

WORKERS WITH GOD

THOUGHTS FOR
COMMUNICANTS

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"WE ARE GOD'S FELLOW WORKERS."

1 Corinthians ^{xiii.} 9,

Workers With God

THOUGHTS FOR
COMMUNICANTS

By

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FOREWORD.

This little book is written by a Parish Priest who understands the need of boys and girls during and after their Confirmation. Touch with the unseen world is not easy, and simple hints as to the direction of thought as to the way to "tune in" to God are invaluable. These are admirably given in this book, whose author is a true interpreter of the vital elements of Christian devotion and of Christian discipleship in words which will both arrest and help the reader.

My own great hope is that its pages will be read and read again by those Confirmation candidates who are fortunate enough to possess it, and that it will not have the fate of the many manuals which are kept in cold storage as sacred relics of a great event.

I commend the use of "Workers with God" to all my clergy, confident that they will find it of real service in the preparation and after-care of their candidates for Confirmation.

HERBERT WELLINGTON.

Workers With God

CONFIRMATION DAY.

To-day you have come, after a period of training and preparation, to the greatest day of your life since your Baptism. Freely and willingly you have come to offer yourself to God and receive the strength which Confirmation gives.

You have heard God's Call and have come to enlist in the Christian Army, to become a full member of the Church Militant, and to make your stand with those who are seeking, with Christ, to make the world a better and a happier place.

This should be for you not only a great, but also a very happy day. It takes courage sometimes to do the right, but there is no satisfaction greater than that of knowing that we are strong enough to follow the greatest Leader the world has ever known.

Only once in a lifetime does Confirmation come. You are going in a few minutes to accept its challenge. For months you have been thinking about it. Use these last few minutes before the service begins in thinking again of what you are about to do. Try to say with deep sincerity the words that follow.

First of all, I am going to renew the vows made at my Baptism. I am going to renounce what is wrong, to believe what is true and to do what is right.

Sometimes in the past I have been weak and have failed God. Yet He still wants me. I can really help in His Work. And in order that I may the better do my part, I have come to claim the help He has promised.

I have learned that I want help, and God is going to give to me His Holy Spirit. He is the Great Strengthener. He will guide me all my life. God Himself is coming to me to be my Helper and my Friend. Truly this day is the greatest I have ever known.

Just as I am, Thine own to be,
Friend of the young Who lovest me,
To consecrate myself to Thee,
O Jesus Christ, I come.

In the glad morning of my day,
My life to give, my vows to pay,
With no reserve, and no delay,

With all my heart I come.
I would live ever in the light,
I would work ever for the right,
I would serve Thee with all my might,
Therefore to Thee I come.

Just as I am, young, strong and free,
To be the best that I can be,
For truth, and righteousness, and Thee,
Lord of my life, I come. Amen.

O ALMIGHTY Father, I come, just as I am, to claim Thy promised gift. I want to serve Thee faithfully and to stand with those who are working to establish Thy Kingdom on earth; help me to give myself wholly to Thee this day and to know more and more of the greatness and the power of the Gift which Thou dost grant me that I may continue Thy faithful soldier and servant all the days of my life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When the service begins, follow it carefully. The Bishop has a message for you. Answer boldly and claim the promised Gift.

THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE.

After the opening hymn this Preface will be read, all standing.

TO the end that Confirmation may be ministered to the more edifying of such as shall receive it, the Church hath thought good to order, That none hereafter shall be Confirmed, but such as can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments; and can also answer to such other questions, as in the short Catechism are contained: which order is very convenient to be observed; to the end, that children, being now come to the years of discretion, and having learned what their Godfathers and Godmothers promised for them in Baptism, they may themselves, with their own mouth and consent, openly before the Church, ratify and confirm the same; and also promise that by the grace of God they will evermore endeavour themselves faithfully to observe such things, as they, by their own confession, have assented unto.

AN ALTERNATIVE PREFACE (1928).

Dearly beloved in the Lord, in ministering Confirmation the Church doth follow the example of the Apostles of Christ. For in the eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles we thus read:—

"They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word. And Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and proclaimed unto them the Christ. When they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Now when the apostles which were at Jeru-

saalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John; who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: For as yet he was fallen upon none of them; only they had been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands upon them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

The Scripture here teacheth us that a special gift of the Holy Spirit is bestowed through laying on of hands with prayer. And forasmuch as this gift cometh from God alone, let us who are here present pray to Almighty God, that he will strengthen with his Holy Spirit in Confirmation those who in Baptism were made his children.

You, then, who are to be confirmed must now declare before this congregation that you are steadfastly purposed, with the help of this gift, to lead your life in the faith of Christ and in obedience to God's Will and commandments; and must openly acknowledge yourselves bound to fulfil the Christian duties to which your Baptism hath pledged you.

The Bishop will now speak to the candidates and the congregation. Then the candidates will stand and the Bishop will say:

DO ye here, in the presence of God and of this congregation, renew the solemn promise and vow that was made in your name at your Baptism; ratifying and confirming the same in your own persons, and acknowledging yourselves bound to believe, and to do, all those things which your Godfathers and God-mothers then undertook for you?

And every one shall audibly answer: I do.

The Bishop:

OUR help is in the Name of the Lord;
 Answer: Who hath made heaven and earth.
 Bishop: Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
 Answer: Henceforth, world without end.
 Bishop: Lord, hear our prayers.
 Answer: And let our cry come unto thee.

The Bishop: Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate these thy servants by Water and the Holy Ghost, and hast given unto them forgiveness of all their sins; Strengthen them, we beseech thee, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost the Comforter, and daily increase in them Thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of Thy holy fear, now and for ever. Amen.

Remain kneeling while waiting for your turn to go forward to the Bishop. Ask God to help you open your heart and prepare it for the Guest Who is to come that He may abide with you for ever.

As you kneel before the Bishop, he will lay his hands on your head and say:

DEFEND, O Lord, this Thy Child [or this Thy Servant] with Thy heavenly grace, that he may continue Thine for ever; and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more, until he come unto Thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.

When you return to your own place, kneel down and thank God in your own words for His great Gift, and ask Him to be your Guide always. Pray, too, for the others who are being confirmed, and for the whole Church, that all may be faithful.

God is very near you now, waiting to help you. This sacred hour of Confirmation can never come to you again. Tell everything to God and ask Him for all that you may need, for yourself and for others. God is your Father, Who loves you, and from Him comes every good and perfect gift.

O GOD, my Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the help Thou hast given me and for sending Thy Spirit to dwell with me; help me never to lose Thy Presence, and give me strength to serve Thee always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When all have been confirmed, the Bishop will say:
The Lord be with you.

Answer: And with thy spirit.

And (all kneeling down) the Bishop shall add,

Let us pray.

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.

And this Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, Who makest us both to will and to do those things that be good and acceptable unto Thy Divine Majesty; We make our supplications unto Thee for these Thy servants, upon whom (after the example of Thy holy Apostles) we have now laid our hands, to certify them (by this sign) of Thy favour and gracious goodness towards them. Let Thy Fatherly Hand, we beseech Thee, ever be over them; let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of Thy Word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with Thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

O ALMIGHTY Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, to direct, sanctify and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of Thy laws, and in the works of Thy commandments; that, through Thy most mighty protection both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn.

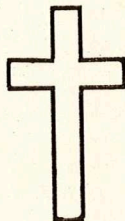
Then the Bishop shall bless them, saying thus:

THE Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Before leaving the Church kneel down again and resolve that you will never turn back from the path you have chosen. Go home quietly and do all that lies within your power to make your Confirmation Day a happy one for your friends as well as for yourself. Then begin to look forward to, and prepare for, your first Communion.

A GOOD HABIT.

Always, each year, on the anniversary of your Confirmation, read through carefully and in the spirit of prayer, the Confirmation Service.



WORKERS WITH GOD.

All down the ages, men have sought the purpose of life. Jesus came and made it plain. He came to do God's Will, and He has given us the privilege of carrying on His Work. God so trusts you that His Plan can be perfected only with your help.

We belong to a nation that knows how to respond to trust. If we give our word, that is enough. We will see it through. Well, you have given your word to God, and now, the purpose of your life is to co-operate with Him. You are going to see it through, and your Church is going to do better and greater work because you, who, in Baptism, were admitted to its ranks, have now, by Confirmation, sealed that membership, and been given power for your task.

It is a great work to which you are called. The world needs God. Difficulties abound. The forces of evil are gathering in many lands. But you have grit enough to be glad that your lot has been cast in such strenuous times. You are not looking for an easy job. You want to serve and to be worthy of God's trust.

What would you think of one who was given a great work, and accepted it, and yet took no steps to fit himself for the task, or to get the tools needed for the work? Yet that is what many Christians are like. No wonder they lose heart and fail.

God wants us to be ready for effective work. The Christian worker has his tools. The Christian soldier has his weapons. If we are going to play a worthy

part we must keep our tools and weapons effective always. Think of some of the things which help us in our work of being partners with God.

EXAMPLE.

Perhaps that is the best means of spreading God's Kingdom. You are a confirmed member of the Church. People know that. Consciously or unconsciously you are influencing others every day. Your life tells its own story. If men notice that you work better than others, that you are no slacker, they will be attracted, and that is the first step to winning them for God.

WITNESS.

If you have heard a good story you want to tell others about it. If something really splendid has happened you want others to know of it and share it. You, as a Christian, have found the secret of life. When the opportunity comes, you must share that; tell others of the glorious liberty which Christ has given to you. God works through you. If you are silent, someone who trusted you may miss the highest and the best.

WORSHIP.

You must keep in touch with God. Men want spiritual help, but we cannot pass on to others what we have not got ourselves. In public worship, power comes to us. Sunday is one of God's greatest gifts. You need it if you are to keep strong spiritually, and by your loyal and faithful sharing in public worship, and by joining regularly in the Holy Communion, you will help others besides yourself.

SACRIFICE.

No sacrifice is too great to obtain something infinitely worth while. The Christian Church stands for something eternal. It is the greatest power for good in the world. But it should and could be infinitely stronger than it is. Its work makes demands upon us. You will not seek to shirk your responsibility. Humanly speaking, the work depends on your support. Be systematic and regular. Let some definite proportion of your money be set aside for God. Is there an envelope system in your Church? Then link up with that, or perhaps you could give an annual subscription. Whatever it is you do, remember that God's Work is worth a sacrifice.

MISSIONS.

Every Communicant should be a worker for foreign missions. There is our Master's command for that. Here, too, our help should be systematic. Perhaps you could take a mission box or join the Missionary Fellowship.

BIBLE READING.

The Bible reveals God's Plan. We do not always realise that the open Bible was won for us at tremendous cost. Read your Bible every day, thinking of the passage you read as a daily message from God to you. There is a Society, called the Bible Reading Fellowship, which publishes monthly a splendidly helpful booklet which is of real value in the study of God's Word.

CORPORATE WORK.

Working alone, you can do much. But there are yet greater tasks demanding united effort. The Fellowship of the Church is the basis of all fellowship that is lasting. If you are absent from Church on Sunday that Fellowship is weakened and the world is poorer. Nothing can take the place of corporate worship. But keen Christians will feel the need of uniting with their fellows in other ways for God's service. They want to fit and prepare themselves for better work for God and their neighbours. So in every Church there are organisations such as Bible Classes, Ladies' Guilds, Girls' Clubs, C.E.M.S., Choirs, etc. It would be a splendid thing to find every Communicant a member of one or more of these. The Clergy and Church officers will be glad to give you any information you want about any of them.

THE HOLY COMMUNION.

This is the central service of the Christian Faith. It has always been so, and no wonder, for it was given to us by Christ himself. Week by week it speaks to us of the Redemption won for us, and of the power of the Divine which is available for human need.

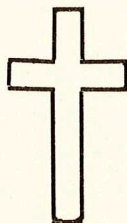
It is the great Sacrament of unity and of fellowship. There we all partake of the one Food and the one Cup. There we renew our dedication to God's service. There we get the food our spiritual nature craves.

Many people have worked to provide that Bread, the symbol of human labour, taken and consecrated by God before it is given back to us. The Wine is the immemorial symbol of human sacrifice. Labour and sacrifice are the basis of every advance civilisation has ever known. Every time we join in this Service our labour and our sacrifice are accepted and blessed by God.

In this Service, Christ comes to us in a special way, according to His promise. If you are faithful, the time will soon come when you will never need to be urged to attend; you will not want to stay away.

Come often to partake of this Sacrament. There are special days like Easter, Christmas, Ascension Day, Whitsunday, when all should come. Some day every Sunday will be like Easter. When that day dawns the world will see again the glory of the earliest days of the Christian era.

That glory has never departed altogether from God's Church. Dark days it has known. But to-day the Church is alive to human need. It is going forth "conquering and to conquer." The Church is marching onwards. By your faithfulness you can hasten the onward march to victory.



PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION.

So great and glorious is the Holy Communion that we are taught in the Catechism to prepare ourselves so as to give our best to God and so as to get all the help that God wants to give us.

We must know ourselves as we really are. So we must practise self-examination. Each one has some special temptation. If we know what it is we can be on our guard against it and conquer it with God's help.

But our self-examination must be real. The world's standards cannot be the test for any Christian. Yet it is so easy to be content with worldly standards, while God is looking for men and women who will take the standards of Christ and make them their own.

A modern movement has reminded us that the Christian standard is four-fold—absolute love, absolute honesty, absolute unselfishness, absolute purity. Take those four standards and measure your life by them.

ABSOLUTE LOVE.

Have I always looked for the best in the words and actions of others? Have I been charitable and kindly in my judgment of others? Have I in my daily life and work thought of how I could render service, making the path of life easier for all with whom I have come in contact? Have I loved my neighbour as myself?

ABSOLUTE HONESTY.

Have I always put first things first? Have I tried to do my duty to God by my service, by reality in private and public worship, by reading the Bible, by witnessing to others? Has my time been used to best advantage, or have I wasted God-given opportunities? Have I put character before money and sport?

ABSOLUTE UNSELFISHNESS.

What is the ruling passion of my life—to give or to get? Have I thought for others, and been loyal to those who have trusted me? Have I been ready to say the cheery and encouraging word and to rejoice in the success of others?

ABSOLUTE PURITY.

How have I kept my body, the Temple of the Holy Spirit? Could my thoughts be flashed upon a screen for all to see? Have I been the master of my body, or have I grown slack and careless, in thought, in speech or in deed?

CONFESSION.

ALMIGHTY God, my Leader and my Friend, I confess that I have often failed to serve Thee as I should. I have broken Thy laws and been content with standards which were not Thine. Especially do I now confess that I have sinned in these ways. (Here tell God of your special sins.) For these and all my other sins I am truly sorry. I do intend with Thy help to do better in the days to come, and I ask for Thy forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FORGIVENESS.

Take God at His Word. You have told Him of your weaknesses and your sins. His promise is definite and certain. They are forgiven now, so put them behind you and go forward in Christ's Name and Power along the road to final triumph.

Remember that normally private confession to God is all that is needed. But if your mind is not at peace, if there is something on your conscience, if there is some difficulty which is holding you back from that victorious and happy life God wants you to have, then do not hesitate to go, as the Prayer Book invites you to do, to your clergyman for help. He will not think you a nuisance or grudge the time. He is there to help.

FINAL PREPARATION.

Get to the Church in good time. The few minutes' quiet prayer in God's House before the service begins are very precious. Life to-day is one of bustle and noise. "Be still and know that I am God."

You have come to offer God yourself, to dedicate yourself anew to His service, and to get the spiritual food and refreshment for another week of life and service.

Tell God of your needs, your hopes, your ideals, your plans. He is your Father, interested in all that interests you. Listen for the Message He has for you.

O God, unseen yet ever near,
Thy Presence may we feel;
And, thus inspired with holy fear,
Before Thine Altar kneel.

Here may Thy faithful people know
The blessings of Thy love,
The streams that through the desert flow,
The manna from above.

We come, obedient to Thy Word,
To feast on heavenly Food;
Our meat the Body of the Lord,
Our drink His precious Blood.

Thus may we all Thy word obey,
For we, O God, are Thine;
And go rejoicing on our way,
Renew'd with strength Divine. Amen.

—E. Osler.

THE COMMUNION SERVICE.

The Lord's Prayer.

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 Collect for Purity.

ALMIGHTY God, unto Whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Ten Commandments are now said. Remember your self-examination and as each Commandment is read, resolve to keep it in the spirit of Jesus and pray,

Lord have mercy upon us and incline our hearts to keep this law.

After the Tenth Commandment, or if our Lord's Summary of the Commandments is used, pray:

Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.

[God has taught us that the well-being of a nation is bound up with the spiritual life of the people, and so we are invited in this highest of all services to pray for our Queen and Empire.]

Let us pray.

The Collect for the Queen.

ALMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and power infinite; Have mercy upon the whole Church, and so rule the heart of Thy chosen Servant ELIZABETH, our Queen and Governor, that she (knowing Whose Minister she is) may above all things seek Thy honour and glory: and that we, and all her subjects (duly considering Whose authority she hath) may faithfully serve, honour and humbly obey her, in Thee, and for Thee, according to Thy Blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with Thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Or,

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we are taught by Thy Holy Word that the hearts of queens are in Thy rule and governance, and that Thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemeth best to Thy Godly wisdom: We humbly beseech Thee so to dispose and govern the heart of ELIZABETH, Thy Servant, our Queen and Governor, that in all her thoughts, words and works, she may ever seek Thy honour and glory, and study to preserve Thy people committed to her charge in wealth, peace and godliness: Grant this, O merciful Father, for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now follows the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the day. These may be found in the Prayer Book, and give the special message for the week. It is usual to sit for the Epistle, but when the Gospel is announced stand up and say:

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

After it say,

Thanks be to Thee, O Lord, for this Thy Holy Gospel.

THE CREED.

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Catholick and Apostolick Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY.

While the offerings of the people are being collected one or more verses from the Bible are read. A wide choice is given, but normally one of the following is said:—

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—St. Matt. v.

Lay not up for yourself treasure upon the earth; where the rust and moth doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourself treasures in heaven; where neither rust nor moth doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.—St. Matt. vi.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do unto them; for this is the Law and the Prophets.—St. Matt. vii.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father, which is in heaven.

—St. Matt. vii.

As you make your offering, ask God to accept and bless it for His Work. There is no compulsion about your gift, save the compulsion of love. Remember, you are a steward, and God asks you to share, by your gift, in carrying on His Work. Give as God has blessed you.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who by Thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men; We humbly beseech Thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto Thy Divine Majesty; beseeching Thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord; And grant, that all they that do confess Thy holy Name may agree in the truth of Thy holy Word, and live in unity, and godly love. We beseech Thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes and Governors; and specially Thy Servant ELIZABETH our Queen; that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: And grant unto her whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of Thy true religion, and virtue. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and Curates, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth Thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer Thy holy Sacraments: And to all Thy people give Thy

heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive Thy holy Word; truly serving Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. And we most humbly beseech Thee of Thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we also bless Thy holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear; beseeching Thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom: Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

THE INVITATION.

YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

THE CONFESSION.

Join in this Confession. Try to mean every word of it, and then open your heart to receive God's forgiveness in all its fulness.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word and deed, Against Thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that it past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please Thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of Thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, Who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS.

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to Him:

Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.—St. Matt. xi. 28.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

—St. John iii. 16.

Hear also what St. Paul saith:

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim. i. 15.

Hear also what Saint John saith:

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. 1 St. John ii. 1.

Then shall the Priest say:

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up unto the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

R. It is meet and right to do so.

Priest. It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

[To mark the special message of great festivals, a proper preface follows here, and then the service goes on.]

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; evermore praising Thee, and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory: Glory be to Thee, O Lord most High. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS.

WE do not presume to come to this Thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy Table. But Thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His Body, and our souls washed through His most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

There will be a few moments of quiet now, while the priest prepares for the Prayer of Consecration. Use this time for a prayer to God the Holy Spirit. We want His help and guidance now and always.

Spirit Divine, attend our prayers

And make our hearts Thy home;

Descend with all Thy gracious powers,

O come, Great Spirit, come. —A. Reed.

At a choral service, these words will be sung:—"Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made thee (by His one oblation of Himself once offered), a full perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in His Holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that His precious death, until His coming again: Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech Thee; and grant that we, receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed took Bread; and, when He had given thanks, ¹He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat, ²this is My Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise, after supper He ³took the Cup; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this ⁴is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me. Amen.

1 Here the priest is to take the Paten into his hands :

2 And here to break the Bread :

3 And here to lay his hands upon all the Bread :

4 Here he is to take the Cup into his hand :

5 And here to lay his hand upon every vessel (be it Chalice or Flagon) in which there is any Wine to be consecrated :

At this sacred moment try to realise God's Presence. Speak to Him in your own words of all that concerns you. If your health permits, kneel while you are waiting to go up to the altar rails, and when you return.

The words of many a favourite hymn will help you to express your hopes and love.

I am not worthy, Holy Lord,
That Thou should'st come to me;
Speak but the Word, one gracious Word
Can set the sinner free.

I am not worthy; cold and bare
The lodging of my soul;
How canst Thou deign to enter there?
Lord, speak, and make me whole.

I am not worthy; yet, my God,
How can I say Thee nay;
Thee, Who didst give Thy Flesh and Blood
My ransom-price to pay?

O come! in this sweet morning hour
Feed me with Food Divine;
And fill with all Thy love and power
This worthless heart of mine. Amen.

—H. W. Baker.

And now, O Father, mindful of the love
 That bought us, once for all, on Calvary's Tree,
 And having with us Him that pleads above,
 We here present, we here spread forth to Thee
 That only Offering perfect in Thine eyes,
 The one true, pure, immortal Sacrifice.

Look, Father, look on His anointed Face,
 And only look on us as found in Him;
 Look not on our misusings of Thy grace,
 Our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim;
 For lo! between our sins and their reward
 We set the Passion of Thy Son our Lord.

And then for those, our dearest and our best,
 By this prevailing Presence we appeal;
 O fold them closer to Thy mercy's breast,
 O do Thine utmost for their souls' true weal;
 From tainting mischief keep them white and clear,
 And crown Thy gifts with strength to persevere.

And so we come; O draw us to Thy Feet,
 Most patient Saviour, Who canst love us still;
 And by this Food, so awful and so sweet,
 Deliver us from every touch of ill:
 In Thine own service make us glad and free,
 And grant us nevermore to part with Thee. Amen.

—W. Bright.

As you kneel to receive the sacrament, ask God to make you worthy of the great gift that is coming to you.

As the priest comes to you, hold your hands palms upwards, the left hand supporting the right. Saying the words of administration he will place on your palm a piece of the consecrated Bread. Raise your hands to your mouth and consume the Bread.

Remain kneeling until the priest comes again to you. As he says the words take the Chalice firmly in both hands, raising it to your lips and taking a tiny sip of the consecrated Wine.

The words of administration are:

THE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and fed on Him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

THE Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul into everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

After reception, remain kneeling until the one next you has partaken, then return to your seat, kneel down and thank God for the spiritual food and for the power that have come to help you.

Pray and give thanks in your own words. It does not matter if the words are halting. God sees the heart. Again there are hymns that will help us to express our thoughts and our desire to use the power and strength God has given.

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
 In living echoes of Thy tone;
 As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
 Thy erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
 The wandering and the wavering feet:
 O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
 Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

O strengthen me, that while I stand
 Firm on the Rock, and strong in Thee,
 I may stretch out a loving hand
 To wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
 The precious things Thou dost impart;
 And wing my words, that they may reach
 The hidden depths of many a heart.

O give Thine own sweet rest to me,
 That I may speak with soothing power
 A word in season, as from Thee,
 To weary ones in needful hour.

O fill me with Thy fulness, Lord,
 Until my very heart o'erflow
 In kindling thought and glowing word,
 Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,
 Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
 Until Thy blessed face I see,
 Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share. Amen.

F. R. Havergal.

When all have returned to their seats, join heartily in the Lord's Prayer as an act of corporate thanksgiving.

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: For Thine is the kingdom, The power and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Now all will want to offer God the thing He wants, and so we offer ourselves to be used increasingly by Him. This we do in

THE PRAYER OF OBLATION.

O LORD and Heavenly Father, we Thy humble servants entirely desire Thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching Thee to grant, that by the merits and death of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in His Blood, we and all Thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of His passion. And here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice unto Thee; humbly beseeching Thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy Communion, may be fulfilled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus

Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto Thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

Or this:

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank Thee, for Thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of Thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of Thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of Thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of Thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with Thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.

GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou

that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE BLESSING.

THE Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

Now the service is over, but do not hurry away. Stay at least for a few moments to say some thanksgiving. The words of Simeon always seem appropriate here.

NUNC DIMITTIS.

LORD, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace: according to Thy Word.

For mine eyes have seen: Thy salvation.

Which Thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

O GOD, Thou hast given Thyself to me, give me strength to serve Thee joyously, grant that all may know that I have been with Thee and that Thy Spirit is the inspiration of my life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRANT, O God, that this Church may be an ever-increasing power for good. Bless all who minister and serve Thee here now and always. Amen.

You will want to add some prayer of thanksgiving to your evening prayers on the days you receive this Sacrament. Do so in your own words and say also the Prayer of Oblation from the service. Strength has come to you. Use that strength for the extension of God's Kingdom.

MORNING PRAYERS.

IN the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

KEEP us, O God, as we enter this new day Thou hast given, and as Thou has watched over us through the hours of darkness, may Thy guidance help and lead us all through this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, Who hast given to every man his work, be with us when the stress of toil or study absorbs us; help us always to do and give our best; grant us opportunities of service, and keep us alert to recognise and seize them, that when the day's work is over the path of life may be lighter and brighter for others because of what we have done for Christ's sake. Amen.

GRANT that I may daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more, until I come to Thine everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.
THE Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

EVENING PRAYERS.

Think over the events of the day. Tell God in your own words where you have failed. Ask for His forgiveness and resolve to make the future better than the past.

The Lord's Prayer.

ALMIGHTY God, we beseech Thee to grant to this Parish all things needful for its spiritual welfare: strengthen and confirm the faithful: teach and guide the young: visit and relieve the sick; arouse the careless: recover the fallen: restore the penitent: remove all hindrances to the advance of Thy truth: and bring all to be of one heart and mind in the fold of Thy Church: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O GOD, our Father in heaven, bless, we beseech Thee, our relatives and friends and help us to make our homes what Thou wouldst have them be; be very near those in special danger, need, sickness or sorrow and relieve them according to their needs; may those for whom the evening of life has come find comfort and peace at life's eventide; and grant us all so to bear

one another's burdens that we may fulfil the Law of Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, our God for evermore. Amen.

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOD the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep us, and all who are near and dear to us, this night and for evermore.—

"Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."
Amen.

"I will lay me down in peace and take my rest, for it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety."

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

ALMIGHTY God, Who dost ever inspire Thy faithful people to share with others their rich experiences of Thy presence, power and love; grant us so to yield ourselves to the Guidance of Thy Holy Spirit that by our witness and work for Thee, Thy Holy Name may be for ever glorified, Thy Kingdom strengthened and extended in lives given to Thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, by Whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive our supplications and prayers which

we offer before Thee for all estates of men in Thy Holy Church, that every member of the same in his vocation and ministry may truly and godly serve Thee, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD of all power and might, Who art the author and giver of all good things; grant in our hearts the love of Thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with Thy goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O LORD our God, Who art in every place, from Whom no space or distance can ever separate us, we know that those who are absent from each other are still present with Thee; we pray Thee, therefore, to have in Thy holy keeping those dear ones from whom we now are separated, and grant, that both they and we, by drawing nearer unto Thee may be drawn closer to each other, bound together by the unseen chain of Thy love, in the communion of Thy Spirit and the fellowship of Thy saints, that, whether or not, as seemeth best to Thy Divine Majesty, we meet together again here on earth, we may surely meet at the resurrection of the just and go on together to that house of many mansions which Thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love Thee, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

O GOD Who callest us to seek first Thy Kingdom and Thy righteousness, help us as a Church and in our own lives to respond to Thy Call. Help us to spread abroad the knowledge of Thy love and power, and to

know increasingly the joy and splendour of Thy service. Grant us Thy Grace that out of full and grateful hearts for the inestimable gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, we may go forward boldly to attack and destroy all that hinders Thy Work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O GOD, without Whom our wisdom is folly, and our far-seeking, blindness, we beseech Thee that from the glory that is Thine, the power of love may beat upon all our doors and break in, to overcome our evil. O Thou that art Lord and King of every land and tongue, grant that it may be given to us to see Thy Kingdom nigh at hand. We ask it through Him that is Thy love made manifest, Christ Jesus, Lord.

Amen.

WORTHY RECEPTION.

We do right to show reverence to the Holy Communion. It is Christ's Own Service, and we must approach it in the right way. The early Christians partook regularly week by week of this Sacrament, and we cannot do better than follow their example.

It is quite wrong to imagine that the Holy Communion is the privilege of a few particularly good and holy people. It is the regular, essential food of the soul that everybody needs. There is no question of being "good enough to come." If we stay away, we are robbing ourselves of the greatest means of help that God has given to us. Regular participation in the Holy Communion helps us to be stronger and better.

Certainly we must not come if we are conscious of unrepented sins in our lives. In such a case our duty is to come to repentance. But if we are sincerely trying to follow Christ, if we have confessed our sins and failures to God, and are determined to do better in the future, then God has, according to His promise, taken away our sins; we are forgiven, and the Holy Communion will help us as nothing else can.

Read again "The Invitation," which comes in the middle of the Service. That tells us who should come, and how they should come. All who, with whatever failures and shortcomings, have chosen the way of Christ, will find strength to persevere and will grow in goodness and in spiritual power, as they respond to that invitation.

Christ came "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." That is God's Will for us, and in the Holy Communion He has provided the "Bread of Life" to renew, sustain and enrich our lives.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH.

There is a very good reason for the love which the average Britisher feels for the Church of England. Our Church has a great and glorious history; it has shared the trials and sorrows of the people; it has become an essential part of the Empire's life.

Again and again men of our race have looked to their Church to defend them from tyranny and oppression, feeling that the Church was the guardian of the people's liberty. Their Church did not fail them.

In the realm of education, our Church has always stood for truth and for enlightenment. In dark ages it has kept the torch of learning shining, and has ever been ready to welcome new truths, or new presentations of the truth which is eternal.

The sick and afflicted and the orphans are never forgotten. Perhaps we are too modest about what our Church is doing in this direction. It comes as a surprise to people to learn that in New Zealand alone the Church of England is caring daily for well over 1000 children in its various orphanages. That is only one form of social service our Church is doing. The Church of England will always be found working quietly, but very effectively, to relieve human need.

Our Church has a wonderful record of service in every field. But that is not the secret of its strength and power. That secret is found in the ideals for which alone it exists. It is part of the great Catholic or Universal Church founded by Christ Himself. It holds its Apostolic Succession unbroken—its ministry is historic, going back to the earliest days. It has a commission from God. That is the secret of its strength and power. No man founded our Church. It comes to us from God.

Again, the Church of England upholds the Bible as the standard and test of all that is necessary for salvation. To our understanding of the Scriptures its members have contributed much, and to everybody the Bible is open so that they may prove for themselves the truth of all the Church teaches.

There is, too, a dignity and a sane piety about our Church and its services which have their origin in a profound conviction that only the best is good enough for God. In those services all should share. That is why, in our Prayer Book, the congregation has such a large part to play in public worship. Services are so designed that members are not passive. They share actively in the worship we offer to God.

Somewhere, within the Fellowship of our Church, there is work for every Communicant to do. You have inherited a noble tradition. Never hesitate to claim any of the privileges which are rightly yours. The ministrations of the Church are at your disposal. It would be foolish not to use them to the utmost.

But while we thank God for all that our Church has meant in the past and for all that it means in the world to-day, let us remember also that God has entrusted this glorious heritage into our keeping. We can help it on, or we can mar its power. God works through us.

May you to whom this book has come, by your faithful witness and service, now and always, be numbered among that splendid band to be found in every parish, who count it a joy to share God's Work, who are making their Church an increasing power for good, and so are hastening the coming of the day when God's perfect Kingdom of happiness and of love shall really be established on this earth.

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