

FORM OF INTERCESSION

WITH

ALMIGHTY GOD

ON BEHALF OF

**His Majesty's Naval and Military Forces
now Engaged in War,**

FOR

Sunday, 3rd January, 1915.

I.

A Form of Intercession.

This may be used instead of Morning or Evening Prayer.

All kneeling, the Minister shall say :

GOD is our refuge and strength: a very present help in trouble.

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

O MIGHTY and merciful God, our Redeemer and our Judge: We come before thee confessing our many sins, and all our forgetfulness of thee in the time of our wealth. Pardon, we beseech thee, all these our offences; and cleanse us from our sins. Hear us, O Lord, for thy mercy is great; and after the multitude of thy mercies look upon us; through the merits and mediation of thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive: Receive our humble petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of thy great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Then, all standing, shall be said one or more of the Psalms following :

God reigneth. Psalms 20, 146.

God our refuge. Psalms 25, 27, 46, 90.

God comforteth. Psalms 23, 34.

God helpeth. Psalms 42, 71, 91.

1st Lesson.

1 Kings viii. 54-62.
or Isaiah lxiii. 7-16.

2nd Lesson.

St. Matthew v. 1-12.
or St. Luke xi. 1-13.
„ 1 Peter v. 6-11.
„ 1 Timothy ii. 1-8.

The Apostles' Creed.

Then, all kneeling, the Minister shall say :

Let us pray.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, &c.

LET thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then shall the prayers of the people be asked as followeth, and after each bidding silence shall be kept for a space.

Let us pray for the King and all in authority.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

O LORD God Almighty, guide, we pray thee, our Sovereign and all those to whom thou has committed the government of our nation and empire; and grant to them at this time special gifts of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength; that upholding what is right, and following what is true, they may obey thy holy will, and fulfil thy divine purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the sailors and soldiers of our King.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

O ALMIGHTY Lord God, the Father and Protector of all that trust in thee: We commend to thy fatherly goodness the men who through perils of war are serving this nation, especially those belonging to the Commonwealth of Australia: beseeching thee to take into thine own hand both them and the cause wherein their King and country send them. Be thou their strength when they are set in the midst of so many and great dangers. Make all bold through death or life to put their trust in thee, who art the only giver of victory, and canst save by many or by few; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the sick and wounded, whether our own or of the enemy, and for all who minister to them.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

ALMIGHTY God, who dost look down in fatherly love upon all who suffer: We beseech thee to hear our humble prayers for the wounded and the sick: give to each one of them thy help, in spirit and in body, according to his need; sanctify him, cheer him, and, if it be thy will, restore him. All this we ask through the mediation of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O MERCIFUL God, whose Blessed Son went about doing good: Uphold with thy strength and grace those who do service to the wounded and the sick; grant to the ministers of thy gospel faithfulness and love, to the physicians and surgeons wisdom and skill, to the nurses sympathy and patience; and we beseech thee to protect and bless them in all dangers, anxieties, and labours; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for those who are in anxiety and in sorrow.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

ALMIGHTY God, who art afflicted in the afflictions of thy people: Regard with thy tender compassion the anxious and the bereaved; bear their sorrows and their cares; give them comfort and peace in thee; supply all their manifold needs; and help both them and us to learn the lessons of thy fatherly discipline; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for those who are in poverty and in need.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

O HEAVENLY Father, who by thy blessed Son hast taught us to ask of thee our daily bread: Have compassion on them who through this war are brought to poverty or hunger; relieve their distress; make plain the way of help; and grant thy grace unto us all, that we may bear each other's burdens according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray that peace may be restored.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

O ALMIGHTY God, the refuge of all them that put their trust in thee: We turn to thee in this time of trouble; direct the course of this world, we humbly beseech thee, in accordance with thy holy will; take away whatsoever hinders the nations from unity and concord; prosper all counsels which make for the restoration of a rightful and abiding peace. And this we ask for thy mercy's sake, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray that the present distress may be overruled for the advancement of God's kingdom.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

O ALMIGHTY God, who canst bring good out of evil, and makest even the wrath of man to turn to thy praise: We beseech thee so to order and dispose the issue of this war, 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 good of all mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for absent friends.

(*Pause for silent prayer.*)

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. Defend, O Loving Father, those friends and dear ones of ours from whom we are separated. Keep them in body and soul; and grant that both they and we, by drawing nearer to Thee, may draw nearer to one another, bound together in the unseen chain of Thy love, in the Communion of Thy Spirit, and in the holy fellowship of Thy Church. That, whether or not we meet together here on earth, we may surely be reunited in Thy perfected heavenly Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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 love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

II.

The Order of Holy Communion.

In the Order of Holy Communion this Collect shall be used after the Collect of the Day, with the Epistle and Gospel as followeth:

O GOD, who hast taught us in thy holy Word that thou dost not willingly afflict the children of men; Grant that, in the present time of warfare and distress of nations, our people may know thy presence, and obey thy will: Remove from us arrogance and feebleness; give us courage and loyalty, tranquillity and self-control, that we may accomplish that which thou givest us to do, and endure that which thou givest us to bear. O thou who art the hope of all the ends of the earth and of them that remain in the broad sea, hear us in thy mercy, for his sake who was lifted up on the Cross to draw all men unto him, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle—Philippians iv. 6.

The Gospel—St. Matthew vii. 7.