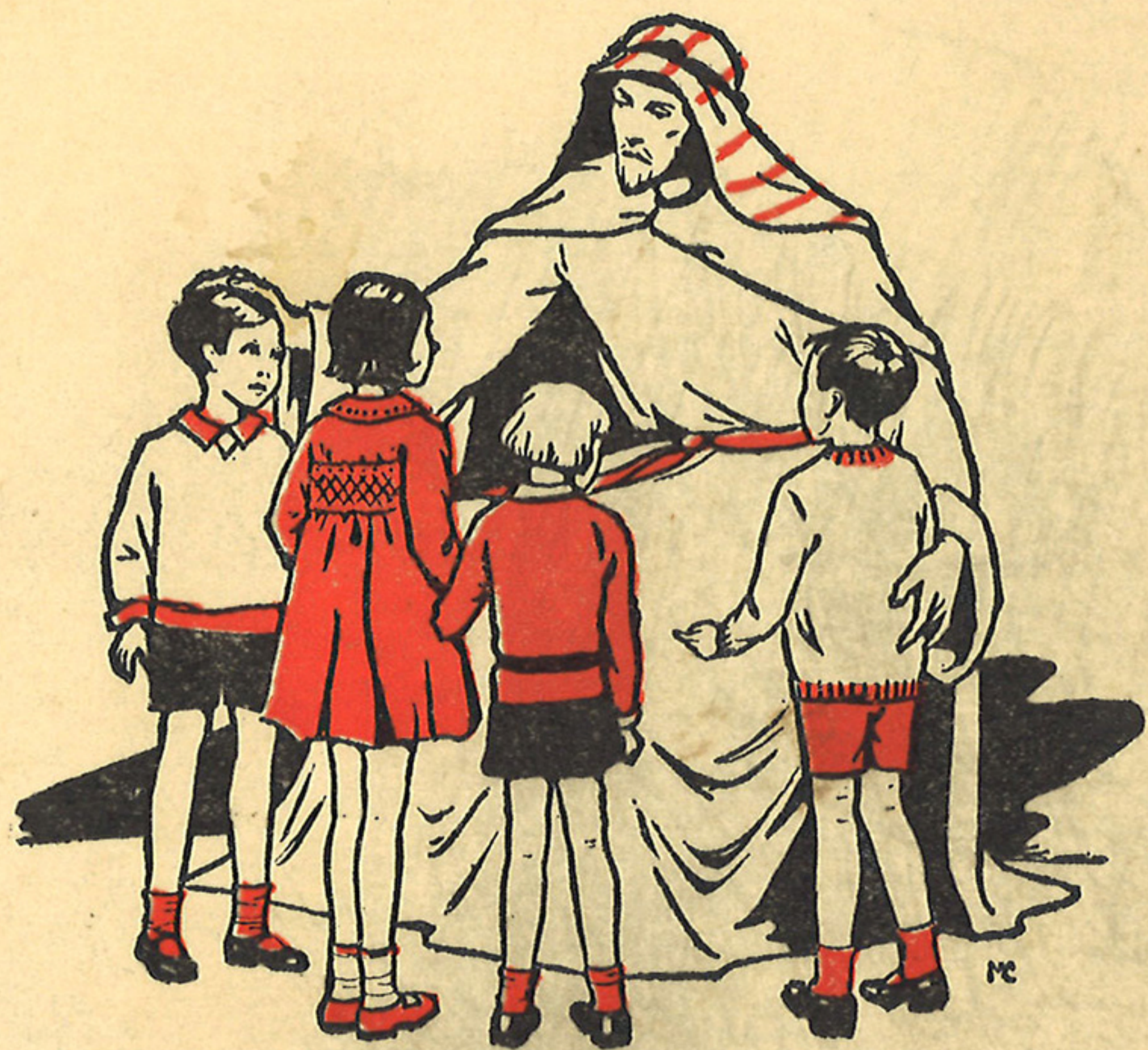


A CHILD'S GUIDE
TO
MORNING PRAYER



ILLUSTRATED *by* MARGARET CHESTER

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LONDON
NATIONAL SOCIETY
S · P · C · K
1954

Jesus said:

“Suffer little children to come
unto Me, for of such is the
Kingdom of Heaven.”



The Church Building is
God's House.

P RAYER IS TALKING
WITH GOD.

Jesus prayed. He called
children to Him.

He talks to God with them and for them.
When we pray we say, therefore,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we go to God's House we take
with us

A BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

“Common” means “for all.”

The Book of Common Prayer helps all
God's children to know what to say and
do when they come together in God's
House, the Church.



The first Service in the Book of Common Prayer is

MORNING PRAYER.

It is easier to follow the Service when we get to Church if we find and mark some of the places beforehand.

The places to find are—

1. The **Psalm** for the day.
2. The **Collect** for the day.

If we take a Bible too—

3. The **First Lesson** (generally in the Old Testament).
4. The **Second Lesson** (always in the New Testament).

There are directions in small print called **Rubrics**, which are like signposts to help us to find the place and to know whether to—

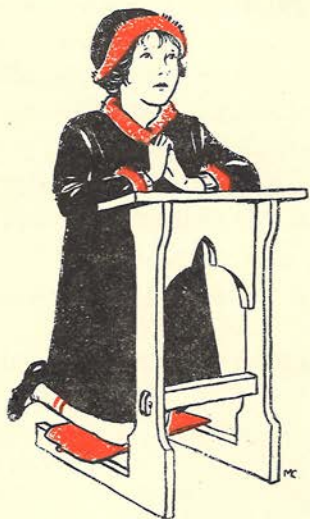
STAND —to PRAISE GOD.

KNEEL—to be SORRY or to ASK for what we need.

SIT —to LEARN about God in Lessons and Sermon.

Prayer on coming into Church.

(Kneel.)



Heavenly Father : I have come here with others of Thy children to speak to Thee and to hear Thee speaking to us. Send Thy Holy Spirit and help me to keep my body quiet and my thoughts from wandering, so that with all my heart I may worship Thee : for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord.



THE EXHORTATION

The clergyman is like a shepherd or pastor. He reminds us of the Good Shepherd. He looks after the people who are his flock. He is a big elder child of God, so he calls us

Dearly beloved Brethren
(that is, brothers and sisters).

He tells us we have come to God's
House to—

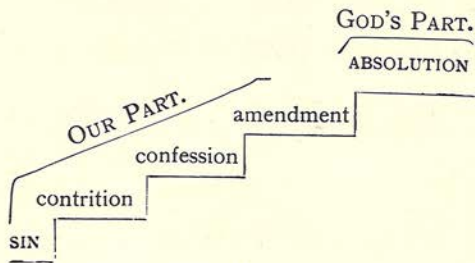
1. **CONFESS** —tell God we are sorry for sin.
2. **THANK GOD**—for all His gifts.
3. **PRAISE GOD**—because He is so wonderful.
4. **ASK GOD** —for the needs of others and for our own.
5. **HEAR GOD'S HOLY WORD.**

Our Lord told the Parable of the Prodigal Son to teach us that—

1. We must repent or be sorry for sin— **CONTRITION.**
2. Confess or tell out our sin— **CONFESSION.**
3. Try to do better — **AMENDMENT.**

Then God our Heavenly Father can forgive us— **ABSOLUTION.**

STEPS TO FORGIVENESS.



THE CONFESSION.

We kneel and say we are sorry. Be ready to tell the Heavenly Father anything you have done wrong.



Almighty and most merciful **Father**: We have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. . . . Spare Thou them that confess their faults. . . . That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of Thy Holy Name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION.

The clergyman stands and tells us that God understands and forgives.

God pardons all them that truly repent, and believe His Holy Word or Gospel.

The **Disciples** said:

“Lord, teach us to pray.”



Jesus said :

“When ye pray, say Our Father.”

THE LORD'S OWN PRAYER.

First—for God's Glory.

Our Father which art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come (on earth, as it is in
Heaven).
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in
Heaven.

Second—for our needs.

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.

Doxology—God's Glory.

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

PRAISE.

Get ready for praise, still kneeling. The clergyman will say :

O Lord, open Thou our lips.

Answer :

And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Stand for the great word of Praise.

Priest :

Glory be to the **Father,**
And to the **Son,**
And to the **Holy Ghost;**

Answer :

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

Priest :

Praise ye the Lord.

Answer :

The Lord's Name be praised.

Now we come to a very old part of the service, the Praises that Jesus Christ sang when He was a boy.

THE VENITE.

Our praises have Latin names because people sang them in Latin long before there was an English language.



The Venite is an invitation to praise God.

“O come let us sing unto the Lord.”

Try to see how many things you can find that we praise Him for.

He is so Great.

He has made the world.

He takes care of us.

How glad we are to have a God like Him.

Then we must not be like the Israelites, who knew this and did not do what He told them.

THE PSALMS.

Turn to the place in your Prayer Book

Be sure to join in “Glory be to the Father” at the end of each Psalm. Its Latin name is the Gloria Patri



THE FIRST LESSON.

Sit to hear God's Holy Word.

"From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ."

That was what St. Paul said to Timothy, and that was why Timothy was such a useful missionary.



Now you are going to listen to the **Holy Scriptures**—that is, "writings"—as he did.

This is taken from the Old Testament, which our Lord learnt to read when He was a boy. Some parts are stories which you know, others are difficult for a child to understand. Listen first—then if you do not understand, think about one story our Lord learnt, such as the story of



David.

Moses.

Elijah.





TE DEUM.

Stand to praise God.

We praise Thee, O God.

First we say how many people are praising with us. Try to remember some names as you come to them.

Everything in earth praises God.

Everybody in Heaven, Angels, Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs, praise God.

Some of them were killed for Him. Now they see Him, they say it was well worth while.

And we praise Him on earth.

Whom do we all praise?

The Father of an infinite Majesty.

The Son.

The Holy Ghost.

Next we praise Jesus Christ because He came down to earth and died so that we might go to Heaven, where He is.



Last of all we ask Him to help us to be good, so that we may praise Him on earth now, and presently with the other saints in Heaven.

THE SECOND LESSON

Sit to hear God's Holy Word.

This is taken from the New Testament.

It may be something about what Jesus Christ said or did or taught. It is the most wonderful story in the world.

**He came down to earth
from Heaven.**



He died  **that we might
be forgiven.**



He is risen!
He is risen!

Or it may be something about what one of His friends did or said when they went to tell people about Him. Some of the things they said are hard to understand even for grown-up people. So if you cannot understand, try to think of a story about Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTUS.

(We stand to sing the hymn that Zacharias sang when the baby John the Baptist was born as the Angel had promised.)

Hundreds of years ago God had promised a Saviour of the house of His servant David. Now Zacharias praises

Him because the promise is coming true.



Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for He hath visited and redeemed His people ;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of His servant David.

That meant Zacharias knew Jesus Christ was going to be born. Then he points to the baby John and says :



And thou, child, shall be called the Prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways.

That was what John did when he was grown up. He prepared the way for Jesus Christ. When we sing this we remember that God always keeps his promise.



THE APOSTLES' CREED.

Stand like soldiers giving a promise of obedience to their King or General.

I believe in **GOD the FATHER** Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth :



And in **JESUS CHRIST, His only Son,** our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell ; The third day He rose again from the dead,

He ascended into Heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty ; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the **HOLY GHOST ;** The Holy Catholic Church ; The Communion of Saints ; The Forgiveness of sins ; The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

THE ASKING PRAYERS.

Kneel to ask.

Remember the story of Blind Bartimæus. He said, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me"—that is, show Thy loving kindness to me. Then he asked for what he wanted.

So we say :

Lord, have mercy upon us to our Father.
Christ, have mercy upon us to Jesus Christ.
Lord, have mercy upon us to the Holy Spirit.

Now we all say together

OUR FATHER

Now the clergyman says a "versicle," (*V.*), and we say a "response," (*R.*), asking for what we want together.

V. O Lord, show Thy mercy upon us.
R. And grant us Thy salvation.
V. O Lord, save the King.
R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon Thee.
V. Endue Thy Ministers with righteousness.
R. And make Thy chosen people joyful.
V. O Lord, save Thy people,
R. And bless Thine inheritance.
V. Give peace in our time, O Lord.
R. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only Thou, O God.
V. O God, make clean our hearts within us.
R. And take not Thy Holy Spirit from us.

Now the clergyman says prayers called COLLECTS by himself, and we say **AMEN** to show we agree.

A Collect has three parts :

1. Naming God, to whom we pray.
2. The asking prayer.
3. Naming Jesus Christ, through whom we pray.

THE FIRST COLLECT.

This is called the collect for the day. There is a different one every Sunday.

THE SECOND COLLECT.

1. We name God who loves peace.
2. We ask Him to give us peace.
3. Through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
1. O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom ;
2. Defend us Thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies ; that we, surely trusting in Thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries,
3. Through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE THIRD COLLECT.

(For grace.)

1. We name our Heavenly Father.
2. We ask for grace to be good today.
3. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. O LORD, our Heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day ;

2. Defend us in the same with Thy mighty power ; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger ; but that all our doings may be ordered by Thy governance, to do always what is righteous in Thy sight ;

3. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

After this we stand for a HYMN.

After this we have more asking prayers.

Sometimes we have more Collects.

Sometimes we have a long prayer called the
LITANY.

OTHER ASKING PRAYERS

We always pray for

THE QUEEN

The Royal Family.

The Clergy.

The People (that is, ourselves
and others).

Some of the people we pray for
sometimes :

Sick people.

Missionaries.

Teachers.

Day and Sunday school children.



Before you go out of Church say :

Thou, my Jesus, art my King,
Loyalty to Thee I bring;
Love for Thee my heart shall nerve
Valiantly to wait or serve.

Kneeling humbly at Thy throne,
In Thy hands I put my own :
Homage do I swear to Thee
Long as all my years may be.

*(From "The Children's Bread": W. Roche,
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