iniquity by which we are bound; confound us not with all those who turn back unto wicked courses, and who hate Zion and

Zion's God. Enable us to avoid the ways of those who, for their sins, become as the grass upon the house-tops which withereth afore it groweth up, wherewith the mower filleth not his hand, nor he that bindeth up the sheaves, his bosom. Mercifully grant, that we may not be as the wicked, unto whom thy watchful and praying servants, when they pass, will not say so much as, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you; we bless you in the name of the Lord." Make us to endure all things unto the end, as thy afflicted saints of old, looking unto Jesus, who suffered for all our sins; hear us for his sake, who now intercedes for us, and bring us to thy heavenly kingdom, in thy glorious presence for evermore. Amen.

PSALM CXXX.

EVER gracious and mighty Lord God! we cry unto thee in all our troubles and dan-

gers, but especially in every distress of mind under the weary consciousness and burden of sin. We confess that on many occasions, we have fallen from the righteousness of thy holy laws; yet, gracious Father, we wait in patience for thy forgiveness, for the sake of thy Son our blessed Saviour. Oh! deign to hear our voice; let thine ears consider our fervent supplications; if thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who shall stand? However we may flatter ourselves, in our delusion of mind, or darkness of soul, if thou proceed strictly to examine into our life and conversation, we must fall justly under thy condemnation, and be cast out as unprofitable servants. But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared and obeyed. Through a propitiatory sacrifice, we cling to thy love and mercy. Ready to pardon as thou art, all truly penitent, humble, and contrite sinners, leave us not in despair, and under the fear of thy wrath. We wait, O Lord, our soul doth wait, for thy salvation; and in thy gracious word and promises do we

hope ; looking for thee, O most Holy, with more earnest desire than they feel who watch for the morning ; waiting to be forgiven, and to be blessed with thy pardoning love ; we have no other helping hand on which we can depend ; visit us with thy grace ; and let it dawn upon us as the morning light. Our fixed hope is in thy care and guidance of us ; for with thee there is mercy, and with thee is plenteous redemption. By the atoning blood of the covenant redeem us from all evil : make us Israelites indeed, in whom there is no guile ; may we become acceptable worshippers before thee, and obtain our final salvation, through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXXI.

O GOD ! who art infinitely great, and far before, beyond, and above all things, we beseech thee to look down upon us

and behold with compassion our desire for deeper and more abiding humility, and resignation to thy will. Lord, we bless thee, if, through thy grace, we are not high-minded, nor presume to question the ways of thy providence, which are too wonderful for us; desiring to pursue our pilgrim journey in quietness and peace. We depend upon thee, as a child doth upon its mother; teach us to submit to thy will in all things, and not to mourn when we are deprived of any temporal good. Weaning us from the things of this world, make us more fully conscious of our unworthiness and insufficiency. We desire to imitate, though at a vast distance, our blessed Lord, in his patience and meekness under reproaches and injustice, and, in some small degree, to persevere, like him, in benevolence and purity of life. Enable us, by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, to accommodate ourselves to the dispensations of thy providence. When our circumstances run contrary to our wishes, sanctify the occasion to us by weaning us from all those worldly objects which too much

occupy our short-sighted and earthly desires. If, by thy will, we are called upon to stand in any high or conspicuous station, let us still possess a meek and gentle spirit, that the world, seeing our good works to be wrought in thee, and solely by thy power, may glorify thee, our Father which art in heaven. Make us more and more, in every station of life, to adorn the doctrine of God in all things, and to be more and more, though, alas! remotely at best, like the meek and lowly Jesus. Raise our thoughts and hopes from this lower world to the throne of our Mediator in heaven. Let us remember that we are every day hastening onwards, and, in thy mercy, grant that it may be to thy heavenly kingdom, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXXII.

LORD! thou didst graciously remember

David in all his afflictions,—remember us also in all our troubles. We have sworn unto thee, O Lord, and vowed unto thee, as the mighty God of Jacob, the religious work we have in all things and in all its parts promised to do. Send thy Holy Spirit to enlighten us, that we may make that duty our first and great consideration. Before we enter on a new day's course, before we close the door of our chamber for the night, before we give our eyes to sleep, or slumber to our eyelids,—in the morning, in the evening, and at mid-day, let us first find out an habitation in our inmost hearts for the mighty God of Jacob. Let us not think of this world, till we have founded our hopes on a better. We will go into thy temple, O God, and we will worship at thy footstool. Arise, O Lord, into thy rest, Thou and the ark of thy strength. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints shout for joy. For Christ's sake, turn not away the face of thy humble servants; grant that, through thy grace, we may keep thy covenant and thy testimonies, we and our children after

us. O God, thou hast chosen Zion, make it thy habitation with us; since only in Christ is our rest for ever, increase our desire and fixity of purpose to look to him continually; abundantly bless us for his sake; satisfy our poor with bread; clothe those who administer in holy things with thy righteousness; and make thy saints sing with joy. O Christ our Lord, the light of the world, be thou our guide, now and ever. Thou art the anointed of the Father. Suffer not in us any root of bitterness against thy saving truth, or we shall rise in the great day, only to be clothed with shame and contempt. Upon Christ our Lord shall his crown of glory flourish for ever and ever. Merciful God! grant that the brightness of that glory may shine upon us in thy heavenly kingdom for ever. Amen.

PSALM CXXXIII.

O LORD our heavenly Father! glory be to thee that thou hast created in us a wish to devote all our mind, soul, and strength, in magnifying and praising thy holy name, and also hast given to each of us a desire to love our neighbour as ourself. Beholding how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in that unity which is like precious ointment, or the dew of Hermon, we intreat thee to remember Christ's love for us, and for all mankind,—him who was anointed with the oil of gladness above his fellows; and to shed upon us that dew of thy grace which refreshes every heart, and prepares it for the good seed of thy holy word. Bless us with a disposition to anticipate and precede in acts of christian kindness to all who come in our way. Inspiring our hearts with love and peace, do thou, the Lord of love and peace, be with us all the days of our life. Diffuse in every direc-

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tion that godly harmony which is the joy of families, the happiness of society, and the blessedness of man on earth. May we all dwell together, united in the bonds of peace and love; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, as thou, O God, for Christ's sake, hast forgiven us. And above all, lead us onward in our heavenly course, that by patient continuance in well-doing, and faith in our Redeemer, we may be admitted into thy kingdom in heaven, through the merits and mediation of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXXIV.

ALMIGHTY and all-glorious God! we bless thy holy name for all thy mercies vouchsafed unto us. "Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, ye that stand in the house of the Lord." We will lift up our hands in the sanctuary,

and bless thee, O Lord. Peerless and omnipotent, thou that madest the heavens and the earth, bless us out of Zion. Fill our hearts with love and joy, and peace in believing. Withdraw us from the vanity and frivolity of this world; though we must pursue our needful occupations, and perform our duty to our fellow-man, yet, O merciful God, we desire above all things to devote our time to thy holy service, to be constant in our prayers and praises, and to have any and every worldly spirit and temper within us wholly and for ever destroyed. Hear us, good Lord, for thy dear Son's sake, and keep us from all evil. Let our chief thought be continually directed towards our preparation for that world towards which we are rapidly passing. Mercifully grant that ere long we may, with all thy true and faithful servants, praise thee in thy sanctuary above, and bless thy holy name for ever and ever, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXXXV.

ALMIGHTY God, for thy wondrous and never-failing goodness, we, and all thy servants, would praise thy name continually— they that stand in the house of the Lord, and we, when we come into thy courts, O God! We in this land are under the greatest obligations for thy favours manifested to us as to the Israelites of old, for thy providence and for the means of grace. Sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit, that we may become thy peculiar treasure through the blood of Jesus. We know that thou art great, and above all gods, and that thou, Lord, doest whatsoever pleaseth thee in heaven and in earth, in the sea, and in all deep places. Of thy good pleasure do unto us what is best for us in thy sight. Defend, uphold, and bless us. Cause the voice of prayer and praise to ascend unto thee from all the ends of the earth; enlighten our dark minds, and bring us

every good out of thy treasures of happiness. Thou, O Lord, didst send tokens and wonders into the land of Egypt, and gave the land of Canaan to be an heritage unto thy people. But to us thou hast sent the greatest wonder of thy love, even our Saviour Jesus Christ, and, through him, a promised and far better land, which, by thy mercy, we hope finally to inhabit. Thy name, O Lord, endureth for ever, and thy memorial, O Lord, through all generations. Judge us, O Lord, in mercy, and be gracious unto us. Lead us away from all the idols of this world, and let us not put any trust in silver and gold. We are erring and deluded sinners, running astray, and catching after shadows which vanish ; but still by thy preventing grace, we bless and fear thee, O Lord ; we desire to be guided by thy truth in all our ways, to copy the example of Christ's immaculate holiness, and to be supported by the hope of praising thee in heaven for ever, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXXVI.

WE approach thee, Almighty and merciful God! to give thanks unto thee, for thou art good, and thy mercy endureth for ever. Thou alone doest great wonders; thou, by thy wisdom, madest the heavens, and stretchedst out the earth above the waters; thou createdst the sun to rule the day, and the moon and the stars to govern the night, for thy mercy endureth for ever. In the works of creation, providence, and redemption, thy mercy endureth for ever. Graciously extend thy accustomed and sparing mercy to us, whom sin has corrupted, and rendered weak, base and earthly. Though we have transgressed against the purity of thy holy laws, forgive us for our Saviour's sake. Thy mercy in Jesus is the source of all our consolation, and comfort, and hope, now and ever. Thou art the great God who smotest the Egyptians, and didst divide the Red Sea

into two parts; who leddest thy people through the wilderness, for thy mercy endureth for ever. We beseech thee, remember us pityingly in our sinful and low estate. Rescue us in every season of temptation. Redeem us from the enemies of our souls; pardon our ingratitude to thee and our blessed Lord and Saviour, for thy mercy endureth for ever. Thy bountiful hand giveth food to all flesh; continue in thy good providence to feed and support us; but, above all, give us the bread of life, for thy mercy endureth for ever. May we experience thy never-failing power in sanctified hearts, endeavouring more and more to serve thee in newness of life: enliven our dull and earthly affections by thy grace, that we may joyfully give thanks unto thee, the God of heaven, for thy mercy endureth for ever. In continued condescension, O let that mercy descend upon us, thy unworthy servants; and save us, for our glorious Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

PSALM CXXXVII.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God! when we call to mind the pious captives who sat down by the waters of Babylon, and wept when they remembered Zion, we bless thee that thou inclinest us to think of ourselves as the captives of sin; and that thou drawest us to thy footstool in sorrow to weep over our many transgressions, remembering how far we have been carried from our Zion, and from our glorious hope in Jesus. Well may we hang up our harps of joy upon the willows. Well may we hang down our heads under the weight of our manifold transgressions. Satan, triumphing over us, requires of us mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion." But how shall we sing thy song, O Lord, in a strange land? Often we grieve at the thought—very often have we left thee, our heavenly Father, and thy house, and the ways of innocence

and peace. Yet, though we are under the captivity of sin, thou deignest to recall us to the remembrance of thy justly forfeited mercies, and to the comforts of thy sacred ordinances. If we forget thee, O God, let our right hand forget her cunning. If we do not remember thee, let our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouth—if we prefer not thy temple and thy worship more than our chiefest earthly joy. Whatever calamities thou, in thy mysterious wisdom, permittest to fall on thy church, by the hands of wicked men, will be visited by thy justice; and far be it from us to avenge those wrongs which will be controlled and remedied by thy good providence. Forsake us not, nationally or individually, though we have rebelled against thee. Fast bound in misery and iron as we are, thou alone canst set us at liberty. Visit us with thy saving help. Put into our minds pure and holy desires. Strengthen us by the aid of thy Spirit to fulfil the same, and let us live and die in the hope of reaching, through thy grace and strength, the hea-

venly Jerusalem, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXXVIII.

ALMIGHTY and gracious God! deign to receive us thine unworthy servants, when with angels in heaven, and saints on earth, we praise thee with our whole heart, and when worshipping toward thy holy temple, we offer prayer unto thee, in our families, and in our chamber, and bless thy name for thy loving-kindness and thy truth to us miserable sinners; to whom, and for whom, thou hast magnified our risen Saviour above all things. In the daytime, and at night, when we cry unto thee in his name, graciously answer our prayers as may seem good to thee; and strengthen in our souls love, faith, hope, and patience. Though we may be in outward affliction, strengthen us by thy Holy Spirit

to bear the burdens of the body, to resist temptation, and to complete the work assigned to us in this world, by a holy and persevering obedience, and by willing and entire submission to thy will. Let all kings and nations of the earth come to the knowledge of thy word, and let all people sing in thy peaceful ways, O Lord ; for great is thy glory, beyond all comparison or utterance. Though thou, O Lord, rulest above all sovereign power, yet have respect unto the lowly and contrite ; if we are proud and self-confident, thou wilt put us far from thee. Thou hast encouraged us with the assurance that, when we walk in the midst of trouble, if we are penitent and full of trust in thy mercy through Jesus, thou wilt revive us, and cast away our fears. Graciously stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of the enemies of our salvation ; against our passions, our temptations, our unbelief ; and let thy right hand save us. Lord, perfect that which concerneth us ; forsake not the work of thine own hands ; create us anew in Christ Jesus unto holiness.

Increase in us thy grace, that we may walk more perfectly in the ways of thy commandments, and joyfully look forward to the time when we hope, by the merits and mediation of our blessed Saviour, to dwell with thee for ever. Amen.

PSALM CXXXIX. 1—12.

O ALMIGHTY God! we contemplate with awe and adoration thy omniscience and omnipotence. Thou, O Lord, searchest us out and knowest us; our inmost thoughts are open to thine all-searching eye. Let us ever remember that thou knowest our downsitting and uprising; thou understandest our ways afar off. O! compass our path with mercy, and our lying down with peace, for thou art acquainted with all our doings. As there is not a word in our tongue, but thou, Lord, knowest it altogether; restrain our words before we speak, and our opening lips

from giving utterance to any language unworthy of our character, as the disciples of thy blessed Son. By the aid of thy Holy Spirit, keep us constantly in mind of thy presence, remembering that we are never out of thy sight. Thou dost beset us behind and before, and layest thy hand upon us; such knowledge is too wonderful for us, we cannot attain unto it. Whither shall we go from thy Spirit, or whither shall we flee from thy presence? Well may each for himself say, "If I climb up to heaven, thou art there; if I go down to hell, behold, thou art there also! If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me! If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me, then shall my night be turned to day; yea, the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day, the darkness and the light to thee are both alike." O hear our prayer to be restrained from all sin, not even the smallest part of which can escape thine all-search-

ing eye, and which, day by day, is noted against us, to appear in judgment. Send us thy grace to resist and extinguish every sinful inclination. Comfort and support us under tribulation and temptation; be with us in all trials; encourage us in the path of duty; and as nothing but sin can separate us from thy presence, may we ever walk circumspectly in faith and hope and prayer, until we appear before thee in heaven, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXXXIX. 13—24.

ALMIGHTY and omnipresent God! who hast formed us by thy creative hand, and hast a sovereign right to dispose of us as may seem best to thy good pleasure; we are thy marvellous workmanship, our whole frame has been designed by thee, and we will praise thee, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Great and glorious

are all thy works, and that our soul knoweth right well. Send us thy Holy Spirit to sanctify us, that we may never use our members and senses as instruments of unrighteousness. We praise thee still more for our rational and immortal souls; and how precious also are thy thoughts unto us, O God! how great is the sum of them! Our bodies and souls would have been left to sin and destruction, had not thy pardon and love in Jesus our Saviour been vouchsafed to us. Should we attempt to count thy mercies towards us, they are more in number than the sand! when we awake every morning, we are still with thee. Every returning day beams upon us with thy renewed mercy. Yet, alas! how soon do we go forth to our worldly cares and pursuits, forgetful of thy good providence, and of that day when we shall awake no more in this world! Oh! grant in thy great goodness, that, for our Saviour's sake, we may in the world of glory adore and bless thee for our great salvation. But if we go on in wickedness, thou, O God, wilt destroy

us with the workers of iniquity. Send us thy Holy Spirit to plant in our minds a hatred of sin, and to be grieved when our corrupt nature tempts us to rise up against thee. Separate us from all who are the enemies of our peace with thee. Examine us, O God, and know our hearts, try us by thy word and purify our thoughts, and enabling us to search and see if there be any wicked way remaining in us, be pleased continually to lead us in the way everlasting, for the sake of Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXL.

WE beseech thee, O Lord, to deliver us from the evil man, and to preserve us from the violent and malicious. We desire not to forget that, through abounding infirmity, we ourselves imagine mischief in our hearts, and, that eagerly stirring up strife all the day long, we sharpen

our tongues like a serpent, when, as it were, adders' poison is under our lips. Keep us, O Lord, from such wickedness; guard us from all who have, from any cause or by any means, purposed to overthrow our goings in the way of thy commandments. Pride and self-righteousness have laid a snare for us; and have practically spread a net by the way-side, to entrap our unwary feet. Hear the voice of our supplications, O God! In thee only is our safety: support us by the aid of thy Holy Spirit, and keep us ever in faithful dependence upon thy unfailing mercy. O God, the Lord, the strength of our salvation, cover our head in the day of battle, and defeat the desires of the wicked, lest they exalt themselves against thy glorious work of redemption. As for those enemies of all godliness who compassed about our blessed Lord, with their infuriated malice, the mischief of their own lips hath overwhelmed them. They have been cast into the fire and into deep pits, and have not risen up again. Let us not be evil-speakers, or we shall never be established;

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nor let us take in hand any violence or wickedness, or we shall be overthrown. O Lord! maintain the cause of the afflicted and the poor who cry unto thee, and enable us to come before thee meek and lowly, in imitation of our blessed Master, when he was on earth. We pray that we may ever join the righteous in giving thanks unto thy name; and, in all our troubles, devote ourselves unto prayer. Oh! be pleased to increase our diligence and perseverance in the right path, that with the upright, we may dwell in thy presence evermore, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXLI.

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY! we cry unto thee for help. Oh! suffer our prayer to come before thee, as incense in the morning, and the lifting up our hands as an even-

ing sacrifice. Be pleased to accept our fervent supplications, for thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Daily repenting our sins and evil intentions, we need the continual aid of thy preventing grace. Set a watch, O Lord, before our mouth ; keep the door of our lips ; govern and rule all our words and works. Suffer not our hearts to be inclined to any evil or forbidden thing, nor to practise wickedness with them that work iniquity. Avoiding all intemperance as poison, we would not partake of luxurious entertainments with those who would lead us into any excess ; and when, through abiding infirmity, we are disposed to yield to any such temptations, raise up some godly friends to reprove us, and their rebukes shall be as excellent oil poured on the wounds of sin ; and we will pray for those who deal thus faithfully with us. And when others are overthrown in strong places, they shall hear our words and consolation in thy name, for they are sweet. Soon shall our bones lie scattered in the grave, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood on the

earth; but our eyes, now in life, are turned unto thee. For the sake of Jesus, hear us, sinners as we are. Be merciful unto us, and bring us back, by the workings of thy grace, into the ways of thy commandments. Keep us from the snares which Satan has laid for us, and preserving in us the remembrance, that if we continue in wicked practices, we must fall into our own nets, gracious God! let us escape every snare, whether from within our hearts, or from without, and, at length, bring us to thy heavenly kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXLII.

O LORD God Almighty! in all our distress and dangers, we look unto thee as our deliverer. We pour out our sad complaints of sin and sorrow before thee. We lay before thee all our troubles through

the mediation of Jesus Christ, in whose name, and in whose strength alone, we offer up all our supplications. When our spirit is overwhelmed within us, then thou knowest our path! If we pursue the way of wickedness, thou, in mercy, fillest our souls with remorse; our heart within us is full of fear. Seeing that a snare is laid for us when we would walk in the path of duty, we look around, and behold, there is none to know us; our best and most powerful friends cannot afford us relief; refuge fails us, and none careth for or can care for, our souls. We are forsaken of all, as our Lord in his sufferings, even by his own disciples. But when every other hope and friend have failed, we cry unto thee, O Lord, and exclaim, "Thou art our refuge and portion in the land of the living;" and when in our last sickness, and at the point of death, we will say, O Lord, attend unto our cry, for we are brought very low; deliver us from all those temptations which are too strong for us. Bring our souls out of prison, that we may praise thy

name. Send the righteous near us to compass us about with encouragement and sympathy; deal bountifully with us; let no evil hurt us: give us in mercy everything that is good for us; strengthen our faith: put away from us all the corruptions of our nature, and, finally, as thou didst raise our merciful Saviour from the prison of the grave to the throne of glory, so raise us up with all thy redeemed people, that we may rejoice together, and praise thee for evermore, through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our all gracious Redeemer. Amen.

PSALM CXLIII.

O LORD God Almighty! deign to hear our supplications, and enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. We are sinners, and have no hope, except in thy mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Deal not with us in strict justice, when we are persecuted by our sinful nature, and when those temptations and passions smite our spiritual life down to the ground, and cause us to dwell in darkness and despair, as those that have long been dead. Therefore is our spirit overwhelmed within us, and our heart within us is desolate. Remembering the days of old, we meditate on all thy works of providence and mercy, we muse on the works of thy hands; we think of all thy goodness towards us, and of our great ingratitude to thee for all thy favours. In our grief, we stretch forth our hands unto thee, and our soul thirsteth for thee, as a dry land. Hear us speedily, O Lord! our spirit faileth; hide not thy face from us, lest we be like them that go down into the pit. For thy dear Son's sake, make us to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning, for in thee do we trust; and enable us to know the way wherein we should walk, for we lift up our souls unto thee. Deliver us, O Lord, from our enemies, while flying unto thee to hide us: O! teach us to do thy

will, for thou art our God! By thy good Spirit, lead us into the land of uprightness. Quicken us, O Lord, for thy name's sake, and for thy righteousness' sake, bring our soul out of trouble. And, of thy mercy, put away from us our enemies, within and without; let them not afflict our soul; rather, by thy grace, make us more devotedly thy servants; deign more and more to guide, sanctify, and comfort us; and O grant us eternal deliverance, for the sake of Jesus Christ our only and all-glorious Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CXLIV.

BLESSED be thou, O Lord, our strength, for teaching our hands to do, or our hearts to conceive anything that is good in thy sight. Thou art our rock, and our fortress, our high tower and our deliverer, our shield and the all-powerful Being in whom we trust, who subdueth

our sins before thee. Lord, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him, being, as he is, like unto vanity, and his days as a vapour that passeth away? Bow thy heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains and they shall smoke. In all our difficulties, we depend upon thy almighty power; O send thine hand from above to rescue and deliver us out of the great waters of affliction, and from the snare of the wicked, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood and wrong. In mercy prevent us from following in their footsteps. Then will we sing a new song unto thee, O God; we will sing praises unto thee, as the Author and Giver of salvation unto kings and all people. Preserve and deliver us from the mouth that speaketh vanity, and from the right hand of iniquity, that our sons and our daughters may grow up as plants, and be as the polished corner-stones of thy temple. Let them not be as weeds to be withered and burnt—but as healthful plants in thy good time bringing forth the fruits of the

Spirit. Grant us abundance, that our garners may be full, with all manner of store; open our hearts to be generous and charitable to the poor, and let there be no complaining in our streets. Keep us all steadfast in thy worship and service, that we may be a happy people, having thee for our God. Strengthen and increase our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, and through his mediation receive us into thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

PSALM CXLV.

WE approach thee, Almighty God, again to offer up our fervent prayers; extolling thy power, goodness, and mercy. Every day will we bless thee, and praise thy name. O Lord, thy greatness is unsearchable, as are thy gratuitous mercy and riches in Christ Jesus. We are passing away—but one generation after another shall praise thy works, and declare

thy mighty acts. We will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, but yet as sinners we must not keep silence as to thy terrors, O Lord. Delighting in the memory of thy great goodness, we will sing of thy righteousness; but as thou art infinitely just in punishing us when we rebel against thee, continually teach us to flee from the wrath to come. Lord, be gracious unto us, and full of compassion; be slow to anger when we offend; pity us, and extend great mercy to us, for Christ's sake. Thou, Lord, art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. All thy works praise thee. Let us bless thee with thy saints, and speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men thy mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of thy kingdom, which, like to and in harmony with thy dominion, endureth throughout all ages. Lord, uphold us when we are falling; and raise us up when we are bowed down; the eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest

thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Thou, Lord, art righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works; deign to be nigh unto us when we call upon thee in earnestness and truth. Fulfil our desires, if we fear thee. Hear our cry and save us. Preserve us, O Lord, if we love thee, reminding us that if we are wicked thou wilt destroy us. Our mouth shall speak thy praise, O Lord; grant that we may bless thy holy name for ever and ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXLVI.

WHILE we live we will praise thee, O Lord; we will sing praises unto thee while we have any breath in this world, and through the merits of the blessed Jesus, throughout all eternity. O God! we put our trust in thee; not in princes, nor in

any child of man, in whom there is no help, and who, when his breath goeth forth, returneth to the ground, where all his thoughts, sorrows, and sins come to an end. Very soon will our selfishness, covetousness, ambition, pleasures, and pursuits, be nothing to us. But all the consequences will follow us into another world! Happy now, and happy then, is and will be the believer and faithful servant who has thee, the God of Jacob, for his help, and whose hope is in thee, O Lord our Father, who madest heaven and earth; the sea, and all that therein is; who keepest truth for ever! Good Lord, graciously execute judgment for us when we are oppressed by the bonds of sin and Satan. Give us needful food when we hunger and thirst; but especially give us the bread and water of life, when hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Bestow on us pardon and grace, and redeem us as the prisoners and captives of sin. Lord, open our eyes that, blind as we are by nature and habit, we may see the wondrous things of thy law; raise us up when we

are bowed down; inspire us with that righteousness which is unto salvation. Preserve us when our souls are destitute of all other support. Relieve the fatherless and widow. Keep us from the way of the wicked, which thou wilt turn upside down. Thou, Lord, shall reign for ever; even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Therefore permit us, as contrite sinners, to flee unto thee, and to rejoice, as accepted believers. Grant that we may praise thee for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXLVII.

WE praise thee, O Lord, for it is a good thing to sing praises unto thee; yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful. Continue to build us up in thy faith and fear. For our sins we are, and deserve to be, outcasts before thee; but gather us together as Israel of old. Heal

our broken hearts, and bind up the wounds which sin and Satan have inflicted upon us, and restore and heal us from our many and awful backslidings. Thou art great, O Lord, and tellest the number of the stars, and callest them all by their names. Great is thy power, and thy wisdom is infinite. Lord, fix in us abiding meekness and humility. Cast us not down to the ground with the wicked. We sing unto thee, O Lord, with thanksgiving; unto thee who comest to the heavens with clouds, and preparest rain for the earth, and makest grass to grow upon the mountains. To thy providence we, and all thy creatures, are indebted for the supply of our daily food. Our strength, like the swiftness of our steps, is very weakness before thee. Be gracious, O Lord, and condescend to take pleasure in us, causing us to fear thee, and to hope in thy mercy. Let our nation praise thee, O Lord, for thou hast blessed us abundantly. Graciously continue to make peace within our borders, and to supply us from thy bounty with food, and all other necessaries of life.

Send forth thy commandments with power over the earth; let thy word run swiftly into our hearts, cold though we are towards thee as the hoar frost and the ice. Oh! melt our hard hearts; send the influence of thy Holy Spirit, and let the tears of lasting repentance flow from our souls." Show forth thy word as unto Jacob of old, and as thy statutes and judgments unto Israel. Deal favourably with us, and, O God. let it never be said, as for thy judgments we have not known them. Desiring to amend our lives, and to walk in thy holy laws, we pray thee to remove every obstruction to our heavenward progress, and to grant that we may praise thee for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CXLVIII.

O GOD! our Creator and merciful Benefactor! it is our privilege, duty, and joy, to praise and pray unto thee day by day,

while we remain here below. Let all celestial beings praise thee, O Lord, and all created things, the sun, and the moon, and the stars; at thy command all things were formed and established by thy Almighty power; let all creatures praise thee, but above all, the children of men, for the excellency of thy name, and for thy glory, which is above all the earth. Be pleased, O God, graciously to accept our praise. Exalt our minds and souls by the influences of thy Holy Spirit. Make us thy children by adoption and grace. Bring us nearer and nearer unto thee in all holiness, purity, and uprightness,—having graciously taught us to be more conscious of our utter inability sufficiently to praise and pray unto thee, to whom we look for all good gifts here and hereafter. Dispose us to employ the vigour of our minds, while we are blessed with health and strength, in preparation for our departure hence, in the peace and hope of the gospel. Ripen us for that great change which is coming over us. Bound by unnumbered mercies to be con-

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tinually full of adoring love and gratitude, we supplicate in all sincerity and earnestness of desire that thy kingdom may come, and that we, and all thy servants, may do thy will on earth as it is done in heaven. Sinners, and unworthy as we are, we yet entreat thee to pardon us, and be reconciled to us through our all-availing Intercessor. Enable us to evince our love of thee more by holy lives, and to praise thee better for all thy goodness, and oh ! do thou deign thyself to complete our preparation for heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PSALM CLXIX.

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed Lord ! we will sing unto thee a new song, and praise thee in the congregation of the saints. O God ! our Creator, deign to be our ruler and our guide unto death, and accept our

prayer when we lift up our souls to thee above this dark and troublesome world, through our great and all-availing Mediator. In our joyful moments we praise thee, humbly entreating thee, in thy goodness, to take pleasure in thy faithful people, and to bless us with thy salvation, when we come before thee in meekness and sincerity, deeply sensible of our unworthiness. We fervently desire to be renewed by the graces of thy Holy Spirit, and to be clothed with the robe of righteousness. O God! receive us as thy people, and fill us with joy and peace in believing. Remove from us the apprehension of thy terrors, which will surely fall upon those who disobey thy holy laws—upon kings and nations who rebel against thy will wilt thou execute judgment. Graciously permit us to partake of the joys, privileges, and honours of thy saints. In thy wisdom and love thou mayest appoint us to be sufferers on earth, in order to wean us from the world, but be pleased to give us strength to persevere unto the end. Let not sin have dominion over us.

Crucify us to the world, and to all the corrupt affections of our nature. Bring us nearer to Christ our Saviour. Bruise the serpent under our feet. Extinguish all selfishness in us. Raise our affections above the distinctions and rewards, wealth and pursuits of this passing scene. Let us possess our souls in patience and hope, constantly endeavouring to amend our lives, and to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of our fellow-men. Finally, bring us to thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM CL.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God! we approach thee once more with our prayers and thanksgivings. When we praise thee, O God, in our private devotions, and especially in thy sanctuary, mercifully hear us, and communicate to us thy grace

With the blessed angels in the firmament of thy power, we adore thee for thy mighty acts, according to thy excellent greatness, and, above all, for that wonder of thy love, our redemption from sin and death eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We praise thee not only with instruments of music for this great work on behalf of the fallen race of man, but from our inmost hearts we offer up our fervent and united thanksgivings. Raise our affections, O God, above this earthly scene. Strengthen and increase our faith, and hope, and charity. Increase our desire to walk in thy holy ways. Enable us to submit to all the dispensations of thy good providence, and to pay thee a cheerful and willing obedience. Blot out our past sins and follies, and incline us to think of them with shame and sorrow, when our consciences reproach us for our many transgressions. Oh! deign to console, strengthen, and encourage us now and for the future, by the influences of thy Holy Spirit. Preparing us for the world of glory, be pleased to separate us from sin and

the ways of sinners, and arm us to resist the temptations by which we are continually assailed. Let us not look on any forbidden object even for a moment. Let it be our continual aim to follow after purity and holiness, to maintain habitual communion of soul with thee, and at last peacefully to close our lives, exhorting everything that hath breath to praise thee, through our great Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE END.

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