

PRAYERS FROM FATHER ANDREW

Edited by Kathleen E. Burne



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PREFACE

THE prayers and poems in this little book are taken from the late Father Andrew's already published works. It was at Messrs. Mowbrays' request that I undertook to make this compilation. Thanks are due to the Mothers' Union for permission to include the three prayers here printed as 'For Faith in Bereavement,' also for that headed 'The Christ of Uncertain Days.' These first appeared in a pamphlet written for them by Father Andrew called 'The Hallowing of Sorrow.'

K. E. B.

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PRAYERS FROM FATHER ANDREW

A PRAYER OF QUIET

LORD, let me come apart
And be with Thee,
But not forget the quivering heart
Of all humanity.

Let me lift up my eyes
To where there breaks
A golden light in the leaden skies
For all our sakes.

Let me look up to Heaven
From Calvary,
Kneeling there with the much for-
given
And close to Thee.

In Thy one pierced Heart
All sorrows are,
And prayer away with Thee apart
Reaches so far.

A GENERAL INTERCESSION

ALMIGHTY Father, in love of Thy love, I bring to Thy love all who are sinning against Thee, that they may be lifted into light and delivered; all such as are tempted that they may be strengthened; all such as are suffering that they may be comforted; all who are working that they may be blessed; all who are disappointed and out of work that they may find and follow their vocation; all missionaries everywhere that they may be satisfied in the salvation of souls; all such as are dying that they may pass to Thee in peace; and all who have passed out of this world that they may know the light of Thy presence and the rest of Thy perfect service; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A PARTICULAR INTERCESSION

ALMIGHTY Father, all-loving, all-understanding, I come to Thee in prayer for . . . I believe, and I want to believe with my whole heart, that all *his* troubles and needs are known to Thee, that Thou art present to *him* now. All my confidence is in Thy power to help and heal. I am so ignorant, so weak and fearful in myself, but there is light for my darkness, strength for my weakness, peace for my fearfulness in Jesus my Saviour. Jesus shows me how the light of faith and love and beauty can shine in darkness; how the strength of faith and love can meet pain and weakness; how in spiritual darkness and utter loneliness love can still abide in loyalty.

I want to be present to my dear . . . as a strength and comfort. I offer to Thee all my love, all the strength I have in any way and in every way, and all my confidence in Thee. In union with the offering of Jesus I humbly offer my own poor human nature. Take it, Father, and make it a blessing to my

dear . . . Here am I, use me; use the will of my soul, the love of my heart, the confidence of my faith for *him* whom I commend to Thee in faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

FOR THE WORLD

WE thank Thee, O Father, that we can turn from ourselves to Thee, and that Thou abidest ever steadfast in that love which has been revealed to us in the tender mysteries of the life and death of Thy dear Son. To Thy pity and power and patient wisdom we commend our world which Thou hast so loved, beseeching Thee that we may learn obedience through the things that we suffer, and attain to that peace which is according to Thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

FOR THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH

O MOST loving Lord and Father of us all, save me from all selfishness in prayer. Save me from thinking that that can be prayer which comes from a selfish soul, when I come to the pleading of the everlasting Sacrifice for all souls for whom our Saviour died.

And now, O Lord, while I thank Thee for all Thy wonderful love to us, I pray for the peace of the world, that as there ever abideth the unity of the Spirit, so there may come to men by Thy converting grace that righteousness of life that shall be the bond of peace.

I pray for Thy Holy Catholic Church. I pray for the unity of Thy Church, and that, as our divisions are in ourselves and our unity is in Thee, all Thy whole Church may through Thy overshadowing and indwelling know the furtherance and fulfilment of that unity in fullness which it already knows in part.

FOR UNITY

AH, Lord, bind up what is broken,
unite what sin has divided.

Let there be peace between soul and body, as Thy body was the perfect instrument of Thy soul, and Thy soul wholly one with Thy Father's will in that perfect unity which Thy Resurrection revealed. So may our bodies be the friends and servants of our souls, and not their enemies, and may our souls be the servants of Thy Father's will.

May Thy whole Church know Thy peace, outwardly and inwardly. May Thy peace bring Thy children to be of one mind in Thy house. May Thy peace descend upon each separate soul that Thou hast made. Lord, give us Thy peace.

FOR FAITH

'LORD, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief,' but let no part of it stay in me. If my life brings me darkness, help me to meet it with faith; if pain, with courage; if bereavement, with hope; if joy, with gratitude; all things with love and patience. So let my life indeed be the expression of my faith.

FOR THE NATION'S FIDELITY TO
VOCATION

EVERLASTING Father, before Whose gaze the scroll of future ages lies, since it is the destiny of our land to uphold the freedom which we believe to be according to Thy will, we pray that when this page of history is written, it may be able to tell of duty done and victory deserved. Grant that, without any thought of private gain, our nation may rise to the call of self-sacrifice, that, freed from tyranny, every soul may have liberty of conscience and the right of free development of character in the following of the perfect manhood of Christ our Lord.

FOR GUIDANCE

O HOLY Spirit, guide us in all things, for where Thou art Guide no ill can come. Let us not be led by selfishness or fear but by Thy power and love, that we may abound in hope; through our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom and the Father Thou livest and reignest one God, world without end.

FOR ALL IN AUTHORITY

GRANT, O Lord, to all who bear rule at this time courage, wisdom, and humility, that they may do Thy will in the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR CONFIDENCE

O GOD, Almighty Father, our shield and sure defence, our hope and our stronghold, keep us safely in the sheltering comfort of Thy love. We know that Thine everlasting arms are underneath us, and that, even as Jesus Christ our Saviour trusted His spirit to Thee in His deepest need, so we can trust our spirits to Thee now. We are in Thy hands, and our souls are safe with Thee. They who trust in Thee need not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of any evil by day, for Thou wilt give Thine angels charge to keep us in all our ways. Give us grace to stay our minds on Thee, and keep us in Thy perfect peace, for Jesus' sake.

THE CHRIST OF UNCERTAIN DAYS

LORD, we are living in uncertain days,
And who can tell what any hour will
bring?

The peradventure of our wandering ways
Is known to Thee, and Thou art still
the King

Omnipotent, Who reigneth over all.
Grant us in quietness to hear Thy call.

For Thou art surely calling, calling still
To 'come up higher' in the quest of
Love,

To drink the Father's cup and do His will
And in our life's adventure here to
prove

That we can seek—not peace at any
price—

But at all costs to make Love's sacrifice.

And Thou, Who callest, hast Thyself
alone

Trodden the wine-press of Thy
Calvary.

The sin of man has given Thee a stone,
Thou gavest back the Bread of
Charity;

And in the power of that Bread may we
Win, in the day of hate, Love's victory!

FOR PEACE

VISIT, O Lord, Thy world with the benediction of Thy peace. Grant relief to the suffering, comfort to the sorrowing, peace to the dying. May the ministry of Thy holy angels soothe and comfort our hearts, and may Thy blessing be always upon us; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

FOR THE FORCES

ALMIGHTY God, we commend to Thee our protecting armies, who on land and sea, and beneath the sea and in the air, are ready to give their lives to be our shield of defence. Accept their sacrifice, that the dread work they are called to do may have a right issue in liberating the world from the tyranny of force, and enabling the advent of a freedom of righteousness and peace; through Him Who died to witness to Thy truth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

FOR BEREAVED MOTHERS

O LORD Jesus Christ, Whom Thy Father spared not that Thy Cross might be the supreme revelation of divine love, Whose blessed Mother was allowed to stand beside Thy Cross and share Thy Passion: Give to all mothers, stricken by the death of their dear ones, such trust in Thee that even in the hour of darkness their souls may magnify Thy Name: Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost for ever.

FOR DOCTORS AND NURSES

ALMIGHTY Father, Creator of all life, Who gave Thy Son to be the Redeemer of the world, Who Himself bade us fulfil Thy law of love in bearing one another's burdens and came that we might have life more abundantly: Give to all doctors and nurses courage, skill, and patience, that with sure hand and tender touch they may become ministers of Thy healing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Restorer and Healer of all things, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

'WHY?'

'My God, My Father, why?'
That was Thy piteous cry,
Sweet Lord, on Calvary.

In all perplexity,
Echoing agelessly,
Cometh that cry to me;

When I must stand and see
Some one apparently
Suffering uselessly;

Or, worse than any pain,
Look on a life insane
Where death would seem a gain;

'Tis then Thy questioning cry,
'My God, My Father, why?'
Comforteth me greatly.

If Thou couldst question so,
I can through darkness go,
Contented not to know.

Yea, I can also see
How life's dark night may be
Love's opportunity.

FOR SUFFERERS

I

O LORD and Lover of the souls of men,
Who by the advent of Thy beloved Son
hast entered into the lives of Thy
children, and by His Cross and Passion
hast shared and sanctified their pain,
may our sufferings in this life be in
Thy sight a share in the sacred travail
of our Redeemer, through Whose
sacrifice we pray that we may be recon-
ciled to Thee; Who with the same Thy
Son and the Holy Spirit livest and
reignest in the eternal Godhead for
ever.

II

WE come to Thee, most gracious
Father, Who once didst see Thine own
Son dying for our sins upon the Cross,
and we plead His sacrifice for all those
who are suffering now. Assuage their
pain of body, mind, or soul. May Thy
comfort reach with healing blessing
the wounded, the sick, the dying, the
bereaved, the anxious, and grant to all
the assurance of the hope given to us
in the Cross and Resurrection of Thy
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

VIGIL

LORD, I am tired. I can bring to Thee
 Only a heavy weight of tiredness.
 I kneel, but all my mind's a vacancy
 And conscious only of its weariness—
 Can it be prayer, this dragging
 dreariness?

'The effectual fervent prayer avails,'
 Wrote downright James; and here
 inert kneel I;
 I would feel fervent but the effort fails;
 Like some starved mendicant, too
 weak to cry
 His need, I wait—perchance Thou
 wilt pass by.

FOR THE DYING

FATHER of us all, into Whose hands
 Christ our Brother commended His
 spirit as He died for us upon the Cross;
 into Thy hands we commend those who
 are dying now, and as they come to
 Thee through great tribulation, grant
 that their souls may be cleansed from
 every stain, by His sacrifice of perfect
 love, Who now liveth and reigneth with
 Thee and the Holy Ghost, Thy Son,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ.

OF THANKSGIVING FOR A QUIET NIGHT

HEAVENLY Father, in Whose hands are
 we and all the world, we thank Thee
 for the tranquillity of the night that has
 passed. We thank Thee for the silent
 beauty of the night, and the quiet hours
 that have passed without peril. We
 thank Thee for our peace; and we pray
 that by the right use of it we may gain
 power the better to do Thy will;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AN ECHO OF S. AUGUSTINE

LORD, I was made for Thee,
 So let me rest
 Not otherwise than on Thy breast.
 Let the pure thought of Thee
 Quiet my mind,
 In Thy dear Heart my heart
 Its haven find.
 Yea, let myself, this little soul,
 Come to so great a goal.
 For though of clay Thou madest me,
 My clay was touched with Thine
 eternity,
 And I am 'restless till I rest in Thee.'

ACTS OF ADORATION

I

O my divine Lord, I adore Thee, Who for my sake took to Thyself a human nature, soul and will, mind and body, that could be tempted in all points as I can be tempted. I adore Thee, tempted and true. I adore Thee, Whose perfect loyalty was proved as every temptation to disloyalty failed to taint Thy human nature, to soil Thy soul or shake Thy will. I adore the shining light of Thy beauty in the midst of the darkness of Thy temptation. I seem to see Thy brightness more plainly because of the darkness that surrounds Thee. I adore Thee, sweet Jesu, so tempted and so true.

II

O Lord Jesu Christ, I worship Thee in Thy radiant health and strength. I worship Thee with Thy bare feet upon the cool grass, with the wind upon Thy forehead. I worship Thee rejoicing in the lilies and the light upon the lake. I worship Thee, the chosen guest at Cana. I worship Thee in the happy

comradeship of Thy friends. I worship Thee loved and loving in all the strength and splendour of Thy manhood. I worship Thee in Thy long walks and Thy great endurances. I worship Thee, Thou strong Son of Mary.

FOR COMMUNION IN HAPPINESS

O my Lord, we know what it is to be happy, You and I. We know what it is to feel strong and well, to love much and to be much loved. I bring my health and strength and happiness to You. Help me to keep it all united with Your glorious manhood. You have shared the strength and desires of manhood with us all, and taken every organ of a man's body untainted to the Father; keep me without scruple and without presumption strong and pure and true. Lord God, I humbly ask that in my joy I may have communion with Thee.

FOR THE GRACE OF GRATITUDE

LORD, add to all Thy gifts the grace of gratitude, that indeed with joy and

gladness I may go unto Thine altar, for I shall praise Thee best if I have confidence in Thy love. Lord, Thou art my heart's rest, my soul's peace, my life's hope.

ON RETURNING FROM ABROAD

O LORD God, I come back to the familiar place, to the altar before which I have knelt so often.

I have been in other places, in other atmospheres, amongst other people, some of whom perhaps, if they thought of me at all, thought of me as being outside Thy Church, men whose worship I shared, whose communion I was not allowed to share.

Great Lord, I thank Thee that Thou art greater than we; that our separations are in ourselves, that our unity is in Thee.

I know that Thou art the same everywhere, that I have never for one instant been away from Thee or apart from Thee, or misunderstood by Thee.

Now, Lord, give me grace to take up my work again in simplicity and faith and love.

ON RETURNING TO WORK

LORD Jesus, let my faith in Thee be my power, let Thy love of me be my peace, and so may I take up my tasks in joy as being my service of Thee. May I take all pains and difficulties as being my share in Thy Passion, and may I be able to see and put far from me whatever in my life may hinder me from union with Thy perfect love, Who abidest ever in the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God through all eternity.

CHRIST THE KING

O CHRIST our King,
Teach us Thine own true thought of
royalty—
The robe of sacrifice, the crown of
thorn—
Lest we should yield our lives' last
loyalty
To any lesser thing, lest there be born
In us perchance unworthy hungering
For something less than simple faithful-
ness

To Thee, our King.

A PRAYER AFTER FAILURE

LORD, I am out of heart with myself. I have fallen to a sordid level of selfishness. I should have made a sacrifice of my own pleasure, and I did not make it.

I have been an unjust steward. I knew quite well that I owed Thee an hundred talents, and I took my bill and erased the whole amount. I did not even make it fifty. I know my own unfaithfulness must affect the faithfulness of others and make them less faithful.

Lord, I am very sorry. Thou, Who knowest all things, knowest that I love Thee. Help me really to repent, and save me from being interested in my own penitence. Keep my thoughts on Thee, and let me hold Thy hand and get up again and go on. Lord, forgive me.

PENITENCE

MY Lord, my Lord, I find myself at Thy feet. Miserably have I fallen. Behold me, a poor, palsied penitent, and in Thy pitying love say to me again, 'Son, thy sins are forgiven thee.'

I was not borne of four and brought to Thee. I fell and found myself at Thy feet.

I climbed to the very roof of my desire, seeking a selfish heaven; it broke under me, and I fell into the darkness of myself. But lo, in the centre of my soul I find Thee, O merciful Saviour. My palsied soul lies at Thy feet.

Sweet Lord, pity me, pardon me, bid me rise and go into my true house, Thy Sacred Heart.

When shall I forsake my foolish climbing of these poor pinnacles of Satan's suggestion? When shall I climb only with Thee the everlasting hills?

I wait for Thy loving-kindness in the midst of Thy temple. Pardon my palsied soul, and purge it with Thy precious Blood. Take Thy divine revenge and hurt me with Thy pity. Ah, bid me rise and follow Thee.

THE PRAYER OF SILENCE

I COME to Thee, great King, a humble
suppliant,
And bow me low beneath Thy mercy
seat,
And ask Thee for the grace of perfect
silence;
For me of all men, this the prayer
most meet.

So would I worship Thee in utter
reverence,
Nor say one word, nor lift my eyes to
Thee,
But wrap me in the mantle of my
silence,
And lie quite still before Thy
majesty.

Thus would I listen, Lord, in true
obedience,
And wait Thy word, nor make one
low reply;
Think not a thought, and harbour no
desire;
Content to live, to suffer, or to die.

Eye hath not seen, nor heart of man
conceived,
The things Thou hast prepared in
worlds above;
And words all fail; so, Lord, I ask for
silence—
The trustful silence of a perfect love.

Silence of reverence and true obedience;
Thy creature's will reposing in Thy
will;
Love sitting at the feet of her Creator,
Because she knows Thee—learning
to be still.

FOR GRACE TO RESIST IMPATIENCE

LORD, by Thy divine silence, by Thy wondrous patience, by Thine adorable humility, keep me quiet and still, and possess me with Thy peace.

It is a day when the evil impatience in me asks for a victim. Any poor man or woman might be the symbolic image against which the evil spirit that seeks to possess me would cast its javelin. Keep Thy hand upon me in restraint throughout this day, and I will try to do better and to remember Thy blessed presence within my soul and by my side and in those souls that will come to me to-day.

Lord, I worship Thee, blindfolded and beaten, weary and borne down by sorrow and pain. Forgive, and, by Thy Cross and Passion, strengthen and bless me.

IN TEMPTATION

MY Lord, I know not how Thy pure mind and sinless nature could be tempted 'in all points' as I am tempted, but I believe that my temptation is

understood by Thee with a perfect sympathy 'in all points.' I can understand a little, because my temptation is so real to me, what an agony of temptation was Thine. Let my temptation be a communion with Thy patience in temptation, not a communion with sin. Let it be a communion with Thy victory over temptation, not a yielding to defeat. Oh, my Master, by Thy fasting and temptation, help Thy tempted child.

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

LORD of all beauty, I come to Thee that I may be taught what is the true beauty. I of myself go astray. I like what I should not like if I knew better and saw truly, and I think wrong thoughts even of Thee. Only by Thy Holy Spirit can I desire as I should desire, or see Thy Son even when He is set before me in His Sacrament. O Holy Spirit, come to me! 'Where Thou art Guide no ill can come.'

IN SPIRITUAL DISTRESS

I

My Lord, my Lord, 'trouble and heaviness have taken hold upon me.' My throat is dry, my hands tremble, I have lost my poise. Yet Thou knowest, as Thou knewest that Peter loved Thee, that 'my delight is in Thy commandments.'

Ah, Lord, my prayer this morning is for this, to get peace with Thee. Not yet have I received Thee in Thy sweet Sacrament. Let me not come to Thee thinking of myself. Let me offer Thy Sacrifice with wholly self-forgetting, reverent awe. Let me offer my own with simplicity and silence of spirit.

O Thou Good Shepherd, Jesus my Lord, lay Thy dear hands upon me and bless me.

II

My Lord, I come to Thee to hear Thee say, 'Peace be unto thee.' Thou knowest the conflict within me. My imagination creates a tempest, and my will fails to weather the storm. Sweet Lord, say to my imagination, 'Peace, be

still.' Teach my mind to stay upon Thee.

Teach me to consecrate the forces and faculties of my nature, and then indeed I shall control them. I long to give myself wholly to Thee. Let no part of me escape from, or fall out of, the bundle of my gift as I bring it to Thee.

Sweet Lord, if through the circumstances of the day I cannot be in peace, let Thy peace be in me, and O save me from the selfish desire to escape from any sacrifice that may witness to Thee and give Thee praise. Give me Thine hand to kiss and bless me.

IN MEDIO UMBRAE MORTIS

CHRIST of the darkness,
Supplicatingly
One in the darkness
Makes his plaint to Thee.
Deep calls to deep,
And dark to dark,
Where women weep,
And lone and stark
Thy Cross bears Thee

In the grim night
Of Calvary:
Thy dark my light,
My soul seeks Thee.

Christ of the darkness,
All deliberately,
To deeper darkness
From Gethsemane
Thy steadfast feet went on
To Calvary:
Tryst place for Thee
That darkness drear.
Believingly
Would I seek there
Abandonment of self to God
In darkness here.

Thou couldst not save Thyself,
So save not me
From any darkness
That may lead to Thee.
With Thee, alone, apart,
By love enwound,
And heart held close to heart,
And wound to wound,
When all things shall have passed
Wholly from me,
I shall have all at last
Thus held by Thee.

SELF-SURRENDER

O LORD God, my Father, give me the
grace to surrender myself, more wholly
than I have done it yet, to Thy will, the
purposes of Thy kingdom, the revealing
of pure love.

I want power to *keep* my temper, my
patience, my courage, my faith, my
forbearance, my love.

I want power to *give* my worship, my
service, my sacrifice, the oblation of
myself.

I have learnt that power can only be
purchased by self-surrender, but I have
always kept back part of the price.

Father, help me, Thine unworthy
child, to abandon myself utterly to the
leading of Thy will. Let there not be in
the adventure of the future the smallest
interest in my own interests as they
affect me, but only as they give Thee
some witness of my faith and obedience
and to others a true service of love.

Father, I say so often, 'Thy will be
done.' Help me with perfect simplicity,
when I say it, really to mean it. I
would say it now, and I would try most
earnestly and sincerely to mean it. 'Thy

will be done' in my will, in my life, in my love, in my mind and imagination, in all my contacts, natural and spiritual, in all that makes up my life in things exterior and interior.

Father, Thy will be done. I ask it in His Name Who first taught us to pray it and Who Himself prayed that prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who died in the doing of Thy will, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God for ever.

TO 'THE FATHER OF LIGHTS'

(*S. James i. 17*)

FATHER, Thou didst say, 'Light shall shine out of darkness.' It is a grey day. The sky is overcast. A difficult week lies before me, and my mind holds many perplexities.

But Thou didst say, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' and Thou Thyself hast made Thy light to shine in our hearts. Grant me in Thy light to see light.

Father, I pray for that spiritual light which is the inner vision of the blessed face of Christ. One of old time heard Thy voice say, 'Seek ye My face,' and made answer, 'Thy face, Lord, will I seek.' I would hear that same voice of Thine giving me the same vocation. I would give the same response. I desire to make all my life a quest to find Thy face.

Father, no human eyes have seen Thee at any time, but Thy blessed Son hath revealed Thee, and in the mirror of the light that shines from Him we

see Thy glory. Father, I am seeking.
Help me to find.

Thou, Who didst cause the light to
shine out of darkness, give me the light
of the knowledge of Thy glory in the
face of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who
liveth and reigneth with Thee and the
Holy Ghost for ever.

LOVE EXPECTANT

I WAIT Thy coming as the parchéd field
Waits for the rain;
Lord, drench me with Thy love, and I
shall yield
Harvest again.

I wait Thy coming as a garden might
Wait for the dawn;
Lord, flood me with Thy perfect healing
light
This very morn.

I wait Thy coming as some happy bride
Waits for her groom;
Lord, in Thy heart my yielding soul I
hide
In this still room.

BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

I

LORD God, all sorts of things are going
to happen to me to-day, but the first
thing is my communion with Thee.

Help me to put everything from me
now but just this one thought, I am
going to receive Thee into my being in
closest communion. I am going to be
taken by Thee into Thyself in closest
communion.

Lord, grant that the great Sacrament
may never, for me, drop from an
experience into a rite.

II

I KNOW that whatever happens to me
through the day, nothing can happen
to me greater than this, my communion
with Thee.

Help me indeed to seek first Thy
kingdom in my soul, Thy righteousness
in my life, knowing well that if I find
Thee and am found of Thee, all those
other things that are wanting will not
only be added unto me but unto Thy
dominion and rule in me.

III

SWEET Lord and Master, keep me constant to this thought, that nothing in the day can be compared in importance with my communion with Thee at the beginning of the day.

Let every act of mine, whatever it is, be an act of faith, faith built upon that love betwixt Thee and me which on each day begins in such dear intimacy.

So shall my soul abide in peace, since in the greatest act of the day I have been at peace; and yet save me from seeking for peace, help me only to seek Thee, Who livest and reignest for ever one eternal God, the Blessed Trinity.

IV

AH, Lord, Father most pitiful, we thank Thee that this is Thy character, always to have mercy. We are not worthy to come to Thy table, we are not worthy to gather any crumb of this most holy Banquet of the Body and Blood of Thy dear Son. Yet we have confidence in Thy mercy.

As the lepers and sinful men and women came to Him of old, and were cleansed and helped and healed, so

come we, with such trust in Thy mercy, bringing to Thy infinite pity all our needs of body and soul.

HYMN AT MASS

JESU, Jesu, Jesu,
All my being flows to Thee;
As the white moon draws the sea
So my life's tide yields to Thee
In this mighty Mystery.
Jesu, Jesu, Jesu.

Jesu, Jesu, Jesu,
I for cleansing come to Thee;
As flows in the invading sea,
Come to me and cover me,
Flood me with Thy purity.
Jesu, Jesu, Jesu.

Jesu, Jesu, Jesu,
Bear me forth upon the sea
Of Thy love's desire for me;
Draw me out from self to Thee,
To my soul's true destiny.
Jesu, Jesu, Jesu.

DEPENDENCE

I ONLY know, my Lord, how much I
 need Thee,
 That without Thee all hope in life were
 gone.
 Like a sick babe I cry to Thee to feed
 me,
 And Thou dost pity me, Thou gentle
 One.
 Out of the deep I cry in my distress,
 And Thou dost stoop to me in tender-
 ness.

AT COMMUNION

I

O LORD, my God and Father, I desire
 to give myself to Thee wholly. As long
 as one particle of my being stays with
 me apart from the offering I wish to
 offer to Thee, I have the principle of
 death in me. With my whole soul I
 long to be a branch of the True Vine,
 that my little cluster of fruit may be
 taken, consecrated, and offered. Let me
 not be a branch cut off, living in the
 poor power of its own separate life.

Let me be taken into the life and the
 sacrifice of my Lord. I would give
 myself to Him in the power of the Holy
 Spirit that He may offer me to Thee, O
 Father, to Whom I long to be given
 wholly and completely; through Jesus
 Christ my Lord, Who liveth and reign-
 eth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one
 God, world without end.

II

MY God, keep me and all Thy people
 and all the world through this day,
 another day, to many the only other day
 of their life here on earth, to all of us
 a day of opportunity.

As we begin the day with our share
 in the pleading of our Lord's Sacrifice,
 so may each event in it be met sacrifi-
 cially, that we be not overcome by it
 but make it an occasion of faith and
 witness. As we begin the day with this
 highest of all prayers, so may it be
 continued and ended in prayer. May
 nothing cloud our companionship with
 our Lord, or shame the confidence He
 has in us, Who is ready to give us His
 blessing and the blessing of Himself.

III

'COME unto Me,' Thou sayest in Thy love. Lord, I come, and I would bring to Thee myself and ask Thee to indwell my very soul, that what my soul is to my body Thy Presence may be to my soul.

I bring to Thee my mind. Enlighten it, that my thoughts may dwell on Thee and Thy truth and be pure in their prompting of my actions.

I bring to Thee my affections. Let my love be a white flame of holy desire, fed by Thine own love for Thy Father and for men.

Lord, I want to come to Thee, wholly, utterly, and for ever. Lord, I come. I am not worthy—I am not worthy—I am not worthy. Yet Thy love calls me: my love can but answer Thy love. Come unto me, and give me Thyself, for Thou only art my rest. Lord, I come to give myself to Thyself, to take Thyself into myself. Lord, I come.

IV

I THANK Thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that to our darkness Thou

hast given light, to our weakness strength, to our loneliness Thy peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. To that light, that power, that peace, I would come humbly and trustfully with Thy Holy Church, praying and being prayed for, worshipping and knowing my worship caught up into the stream of Thy Holy Catholic Church here and in heaven, in the worship and offering of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Sacrifice, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost for ever.

AFTER COMMUNION

I

LORD, I thank Thee for Thy communion with me. Teach me to think more of Thy coming to me than of my coming to Thee. It is not only my communion, it is Thine: my communion with Thee, the Holy One; Thy communion with me, Thy sinful child.

II

'THOU in me' and 'I in Thee.' Give me grace, Lord, never to doubt that Thou art really living in me, Thy presence in

my soul. Even as my soul is the presence within my body that makes my body a living body, so Thy presence within my soul makes my soul a living soul. Even as the passing of my soul leaves my body a dead thing, so the passing of Thy presence from my soul must leave my soul bereft of all true life. Lord, save me from this 'second death.' Teach me the secret of abiding in Thee, for indeed I know well that without Thee I can do nothing.

III

Do Thou abide in me always, most dear Lord, shabby though this chamber of my soul may be. Teach me to furnish this room of Thine with such taste as may make it acceptable to Thee. Help me to clear out all that offends Thee. Save me from my own vulgarities and teach me Thine own pure and perfect taste, that this room of my heart may be indeed a pure white chamber in which Thou shalt find nothing that jars with Thy mind.

And, O most dear Lord, teach me to dwell in the chamber of Thy Sacred Heart, and there to learn the secret of

that furnishing that made Thy human soul the joy of Thy Father and the Holy Spirit, with Whom Thou abidest in the Godhead for ever, one God, world without end.

IV

ALMIGHTY Father, we thank Thee that we Thy mortal children are allowed to feed upon the Bread of Life; that we sinners are able to hold communion with the King of Saints; and that we, who know not what any day may bring forth, are allowed to fortify our souls with His Presence, Who turned the dark night of His death into the brightness of the light of His redeeming love, Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

V

LORD, I pray that I may be one of those who receive Thee in very truth, that I may be a syllable of Thy utterance, spoken by Thee, as Thou art the Word of the Father, the music and meaning of the universe.

May all my life's expression be born
not of earthly desire, nor of my own
will, nor of any other creature; but,
truly receiving Thee, may I know the
power to be indeed, with Thee, the
Father's child.

Thanks be to Thee, my God, thanks
be to Thee, and may I learn to thank
Thee for all things, and most for the
things that cost me most, if by them I
can witness with a love that is true to
the truth of Thy love for me and all the
world.

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord, for
this unspeakable gift.

VI

LORD, take charge!
Thou hast come into me:
Let me not roam at large:
Assert Thy sovereignty.
Lord, take charge!

Take Thou my lips,
Order my speech;
Save me from slips;
Don't let *me* preach.
Lord, take charge!

Take Thou my hands,
Use them as Thine.
Unloose men's bands
With service of mine.
Lord, take charge!

Take Thou my heart:
Let Thy pure love
Possess every part;
So mountains might move.
Lord, take charge!

Lord, take me,
Just as I am.
I have taken Thee,
God's most dear Lamb.
Take me wholly!
Lord, take charge!

VII

Now I can be brave in my pain; now I
can return love for hatred; now I can
go through darkness in faith; because I
have Him with me Who did all these
things.

ACTS OF FAITH

BE Thou my peace,
 And let me rest
 Like little bird
 Within its nest,
 In confidence upon Thy breast.

In the night
 Be Thou my light;
 Hungry, feed me;
 Straying, lead me;
 Heart-sick, friend me;
 Dying, tend me;
 So all tranquilly, my Lord and my God,
 Who from the bliss of Thine own
 holiness
 Canst think of me,
 Into Thy hands I give myself, peace-
 fully,
 Utterly and for all eternity;
 Thy love my refuge,
 My righteousness, my rest,
 For ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND FAITH

I

I THANK Thee, O my God, that Thou hast not only created me in Thy power but redeemed me in Thy love. Thou hast shown me the glory of Thy power in the manifold works of Thy hands, the vast glories of Thy universe. Thou hast shown me Thine own glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Before that glory I bow, and I pray that my whole life may be a hymn of gratitude for the great love wherewith Thou hast loved Thine unworthy child. Lord, I worship Thee.

II

I MAY be in the midst of trouble, and yet have peace in the midst of me. I may be in the midst of temptation, and yet have holiness within my soul. I may be in death, and yet have life in me. Thy peace, my God, keeps my heart and mind, fortifying me against all temptations and false fears with the knowledge of Thy love made sure to me by Jesus Christ Thy Son.

III

O HOLY Spirit, taught by Thee, saints have drawn from this Sacrament treasures of sanctity, martyrs have found their courage, humble souls hours of perseverance in prayer. Lead me, even me also, into the way of holiness. The world will be a new world if Thou wilt lead me through it. Life will be a splendid adventure if Thou wilt interpret it. O Holy Spirit, Lord of life, Creator of saints, let Thy sweet strong influence descend upon me, that I may be a true disciple and faithful to my God.

THE SACRED WOUNDS

- O DEAREST Lord, Thy sacred brow
With thorns was pierced for me:
O pour Thy blessing on my head,
That I may think for Thee.
- O dearest Lord, Thy sacred hands
With nails were pierced for me:
O send Thy blessing on my hands,
That they may work for Thee.
- O dearest Lord, Thy sacred feet
With nails were pierced for me:
O send Thy blessing on my feet,
That they may follow Thee.
- O dearest Lord, Thy sacred heart
With spear was pierced for me:
O shed Thy blessing on my heart,
That I may live for Thee.

FOR PURITY OF INTENTION

O MY God, I offer this day to Thee in humble love. I want every moment of it to be spent to Thy glory.

Let me allow my mind to hold no thought that has in it any taint of pride, resentment, impurity, or bitterness.

Let me speak no word of criticism or unkindness, and, if I hear such a word spoken, let me counter it by some word of love, and that without any thought of superiority or self-complacency.

Let every act of mine this day be inspired with the intention of giving Thee glory, and to my neighbour a love that shall be the true outward expression of that inward communion with Thy love that I long to be the abiding reality of my whole life.

When the sun shall set and my body sleeps, let my heart still keep its wakefulness of union with Thy will, that when and where I take the instruments of consciousness again it may be in the unbroken sequence of adoring obedience to Thee my Father; through Jesus my Saviour, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost for ever.

CONFITEOR

THOU wilt forgive if all my thoughts are dull

And all my days with duties over-full,
If prayer folds wings and drops into a dream

And worship wanders to some active scheme,

Thou wilt forgive, sweet Lord, Thou wilt forgive,

If but my will for Thee and others live.
Thy Heart tells my heart, yea, Thou wilt forgive.

GOING INTO RETREAT

MY Lord, I am going into retreat. Keep the adventure fresh for me. I am tired: do not let this drop down into being just a physical rest and an escape from the things I am leaving. My mind is tired too, but that I know does not matter, if I myself, who am soul, may come to Thee, the Lord and Lover of my soul.

That is what I want: to come quite simply, just as I am, to Thee.

Lord, give me grace, without straining to feel it, to believe that this retreat is Thy vocation for me.

Help me to lose sight of all else. I want to forget everything but just Thee; Thou hast called and I am coming, coming away from all the world to Thee; coming, not to escape my difficulties, but to escape from wanting to escape; coming to escape from any hunger for a peace which would sacrifice the privilege of pain that might bring me to a truer communion with Thy Passion and a deeper knowledge of Thy love.

I would not ask for anything, either pain or peace, but only obedience and that I may learn loyalty to Thee and trust Thee to the uttermost, Who Thyself went on from Thine own retreat to the Calvary of suffering and darkness.

Lord, I am very cowardly, very sinful, very stupid. It is only Thy love that can give me courage and cleansing and light. To that love of Thine I would come in great simplicity. Take me to school with Thee, and help me to learn the lessons I need most.

IN RETREAT

I REST my restlessness upon Thy rest—
And all about me like a living sea
Thy enclosing silence enters into me
And I am held in Thine immensity
And breathe the air of Thy tranquillity,
And, like some tired child, my troubles
bring

And lay my tear-stained soul upon a
bed

More soft than down of an archangel's
wing,

Thy Heart beneath, Thy love o'er-
shadowing.

O Holy Father, keep by Thine own
power

My soul. Keep me through Thine own
name

In Thine own testing time, that darkest
hour

Which most I fear and yet for which I
came.

That my one fear, one prayer—

Dear Lord, put out the light

Of this world, kiss me good-night

And let me rest

In the soft dark of Thine enfolding love,

My soul's safe rest.

UNION WITH CHRIST

UNION with Thee, my Lord. That is what I long for, and that is what I fear; for more and more, as life goes on, I see that this union with Thee must cost for its purchasing all that I have to give, and much more than I have now.

I do not think that I want to count the cost, but I know that I have got to raise the cost, for I know well that I cannot buy the pearl of great price for the cost of a pearl of no value. I know that if I am to purchase the pearl of union with Thee, then I must sell all that I would otherwise have kept that I may have the wherewithal to buy that treasure.

Lord, as the diver beggars himself, strips himself, loses himself in the depths of his diving, that so he may rise possessed of his pearl, give me the courage and the right kind of carelessness and the spirit of adventure that I may lose all considerations of my own safety, my own reputation, the security of my future, the confidence of my friends, if I may only really and truly find union with Thee through utter-

most loyalty to Thine own Person and the interests of Thy true kingdom.

Grant me union with Thee because Thou art Thyself, union with Thy purposes because they are the issue of Thy divine will.

Lord, grant me the grace of a more and more complete surrender to the lure of the beauty of Thy will, and so bring me at last to that union with Thee which shall be like Thine own union with Thy Father and the Holy Spirit.

FOR GOD'S RULE WITHIN ME

MY God, I pray—

that Thy love may rule in my heart,
that Thy truth may rule in my mind,
and that Thy presence may rule in my soul,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
for Jesus' sake.

GROWING OLD

I DON'T want to be a coward,
 But I want to see my way,
 I dread the twilight deepening to night;
 And when I kneel before Thee I've so
 little now to say,
 But, Lord, I want my silence to be right.

I hate to hurt another,
 But often now I find
 My thoughts go wandering so far away,
 That I may neglect my neighbour, who
 thinks that I'm unkind;
 Lord, help me to keep courteous all the
 way.

I seem to see the gleaming,
 Beyond the purple hills,
 Of the radiance of the city of my King;
 But I don't want to be dreaming and
 forgetting human ills,
 And the doing of the practical next thing.

If I might make petition,
 I think that I would pray
 To be spared a waiting time of useless-
 ness;
 That when past active service Thou
 wouldst call me right away;
 Yet, Lord, deliver me from wilfulness.

A PRAYER OF SILENT LOVE

To rest a tired head upon Thy Heart,
 And to be still—
 To come to Thee from the whole world
 apart
 And learn Thy will—
 And in that will, because it is Thy will,
 To live and die,
 Knowing Thy love and will are one
 eternally,
 That be my way of prayer—
 That brings me there where Thou art—
 Heaven is there.

FOR FAITH IN BEREAVEMENT

I

EVERLASTING Father of us all, Who hast
 created and wonderfully renewed the
 dignity of human nature, give us grace
 to believe that what was created in love
 and redeemed by love has in Love's
 design a future and fulfilment worthy
 of that love. Help us to live as those
 who believe His word Who said, 'I am
 the Resurrection and the Life.' Help
 us to trust wholly to Thee our dear
 ones and ourselves, as to a faithful
 Creator and most merciful Saviour;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

II

GRANT us grace to believe, most merciful Father, that death is the warden and not the destroyer of those whose bodies we commit to the grave. Keep shining before our souls the radiant vision of the risen Lord. They will not be farther from us who are nearer to Thee. They will not love us less who love Thee more. Help us to believe in the communion of saints, and our closeness to one another in Christ our Lord.

III

IMMORTAL Love, Lord Jesus Christ, Who dying has defeated death, we thank Thee that Thou hast revealed to us the beauty of sacrifice and the eternity of love. Give us grace by faith to find the courage, hope, and peace that saints have drawn from Thy dear presence, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest for ever in love's eternity.

FOR THE DEPARTED

HEAVENLY Father, Lord and Lover of souls, we pray to Thee for those who we believe are living still, though they have passed through the grave and gate of death and we see them no more. After the darkness here, grant them the light of vision; after the restlessness of sin, grant them the rest of union with Thy will. Nearer to Thee, they will not be farther from us: loving Thee more, they will not love us less. Fulfil and finish in them Thy perfect work, that they may know the more abundant life that He came to bring Who is the Resurrection and the Life, Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost for ever.

PEACE

LORD Jesu, gentlest, dearest,
When all the world is still,
'Tis then Thou comest nearest,
Love healing every ill.

Since death must come most surely
And all be still for me,
Grant me in love most purely
Wholly to come to Thee.