

# LITANIES AND PRAYERS

for use

## IN TIME OF WAR



*Compiled by*

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(Rector of St. Luke's, Mosman.)



CHURCH STORES

DAKING HOUSE

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RAWSON PLACE

SYDNEY.

W.J.S.  
I.E.C.  
24 <sup>VIII</sup>/<sub>42</sub>

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## METRICAL LITANY.

(Tune A. & M. 466 - 2.) (To be sung kneeling.)

1. God the Father, God the Son,  
God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Hear us from Thy heavenly Throne,  
Spare us, Holy Trinity.
2. For our Rulers, Lord, we sue :  
May we strive Thy will to do,  
Still to right and justice true ;  
We beseech Thee, hear us.
3. May the Church, O Saviour, blaze  
With the love of former days,  
Teaching men to seek Thy ways ;  
We beseech Thee, hear us.
4. For Thy servants, great and small,  
Soldiers, sailors, airmen all,  
Who have heard their country's call :  
We beseech Thee, hear us.
5. Grant them courage to endure ;  
Keep them faithful, keep them pure ;  
In temptation, guard them more ;  
We beseech Thee, hear us.
6. Bless the doctor's head and brain ;  
Sooth the wounded in their pain,  
Till Thou grant them health again :  
We beseech Thee, hear us.

7. Guard the nurses from all ill ;  
Grant them patience, love and skill  
As they do Thy perfect will :  
We beseech Thee, hear us.
8. For the dying, too, we pray ;  
In the hour they pass away  
Be Thyself their strength and stay :  
We beseech Thee, hear us.
9. All the nations' hearts incline  
To perform Thy will Divine ;  
Grant them peace in Thy good time :  
We beseech Thee, hear us.
- (*Manchester Cathedral Intercessions.*)

## A LITANY.

### I.

#### Let us unite in Thanksgiving to God.

For the Homeland, and the memories of our race ; for the makers of our Commonwealth and for our mighty dead ; for the solemn trust of our inheritance ; and for every gift it hath pleased Thee to bestow upon our Dominion and Empire.

*We thank Thee, our Father.*

For the faith of our fathers who trusted in Thee and were not put to shame ; for Thy comfort in time of trouble, and Thy rebuke in days of sinful ease ; and for all examples

Thou hast given to us of saintly lives and heroic deeds which urge us on toward heavenly things.

*We thank Thee, our Father.*

For the gift of Thy Gospel and the leading of Thine hand ; for the Word of Life and the Sacrifice of Thy dear Son ; for the teachings of Thy Providence and the voices of Thy Spirit ; for the means of Grace and the hope of Glory ; and for the things that cannot be shaken.

*We thank Thee, our Father.*

For all the discipline of life ; for the tasks and trials by which we are trained to self-knowledge and self-conquest, and brought into closer sympathy with all who suffer ; troubles which in former days have lifted us nearer to Thee and drawn us into deeper fellowship with Christ our Lord.

*We thank Thee, our Father.*

For the confidence that in this present strife our cause is such as we can bring to Thee without shame.

*We thank Thee, our Father.*

For that measure of success which Thou hast granted to our arms abroad, and of security from the alarms and horrors of war which we have hitherto enjoyed at home.

*We thank Thee, our Father.*

For the loyal devotion and bravery of all the peoples of our Empire.

*We thank Thee, our Father.*

For the matchless courage of those who have made the supreme sacrifice.

*We thank Thee, our Father.*

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**Let us unite in earnest Intercession to God.**

For the arrest of Thy hand upon the passions of men ; for pardon of whatever in us has helped to cause the present war ; for Thy righteous judgment between us and our enemies ; for the putting forth of Thy right arm to stay the shedding of blood, to bring order out of ruin and peace out of tumult.

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For the learning of Thy lessons in this Thy judgment ; for the arising of Thy calm and reason in the heart of the nations ; for the inspiration of Thy work and power in the Church Universal, and in every Christian heart ; for grace to forgive our enemies ; for the appearing in our midst of the Prince of Peace.

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For our beloved Sovereign Lord King George and our gracious Queen Elizabeth, for Mary the Queen Mother, the Princess Elizabeth and all members of the Royal

Family ; for the Houses of Parliament and the Ministers of the Crown ; for the leaders of all parties in our State ; and for all who bear high command on land, sea and air.

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For our Navy and Army and Airmen ; for all officers, non-commissioned officers and men ; and especially for the sons of our homes and Church who are serving. Inspire them all with faith and hope, with reverence and a high sense of honour, with tenacity in reverses and mercifulness in the hour of success. Grant that at every post, in every task, through every emergency of duty on land and sea, in the air and beneath the waves, they may have about them Thy guardianship and the Angel of Thy Presence.

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For our Allies in this conflict, that with them we may always have unity in counsel and courage in common danger ; that if it please Thee a complete victory may soon crown their courage and that of our forces ; and that the bonds which bind us may be greatly strengthened as we fight and suffer together with them.

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Almighty God, the Fountain of all wisdom, Who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking ; we beseech



Thee to have compassion upon our infirmities ; and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us, for the worthiness of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

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## A LITANY.

### II.

Almighty God, Who hast taught us in Thy Holy Word to make prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all men :

We pray Thee for the nations of the world ; that the barriers of envy and ill-will may be broken down, and that every effort towards unity and peace may be blessed and prospered ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For the King, that his throne may be established in righteousness and that he may live in faith and fear ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For all who hold positions of trust and authority ; that by their means political purity may be maintained, and that men of

integrity and honour, not counting the cost, may be ever ready to bear the burdens of responsibility ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For the ministers of Thy Church ; that girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness, they may promote Thy glory and set forward the salvation of all men ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For all who heal and minister to the sick, and for those who seek to stay the ravages of disease ; that the blessing of the Great Physician may rest abundantly upon all their labours ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For the teachers in our schools and colleges, and in all places of useful learning ; that being themselves taught of Thee they may lead others in the paths of uprightness and true knowledge ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For those who guide the thought of the people, for writers, journalists, artists, poets, dramatists, and musicians ; that pure ideals may inspire us, and beauty may crown our common life ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For social workers, and for those who administer the public institutions of our land ; that they may be had in honour of all men, and helped in the tasks Thou hast given them to do ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For those in business and for all who carry on the commerce of the world ; that whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely and of good report, they may think on these things ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For parents and children ; that purity and love may dwell in our homes, and that duty and affection may be the bonds of family life ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For the rich, that they may remember their stewardship ; for all the gifted, that they may employ their talents in Thy service ; for all men, that Christ may be glorified in their lives ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For the weak in body or in mind, that they may be strengthened and restored to health ; for those depressed or in pain, that they may be cheered and comforted ; for the dying, that they may have Thy light and peace ;

*We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.*

For our friends and loved ones, for those at home and those absent ; that they and we, protected and purified by Thy grace on earth, may hereafter see Thy face together, and render unto Thee a more perfect service ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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## A LITANY.

### III.

○ GOD, our Father, help us to be still before Thee, that we may know that Thou art God. Help us by every hallowed recollection that can be ours—recollections of Thy power and grace, in history, in nature and in our own hearts—and by disciplining our wills before Thee, to have a sense of Thy divine presence ; and grant us thus to have hearts so prepared that the intuitions of Thy Spirit may enter in.

Let us make our thanksgiving to  
Almighty God.

That Thy nature and purpose is not far from us, but brought near to our understanding in the revelation of Christ and by Thy Spirit speaking in our hearts.

*We thank Thee, O God.*

That Thou hast shown us the way of victory in the life and death of Christ.

*We thank Thee, O God.*

That Thy Church, despite our failings, has been able to convince of sin and lead to righteousness.

*We thank Thee, O God.*

That in the following of Thy way in the doing of Thy work we can find the answer to our human longings.

*We thank Thee, O God.*

That in the commandments of Thy Gospel we have the plan for brotherhood in this life and the hope of glory in the next.

*We thank Thee, O God.*

Grant us, O Lord, a heart ready to perceive our reasons for thankfulness—give to us the cheerful heart that can taste Thy gifts with joy.

**Let us make confession of our faults  
before God.**

That in times of trial, of ourselves and of our nation, we have not maintained our confidence in the way of Christ.

*We confess before Thee, O God.*

That we have sometimes thought that the way of Christ with His enemies was ideal, not practical.

*We confess before Thee, O God.*

That we have hindered the work of Christ by a lack of Christ-likeness in ourselves.

*We confess before Thee, O God.*

That our resolution to work in the spirit of Christ and by His way to build a better world, has often grown weak.

*We confess before Thee, O God.*

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## A LITANY.

### IV.

**"I can do all things through Christ Who  
strengtheneth me."**

O God, Who made Thy creatures not for ease but for the joy of labour, and not for rest but for unwearied pilgrimage, spare not Thy workers the hard things in life (which are their glory)—perplexities to be thought

out ; doubts to be dared ; the pain of love ; the hazards of adventurous living ; but with all these grant confidence to say

*I can do all things through Him Who  
strengtheneth me.*

O Thou Who ever bearest on Thy heart  
the sin of man, Whose hands are all day  
long stretched forth to a gainsaying people,  
grant to Thy children patience like to Thine,  
to plead and not compel, to save and not  
condemn, so that in suffering unjustly for  
the sins of others they may rejoice to be in  
fellowship with Christ, saying,

*I can do all things through Him Who  
strengtheneth me.*

Remembering that Thou hast chosen the  
foolish things of the world to confound the  
wise ; and weak things of the world to con-  
found the things which are mighty ; and base  
things of the world and things which are  
despised and things which are not to bring  
to naught things that are,

*I can do all things through Him Who  
strengtheneth me.*

Knowing that Thy grace is sufficient for  
me, for Thy strength is made perfect in weak-  
ness,

*I can do all things through Him Who  
strengtheneth me.*

In an age in which men put their trust  
in might, and find it a vain thing for safety ;  
when men exalt ability to smite, and sacrifice  
to that which can destroy ; while all the

world clamours for defence and Christ still  
hangs defenceless on the Cross,

*I can do all things through Him Who  
strengtheneth me.*

Because His Church, though it be as a  
garden trampled upon and overrun, yet still  
contains the seed of His own planting which,  
growing again in beauty and in fragrance, will  
cheer and purify the earth,

*I can do all things through Him Who  
strengtheneth me.*

—(From "Reconciliation.")

## A LITANY.

### V.

Grant us, O Lord, such a vision of Thyself  
and of Thy purpose that the smallness of  
our thinking and our ways may be swallowed  
up by the realization of Thy greatness and  
of Thy purpose.

**Let us pray God that we may become His  
better servants in the days that are to come.**

To do our part by thought and act to face  
the problems of the world.

*Help us, O Lord.*

To work with others, with whom in tem-  
perament we are different.

*Help us, O Lord.*



To overcome the problems of our individual and community relationships by Christ's way of grace and sacrifice.

*Help us, O Lord.*

To remember when a victory of grace is won, that the victory is not ours, but Thine.

*Help us, O Lord.*

Grant us, O Lord, to set our eyes, not on what we have been, but on what, by Thy power working in us, we can become.

**Let us make our intercessions before God.**

For the rulers of the world, that they may have the boldness to lead the peoples in the way of Thy Gospel.

*Father, we pray.*

For those set in places of authority in Thy Church, that they may lead the Christian peoples of the world to follow Christ's way of reconciliation between man and man, nation and nation.

*Father, we pray.*

For all the officials and societies working for the peace of the world, that they may work in Thy spirit and diligently consider the example of Christ.

*Father, we pray.*

For all mankind working in the common ways of life, that they may bring to all their triumphs and problems the spirit of Christ.

*Father, we pray.*

And finally, for ourselves, that as we go about our usual round we may show that Christian courtesy and forgiveness which lead to true brotherhood and lasting peace.

*Father, we pray.*

—(From "Reconciliation.")

## A LITANY.

### VI.

The Lord be with you.

*And with thy spirit.*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

*And let our cry come unto Thee.*

**Let us pray for the restoration of peace throughout the world.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*For it is Thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.*

**O** ALMIGHTY God, Who makest even the wrath of man to turn to Thy praise ; we beseech Thee so to order and dispose the issue of the war in which our country is now engaged, that we may be brought through strife to a lasting peace, and that the

nations of the world may be united in a firmer fellowship, for the promotion of Thy glory and the establishment of Thy Kingdom ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Let us pray for our country.**

O Lord, save the State.

*And mercifully hear us when we call upon Thee.*

**O** GOD, Who alone dost govern the affairs of men and determine the events of war, guard and guide us now, we beseech Thee. Be merciful unto our sins ; save us from indifference, discord, and confusion ; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Grant unto our King and his counsellors the spirit of wisdom, that they may direct and use the power committed to their hands for the honour of our country, the deliverance of the oppressed, the good of all mankind, and the glory of Thy Name ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Let us pray for those in the service of our Nation.**

O Lord, give Thine angels charge over them.

*To keep them in all their ways.*

**O** GOD, the strength of all those who put their trust in Thee ; bless, we beseech Thee, our soldiers and sailors, our airmen

and nurses, and all enlisted in the service of our country, particularly those who have gone forth from this parish. (HERE INSERT NAMES.) Give Thy holy angels charge over them, that they may protect them from all harm, deliver them in all temptation, and, if it be Thy gracious will, bring them safe home ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

—(From "*The Living Church.*")

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### A LITTLE NIGHT LITANY.

O God, our Father, graciously hear the prayers which we offer at this evening hour.

We beseech Thee to comfort and help, to guard and to guide all the men of the Army, Navy and Air Force who are on duty to-night.

*O Jesu, keep them in Thy sight,  
And guard them through the coming night.*

We beseech Thee to help the sick to bear their pain, and to grant peace to the dying.

*O Jesu, keep them in Thy sight,  
And guard them through the coming night.*

We beseech Thee to make all workers at home faithful in their duty during the long night hours.

*O Jesu, keep them in Thy sight,  
And guard them through the coming night.*

We beseech Thee to give sweet sleep to all whom we love and whose work is finished for another day.

*O Jesu, keep them in Thy sight,  
And guard them through the coming night.*

We beseech Thee, if it be Thy will, to grant to us a quiet night in safety, and Thy blessed gift of rest.

*O Jesu, keep them in Thy sight,  
And guard them through the coming night.*

Our Father . . . . .

**O** GOD of light and peace, give light and peace to them that are of a troubled mind. Grant them courage and patience, that they may seek for the causes of their ills ; and give wisdom to those who help them to do so. And for those whose sufferings continue, we pray that they may be cared for in love, and that none may add to their griefs. We ask this in the Name of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### A PRAYER FOR OUTCASTS.

**O** GOD our Father, bring to our remembrance all who are outcast in life, those who have not even one friend who cares for them, those who are bitter and angry with society, those condemned to long imprisonment. May all whom the love of their

fellow-men cannot reach be found by Thee ; through Him Who came to seek and to save that which was lost, Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### A PRAYER FOR DAILY AND FAMILY USE.

**A**LMIGHTY Lord God, our Heavenly Father, teach us to love and fear Thee ; deliver us and all men from the power of sin ; show us Thy will and fulfil it in our lives ; guard the hearts and minds of our fighting men in Thy fatherly keeping, especially those known and dear to us here present ; support the anxious and suffering with Thy grace and comfort ; hasten the spread of Thy Gospel in all lands, and turn all nations to follow what is just and right ; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**L**ORD, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
Where there is injury, let me sow  
pardon,

Where there is doubt, let me sow faith,  
Where there is despair, let me sow hope,  
Where there is darkness, let me sow  
light,

Where there is sadness, let me sow joy,  
O Divine Master.

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive ;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned ;

It is in dying that we are born

To eternal life.

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### A PRAYER FOR THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE.

○ ETERNAL GOD, Who art leading us all by new ways which we know not, grant us the adventurous spirit. Make us willing to attempt new tasks and face new ways, as we seek together Thy Kingdom and righteousness. Bestow upon us the gift of love, which believeth all things, hopeth all things, and endureth all things ; and so inspire our worship of Thee and our ministry to Thy people that there may be raised, upon the ruins which sin and strife have made, the City whose Builder and Maker is God. And unto Thee, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, shall be the praise and honour and dominion, now and forever. Amen.

—(The late Bishop E. A. Burroughs.)

### A PRAYER FOR THE AIR FORCE.

(By the Rev. Canon W. Perry, in "The Scottish Guardian.")

Let us pray for the Air Forces of the King and his Allies.

V. He shall defend thee under His wings.

R. *His faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*

○ ALMIGHTY Father, Who in days of old didst bear Thy people on eagles' wings, and bring them to Thyself : Uphold, we beseech Thee, the men who are called to fight for this country and Empire amidst the hazards of the air. Let the angel of Thy Presence succour them in the hour of battle and cheer them in times of stress and loneliness ; and grant them Thy grace day by day so to serve Thee here below that at the last, by Thy mercy, they may be ever with the Lord in heaven above ; even Jesus Christ Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost one God world without end. Amen.

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### AN EVENING PRAYER.

"He shall give his angels charge over thee."

—Psalm xci. 11.

BE present, O God, Holy Spirit and Strengtheners, with all in need this night.

Give healing sleep to those in sickness, suffering, and sorrow ; grant that the anxious



and troubled may find rest in Thee.

Let Thine unseen Presence be with the lonely and the aged, comforting and supporting them, and may all little children be guarded by Thy holy angels this night from all evil.

And for ourselves, that we may abide under the shadow of Thy wings until this tyranny be overpast ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—(*Brampton Parish Church, Northampton.*)

**WE** pray Thee, O God, for the British Empire that Thou hast in Thy providence welded together during the centuries, that our hearts may not be haughty within us because of Thy Divine choice of us ; that we may not be unmindful of the fate of other Empires that failed to fulfil Thy purposes. We pray Thee, too, favourably to behold our King and Queen, the Prime Minister, and all Ministers of State, and to give unto them wisdom and strength.

And we beseech Thee that Thy Church may be newly anointed by Thy Spirit, that in all nations, those who share the eternal life may realise their unity in Christ, and, discerning the times, may be wise to know what Thy people ought to do, so that Thy redeemed witnesses in all the earth may convince the world that Thou art the true and only Saviour of men. Amen.

## FOR PEACE.

**O** GOD, of Whose gracious teaching it cometh that nations seek both to deal justly and to serve Thee freely ; extend the power of Thine unchanging mercies over the hearts of their governors that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us, to the advancement of Thy glory and the welfare of all Thy children ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**O** GOD, uphold, we pray Thee, Thine own cause, and grant to our arms the victory of Thy righteousness, that, the forces of evil being overthrown, mankind may be free to serve Thee in peace ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## A PRAYER FOR PEACE.

**O** THOU Prince of Peace, shed abroad Thy peace upon the world. By the might of Thy Holy Spirit quench the pride, the anger, and greediness which cause man to strive against man, and people against people. Lead all nations in the way of mutual help and goodwill, and hasten the time when the earth shall confess Thee for its Saviour and King, and no evil deeds of man shall defile Thy glorious creation, for Thy Name's sake.

## A WAR-TIME PRAYER.

**ALMIGHTY** GOD, give to every country the spirit of human brotherhood ; a new respect for man and for woman ; new loyalty in service ; new happiness in work and justice in reward ; that in Thee our homes may be restored and our cities rebuilt, and all the world may reflect Thy light and Thy love ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**GRANT**, O Lord, that we who live in such challenging times may be saved from all pettiness and self-seeking ; and, filled with a gallant and undaunted spirit, may bear about with us the infection of a good courage ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## A PRAYER FOR OUR ENEMIES.

**MERCIFUL** God, in Whose dear Son we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins, give us such strong belief in this, the only power that can abolish evil, that we shall be enabled to forgive our enemies ; and grant us grace not only to forgive but to accept forgiveness, through Christ the Crucified.

## FOR PURIFICATION.

**HOLY** and ever-living God, Who judgest mankind in truth and smitest it in mercy ; manifest, we beseech Thee, Thy power throughout the world, that our hearts may be cleansed by the fire of Thine indignations and our souls healed by Thy Divine comfort ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## A PRAYER FOR THE MISSING.

**O** GOD, Who art present everywhere, and carest for Thy children both in life and death : bless, we pray Thee, those whose fate is unknown to us, guard them in life, and in death fulfil them with the richness of Thy heavenly glory ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
—*Michael Bruce.*

**O** GOD, Whose service is perfect freedom ; Grant to all prisoners, in their restraint, the freedom of communion with Thee ; in times of dullness, the zest of Thy Spirit ; and in their separation from their loved ones, the companionship of Christ, Who binds us together in His love, with bonds which neither space nor death can sever ; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  
—*Michael Bruce.*