

Monergism

MOST GODLY PRAYERS
COMPILED OUT OF
DAVID'S PSALMS

Original Edition



PETER MARTYR VERMIGLI

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Most Godly Prayers Compiled Out of David's Psalms

By Peter Martyr Vermigli

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THE EPISTLE DEDICATORY

Josiah Simler sendeth hearty greeting to the right worshipful and his singular good friend Doctor Herman Folkersheimer Friseland.

When as the last yere (most courteous Herman) I perused the writings of the exceeding godly and notable learned man Peter Martyr my schoolmaster, and had gathered together out of his library every small pamphlet noted with his own hand, I lighted by chance upon certain papers cast a side and laid apart, wherein were diverse holy prayers of his own hand writing. And when I had perused these diligently over, I thought it meet to put them forth in print: for although I certainly knew he did not make them to that intent, yet nevertheless there be divers causes which move me to go on with my former determination. The first is, that when the Counsel of Trent began, there rose up both grievous and deadly war in Germany for Religion, at which time Martyr finished these prayers which he openly used in the Schools at Strasborow at the end of his lectures, and are now very convenient to be set forth in these days, wherein it behooves us to make fervent prayers unto almighty God, that the like to the Counsel of Trent being now ended be not kindled again. Moreover, the prayers contained in this small book, are both plain, and do very little disagree from the words of the Psalms, which I accompt to be highly esteemed amongst prayers. For diverse arguments of many Psalms are briefly and evidently expounded in these prayers, and a number of dark and hard places made plain with a notable Paraphrase. Wherefore I doubt not but that such as be desirous to read this short little book, shall reap far greater commodity thereby than many would suppose. Now have I dedicated this small book unto thee (my dear Herman) that thou mayst have both our Martyrs token of remembrance and mine also. For seeing that thou did honor and reverence Doctor Martyr (so long as he lived) like a father: and moreover loudest me so exceedingly hitherto, as I may rightfully place thee in the number of my dearest

friends: I verily think that thou wilt take this book in right good worth, (although it be of a very small volume) which I send unto thee being written in both our names. For so oft as you shall look in this book (which of your godly disposition you will do very oft) so many times shall you call to mind the remembrance of your old friends, not altogether to thee unpleasant (as I hope.) Neither can the death of Doctor Martyr cause us to be anything forgetful of him: nor yet the distance of place be any breach of our unfeigned good will so long as we have life, that we should retain any whit less the friendship heretofore begun with letters and a friendly recordation of old acquaintance.

Fare well at Zurich the 20th day of June in the year of our Lord 1564.

PSALM 1: FOR A CHRISTIAN LIFE

(Prayer 1) O most good and most mighty God save and keep us (we pray thee) first from the persuasion of all wicked counsels, next after this from all heinous and deadly crimes: suffer us not to fall into a wicked and vicious kind of life, and finally remove our minds far from the contempt of godliness and deriding of all manner of virtuous deeds: grant that in the stead of these most pestilent things, we may perpetually occupy ourselves in thy law and in the holy Scriptures, so that we be not led about like the wicked with every blast of affections and doctrines, as small dust and empty chaff: but rather as trees planted by the rivers side, being endued with the life of the spirit and with faith, we may abundantly show forth the fruits of good works: and that whatsoever we go about, may have prosperous success: to the praise and glory of thy name, and the increase of our salvation: So that at the last, when in the trial of thy judgment, the wicked shall be cast down and brought to shame and utter confusion, we may by thy mercy both stand and be acquitted through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We know evidently enough (O most mighty God) the grievous calamities and miseries do in this respect vex the Church, because we have often frequented the counsels of the wicked, which (being known to us) we ought forthwith to have eschewed: who have in like manner not declined from the way of naughty and malicious persons, but daily followed their lewd footsteps, through continual transgressions of thy blessed commandments: moreover, wholesome corrections and healthful discipline have long been despised by us: and whatsoever was through thy sacred word offered unto us, we have frowardly enough, yea and impudently neglected it, and made a laughter of it. Wherefore no marvel is it, if instead of felicity and quiet peace, which we have hitherto (alas) too, too long abused, we are now forced to taste all heavy, sorrowful, yea, and most sore and bitter griefs. But now (O good God) by the acknowledging of these our wicked and lewd deserts, we humbly fly unto thee for succor, and with vehement and most fervent supplications, desire the sins which we have so

foolishly and wickedly committed, thou wilt favorably pardon and forgive. We heartily pray thee that thou wouldst make our minds most studious of thy sacred law, so that we may day and night meditate in our hearts on none other thing than the words of the holy scriptures. For so, through assured confidence in thy blessed word, we shall bring forth seasonable and pleasant fruits: neither shall the ornaments of the Holy Ghost be quite taken from us: yea, happy successes will always ensue of our works, although at this present, through the just desert of our heinous sins, we are like dust or chaff tossed up and down with the blasts of tempestuous afflictions. Grant yet at the least, O most merciful Father, that our life may not come to an evil end, as wicked men's doth. But that thou wilt defend the cause of the righteous with exceeding great care and mighty protection, so that in the judgment and fellowship of the just, we may stand and not be brought to confusion: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Seeing that we know right well (O most mighty God) that a good part of our felicity (whilst we here live) consists in this, that we take heed of the wicked counsels and cursed behaviors of men, by eschewing the fellowship of them, who be so despiteful that they laugh and scorn at all matters: And that instead of these most deadly things there be placed in us an exceeding fervent zeal of God's law (therein to delight and exercise ourselves both day and night,) and thereby to perceive how that hitherto we have greatly gone astray from the scope and mark of our salvation, yea and to have offended very miserably and lewdly against this thy blessed law and divine word: we desire thee that thou wouldst (of thy singular mercy) pardon and remit whatsoever we have committed against thy excellent majesty: And vouchsafe (through the continual study and exercise of thy word) to make us ever hereafter fruitful and lively plants, so that we may not only bring forth wholesome and pleasant fruits in thy sacred Church during this life, but also may in the other world stand fast in judgment before thee (who knowest and best understandest the way of the righteous) through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 2: FOR COMFORT IN PERSECUTION

(Prayer 1) We now perceive (O most good and mighty God) that not only Antichrist, but also the force and power of the world hath conspired against thee and thy anointed: as they who think the gospel and reedifying of thy blessed Church to be intolerable bands, and a most hard and grievous yoke: Wherefore they endeavor themselves (by all means they can possible devise) to break the society of the faithful, and utterly to cast away all discipline: but seeing that thou sittest in the heavens, and art not ignorant what the Devil and wickedness of the flesh enterpriseth: laugh thou also their vain counsels to scorn, and make such things as they have begun and enterprised, of none effect, causing them in like manner to be as a mocking and jesting stock unto thy elect and chosen servants. Do those men to understand thy heavy wrath, and at the length to be so terrified with the fury of thy indignation, that they may have no power or strength to destroy thy blessed Church, over the which thou hast set Jesus Christ our only Savior, for to reign therein with his blessed word and holy spirit, with such might and puissance as may never have end. Vouchsafe therefore to give unto us (although thy most unworthy and traitorous children) so much faith and constancy, as we may both take him to be our only king, and also confess him so to be, and without all doubting assure ourselves that we are his Nation, people, and heritage: knowing this assuredly how that he is of such force and power as he can torment and vex whom he list, with a dominion far stronger than any steel, and break them in pieces like potsherds. Convert therefore (O mighty God) the hearts of the kings of the earth, in such sort unto thee, that they may be so perfect wise, as truly to acknowledge, heartily embrace, and lovingly kiss thy dear and only son: least his ireful wrath being kindled and enflamed, they perish immediately: and make those which have wholly committed themselves to thy protection, evermore happy and blessed, when it shall seem good in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Although (most good and mighty God) the Devil fret, the powers of the world stand up daily, and the flesh with all their servants conspire

against the kingdom of thy only son Jesus Christ our Lord: let us yet understand, yea, let us be persuaded through a constant faith that thou dost deride and condemn all such: who (so soon as it pleaseth thee) art able to destroy them in thy wrath and hot displeasure. But alack, seeing in this confidence we are oftentimes unstable and movable, in so much as we (being led away by divers terrors) do obey thy commandments less than it becometh us, we beseech thee of thy favorable and bountiful goodness to be merciful unto us, so that we may ground ourselves steadfastly upon this rock of faith, that thy son our king and redeemer hath in thee of all things the highest power and government, for when thou didst beget him, thou gavest all Nations to him, to rule and govern them by right of inheritance. Grant therefore, that we may once at length be so godly, wise, and so rightly instructed, as (serving thee with all reverence and humble fear) we be not at the last day like a potters vessel, consumed and brought to naught with the rod of thy indignation: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 3: AGAINST OUR PERSECUTORS

(Prayer 1) Their armies (O most merciful and mighty God) which assault and persecute thy Church, are increased above measure: for even now very many are so bold as to disquiet and vex the same, who do cruelly rise up against it, having confidence truly in none other counsel, but that they imagine and determine with themselves, how that there is no more help for us to be looked for at thy hand, as though thou hast utterly abandoned and forsaken thy people, and bereft them of all manner of succor and defense. We deny not truly, considering the sins and wickednesses by which we have offended thee, but that we have deserved to be left destitute of thy help, and set out as laughing stocks to the despiteful dealings and injuries of those which are the enemies of thy holy name. But notwithstanding for the faiths sake, which through thy favorable mercy remaineth in us, we are bold to come nigh unto thee and beseech thee that amongst these rauillous and false braydings of our adversaries, thou wilt vouchsafe to give us so much spirit and constancy, as we may not doubt, but that thou wilt be the only defense,

worship, and mighty revenger of thy blessed people. Having this assured faith and confidence, that if we shall crave thy ready help in our earnest prayers, thou wilt without fail hear us out of thy heavenly dwelling: yea, whilst we do wholly rest and fully repose our hearts on this thy protection, we shall be so void of fear (even in the middle of thousands of our enemies) that we may according to our accustomed manner, safely take our sleep, and wake again, because we do with a good and bold courage stick steadfastly to thee alone. Wherefore arise (O mighty God) according to this our assured trust: and according to thy accustomed and wonted manner, break the teeth of those that boast themselves against thee, so that they be not of force to tear and crash thy sacred Church in pieces at their own will and pleasure: make them to understand that salvation belongeth unto thee, and how thou canst of thy favorable goodness, rid and deliver thy blessed people out of these extreme dangers: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Although (O most mighty God) the force of Satan and all malicious powers (who seek to stop from us the kingdom of thy dear son) seem to augment and increase daily more and more, and go about to bring us in utter despair, as though there were no succor nor help anymore hereafter to be looked for of us at thy hands, albeit we perceive that sin aboundeth much and increaseth greatly in us, notwithstanding all this, we lift our head and hands unto thee, who art our strong shield and glory, and desire thee (according to thy accustomed mercy) to pardon and forgive those things that we have done amiss, and also to give a favorable and attentive ear unto the prayers and supplications which we pour out before thy divine majesty: that being raised up from heinous and deadly works, and having a good affiance in thy loving mercy, we need not to fear whole Millions of thine enemies, whom now by faith, we know thou hast smitten upon the cheek bone, and dismayed utterly. Grant (O dear Father) that we may feel the plentiful abundance of thy blessing to be poured upon us, and be most assuredly persuaded that our salvation dependeth only upon thee: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 4: FOR A TRUE FAITH

(Prayer 1) We being straitly hold in with great perils and distresses, cry unto thee (O almighty God) that thou aiding us with thy puissant help, we may at length have most large and pleasant passage out of the afflictions of this world. We acknowledge ourselves to be unworthy of thy assistance, because we have very often and grievously declined from thee: but our humble petition and earnest request is, that thou wouldest vouchsafe not to regard every particular and several work of ours, but the worthiness of the cause. And forsomuch as (O God) thou thyself art accustomed to show and approve in every point the righteousness of thy blessed word, defend and uphold now mightily thy high renowned honor and Gospel, and us also, who, according to thy will and pleasure are corrected and chastised. This is it that we bewail and lament presently before thee, that the mighty and puissant of this world, being united together, go about by all the means they can, to deface the glory of thy sacred gospel and pure religion, yea, and utterly to subvert it, by means of their foolish devises and vain hopes, which of themselves they have imagined. I would it were thy pleasure (O high and mighty God) openly to show and make manifest the beauty of thy true Church unto them, which thou hast picked out and chosen for thyself, and which also thou hearest so often as it prayeth and calleth faithfully upon thee. So they should peradventure understand, so should they be rather moved, and have a very great regard they offend it not. They would perhaps weigh with themselves, yea, even in their bed they would consider; what a regard they ought to have unto it, and so peradventure they would be in quiet, and persuaded to offer, wish it the Sacrifices of true righteousness: where as now being altogether blind, they wish nothing more than to satisfy their madness and outrage against the same, and esteem it an high felicity to subvert and utterly overthrow the true church. But so many of us (O good God) as honor and worship thy divine majesty in spirit and truth, have very often prayed to thee for these our cruel enemies: yea when any good and prosperous things happened unto them, we did heartily rejoice. Grant therefore (for thy infinite mercies sake) that we may at the last live

peaceably and in quiet by them: vouchsafe also (I say) that reposing ourselves only in thee, and assuredly stayed on thy faithful covenant and promise, we may dwell with thee in safety without fear, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) O Mighty God, from whom cometh all our righteousness, who of thy goodness art wont to give ear to those that cry earnestly unto thee, and bring them out of straitness and adversity into a sweet state of freedom and liberty: we humbly beseech thee not to despise thy faithful servants that cry and call unto thee for help, nor suffer our glory (which is true and perfect godliness) to be brought into contempt of any, although he be a great potentate and mighty ruler of this world. We have in deed sinned against thee, yea and that very grievously: but nevertheless of thy infinite mercy and clemency, provide that vanity and lying overcome us not, nor yet prevail anything at all against us, but as thou hast elected and chosen unto thyself those whom thou wilt have saved, so grant that the grace and favor of thy loving countenance may in such wise shine upon us, as we may be glad and rejoice even at the prosperity and welfare of our enemies: vouchsafe (O good Father) that we being grounded on an excellent and perfect faith, may take very great pleasure in thee only, and trusting also in thy mighty protection, may dwell safely in thee and with thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 5: LEAD ME IN YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

We fly daily unto thee in our prayers (O almighty God) and do early in the morning direct and lay forth our petitions before thy divine majesty as those who be not ignorant that thou hatest iniquity, and dost marvelously detest sin: whereof, although we may not deny but that we are guilty (for we feel ourselves to be laden therewith above measure) yet do we fly and approach unto thee for succor, trusting most assuredly in thy exceeding plentiful goodness and clemency. We beseech thee to pardon and forgive us whatsoever we have sinned and committed against thee, and lead us hereafter in thy righteousness and innocence, least the adversaries of our salvation (in whom verily there is no part whole

and sound, but all full of viciousness) prevail against us, let their counsels and devises be of none effect, and cause their force and layings await to be utterly consumed and brought to naught: so that we thy dear and faithful children may perfectly rejoice, whilst thou dost defend, nourish, and compass us about with thy favorable kindness us with a shield: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 6: A PRAYER IN DISTRESS

So it is, that we deserve without fail (O most mighty God) by reason of the evils and infinite sins we have committed, to be grievously and sharply chastised at thy hands. Yet we beseech thee, (trusting in thy excellent and exceeding great mercy) not to chastise us in thy furious wrath and hot indignation: who tremble (O good Father) and are almost dead whilst we consider on the one side our own sins, and on the other side thy justice: therefore we beseech thee that thou wilt not (as we have justly deserved) thrust us down into the pit, because we can there neither sing, nor by any means praise thee. Our enemies do marvelously, yea and that with great fervency desire it should so be, but have thou (O good God) a regard unto the tears and clamors of those that trust in thee, and cause the authors and inventors of iniquity to depart and go far from us. Finally give ear unto us in such wise, that so many as are enemies to thy glory and our salvation, may be ashamed and brought to utter confusion: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 7: AGAINST THE ADVERSARIES OF THE GOSPEL

(Prayer 1) Thou knowest, O most mighty and merciful God, with what an earnest affection the adversaries of our salvation do both day and night assault us, who, (except thou be our ready helper) covet most cruelly like fierce and savage beasts to have us torn in pieces and swallowed up into everlasting destruction. But like as we put our trust and confidence in thee only, so our earnest desire is, that thou wilt succor and defend us. We do not lay forth our own cause before thee, as though we had committed none of these things whereof they accuse us,

but are persuaded that thou (of thine own mercy) wilt pardon and forgive us the same, through the intercession of Jesus Christ our Mediator. Wherefore we humbly require and earnestly beseech thee to stand up for to be our helper, that thou wilt also direct, and as a most strong shield defend us that those evils may fall from us, and light upon the authors of all temptations, deceits, and maliciousness, so as we may on the other side praise thee and set forth thy glorious name with all possible and studied commendations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) It is truly a singular and right excellent benefit (O almighty God) to be an observer and keeper of thy blessed precepts, but yet such a one as they cannot attain and reach unto, from whose eyes thou hast not taken away the veil and cloak of darkness. Which being not removed, the secret and hidden things of thy divine law cannot be seen: wherefore we lamentably desire thee to help and lighten our infirmity and blind ignorance, that whilst we live and remain here as strangers and pilgrims, thou wouldest not hide from us the pure and right understanding of thy blessed commandments: wherewith, for so much as we have through our own default been hitherto little instructed, we are fallen into these reproaches, into this contempt, and into these evil reports. For besides the perils and grievous afflictions wherewith thy holy Church is at this day sore vexed and oppressed, are added slanders of thy sacred doctrine, revilings of true godliness, and horrible blasphemies of thy blessed name: forgive therefore thy people and pardon (O mighty God) whatsoever they have committed against thee, refresh those that be fallen, with thy sacred word and promises. We do day by day very boldly open and declare our cause to thee: hearken unto us (we earnestly beseech thee) and from time to time confirm with new benefits the faith and hope of those that be doubtful, neither put them to shame and reproach which call upon thee, so that we being again quieted and restored to liberty, may run in the way and path of thy blessed commandments with a perfect joy and hearty cheerfulness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 8: IN TROUBLE FOR THE FAVOUR OF CHRIST

(Prayer 1) All the things (O most good and merciful God) which thou hast created both in heaven and earth for our commodity and singular profit, declare most evidently how wonderful and excellent thy glorious name is: and although thy goodness be spread forth, and seen in all things, nevertheless even the very infants and sucking babes (whom from their mother's womb thou causest to be cherished and brought up with most tender and loving carefulness) do give us such assurance thereof, that we cannot but warrant ourselves all excellency of the same, insomuch that the infants in the time of their nursing, and when they begin to speak, do set before our eyes most evident tokens of thy gentleness: by these wonderful things are all the wicked confounded which carpe and speak evil of thy excellent goodness and divine providence. The heavens truly might have been thought a piece of work worthy such a workmaster as thou art, but in that thou wouldest so much humble and abase thyself as to have so careful a regard to frail and mortal man, it appeareth to be a sign and token of thy wonderful unspeakable love toward us. Wherefore again, and that worthily are we provoked, (although we have heinously sinned, and lived unworthily both in respect of thee and of our own vocation) to beg and crave at thy hands with a very earnest and assured confidence, not to permit thy Church to be overwhelmed with these present troubles. For if thou hast so highly extolled man to be little inferior unto Angels, whereas otherwise, he is vile of his own nature: remember them much more I heartily beseech thee, whom you hast now adopted to be thy dear children, and to whom thou wouldst (for thy mercies sake) have all the works of thy hands serve and be obedient, suffer them not to be trodden under foot of ungodly and wicked persons. For thou hast always accustomed to visit the children of men with thy fatherly care and providence: assist us now also with thy ready help, when we stand in most need thereof. Deliver us in such sort we humbly beseech thee, that all men may well understand thy name thereby to be right wonderful (as most certainly it is,) and by all means possible worthy to be honored and made glorious, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy magnificence and renowned glory (O almighty God) is well and sufficiently set forth by these things which through thy excellent power and divine providence, be done both in heaven and earth, notwithstanding for the more and better stirring up of our gross and leaden hearts, thy power would set out itself also in babes and young children. Even from our childhood we are miserable and wretched, not by the workmanship and creation, by the which thou hast made and formed us, but through our original and natural sin, and an infinite number of faults that we ourselves have added thereto: for the which nevertheless, we humbly beseech thee, be not so displeased with us, but that (according to thy accustomed mercy) thou wilt often visit and look upon us, and those whom thou hast made little inferior unto Angels, make them partakers of thy own nature. Finally, seeing that thou haste in lawful wise made us Lordes over all thy creatures, grant that we may use them to the praise and glory of thy name, so as thy sacred word and Gospel may be spread abroad amongst all Nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 9: AGAINST OUR ENEMIES IN PERSECUTION

(Prayer 1) If thou (O good God) wilt take our cause in hand, and revenge us upon the enemies of thy glorious name and of man's salvation, we will (from the bottom of our heart, and with an exceeding great gladness) show forth and celebrate thy wonderous and excellent acts: who be afflicted in deed with temptations and other like oppressions (by reason of our heinous sins) but we beseech thee O high and mighty God (for thy goodness and mercies sake) that as thou hast accustomed to be a Sanctuary and sure defense for the oppressed which fly unto thee for succor, so now forsake us not, neither seem to be forgetful of the prayers that we unfeignedly pour out before thy divine Majesty. Have mercy upon us (O good God) deliver and rescue us from the Gates of death, least we be swallowed up therewith: being aided and helped by thee, we shall show forth thy worthy praises in the congregation, namely, because our trust hath not been reposed in thee in vain. Arise therefore, and suffer not impiety, unrighteousness,

and sin to prevail against us, but grant also, that we bearing well in mind our own estate and condition, may with a modest and lowly mind, be always obedient to thy will and pleasure, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) It happened very often in our fathers days (O most mighty God) that thy people were filled with a wonderful and unspeakable gladness, who being replenished with exceeding great joy, did set forth thy glorious name with songs, and celebrated thee with high praises, and that with their whole heart, because they (having thee for their rock of defense) drove their enemies back in the day of battle, who fell and perished at thy presence. Neither hast thou only once given sentence on the behalf of thy saints, or defended their cause, but didst oftentimes rebuke and destroy the Heathen that purposed in themselves to subvert the famous Cities of thy people with an utter ruin, and hast puissauntly overthrown such wicked men, insomuch, as even the very name of them is also abolished. Seeing therefore that thou reignest eternally, and hast always a seat prepared for judgment, to the intent thou mayest presently try out the truth, as touching the spilling and shedding of thy Saints blood. Despise not neither yet condemn our hearty prayers (O mighty God) nor be thou forgetful of them. We know verily that we have sinned and offended thy excellent majesty divers and sundry ways, which now we are both heartily sorry for, and also do openly confess the same: yet through the confidence we have conceived by the things which thou (O Lord) hast done for our fathers, (though of their parts undeserved) we draw near unto thy divine Majesty and humbly beseech thee to be favorable unto thy Church: have a regard (we heartily pray thee) unto her great trouble, and deliver the same from the cruel gates of death, so that it may daily be able to celebrate thy worthy praises more fervently. Extend thy wrath towards them that are forgetful of thee: let them perish in their own crafts and deceits, and be taken in the nets that they themselves have laid, which (with such greedy endeavor and violence) seek thy people's destruction and utter undoing. But let us (that are helpless and grievously afflicted) take a little breath and receive some comfort under thy strong defense and mighty protection. Up lord and suffer not vile mortal men to have the upper hand of thee and thy holy Gospel. Put our enemies

in fear, and terrify them in such sort, as they may understand what a thing it is to set themselves against true godliness and pure religion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM IO: AGAINST ENEMIES AND TYRANTS

(Prayer 1) Seeing that (O most good and merciful God) our belief and confidence is, that thou art not only the chief good thing, but godliness itself. We earnestly desire thee not to turn and withdraw thy countenance from us, as sometime thou seemest to do. For although we do not deny but that our sins have deserved that punishment, yet we humbly beseech thee, (even as thou art right gentle and merciful) to pardon and forgive us the same: and that contrary to our deserts, thou wilt notwithstanding, favor our cause (for the glory of thy name) to the intent the ungodly may well understand that they beguile themselves in thinking thee to be no GOD, neither meanest at any time to look for an accompt at their hands, of the heinous deeds and crimes which they do wickedly commit: who lay snares, oppress, beat, and miserably kill the godly, being now fully persuaded that thou hast forgotten and art utterly unmindful of the state of the world. Wherefore assist those which call upon thee, and lovingly give ear unto their humble petitions, so that the Godly (being by thee set at liberty) may teach the proud and oppressors to behave themselves after a more modest fashion, when as it shall be manifestly known that thou hast a most vigilant care and regard of thy beloved Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thou mightest be thought (O most merciful father) to have withdrawn thyself marvelous far off from thy servants, in this most troublesome time of affliction, insomuch as with closed up eyes thou forgettest to look and behold what the wicked Antichrists (with an extreme pride and set obstinacy) attempt and enterprise against thy faithful people, because the things they devise have so good and lucky success: whereby it cometh to pass that they stick not to blaspheme thee, yea, and be persuaded that there is no God, and because thou seemest to have withdrawn all kind of punishment from them, their opinion and

belief is, that they shall never fall, and assure themselves that their estate will be always prosperous, whereby they have no measure in perjuries, deceits, injuries, and dishonesty, they kill thy faithful servants, both openly and privily, they do assail, vex, and oppress thy blessed Church, thinking (O good god) that thou regardest not the same, nor hast any care at all thereof. But although we have now well deserved that thou shouldst turn away thy eyes from our calamities, and to consider nothing at all our troubles, in that we have grievously sinned, and been marvelous ungrateful for thy notable benefits (abusing our vocation, Gospel, and Sacraments, and despising the liberty offered unto us) to serve thee according to the express rule of thy sacred word: yet we acknowledge and confess ourselves to have committed all these things against thee, and other innumerable detestable facts, whereof we do now earnestly crave pardon, and most humbly beseech thee at length to arise, and (with thy mighty hand) to repress the wicked from the blasphemies, wherewith he hath both railed against thee and thy blessed doctrine: we commit ourselves wretched creatures and miserable captive unto thee, who of thy own accord usest to be an helper to the poor and distressed. Break thou yet once at length the power of the ungodly, hear the prayers of the afflicted, and finally deliver the oppressed, so that they being set free from so great terrors, may give due thanks unto thee in thy sacred church, for thy great mercy and compassion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM II: AGAINST THE TEMPTATION OF FAITH

(Prayer 1) In thee (O most good and mighty God) repose we our whole trust and confidence, therefore when our flesh, when human wisdom, when also the ungodly do object and lay to our charge that our cause is turned upside down, and quite overthrown, neither any help at all left for the maintenance of the true doctrine and the most holy and sacred Gospel, we are not for all this persuaded to despair of thy mercy and power who see in deed that the enemies of thy glorious name have bent the bow of their puissance, and made ready their arrows to pierce and shoot us through: Moreover we also weigh and consider that

our life hath been such as we deserve all manner of evil hap and misery that may be, who have not done after thy will as it became obedient children, no, but have always hitherto (which now sore grieveth us) rebelled against thy holy commandments. Yet now with all humility do we crave pardon for our sins, and are very bold to require this of thee, through the confidence we have in thy excellent goodness, and singular clemency, that thou (which hast thy exceeding princely palace and most holy seat in the heavens, from whence it is thy accustomed wont to look down, and fix thine eyes upon all things that are done on the earth) wilt at length diligently try out the equity of this cause, and look upon the ungodliness and cruelty of our enemies: But restrain thou and keep back (which hast very often used to cast fire, brimstone, and burning thunderbolts upon the ungodly) at the least wise the cruel persecutors of thy blessed Church, to the intent all men may know (that thou being most righteous) dost favor the right cause, and wilt be our strong defense, who have taken upon us an earnest zeal and love of thy most glorious name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) When we (O most good and mighty God) do put our whole trust and confidence in thee so much as in us lieth, the desires of our own flesh, the counsels of the ungodly, and the temptations of Satan do not sleep or cease, wherewith we are allured day and night to renounce and utterly forsake all Godliness, as though we should be wholly oppressed and vanquished with the strength of bow, of arrows, and other force of our wicked enemies, if we go on forward to lead such a life as becometh thy servants. But we (notwithstanding we be compassed about and overwhelmed with grievous sins, and iniquity) yet nevertheless upon the sure trust and confidence that we have in thy rich mercy, we humbly beseech thee first to forgive us our heinous offenses who do acknowledge and confess the same unto thy divine Majesty: And that then thou wouldest (out of thy celestial and heavenly palace) show forth thy loving countenance to be our most strong helper, that at what time thou hast tried and proved the case on both parts with an equal balance, then the enemies of godliness may be justly punished according to their own deserts, and on the contrary part thy

beloved servants try by receiving of salvation that thou art a defender of equity and upright dealing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 12: AGAINST HUMAN, FALSE, ERRONEOUS DOCTRINE

(Prayer 1) In so great a want and scarcity of good and godly men, thou only (O most merciful and mighty God) remainest to be our strong defense: Wherefore we draw near and approach unto thee with these our daily prayers beseeching thy divine Majesty to help at length our most troublesome and afflicted estate: For unless thou mightily defendest thy loving Church, how can it be in safety amongst such kind of enemies, who do not keep any manner of fidelity, and go always about to deceive plain simple persons with vain lies and false flattering words, never faithfully thinking that in their heart which they utter by word of mouth: Deliver us not over (O most merciful father) to be handled of them as our sins and wickedness deserve: but in this case have an especial regard to the glory of thy puissant name, the mighty increasing of thy Gospel, and the far passing faithfulness of thy loving promises: this do not (for our sakes) but for the causes here showed and mentioned: bear not with these men that seek to augment and enlarge their own power only, which being strangers to Godliness, have no knowledge at all of thee: Look upon the great affliction and groanings of thy blessed Church: arise up now and help us, according to thy merciful promises: For thy words are white and more pure than the most excellent and finest silver. Finally seeing every sort of wicked and ungodly persons did covet with all the wit and industry they can, to be most mighty, defend thou thy Church (for thy infinite mercies sake) from those men's extreme injuries and cruel oppressions, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as (O heavenly father) during the time we live in this transitory world amongst frail mortal creatures, of godly true dealing and faithful persons, there is marvelous great want, whereas, contrariwise, men may see a wonderful company of ungodly persons, deceitful men, flatterers, and such as be

great talkers, and speak very proud words: we pour out our humble prayers beforehand, unto thee, who art our refuge, beseeching thee, that thou wouldest not so weigh and regard those things which we have forwardly committed against thee, as to give us over unto the lust and fury of wicked and lewd men, according to our just deserts. But rather (for thy great mercies sake, which is marvelous ample and exceeding large) arise, and with thy mighty power, deliver those that trust in thee, from the snares, deceit, and subtle wiles which the enemies of all godliness do practice and imagine continually against them: that whilst thou art their defense and mighty preserver from the wicked and most cursed generation, all men may understand thy promises and words to be both garnished with a singular and unspeakable verity, and also most pure and uncorrupt from every sport of deceivableness and vain lying, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 13: THAT WE DESPISE NOT IN TRIBULATION

Whilst that the Godly (O most mighty God) do see themselves vexed with grievous afflictions, and tossed with painful miseries, they greatly fear that thou art forgetful, and takest thy grace and favor utterly away from them. Grant that such manner of thoughts and suspicions be not graft and fixed in our minds: for surely we deserve to be utterly left and quite forsaken of thee, by reason of our most heinous offenses: but suffer not O good God (for thy most glorious names sake) the stout arrogant enemies of Godliness, either to prevail anything at all or have occasion to triumph over thy faithful servants like victorious conquerors: illuminate and lighten the eyes of our mind (we humbly beseech thee) with thy holy spirit, that we seeing and right well allowing those things which be most just, may neither honor nor worship thee amiss, nor yet become slothful towards the amendment of our sinful life: for so shall all occasion of rejoicing and vaunting be quite taken from our adversaries, and we have great cause to render eternal thanks unto thy divine Majesty as thou hast right well deserved, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

PSALM 14: ON THE GRACE OF CHRIST AGAINST ORIGINAL SIN

Take away from thy dear children (O most mighty God) those notorious wicked Counsels and foolish imaginations, whereby we may surmise in our minds that thou art no God at all: and although thou knowest well enough that we have oftentimes erred and gone astray from the true path of righteousness, for which cause sake, we have very well deserved even like bread and most delicious meat, of them to be devoured and utterly consumed as are the most mischievous and furious enemies of godliness. We humbly beseech thee, that as thou hast promised to aid and assist the generation of these men, and all such as put their trust in thee, so thou wouldest not forsake us being thus extreme miserable and grievously afflicted. Let thy help appear and show forth itself out of the heavenly Zion, that when thou hast delivered us from the bondage and corruption of sin, death, and the Devil, thy beloved Church may not only be cheered and refreshed, but also be exceeding joyous, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 15: THAT WE MAY PERSEVERE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUE CHRISTIANS

Seeing that (O most mighty God) none can inhabit and dwell in perpetual felicity and thy heavenly kingdom, but such as have been void of fault, and undefiled from the filthy corruption of wickedness, who have in such wise yielded and dedicated their heart, tongue, and outward works, to the honor of thy blessed name, that they do omit or let slip by negligence or malice none of thy sacred commandments. Hereby we now perceive and right well understand (that if we should be dealt withal as our own deserts are, and according to the worthiness of our works) how far off we be from thence, so as we may in a manner despair and be altogether doubtful of our salvation: but (trusting in thy excellent goodness) we boldly demand this at thy merciful hands, that (the merits of our deeds being laid apart) thy faithful promises may according to our assured hope, still remain most firm and stable, and vouchsafe to grant unto us received again

into thy loving favor, that being henceforth adorned with the ornaments of perfect righteousness, sincere truth, and pure love, we may never be drawn away from the habitation of thy blessed felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 16: THAT WE MAY NOT PERISH BY FAITH, BUT ATTAIN UNTO GLORY THEREBY

Forsomuch as we are so poor (O most dear father of heaven) and thou so exceeding rich in all things, and thy works most noble and plentiful, surely nothing is given unto us, nor anything at all in our power whereby we may either merit or increase thy most blessed estate and felicity: but yet seeing that our whole trust and affiance dependeth on thee only, we humbly present ourselves, and fall down before thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to preserve us from those evils which environ and compass us about on every side. And our heinous sins wherewith thou well perceivest us to be overladen, being pardoned, grant that as thou art become our rightful inheritance, so we may wholly set our joy and delight in thee again, and accompt it a most pleasant comely thing to set forth and commend thee only and none else: instruct thou us, counsel thou us, and be thou always before our eyes, lest we swerve at any time from the right way, so that we may with great joy (during this mortal life) remain and abide in thee, and after the most and glorious resurrection be partakers of those everlasting and perfect pleasures, which we believe do consist only in thy most mighty will and power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 17: THAT OUR ENEMIES MAY NOT GET THE VICTORY OVER US

(Prayer 1) Thy blessed Church prayeth thee (O most mighty God) and lifteth up her voice daily unto thy throne, beseeching thee to weigh and consider at one time or other her most righteous cause: wherefore give ear and have regard unto the prayers which the faithful sort pour out before thee with an unfeigned heart: who know very well that we are laden and burdened with other

innumerable sins, so as we are fain at all times humbly to crave pardon of thee for the same: but as for those which our adversaries do lay to our charge, we are nothing guilty in them: wherefore if thou thyself (who art a most righteous judge) be examined in this case, we know nothing can be found that by thy holy word may be condemned. But our whole doing is only for this end and purpose, that the renewing and setting up again of religion and true godliness may be advanced, to the intent thy blessed commandments might be duly observed, and thy sacred law with more sincerity obeyed: And whereas this care and study hath brought upon us most extreme perils, yea almost utter destruction, unless thou remove and turn the same away quite from us: we humbly beseech thee to hold up and strengthen our goings in thy paths with a puissant steadiness, which are otherwise of themselves very slippery, that we may neither stand in doubt, nor be discouraged in these kind of distresses. Thou mayest hereby make thy excellent goodness (O merciful God) to be much marveled and wondered at, if thou wilt defend those that trust in thee at a time unlooked for, yea, thou shalt not only revenge us thy loving servants by that means, but thyself also, forsomuch as they have chiefly risen up and bet themselves against thee. Hide us therefore under the shadow of thy wings, and the more prosperous success that they seem to have in their doings, so that now they hang upon our necks like hungry Lions, the more a great deal prevent thou their fury, and speedily deliver and rescue the life of thy faithful servants out of their hands, and unto the same grant, that by acknowledging and confessing thee, they may both in this life, and in the life to come, be far more happy and blessed than their enemies, because they rejoyce and vaunt themselves above measure in their present lucky estate, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) For this intent and purpose we now pray (O most mighty God) because we nothing at all mistrust but that thou wilt hearken and give ear to our humble petitions, which we pour out before thee, not of hypocrisy and double dealing, but sincerely and from the heart: for seeing that we desire to be tried rather by thy judgment than man's, grant that when we are sore tempted and proved by grievous adversities, nothing may be found in us whereby we should

be condemned and adjudged to perpetual destruction: but forso much as we are naturally evil, how can this thing come to pass, unless thou do stay and govern our steps with thy excellent grace and holy spirit, and so uphold and underset us, as thy unspeakable mercy may wonderfully utter and show forth itself by our salvation? Defend and keep us therefore from all men which resist the force of thy glorious Gospel, and strive against thy holy will so much as in them lieth. Thou seest what diligent watch our enemies lay for us, and how like devouring Lions they covet to pray upon us: they are as swords (O good God) prepared to be the hands and instruments of thy indignation: defend and keep us nevertheless under the shadow and most sure defense of thy wings, that during this wretched life, we may be comforted with thy favorable countenance, and in the blessed resurrection, have with an exceeding great pleasure, the fruition of thy glorious presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 18: DELIVERANCE OUT OF GREAT DISTRESS

(Prayer 1) We acknowledge and confess thee (O most mighty God) to be our only health, buckler, defense, strength, and sure refuge, and therefore do we both earnestly love thee, and greatly covet to publish and set forth thy worthy praise everlastingly: but our extreme enemies do now thus grievously oppress us, because our sins deserve the same, so that we (being sore discomforted) are almost in the strait pangs and anguishes of death: wherefore it seemeth that no other help and succor remaineth for us, but to make our cry unto thee, and to direct our prayers towards thy mercies seat, unto whom, seeing that the Mountains, the earth, the heavens, lightnings, winds, clouds, rains, hail, and tempests are obedient without any delay or gainsaying, it shall be a thing most easy for thee to rid and deliver us from the force of our outrageous enemies, although they be never so mighty, which we earnestly require (O good God) that thou wouldest vouchsafe to grant unto the fervent prayers of thy sacred Church, having no regard at all to our lewd deserts, but chiefly to thy exceeding great clemency and uprightness of the cause itself, so that thou mayst deal holily with the holy: and

contrariwise upon the wicked send trouble and adversity: preserve thy afflicted people according to thy accustomed manner, and in so great darkness lighten them with the bright lamp of faith and perfect wisdom, to the intent they may acknowledge none other buckler or defense but thee only. Grant us (O most dear father) so to walk without fall or stumbling, as the feet of our faith may not staker in such great perils: arm and strengthen thy beloved servants to battle, and confound them (O most mighty God) who go about to gainsay and resist thee, to the intent thy blessed name may be spoken of and magnified amongst all Nations, because thou hast given great and glorious prosperity unto thy renowned Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing that we are very weak by nature, and compassed about on every side with most thick clouds of darkness, we come unto thee (O most mighty God) and require at thy hands that the splendent light of thy holy spirit may be kindled in our hearts, for so shall we understand thy undefiled word, and most uncorrupt speech of thy sacred scriptures, wherein it is most clearly and evidently promised that thou wilt be an excellent strong defense for all such as have their only affiance in thee. The sins truly which we have committed, deserve not that we should obtain so much favor and help at thy hand: but our earnest desire is that these things may happen unto us even for the glory of thy most renowned and excellent name. Forsomuch as therefore none other God is to be sought out or found, who may be compared with thee either in power, or goodness, garnish thou us with holiness, and gird us about with such strength, as we may once be led out and utterly delivered from imminent dangers, and obtain full triumph and conquest over the enemies both of thy glory and our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) We cannot choose, (O most mighty and merciful God) but earnestly love thee, seeing that (by the faith which thou hast given us) we well perceive thee to be our only refuge, stay, and deliverer: for our sins have oftentimes purchased unto us most deadly griefs, and mighty and valiant enemies, who have (like vehement streams of water) environed and compassed us about with tribulations, snares, yea and death itself: but thou (O good God) who as thou (being

the sovereign Lord of all things) art known to have thy throne in heaven, even so for thy infinite mercies sake, have respect unto us, and when thou hast remitted and pardoned our offenses, vouchsafe that we may be delivered from thy wrath, and extreme punishments which thou art wont to lay upon the ungodly. And grant that whilst we invoke and call upon thee, our loud cries and earnest prayers be not poured out in vain, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 4) Thou knowest (O merciful and most mighty God) how many and how great adversaries we have both within and without, who as they cannot away with thy name and glory, so do they also most lewdly and wickedly repine at our salvation: wherefore we do not without just cause, humbly sue unto thee, that as thou hast often delivered us out of the dangerous perils of damnation and perpetual destruction, so now also (notwithstanding the most grievous and heinous offenses which we have committed against thee, and for the which we repent us at this time of them from the bottom of our heart) it would please thee to fortify and strength us in such wise with thy assistance, as we may vanquish and overcome what thing soever hath set itself against thy glorious kingdom, whereby we may at length show forth and magnify thee only in the chiefest assemblies of men for our alone defender and excellent savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 5) Seeing that we are (O heavenly father) during this miserable life, wrapped in and compassed about with an infinite number of perils, we direct our humble prayers and hearty petitions unto thee, to the intent thou wouldest stretch forth thy mighty arm to be our defense, and not suffer the great and very strong enemies of our salvation to prevail against us. When we are most busily vexed and afflicted of them (O good God) make it manifest that thou art our mighty protector and ready defender. There is no righteousness or purity in our works which we may vaunt and boast off in thy presence: we frankly acknowledge and confess that we have greatly strayed from thy holy precepts. Nevertheless yet pardon (according to thy accustomed wont and mercy) the grievous sins committed by us, and vouchsafe of thy gracious favor, to grant that we may hereafter live as becometh thy chosen, blessed, and innocent people, so

that (on the other side) we may find thee elect, holy, and hurtless unto us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 19: THAT WE MAY BE PARTAKERS OF GOD'S DIVINE WORD

(Prayer 1) Thy wonderful power, wisdom, and goodness (O most mighty God) which thy nature is exceeding plentifully endued withal, sheweth itself in all places unto us, by those things which thou hast formed and created. The heaven truly with all her ornaments, with the alteration of times, with the brightness of the Stars, and of the most hot burning Sun, are nothing else but plain voices and a universal doctrine for all sorts of people, by the which the praises of thy Majesty are most amply blazed and set forth. Wherefore we confess how that we can make no excuse at all of our so slender confidence and feeble love towards thee: who ought truly to have been assuredly persuaded by the authority of these things, that we should inseparably cleave unto thee alone, being the chief and principal causer of so many good works bestowed upon us: but, alas (these admonishments not regarded) we have followed, the lusts and desires of our filthy flesh, with mad imaginations and feigned things of our own brain, and made very little account of thee, who art the Creator and maker of all things. And for that cause do well deserve the afflictions which we are assailed with, who have not only despised and had in contempt the works of nature, that should have allured and drawn us unto thee, but have coldly and altogether unprofitably heard thy word, that is to say, the holy Scripture, and Gospel of thy dear and well-beloved son, provoking thy indignation towards us by that from whence we should to the comfort of our souls, have drawn out wisdom, light, joyfulness, and perfect righteousness: but although we now seem (for these weighty considerations) most unworthy of thy mercy, yet we instantly require thee to pardon and forgive us, and not to afflict thy Church according to her deserts. Grant (we humbly beseech thee) that we may hereafter to our great profit and comfort have these thy creatures in estimation: and let thy words be not only sweeter unto us

than honey, but far exceed all the joy and pleasure of this world. Take from us our heinous sins, and show thyself to be a true defender and redeemer of thy chosen people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We understand it cometh to pass through thy excellent goodness (O almighty God) that the knowledge of thee may be graft and imprinted in men's minds, by the form, order, and most beautiful comeliness of the things that be created, whom the circles and globes of the Heavens, the continual alteration of the day and night, and most goodly brightness of the sun, do declare to be their most wise Creator, and with words plain enough do teach us both to know, and also to wonder at thy Majesty: hereunto are added thy written laws, which have brought unto us mortal creatures, the true wisdom, the testimony of thy will, the substantial pleasure of the soul, and heavenly delicacies. But as we be lewd and wicked wretches, so have we never made an end of abusing both these most faithful schoolmasters. Therefore our earnest request is that thou wouldest vouchsafe to pardon and forgive wherein we have offended thee, contrary to the admonitions of so worthy instructions: and grant us hereafter so attentively to behold with due fruit, the creation and workmanship of the world, that we may become very earnest observers of thy sacred laws, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 20: THE PROSPEROUS SUCCESS OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM AGAINST THE ENEMIES THEREOF

Our daily petition is (O almighty God) that the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ may be augmented, and appear at length to be most perfect, which thing we now also desire very instantly in our hearty prayers and humble supplications. Be always mindful thereof (O good God) of his fat and most pleasant oblation which he made for us upon the Altar of the Cross, and grant that by the triumph of his most perfect victory and conquest, we may take both salvation and delightful pleasure. Although we deny not but that the same shall come to pass without our deserts, who have (through our manifold wickedness) offended thee very

many and infinite ways: yet (for thy tender loving mercies sake) put them to shame and confusion, that repose all their trust in Chariots, horse, and worldly power: but raise and lift up to salvation such as are wholly bent to depend upon thee, and bow down thy merciful and favorable ears to hear the fervent prayers and petitions which we make unto thy divine Majesty, for the mighty enlarging of our Lord Jesus Christ his kingdom, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 21: FOR THE PRAISE AND AUGMENTATION OF THE GOSPEL

We confess with a singular joy (O most mighty God) that Jesus Christ our king being endued with power and honor after his resurrection, doth abide and live with thee. And forso much as he hath now obtained and gotten most largely whatsoever may be wished or desired, tending to most perfect and everlasting blessedness, it cannot otherwise be but that very much of his salvation, gifts, and glory be shed abroad and light upon us also, which are his members. Of which felicity and most singular gift, although we acknowledge and confess ourselves most unworthy, by reason of our wicked manners and ungodly life: yet forso much as we heartily repent us of them, we are nothing doubtful of his ready help, but do also most assuredly believe that he will once vanquish, and bring to naught so many as do advance and set themselves against his glorious Kingdom. Grant (we humbly beseech thee, most dear father) that their pestiferous devices being of none effect, thy high and famous power may at length be so known and manifested, as we may always show forth thy worthy praises and passing wondrous works, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 22: FOR GOD'S FAVOR IN DISTRESS

(Prayer 1) Thou couldst endure and suffer that our Lord Jesus Christ thy Son (O most mighty God) should so be tormented on the cross for the sins of men, that he did appear to be utterly forsaken of thee and left void of all help.

Thou which wert wont to aid and succor thy Saints at what time they called upon thee, seemed to condemn our Saviors prayers, as though he had been a worm and no man, the very abject of all mankind, and the outcast of the people: and at length suffered him to die a very shameful death by the hands of the furious raging Jews, who came and fell upon him as they had been mad dogs, fierce bulls, and roaring Lions. Whom notwithstanding thou didst raise afterward from death in such glorious wise, that for the same cause his faithful members do always laude and celebrate thy excellent name: therefore we heartily pray and humbly beseech thee (for that thy most abundant mercy wherewith thou wert moved in such wise to permit so many evils to happen unto thy only beloved son for our sakes) not to suffer the cause of thy most afflicted Church to come into ruin and decay. We acknowledge our sins to be passing horrible, for the which not only a temporal, but also an immortal death is due: yet look thou not upon us (O mighty God) in respect of that we are ourselves, but because we be members of thy dear and only begotten son, effectually preserving and mightily defending our cause in the Gospel, being also thy case, and which the adversaries of the gospel judge that thou hast left destitute and utterly forsaken, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as thy son our Lord Jesus Christ (O most mighty God) suffered in such wise for our redemption sake as he might seem to be cast out of thy sight and utterly forsaken of thee: who being overwhelmed on the Cross with the waves and scourges of a most bitter death, at the last died, and (being made a most innocent sacrifice) suffered the pains and torments which we had justly deserved. Then being raised from death after three days, appeared to his disciples, and manifestly showed forth and published thy excellent name and glory, none otherwise than he customarily used a little before to do while he lived among them. Seeing that therefore we both acknowledge and also confess ourselves to have been abusers of such an unspeakable mercy and infinite clemency, we humbly flee unto thee heartily praying that whom thou hast granted and ordained to be engrafted and to spring a new in so excellent a Mediator (who is the author and only preserver of our salvation) thou wouldest grant the same

to be pricked forward and stirred up, so much as in us lieth, to seek for all true godliness, so that not only the whole number of us which be now living, but all mortal men also that shall live hereafter may be drawn to worship and serve thee alone, holily and after a most chaste manner, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ (O most good and mighty God) suffered marvelous bitter punishments, and extreme painful torments for the salvation of mankind. For when he had laid the sins of the world upon himself, it behooved him to be vexed so fiercely and outrageously, as he might suffer the full punishment for them all. Finally, being nailed unto the Cross, he spent his most sweet life for us, unto whom he hath, by that means purchased pardon and forgiveness of sins, thy loving friendship, and eternal life, if we shall faithfully believe his sacred doctrine and blessed gospel. But alas, as we be very weak in faith, so are we lightly forgetful of such great and manifold benefits: yea we rather live as men unworthy of the redemption that was of so mighty a price unto our most innocent lord. For which cause we bewail this calamity in thy presence (O heavenly father) humbly praying and earnestly beseeching thee not to suffer us to be utterly destitute of the fruit of our Lord Jesus Christ his Cross and death, who liveth and reigneth with thee evermore world without end. Amen.

PSALM 23: THAT GOD WOULD BOTH FEED AND DEFEND US

(Prayer 1) All such as have thee (O most mighty God) for their shepherd, do lead their life exceeding happily, as those who have always food abundantly enough of thy heavenly doctrine, and most fruitful and plenteous watering of the holy Ghost, whereby they may be renewed, and comforted so often as they shall be oppressed with the mishaps of this wretched world, or wearied with the afflictions of the persecution thereof. Although therefore we acknowledge and confess ourselves unworthy of thy governance and shepherd like care over us, who have very often despised thee and thy sacred word, and (by reason of our

most grievous and innumerable transgressions) deserve to be thrust out of thy blessed sheepfolds: notwithstanding we having confidence in thy great mercy and goodness, which is unto thee proper and natural, humbly beseech thy goodness that thou wouldest vouchsafe to gather us home as lost sheep unto thyself, and suffer us not to wander and stray without thee, through the wide deserts, and outgrounds of this deceivable world. Thou seest us now to be at deaths door, therefore be so present with us as we may put away and cast off all fear: who now stand in need of thee to strengthen and comfort us, with the staff and sheep hook of thy authority. Thou canst refresh us if it please thee, with a most exquisite and well furnished banquet of thy sacred doctrine and blessed sacraments, and make us to drink plentifully of the cup of thy holy spirit and grace, the enemies and adversaries of thy glorious name beholding the same. O let that thy mercy and clemency always so embrace us (we humbly beseech thee) which thou hast accustomed to bestow upon thy faithful servants, as in the sacred Church (which is thy mansiō house) we may continue steadfastly in faith and thy most glorious Gospel, through the merits and love of our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee world without end. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thou used (O most mighty God) to preserve those thy children whom thou hast lovingly adopted, with no less care and diligence, than if they were sheep, and the same always led of thee, being their most loving shepherd, toward their own health and perfect commodity, who, so long as they have thee for their master and governor, they shall be destitute neither of the meat nor drink of thy most wholesome doctrine. Whereby it is manifest that if we pine away (so long as we live in this miserable and wretched life) for the hunger and thirst of true and perfect goodness, it happeneth for this cause (and of no other) in that we have forsaken thee and followed strange guides: whereof come the great perils and miserable troubles of mind which fall upon us. Wherefore we humbly beseech thee (O most faithful and loving shepherd) to call us back from errors into the right and perfect way: correct the vices of the wandering and straying flock, with the rod and sheep hook of thy righteousness, so that we may feed at length, orderly, purely, and chastely of the most wholesome delicacies of thy

sacred word and blessed Sacraments, by which means, the whole head, heart, and all the powers of our mind may be made fat and well liking, and we be always so underpropped with thy loving mercy, as we may finally enjoy in thy house the sovereign delights and dainties of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 24: FOR THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND A NEW LIFE

(Prayer 1) Thou (O most mighty God) which art not only the founder and maker of the earth and all things contained therein, but also hast formed man the tiller and inhabitator thereof, and vouched safe to instruct us mortal creatures with the doctrine of thy divine law and sacred Gospel, by which means they may annex and knit themselves again unto thee from whom they came into this worldly light, that is to have their habitation in the holy Mount of thy sacred Church wherein thou art always conversant: who truly requirest this of them, that they should be of an undefiled conversation, pure of heart, not addicted to vain and transitory delights, neither followers of deceits, nor yet perjured persons, which sort of men thou dost promise to be partakers of thy infinite mercy and singular liberality. Therefore ought we to have endeavored ourselves to seek thee out by these means: but we have, (like most sinful wretches) declined from this path of truth and righteousness, and fallen from thee, through the perilous steep ways of vices and of all voluptuousness. Wherefore no marvel is it, if we now be fallen into so marvelous difficult times and troublesome estate. Thus thou seest and right well perceivest by what means the state of thy blessed Church is at this present in a manner desolate and thrown down. We humbly require thee not to take vengeance upon our evil and lewd facts as they have deserved: but (for the glory of thy name) as thou art a most puissant king and excellent in virtue, in whose hands are all armies and powers, even so show forth thy most valiant strength in defending thy beloved Church, and thy singular

good will towards those which repose their whole trust and confidence in thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing that all things (O most good and mighty God) have their being through thy creation and making, we must certainly without any doubt conclude, that both the earth, and also men which inhabit the same, be only thine: but unto thee verily (who, as thou art Lord of all things, so art thou accounted, and that most rightfully, to be the perfection and highest type of our felicity) can no man come, but such as have a pure heart, innocent hands, and constant fidelity towards their neighbors. Forsomuch as we be not as now endowed with these kind of ornaments, but rather spotted with filthy vices, being altogether utter enemies to these virtues, we do in our fervent prayers lamentably desire thy favorable mercy (which thing only is the last refuge we have to stay ourselves upon) that thou which art called the king of glory, accounted strong and mighty, a valiant conqueror and noble triumpher in wars, wilt with thy merciful goodness far surmount and overpass our sinful deservings. And grant (although of our parts greatly undeserved) that we may be partakers of thy excellent blessing and incomparable righteousness, for so much as we have reposed our whole faith and confidence in Jesus Christ thy son, who liveth and reigneth with thee evermore world without end. Amen.

PSALM 25: FOR CONSTANCY IN A TROUBLESOME CONTENTION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

(Prayer 1) We lift up our minds, prayers, words, and hands unto thee (O most mighty God) desiring this especially, that whilst we stay ourselves and depend wholly upon thy goodness, thou do not suffer us to be so confounded, as the adversaries of thy glorious name, and enemies of the pure and sincere doctrine, may greatly rejoice thereat, and be much boldened in their wickedness. Neither do we pray for this as though our deserts justly required the same: but confess how much and how greatly we have gone astray from thy sacred law and blessed will, which, as we acknowledge willingly and before the face of the world,

so endeavor we ourselves to crave pardon and forgiveness of thee in these our daily prayers. Declare therefore thy blessed ways hereafter effectually unto us (according to thy mercy and loving kindness) and bring us in use with thy sacred laws and statutes, to the performance whereof you wouldst have us surely bound. For it is a thing impossible, but that he doth steadfastly persevere and abide in thy holy covenant, whom thou thyself shalt instruct and teach: because his mind (without doubt) shall enjoy perfect good things, and his feet be set at liberty, were they entangled in never so strong and crafty a net. Behold now (O good God) with what troublesome afflictions and painful griefs thy blessed Church is oppressed, whose safety and deliverance dependeth only upon thee. Deliver her therefore in such sort (O mighty God of Israel) that she fall not under the most furious rage of Antichrist and the Devil, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We do resort and have daily access unto thee (O most mighty God) who instantly in our earnest prayers and fervent petitions require thy merciful goodness not to suffer nor permit us to have the foil in the contention which we now hold continually with the cruel enemies and adversaries of man's salvation. Purge and utterly wipe away the sinful blemishes and spots of our infirmity, with thy unspeakable clemency: and although we be altogether unworthy of thy loving favor (by reason of our naughtiness and wicked life) yet we heartily require, and earnestly desire thee, to direct, teach, govern, and finally, show us thy blessed ways which we know are garnished with an incredible liberality, and marvelous assured truth. Have a great regard and care (O most gentle father) unto the perils and calamities wherein we are wrapped, and in manner overwhelmed. Deliver us out of them, and wipe away all our wretched iniquities, and rescue thy sacred Church, (which to do is in thy only power) not only from outward afflictions wherewith it is diversely vexed, but chiefly from that great calamity whereby thy honor is much defiled, neither purely and chastely set forth as it ought to be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 26: THAT WE REVOLT NOT FROM CHRIST

(Prayer 1) If we had led our life innocently (O most mighty God) we should not be so stricken with fear and terror in these days (as who should know for a certainty that they cannot waver nor fall in decay, which surely have sticked and cleaved to thee) yea rather we should wholly submit ourselves with a willing mind to be searched and tried out of thee. But forsomuch as we had little and very small confidence in thy divine Majesty, we trusted in vain persons and fleshly help, neither have we forsaken the company and fellowship of very hurtful and wicked doers, but have both with our filthy hands and lewd conditions, defiled thy most holy Gospel: therefore are we at this present in great peril, least our life and soul perish after the manner of the mischievous and blood thirsty. Wherefore we heartily pray thee to be as now merciful unto us, and forsomuch as we call upon thy blessed name, that thou wouldest vouchsafe to pardon and remit whatsoever we have hitherto so wickedly committed against thee, and let the uprightness of our cause, obtain that thing at thy hands which we do not deserve: for in this case not only our salvation is impeached, but also thy sincere doctrine and pure religion. Suffer not thy sacred church therefore to be in subjection, and as an underling to the frauds and deceits of Antichrist. Deliver it from the destruction which the Devil and his members do prepare and work for her, that we may hereafter lead an holy and innocent life, and highly extol thy noble acts and wonderful works, in the sacred and blessed congregations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We are very desirous (O almighty God) to lead an innocent and blameless life before thee, and not to turn from the right way, when thou shalt try us with sundry and manifold temptations: we have not as yet attained thereto, because we have reposed small faith, and little hope (to speak of) in thee. Wherefore our humble request is that thou wouldest have mercy upon us, and pardon whatsoever we have committed and done amiss: for if thou be favorable and gentle unto us, we will never be unmindful of thy loving mercy and everlasting truth. Grant (O most benign father) that amongst innocents we may live innocently,

and utterly detest (with an extreme kind of hatred) all manner of deceits, and cursed lying, that we may addict ourselves with all our hearts, to laude, magnify, and celebrate thy glorious name: neither suffer us to knit up and finish our last days with malefactors and wicked persons, but rather let a blessed entrance to the house of eternal felicity, (whether we have daily a fervent desire to come) be set open and made as a free passage unto us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 27: FOR COMFORT IN FAITH AGAINST OUR ENEMIES

Forsomuch as (O heavenly Father) we make our account of thee only, to be the whole stay and principal defense of our salvation, light, strength, and steadfastness, it should behoove us to continue: and abide (wish a good courage, and assured constancy) in the study of godliness, whatsoever the world may seem to attempt against us, what adversity soever may (by the instigation of the devil) hang over us, and finally, what calamity so ever men do move and stir up against us, all that we ought boldly to despise, thou being our strong defense, and hiding us in thy blessed Tabernacle. But because our faith is very weak, and our confidence in thee doth oftentimes both waver and stagger, hereof it cometh that we are so much fearful and timorous. Therefore strengthen thou us (O high and mighty God) with thy excellent grace, and bounteous spirit, that we may live orderly, godly, and after an honest sort in the holy congregation, which is thy blessed Church indeed. Hide not thou thy loving countenance still away from us (we humbly beseech thee) for that is our sole and only desire. Grant that we may constantly persevere, and be made strong to abide the coming of thy ready help with steadfast and unappalled courage, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 28: FOR COMFORT IN NECESSITY AGAINST DOUBLE TONGUED PERSONS

(Prayer 1) If thou (O most mighty God) shouldst dissemble, and have little regard to help and comfort us in these our grievous afflictions which happen

unto us, not only true godliness should come to ruin and decay, but we also might incontinent be easily compared to those which are put down, and laid at the pits door ready to be burned: give ear therefore unto our humble prayers and petitions, whom thou seest to have assured confidence in none other, than in thy only son Jesus Christ our Savior. For as touching ourselves, we have behaved us so evil, and lived so lewdly and ungodly, that when we consider and look upon ourselves, we see nothing due unto us but death and endless damnation. Therefore of thy singular mercy and goodness destroy us not (according to our deserts) amongst the ungodly, deceitful, and wicked persons, but reward all thy adversaries, and namely the enemies of thy blessed Church, according to their just deserts, so that whatsoever the unfaithful do either invent and imagine against us, may fall upon their own head. But whensoever they begin little to regard thy holy words and wondrous works, bring to naught their crooked and cruel devises, whereby thou thyself mayst be exalted and lifted up with high praises, because thou hast heard the voices and piteous complaints of thy most humble and lowly servants. Be thou (O good God) our assured strength and shield of defense, preserve thy faithful people in these great dangers, and such as thou hast chosen to be thy gracious heirs, augment and heap upon them thy saving health and most noble benefits: give those men sufficient food so long as they here live, and finally bring them unto eternal joy and blessed felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We heartily require thee (O heavenly father) to be favorable and merciful unto us, that seeing we pour out our humble prayers and earnest petitions unto thee, thou wouldest (according to thy excellent goodness) patiently hear us. If thou O Lord shouldst accept us according to the rate and goodness of our deserts, we should everywhere and in all places suffer an infinite number of grievous miseries and sorrowful calamities. And because the outrageous adversaries and cruel enemies both of our salvation, and also of thy famous honor, go about nothing else than to pull thy faithful servants away from true Godliness, and that steadfast desire they have to lead a virtuous life: be thou therefore our assured strength and strong shield of defense against them. If we be thy blessed

people and chosen heritage (as thou hast promised and as we faithfully believe) then preserve, feed, and be favorable unto us, and bring us forth to the chief and highest bless which we have always an especial eye and principal regard unto, through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

PSALM 29: THAT WE MAY BE OBEDIENT TO THE WORD OF GOD

So many of us (O heavenly father) as are promoted through thy unspeakable mercy, that we both be, and also are named the children of God, have no light occasion or small regard to celebrate thy divine majesty, by the effect of those things which in the work of nature we see to proceed from thee, which are so passing excellent and marvelous, that they show forth themselves, to those that behold them, as most certain and manifest tokens of thy unspeakable glory and dignity. Thou bringest forth so mightily, when thy good pleasure is, showers, clouds, lightnings, earthquakes, and overflowings of waters, that even the hills and trees (although they be very high, and all other living things, do both greatly and horribly quake. We only (O good God) are blind, deaf, and dull to conceive these thy most wondrous works. Wherefore, for the love thou bearest unto us, having compassion upon so great foolishness and unskillfulness, which proceedeth of nothing else than of sin, grant that we (being at length exempted from them) may both acknowledge thy excellency in thy notable works, and sing also perpetual praises to thee for thy manifold benefits extended toward us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 30: THAT ALL OUR AFFLICTIONS MAY WELL DEPART FROM US, BY GOD'S ESPECIAL GRACE

(Prayer 1) We ought (O most merciful god) to celebrate and extol thee with wonderful and unspeakable praises, because thou art so prone and ready to preserve those that with an unfeigned heart call diligently upon thy blessed name. We do plainly acknowledge and openly confess our sins to be innumerable and

most heinous, for the which right worthy are we to be adjudged of eternal destruction and perpetual death. But our earnest request is that thou wouldst show the like favorable mercy towards us, as thou wert accustomed to do unto thy elect and chosen servants, although thou art wont to chastise them with a short kind of wrath, and such a one as endureth but the turning of a hand, which forthwith thou alterest into an exceeding great good will, and such a one as lasteth continually. Preserve us therefore from the present evils and imminent perils, which hang over our heads, that we (being saved and delivered out of all danger) may confess thee, and be both sure and experienced witnesses touching the truth of thy faithful promises, and also everywhere, and in all places show forth and publish that thou only and none other ought to be trusted in, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy blessed Church (O almighty GOD) prayeth thee to relieve her, being sore tossed and oppressed with these stormy tempests: neither suffer thou the fierce enemies of thy glorious name to rejoice and triumph at her destruction. Thou art accustomed (O good God) both to hear and also to help without delay such as earnestly call upon thee, and it is in thy mighty hand and power to bring back again from the grave, and to quicken those which were now in a manner fallen into the pit. Wherefore to the intent thou mayest stir up an earnest desire and fervent affection in our minds to thy worthy praise, show thyself to have been angry with us, yet let it be but for a moment: neither shall that inestimable love of thine towards us (whereby we live and shall live in thee) be anything the more in that respect diminished. Bring speedily to pass we humbly beseech thee, that our sorrowful tears, deep sighs, and piteous groans, may shortly be changed into godly mirth and joyful gladness. Mark thou in no wise our deserts, but what beseemeth thee best. We truly are worthy of deadly hatred and extreme punishments, by reason of our manifold sins, who so long as all things happened luckily, and as we would have it, vainly imagined, that we could bear out all things of our own strength and power. But now, when thou hast a little turned thy loving countenance from us, and present calamities have appeared, we are so astonished and stricken with fear, that we can scarcely abide or

stand upright. Howbeit have thou an especial regard (O good God) what thy merciful promises require, namely that thou wilt not suffer those to perish and come to ruin which cry heartily unto thee. For our adversaries would do nothing less than set forth thy worthy praises. At length therefore make an end of our sorrowful mourning, that (the spirit of gladness being restored to us again) we may both now and in another world also, render everlasting praise and thanks unto thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 31: IN DISTRESS AND TRIAL OF FAITH

(Prayer 1) Seeing that thou (O most mighty God) art our assured rock and strong defense, it is now needful for thy names sake, that thou shouldest save and deliver those which repose their whole trust in thee, so that we may be nothing ashamed of the faith that we have firmly affixed in thee. Thou seest how they (of whom thy sacred doctrine and holy Gospel is had in contempt) have privily laid snares and nets to trap us. We therefore which see that we can be preserved by none other mean, do now commit ourselves to be defended by thy only hands and mighty power. For we have no affiance in curious and wicked arts, but repose ourselves (O good God) upon thy goodness only, and require thee to have an especial care and regard to the afflictions we now are in, neither suffer thou us to be shut up into the hands of wicked persons. We know for a certainty that our sins wherewith we are so sore burdened, shall make exceedingly against us in thy just judgment, that of right we cannot escape. But beseech thee of thy infinite goodness, to have mercy upon us, neither suffer thy blessed Church to be a by word and jesting stock both to the neighbors and enemies thereof. Show forth thy cheerful countenance upon her, let the wicked be put to utter shame, we humbly pray thee, who mayest stop the mouths of liars, when they most arrogantly imagine very horrible accusations against her. And although (as to the judgment of the flesh) we think ourselves to be thrust down headlong, and cast utterly from the sight of thine eyes: yet notwithstanding, we still hope in spirit that thou wilt give attentive ear unto our hearty prayers. Grant therefore that the

virtuous men which earnestly love thee, may well understand that thou mightily preservest thy faithful servants, and dost greatly strengthen such as honor and reverence thee with an unfeigned heart, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Let thy favorable and loving countenance (O most mighty God) shine upon us, from whence cometh all consolation, joy, and gladness unto thy beloved servants: and seeing we crave for thy ready help, bring utterly to naught the subtle inventions, crafts, deceits, and laying await of the violent force of our enemies. Surely most great, most beautiful, and most joyful is the sweetness of thy inestimable goodness which thou hast laid up for those that repose their whole trust in thee: that the sins therefore which we have lewdly committed seclude us not from the same, we heartily beseech thee to cleanse and purify us with thy gracious favor. For if we once obtain this, there is no doubt, but that we shall be both hidden, and also defended from all imminent mischiefs, under the tabernacle and strong defense of thy mighty protection, so as we boldly and steadfastly persevering in thy blessed love, may at length be brought and conveyed unto thee, being the pillar and chief stay of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) The confidence (O most mighty God) which the Godly repose in thee, hath this notable and singular property, that it maketh no man ashamed thereof, nor defraudeth any person of his just desire: the same therefore doth greatly enforce us to crave thy ready help, that thou wouldest always be our puissant strength, strong defense, assured stay, valiant Capitaine, and most provident nourisher. Moreover we know right well, that (by reason of our manifold sins) the malicious enemies of thy glorious name and our salvation, have everywhere laid snares, traps, and ambushes for us. Therefore do we commit our whole spirit and life to thy faithful custody, and put them into thy hands to be strongly defended: forsomuch as thou seest our innumerable infirmities, and how we are always environed and compassed about with the violent force of our fierce enemies: be merciful therefore to our sorrowful estate, and help us presently without any delay. And as thou hast both life and death in thy puissant

hands, grant that we thy faithful servants may live and rest with thee forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 32: THAT OUR SINFUL CRIMES MAY BE PARDONED

(Prayer 1) We are admonished by thee (O most good and merciful God) that the felicity of thy faithful servants consisteth herein, that their sins are forgiven, covered, and not imputed unto them in thy just judgment: which thing if ever we had need to obtain, certainly we now seem to lack it most, when as (through present calamities) our heinous sins are set before our eyes. For we feel thy hand to wax heavy over thy sacred Church, wherefore we have thought good not to hide our sins, but publicly and openly to confess them before thy divine Majesty: neither do we anything at all mistrust the unspeakable goodness thou art endued withal, who incontinent dost quite, pardon, and utterly forgive us our grievous offenses. Therefore we that be thy dear beloved servants, do now earnestly require thee (doubting not but thou art to be found) not to permit thy faithful people to be violently oppressed of their cruel enemies, who be like unto overflowing waters. Be thou a den and place of refuge for us in these most grievous afflictions. Inform and teach us the right way of blessed salvation, and whatsoever brutish and beastly lust remaineth as yet in us, keep thou it so under with the hard bit and bridle of thy holy spirit, that we be not for the same cast down headlong into perpetual destruction: and finally pour out lamentable sorrows and piteous calamities upon the adversaries of thy most glorious name, but let such as trust only in thee be enclosed and fortified with thy singular loving kindness as with a strong rampire, that those which have a fervent zeal to thy excellent name, and be of an upright heart, may cheerfully rejoice in thee, and triumph with a perfect gladness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) They without doubt are right happy and blessed (O most mighty God) to whom thou of thy unspeakable mercy hast forgiven their grievous sins, not imputing them, but covering and remitting what wicked and naughty thing

soever they have been stained and polluted with. We do most manifestly acknowledge that so great and notable a benefit could not have happened unto us, unless our sins verily were openly known and disclosed to thee, and that we pour into thy blessed bosom what sins so ever we have lewdly and shamelessly committed against thy sacred law. Therefore we acknowledge and confess unto thee (O heavenly father) that our unrighteousness is exceeding great, and our souls miserably burdened with the weight of our impiety: wherefore now aid and help us with thy favorable mercy, and we heartily beseech thee, to wipe away after a loving and gentle manner, what naughtiness soever doth remain behind. Deliver us from the sorrowful calamities and grievous miseries that are hanging over our heads, make us to have an uncorrupt mind, and govern us with thy provident care least through our evil affections, we do not degenerate into most foolish brute beasts, but being environed and compassed about with thy excellent goodness, let us be cheered up with rightful mirth and assured joy before thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 33: PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR HIS OMNIPOTENCE

(Prayer 1) How many soever (O most mighty God) as have attained unto righteousness through an unfeigned faith, do well understand how much praise and glory thou art worthy of by reason of thy marvelous works. There is nothing in the world but it beareth witness that thou art good. The heavens stand fast, and all the hosts of them were made by thy sacred word, neither are the waters of the sea and great deeps contained within their bounds by any other power, then through thy holy spirit and mighty force. Therefore it is and hath been our duty both to honor and fear thee only, even as thou hast rightly deserved: but we have (O sinful wretches that we are) done nothing less in all our whole life. And therefore have well and justly deserved the great troubles and dangerous perils we now are in. But seeing that thy infinite goodness cannot be drained dry through men's naughtiness and lewd behavior (be they never so innumerable) we crave pardon

and forgiveness of all those things which we have committed against thy divine Majesty, and heartily require thee (according to thy wonted mercy) to make void all the subtle counsels and lewd devices wherewith the fierce enemies of godliness pretend to subvert and overthrow thy sacred Church. Let thy thoughts and imaginations stand immovable towards that people which hath thee for their favorable God and most lawful heritage. Thou that beholdest the hearts of men from the high heaven, and which hast formed them from the beginning, knowest well what the Antichristians have imagined against thy faithful servants. Wherefore vouchsafe we humbly beseech thee to maintain and defend us at this instant: for we require neither valiant prince, nor strong horse, nor yet man's force (which are of no power) to save and deliver us, but fly unto thee only, who settest our souls at freedom and liberty: let thy inestimable mercy (we earnestly require thee) be at hand and ready for us, as we undoubtedly believe and certainly hope it will so be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy glorious name (O almighty) God) for diverse causes deserveth to be extolled with unspeakable praises, and to be celebrated with a marvelous earnest endeavor of the godly: forsomuch as all thy words, and all thy precepts and deeds are nothing but faithfulness, virtue, justice, and goodness. Whatsoever is in the whole universal world either beautiful or gorgeous: whatsoever is profitable and commodious, all that proceedeth and cometh from thee only. Thou alone bringest to naught the pernicious counsels of the ungodly, and makest their wicked enterprises void and of none effect. But thy ordinances are most sure with a marvelous inviolable constancy. Wherefore right happy and blessed are those people who have chosen thee to be their God, and honor thee most purely and alone as their principal heritage. Therefore thou being such a one, and so mighty a former and maker of us, art not ignorant how often and horribly we have transgressed thy divine law. Pardon us (we humbly beseech thee) neither suffer thou us to repose our trust in the force and power of any creature: but grant that we having thy wonderful mercy in experience, may perfectly rejoice, and rightfully take pleasure in the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 34: COMFORT IN DISTRESS

Thy singular and most notable deserts extended towards us (O mighty God) in what case so ever we are, whether it be prosperity or adversity, moveth us at all times to celebrate thy glorious name with great praises. Surely thou art always present to those that unfeignedly crave thy furtherance, and deliverest the miserable from careful and grievous calamities, and such as fly to thee for defense, thou dost fortify and enclose them with a guard of Angels. We therefore being sore oppressed and vexed with the burden of most grievous mischiefs, are like to be led and carried away unto final destruction, without thy assistant help. Wherefore we heartily pray and earnestly require thee to raise up those that be fallen, and receiving us again into thy loving favor, thou will teach us the true fear, perfect worship, and sincere love of thee, so that we may have especially a pure conscience: bridle our tongue least it babble unadvisedly such things as be unseemingly for thee or our own vocation, but let us in all our deeds decline from wickedness, and rightfully perform those things which thou willest us to do, and become very zealous desirers and earnest seekers of thy gracious peace: and as thou wouldest not have our souls to be redeemed with a common and simple price, so vouchsafe to bestow eternal salvation liberally and bountifully upon them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 35: AGAINST ENEMIES AND FALSE PROPHETS

(Prayer 1) Seeing that thou (O most good and merciful God) hast an invincible strength and most ready will to help thy faithful servants when they unfeignedly call upon thee. We now earnestly require and hope assuredly in all our fervent petitions, that thou wilt vouchsafe to aid and assist us, seeing we are continually (during this mortal life) so greatly oppressed through the violence and force of our adversaries: for Satan is risen up, with an unspeakable deadly hatred, to cut us off from our salvation. Wherefore have no regard at all how wickedly and lewdly we have behaved ourselves towards thee, but (of thy infinite mercy) forgive our most heinous and grievous offenses, wherewith we feel ourselves to

be most miserably overburdened: drive away far from us through thy invincible power, and force of thy blessed Angels, the outrageous assaults of the Devil and all his adherents, in such wise as both they may be disappointed of their practices, and our minds (by reason of thy loving favor and present help) may sweetly rejoice, and proclaim abroad how there can be no God found which may deliver those that call unfeignedly upon him, from all woeful calamity, like unto thee. They scorn and mock at our infirmity and weakness, but we humbly beseech thee O excellent father, (who beholdest the great dangers and miserable distresses we are in) to take us into thy mighty protection, and vouchsafe to preserve us from everlasting damnation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We have a great while sore longed (O most merciful God) to celebrate thee in the most frequented assembly of the godly, which truly we will then do with a most ready and joyful mind, when as thou (through thy mighty power) shalt rid and deliver us from the cruel Devil and his furious Ministers. It is not unknown to thee how craftily, deceitfully, and after what a wicked manner he disquieteth thy faithful servants. Wherefore we heartily beseech thee, with so Godly an affection as we can, first to pardon and remit whatsoever we have unworthily committed against thy sacred law, and consequently stir up thyself stoutly to maintain, and valiantly to defend our rightful cause, least the pernicious enemies deride and vaunt themselves against thy dearly beloved servants, (when as at their pleasures) they shall make them become very miserable: but rather let confusion and shame fall upon them, at what time they dare presume to set themselves against thy glory and our salvation. But contrariwise, let us (which be desirous of thy famous honor and excellent righteousness) be filled with perfect joy and gladness, that with a pleasant and cheerful heart we may set forth thy noble praise and deserved worthiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 36: UPRIGHT JUSTICE

We know right well (O most mighty God) the force of wickedness to be so great, that who soever hath the same abiding in him, cannot be pricked and

moved with the fear or reverence of thy divine power. For he is so delighted in his own detestable acts, that in the end it becometh both known and hateful unto all men. For whatsoever he speaketh is very wicked, neither can he be persuaded to permit himself to be instructed to do well, but imagineth much mischief in the night and so encourageth himself in his heinous sins, that he escheweth no kind of evil which cometh in his mind. For thy infinite mercy sake therefore (O good God) and for thy singular faithfulness, justice, and most upright judgment, which reacheth even unto the glorious heavens and high clouds, which passeth the most large Mountains, and excelleth the bottomless depth, giving life and health not only to men, but to every living thing also. We humbly beseech thee (that our grievous sins being done away) thou wouldst not suffer our souls to be defiled and stained with filthy wickedness. Yea rather grant, that we (reposing ourselves under the shadow of thy wings) may through thy most rich spirit and his eternal dainties, enjoy the Princely Palace of heaven, and quaffing very abundantly of the well spring of life which is with thee, may (by the excellent benefit of thy glorious light) behold the brightness of perpetual felicity: so that they which be deadly enemies of our salvation, may be of no force or ability to pull us therefrom, but rather (unless they cease from that they have begun) let them so fall that they have no power at all to rise up again, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 37: CONSTANCY IN FAITH AGAINST SUCH AS WILL HURT US

(Prayer 1) Forsomuch as thy blessed Church (O almighty God) hath many weaklings which might perhaps be grievously offended in seeing most wicked and naughty persons to have such prosperous success: confirm thou them therefore with thy holy spirit, to the intent they may right well understand this felicity (which now the enemies of the Gospel enjoy) is not stable and durable, but rather that it shall be dried up very quickly like a withered weed, and most vile grass. Vouchsafe so to replenish us with thy heavenly grace, that we may have our

affiance only in thee, and always conceive a singular delight in charity and well doing, whereby we may thoroughly persuade ourselves, that all pleasure and felicity ought to be fetched from thee, as out of the only undrainable well spring. Grant also, that we may with a right contented and patient mind, suffer thee to work thy divine will in all our affairs (so far as it shall seem good in thy sight) and boldly abide and wait thy blessed leisure when it shall happen that thou seemest to prolong the time for our, help and deliverance in such wise as we be not furiously offended at matters which be presently done, but perfectly understand and right well perceive that our most heinous sins have deserved far grievous plagues: for we have in such sort (O good God) sinned against thee, that all the punishment which lighteth upon us, is far less than our wicked and lewd merits deserve. Yet notwithstanding, vouchsafe thou (who art most favorable) to direct our goings, and so assist those which trust in thee, that all men may perceive us not to be utterly thrown down, although we have gone far astray, because we are very gently and marvelous softly holden up with thy strong hand: and let all people unfeignedly confess that thou dost in no wise forsake and abandon thy faithful servants, whereby very many may be bold and hardy to commit themselves to thy mighty protection, so that thou mayst be their ready helper, and deliver them (through thy present aid) from the hands of their ungodly and cursed enemies, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Let not the prosperous success of the wicked (O most good and merciful God) move us to withdraw our minds from following thy most pure and sincere Religion, forsomuch as thou declarest unto us that their prosperity is so short and vanish so quickly away as the greenness of grass and flowers in Meadows. Unburden thou quickly (we humbly beseech thee) our consciences from the heavy fardel of our sins, from the which (unless we be eased by thy gracious favor) we shall very readily fall into utter destruction. But seeing that thou art our sole and only confidence, upon whom we wholly depend, and have committed ourselves altogether unto thy custody, we doubt not but thou wilt condescend and give ear unto our earnest requests: which is, that we may repose all our whole pleasure and felicity in thee alone, wholly despising and setting utterly

at naught all the prosperity of this wretched world. For like as such as lean thereunto are destroyed in a moment, even so those that be exceeding quiet, very meek, and of a right up mind, shall after a marvelous gentle and peaceable manner enjoy a perpetual heritage. We need not to fear howsoever the ungodly rage, whatsoever he doth menace and practice against thy blessed Saints, for his naughty and lewd enterprises shall fall upon his own head. But pardon thou (O good God) and try both our intents and doings, whereby an everlasting heritage may remain and abide for us, who celebrate thy glorious name from day today, with most high praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Seeing that thou (O most mighty God) hast taken upon thee to be a guide and companion for the godly, to the intent they should not stray from the true path of righteousness and a prop to shore them up if peradventure they should fall by mishap: and moreover, inasmuch as these thy promises have been hitherto so firm and stable, that there was never found any godly person so destitute of thy favorable good will, but had all things necessary for the preservation of his life. Therefore assuredly hoping and faithfully trusting in thy merciful promises, we humbly beseech thee not to punish us, as the sins we have committed against thee do merit and deserve, but pardon them (for thy excellent mercies sake) to such as fly unto thee for ready help: and vouchsafe to bestow (upon those that trust only in thy goodness) thy blessed will and sacred laws to be printed and engraven within their hearts, to the intent they may continually meditate and talk of the same, neither let them be variable and inconstant touching the execution thereof. Suffer not the glittering and famous fortune of the ungodly (who bear irreconcilable hatred and deadly food to thy faithful servants) to remove us anything at all from the right way, but so inflame and lighten our souls with thy holy spirit, that we may quickly perceive them to be utterly wiped out, and fallen into most extreme and endless torments: but indue thou us with firm strength and perfect health (according to the confidence we have reposed in thy faithful promises) and grant that we may be delivered from imminent calamities and the spiteful enemies of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 38: AGAINST OUR ENEMIES AND THE DREAD OF CONSCIENCE

(Prayer 1) Rebuke and chasten us (O most good and merciful God) like thy dear children, by removing and taking away thy grievous wrath and dreadful indignation from these present adversities. Surely we feel thy heavy hand and perceive the great perils we are in, who know that it cannot be remedied and amended by man's help: which thing doth not befall and happen unto us without our just deserts. For doubtless our heinous sins and grievous iniquities have wrapped us in on all sides, wherewith we are sore burdened and miserably oppressed far above our power. Hereupon it cometh to pass that we go always mourning, and are in a manner at deaths door, through great heaviness and anguish of heart. We see our neighbors and friends stand a far off, and our adversaries pitch guileful snares, who work all the means they can possible devise utterly to overthrow us. Thou therefore (O good God) for thy loving mercies sake, first and foremost reconcile us unto thee, by lovingly forgiving and favorably pardoning whatsoever we have most filthily committed against thy divine Majesty, then make haste and speed to be our ready help. We abide looking for thee our only refuge, who hast been accustomed readily to succor those that unfeignedly call upon thee, and give ear unto their lamentable petitions. Thou art not ignorant how the Antichristians triumph and rise up against us, whilst we are so shaken and tossed: for they which hate us very unjustly, increase and wax daily stronger and stronger. Wherefore we humbly require thee (O excellent Father) not to forsake us in so great and grievous afflictions, seeing that thou thyself art our only salvation, make haste (we heartily beseech thee) to help and succor thy blessed Church, and mightily rescue it, being in extreme peril, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Although (O most good and merciful God) we find the fardel and burden of wickedness which we have committed against thee to be so great, as we are not now any longer able to sustain and bear them, therefore upon affiance of thy unspeakable goodness, we come and call upon thee with a sorrowful

heart, not to correct us for them with ire and wrathful indignation: let thy admonition be fatherly as thou hast been accustomed of old to show and extend the same towards thy faithful servants. Behold how (through conscience of our heinous sins) our hearts be altogether amazed, all things are marvelously putrefied and very corrupt in us: we shall live exceeding sorrowfully in affliction, and in a manner quite destitute of light, unless thou puttest to thy assistant helping hand. Neither do we trust anything at all in our friends and neighbors: for our grievous sins purchase us all things frowardly and after an envious manner. Therefore (O good God) at what time we pour out our wretched iniquities into thy bosom, and are so much careful to procure pardon for them, let us not be utterly destitute of the loving favor and rich mercy that is naturally grafted in thee, but as thou art always tractable and easy to be entreated, so vouchsafe to make haste for to minister speedy and steadfast help in our sorrowful distresses, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 39: AGAINST VANITY AND THE HATERS OF MAN'S LIFE AND SAFETY

(Prayer 1) Seeing that (O most mighty God) we are vexed with present calamities in this most troublesome time, and oppressed with so great a storm of afflictions: we fly unto thee for succor, humbly requiring that thou wouldest so bridle our mouth and tongue with thy holy spirit as nothing may pass from us either detestable to thy divine Majesty, or unseemly for our profession. But seeing we cannot rightfully complain that these perplexities and anguishes do surmount our heinous sins, or that we be unworthily punished, grant we may appease and stay the cursed cries of such as wrongfully complain of thee: but rather let our bowels be stirred up with a perfect grief for the heinous sins we have committed, let them ware whotte with a most inward sorrow, and cause our hearts to be kindled and set on fire with a continual earnest repentance. Grant that we may right well understand (O most gentle father) every moment and hour the state of our unripe life, forsomuch as it is but mere vanity howsoever we lead it,

and we are far wide to think that our careful turmoil, or heaping together of uncertain riches, are able to profit or avail us anything at all. Therefore it behooveth us (O mighty Lord) to have a special regard unto thee only, whom if thou wilt especially relieve from our grievous sins and heinous iniquities, our assured hope is that we shall be no more a scorn and reproach to the ungodly. For thou hast been accustomed to remove thy plagues from such as be purged and cleansed of their wicked crimes, and sinful deeds, least they should be utterly consumed at the shaking of thy most mighty and invincible hand: which, if it should persevere and go on in continual vexing men (according to their just deserts) it would no less consume then, and grind them to powder than Moths fret out clothes. Give ear therefore (O good God) unto our humble prayers, and seeing thou knowest we cannot have an assured and perfect rest upon earth, grant that we may finally live with thy excellent Majesty by a constant faith, and walk before thee in much safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) While we feel any tokens of thy rigor and severity (O most mighty God) although we are persuaded in spirit not to speak evil of thy goodness or justice: yet (through the greatness of our extreme sorrow and testimony of our sins) we are almost so far gone, and brought to such a point that our life is very irksome unto us: wherefore, seeing that we confess our heinous sins unto thee, and have sundry ways wickedly offended thy divine Majesty, be merciful and favorable unto us for thy loving kindness and mercies sake. Thou seest how short and vain a thing our life is, being like unto shadows, wherein is nothing firm, sound, or worth the trusting to: we fade away in a moment, and what time soever thou givest us here to live, we pass over all the same (through our own default) with most heady, troublesome, and pernicious affections. We require thee therefore that thou wouldest yet at length have mercy upon us: let our earnest petitions and sorrowful mourning (which thy blessed spirit hath from our hearts wrong out in us) enter into thy merciful ears, and moreover vouchsafe thou safe to refresh our distressed minds, with thy loving favor from time to time, so long as we wander like pilgrims in this wretched world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 40: THAT OUR SINS MAY BE PARDONED THROUGH THE MERITS OF CHRIST

(Prayer 1) Those which are sustained and stayed up with such a hope (O most mighty God) that they look for thy ready help in their present tribulations, when they most charge them, and have an especial regard unto thee, being in no despair thereof at all, thou at length (according to thy accustomed goodness and unspeakable mercy) grantest their humble requests, thou hearest their loud cries out of the deep waters, and sticking fast in mire and dirt liftest them out thereof with thy most puissant help. Whereby it happeneth, that they being mightily delivered, have thy inestimable praises continually in their mouths, which they celebrate with new ditties, both openly and privately, to the intent they would stir up and provoke all men to the perfect belief, assured hope, and due fear of thee. Give us therefore at this present such grace, as we may both repose our whole trust in thee only, and also not to pass for the proud persons or liars that have risen up together against thy sacred church, perceiving right well that thou art the author of all wonderful matters, who hast in the high treasures of thy divine providence, such devices and purposes which no man can rehearse or show forth in order, nor yet once to utter, in as much as they excel in number and greatness all force of words, and efficacy of speech. Therefore where as we have hitherto grievously offended thee, by reason of our heinous sins, neither can make sufficient satisfaction by any sacrifice of our own, grant us an obedient faith to be at all times proclive and ready to follow thy blessed will, which thou hast vouchesafe to manifest and reveal unto us in the book of thy sacred law: grant that we may readily and with a free will execute the same, being surely printed in the most inward parts of our sinful body. And like as thou dost never withhold thyself from speedy mercy and unspeakable goodness towards us: so again let thy zealous loving servants manifestly show forth thy steadfast faithfulness, upright justice, and sincere truth, both in their words and conversation. Thou seest how we are borne down and laden with grievous sins, how we are overwhelmed with miserable adversities, and how both heart and wit faileth us: wherefore have thou an

especial regard to our salvation, and make speedy hast to help us. Or rather confound and put the fierce enemies of thy blessed name to utter confusion, but let us which unfeignedly seek thee, be at length greatly refreshed, and cause us to find by proof, that it is not in vain, that thou art reported to be the most assured salvation itself, and helper of poor silly wretches and grievous afflicted persons, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) They which suffer the prolonging of thy favorable help (O most mighty God) with right and patient minds, do at length well perceive and assuredly feel that thou hearest their fervent prayers: and when in good earnest they find themselves to be delivered, do not only celebrate thy glorious name with due praises, but give a sufficient example to other godly men for to do the like. Now therefore (which we may only do) forso much as thou delightest not in outward sacrifices, we endeavor and strive to obtain thus much by our hearty prayers, that we may become very loving and desirous to follow thy holy will daily more and more, setting forth thy blessed truth and unspeakable mercy towards us with often, or rather continual praises. But in the mean season, whatsoever we have done dishonestly or after a wicked manner against thee, according to thy loving mercy and excellent goodness forgive it us, neither suffer those grievous punishments and woeful calamities to overwhelm us, which our sins have justly deserved. And let such as seek thy dishonor and our confusion, be put to utter shame and rebuke: but cause those that be exceeding zealous and very careful of thy blessed name, to be replenished with true joy and perfect gladness. But seeing thou right well knowest that we are greatly despised, and marvelous destitute of worldly and fleshly help, make thou hast mightily to save us, who art our puissant defense, and very strong fortress, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 41: AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF GOD'S HOLY WORD, AND FOR THE WORKS OF CHARITY

(Prayer 1) It is a token of no small grace (O most mighty God) well to judge both of such as be feeble minded, and also of all the Godly whom thou dost

sometime chastise and scourge diverse manner of ways, although thou usest correction with a fatherly affection, yet wilt thou readily deliver them, speedily quicken them, and in the end abundantly bless them with thy excellent presence: which hope we also leaning unto, and trusting upon, (who are now most grievously afflicted) do here together earnestly require thee to have mercy upon us, by relieving and delivering us from the grievous sins wherewith we have most heinously offended thee. Thou knowest undoubtedly that the cruel enemies of thy holy Gospel, wish us much evil: thou understandest what they imagine and determine amongst themselves of our destruction. They verily practice and go about nothing more then to overthrow thy blessed Church, and with them also do such take part as we thought to have been allied with us, both by religion, and also for many other respects and good turns. Extend thou therefore (O good God) thy mercy and compassion towards us, whereby thou hast been accustomed not only to raise up such as are fallen and lie under foot, but also utterly to confound and bring their adversaries to utter ruin. Give not the fierce enemies of true religion and perfect godliness, scope to rejoice at thy faithful servants destruction. But if thou wilt mightily deliver us out of these present calamities, and with great force confirm the same by thy holy spirit, thy blessed name shall be openly commended and highly praised of all godly men, which thing we earnestly require may continually come to pass and that without ceasing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) There remain wonderful great rewards (O most good and merciful God) for such as have much compassion upon the afflicted: but those that show mercy unto the most miserable, and such men as be in great distress, do imitate and follow the example of thy exceeding great goodness. For thou art wont to comfort thy faithful servant which lieth sore sick in his bed, so that thou thyself seemest to make the same, to the intent that he which is diseased might lie the softer, neither is there any point of dutifulness which we accompt most singular, wherewith thou dost not very favorably pleasure and serve the turn of thy blessed people, whensoever thou shalt think time convenient to help them. Wherefore seeing we may well perceive that (for our grievous sins) we be fallen

into most dangerous and sore distresses, we humbly fly unto thy goodness only, hoping that thou wilt vouchsafe to remit whatsoever we have offended or displeased thee in, neither suffer the wicked enemies of our salvation, to triumph and rejoice at our destruction, forsomuch as it shall be manifested in this one point, that thou dost make a very great accompt of us, when as thou art our strong defender in such a noisome and troublesome time. Succor us (we humbly beseech thee) and show how thou dost mightily uphold us, whereby we may (according to our bounden duty. Publish and set forth the worthy praises of thy most glorious name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 42: DISTRESS FOR THE COMFORT OF THE GOSPEL

(Prayer 1) There is none (O most mighty God) that well and rightly considereth thy inestimable goodness, but with a fervent mind doth (like unto a heart that is very thirsty) breathe and fervently bray unto thee both day and night: for how can it be that any man having a true faith, should not make earnest haste to come unto the living God? but we have been hitherto greatly slack in that hearty desire, neither have we unfeignedly sought God (as we ought to do) in the sacred and holy Congregations. Therefore, (through much heaviness and sorrow) piteous tears have been our meat and drink in these marvelous troublesome times, whiles the most cruel enemies of thy blessed Church do daily mock and jest at us, saying where is their God. But as thou (O good God) art merciful and most gentle, so lay down and turn away (we humbly beseech thee) thy heavy displeasure which thou hast rightly conceived against us, and remembering thy faithful promises, grant unto us (although we in no wise deserve it) that our assured hope and constant faith may be most firm and strong, so as our soul be not cast down lower than it ought to be. For although floods, tempests, and bottomless pits of temptations seem to be poured out upon thy blessed Church, yet so assuage and moderate them with the goodness of thy singular mercy and excellent grace, that our mind and conscience be not deprived of their perfect joy.

Grant, that we being stirred up with thy holy spirit, may always encourage ourselves to hope and trust in thy most steadfast help because we shall yet still celebrate and praise thy glorious name, for restoring us health and perfect quietness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We desire with our whole heart (O most good and merciful God) to be knit and annexed unto thee, daily hungering and thirsting for the same, because we cannot without great sorrow and grief, hear the gyrd and scornings both of our own mind and of our cruel adversaries (when thou seemest to have forsaken us) wherewith they mock at godliness and faith conceived, namely by casting us in the teeth with the woeful cares, piteous miseries, and lamentable calamities that we (being sore oppressed) seem in a manner to be cast down with, and that so much the more because our own sins become every day greater and greater. We humbly beseech thee (O good God) for thy excellent mercies sake, to pardon and forgive us the same, whereby we may be made able to confirm and strengthen ourselves, being assuredly printed in our minds by thee only: and seeing that our evil affections and grievous terrors of punishments are very troublesome unto us, grant that we (being mightily strengthened with thy loving promise) may comfort our own afflicted souls, persuading then, that as they trust only in thee, so shall they be in good hope cheerfully to celebrate thy most glorious name, because thou art both become their perfect salvation, and also their true God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 43: IN NECESSITY

(Prayer 1) Take at length upon thee (O most good and mighty God) through thy own authority and invincible power, the judgment of our cause, which although it endeavoreth to maintain and uphold the true worshipping of thee and thy pure religion, for which things sake, the same is very good, and yet nevertheless is it forsaken and disallowed of all men. Wherefore we have exceeding great need that thou dost deliver us from deceitful and wicked men. Thou only remainest the chief comfort, assured strength, and strong defense of thy

blessed Church: Notwithstanding we have lived unworthy of thy holy name, profession, and doctrine, but such is thy unspeakable mercy, that it hideth such men's iniquities as unfeignedly repent and turn unto thee, it forgiveth heinous sins, and will not lay to the charge of the faithful whatsoever they have most wickedly committed. Therefore we heartily require thee to have pity upon us, and make us in such wise partakers of thy splendent light and glorious truth, that we may both here worship thee purely in the holy congregations, and at the last be conducted to the most blessed habitations of eternal life. Our soul truly is now heavy and utterly dismayed: we are oftentimes vexed with timorous imaginations, and the bowels within us do tremble and quake for fear. Yet we humbly beseech thee (O excellent father) to confirm such an assured hope in us, that we may hereafter set forth thy worthy praises, and be exceeding cheerful for the obtaining of our salvation, when as thou shalt declare thyself to be our most famous God, as in very deed thou art, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We commit our cause to thy strong defense and puissant government (O most mighty God) being in marvelous great danger, and in so great perils of this sinful life. For although we have no strength and power in ourselves, so long as we continue in this most miserable life, whereunto may we lean, seeing we be wretchedly overlaid with original sin, and an infinite number of wickednesses adjoined thereto: yet we humbly beseech thee, let the clear light of thy most loving countenance shine upon us, that the darkness of our mind may be made bright thereby. For if it happen unto us through thy unspeakably mercy, to be replenished with thy exceeding gladness and incredible joy, we will then bid our mind (which otherwise would be abashed) to be of good cheer. This one thing we heartily require of thee, to vouchsafe for to grant us, that we may repose our whole trust and affiance in thee alone, because thou only art become our salvation and very true God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 44: IN PERSECUTION, AS WELL AGAINST CORPORAL ENEMIES AS SPIRITUAL

(Prayer 1) Thou hast of thy singular goodness (O most mighty God) chosen thee a Church out of many nations, planted with thy puissant hand, and not by man's force, which being (through thy singular favor and blessed spirit) cleansed and purged from her heinous sins, hath hitherto escaped the mischievous assaults of the cruel devil, through thy mighty aid and strong defense: thou hast always preserved it from her outrageous adversaries, and put them to utter shame and endless rebuke which bore deadly hate thereto. We ought therefore to have rejoiced in thee alone, and highly to extol thy blessed name only: but alas for sorrow, we have been most ungrateful for all these excellent benefits, in flesh and man's power hath been our only affiance, for we (through our most wicked life and ungodly behavior) have brought thy blessed doctrine which we profess, to great infamy and reproach. Thou therefore dost cast us down presently, and heapest shame upon us: we are now in a manner become a prey unto Antichrist, and a mocking stock unto our neighbors. Thy sacred Gospel (O good God) is at this present a bye word unto the Infidels, a scorn unto the people, and a May game unto every rascal: we acknowledge that all these things have happened unto us by reason of our mischievous sins, and that right worthily. But (O excellent Father) reconcile us again unto thee (according to thy merciful goodness) and vouchsafe to pardon whatsoever we have very lewdly and foolishly committed against thy divine Majesty, and grant also that we be not anything at all forgetful of thee, neither be found false hearted, or unfaithful in thy holy covenant. Let not our mind at any time start and shrink aside from thy blessed footsteps, although we should be worn to the uttermost, and compassed about on every side with the shadow of death. Let us never so overshoot ourselves, (no though we be appointed as sheep to the slaughter) as to be forgetful of thy glorious name, and to have recourse unto detestable worshipings. Awake, we humbly beseech thee (O good God) neither slumber nor sleep thou anymore. Let not thy face be hidden from our grievous afflictions: arise and mightily preserve them that are

thrown down, and brought very low, whom we doubt not but thou of thy unspeakable mercy hast chosen unto thyself, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Wonderful things are set forth unto us in the sacred scriptures (O most good and merciful God) of thy excellent mercy and victorious acts which thou hast showed in old time, as touching the strong defense, the mighty preservation, and excellent increasing of thy faithful servants: by hearing whereof, we are assuredly persuaded to repose our whole trust in thee only, and not in our own strength, riches, and power. But now (being sore oppressed with the most grievous burden of our heinous sins, when as we feel the deserved revenge of thy heavy wrath, and fearing more dreadful pains and sharp punishments, (as men whose consciences do justly accuse them) earnestly require thee, who art always very merciful, to pardon and forgive whatsoever we have lewdly committed against thy divine Majesty: furthermore, if thou shalt purpose and determine with thyself to vex us with bitter calamities and woeful miseries, grant that the same be not the cause we defile the godly awe and reverence which is due of our parts unto thee: neither suffer thou us to have recourse unto any other counsels than thine. Stir up thyself therefore, and make haste to help us: for thou seemest to have turned away thy favor from us, while thou prolongest the time to be our strong helper. And therefore, to the intent thy accustomed tender mercy and favorable goodness may be manifested and well known, vouchsafe mightily to deliver us from these dangerous perils that encircle and compass us about on every side, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 45: FOR SALVATION PURCHASED UNTO US BY CHRIST

(Prayer 1) We have Christ Jesus (O most good and merciful God) an only and most ample King to all sorts of good men, whose force as it is very notable, so is the throne of his glorious Empire established forever. His excellent power is invincible, it is garnished with most notable righteousness, he standeth in high favor with thee, and is (in his unspeakable wisdom) right glorious. The Church

is unto him as a most royal Queen espoused, to the intent she may bring him forth a most plentiful and holy seed. We therefore which ought with all our endeavor to have honored so mighty a King, have (through our naughtiness, and lewd behavior) defiled his excellent name and holy kingdom, which we now heartily acknowledge, and earnestly confess before thee (O most excellent father) humbly requiring thy divine majesty to pardon, and forgive us the same, that we being received into thy loving favor, may feel a fresh the benefits of our good king: and although we neither merit nor deserve the same, yet grant that he may arise in this time of our great distress, be girded about with his two edged sword, and deliver his dear espoused Church from the violent injuries and opprobrious slanders of Antichrist. Let him now draw out the exceeding sharp darts of his mighty word and blessed spirit, and execute the rod of severe judgment and righteousness, wherewith he hath been always accustomed to govern his kingdom: and at this present very manifestly to declare that he greatly loveth truth, and hateth iniquity as a most wicked thing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy only begotten son our Lord Jesus Christ (O most good and merciful God) is worthy to be commended by all means possible that can be devised, who hath above all things uttered and set forth himself elegantly and after a beautiful manner, in the form of excellent virtues, and shape of pure holiness, using a most gentle manner of persuasion, both in his teaching and exhortation, and bringeth all things under his divine power and omnipotent government, through the puissant sword of his blessed word, and efficacy of his incomparable force: who hath from time to time showed himself a very great lover of righteousness, and a most extreme enemy of iniquity. But whereas we sinful wretches as a chaste spouse in wedlock were handfasted to such and so puissant a one as he is, have defiled ourselves through sundry and manifold spots of corrupt vices. Therefore our earnest request is, that thou wouldest cleanse us with hearty repentance and thy blessed spirit, whereby the wicked and lewd desires that be grafted in us, being once forgotten, we may altogether aspire unto the love of this most delectable bridegroom, and that through our labor laid together instead of our fathers, who are now already gathered unto him, many more faithful

children may be begotten unto him a new, with whom we may always set out and celebrate his famous honor and most noble praises, through the self same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 46: FOR VICTORY IN TEMPTATION

(Prayer 1) Whosoever do certainly believe thee (O most good and merciful God) to be their only hope and assured strength, thou hast been always very prone and ready to help them in their great afflictions. Wherefore the faithful are utterly void of all manner of fear, although the whole earth be moved, the hills shake, the waves and surges of the sea do so outrageously beat upon the shore, that all things may seem incontinent to be destroyed and quite overflown with waters: and on the other side they are endued with a great and notable assurance, when as thou refreshest them in their grievous distresses, with the most pleasant rivers of thy heavenly consolations, namely in setting out the rare and wonderful means of thy assistant help through thy fruitful spirit. Upon which thy excellent goodness, we also having assured confidence, notwithstanding the innumerable sins which we confess to be the chief cause why we have offended thee most grievously, require that thou wouldst shake and make feeble the Nations and Kingdoms which thou seest do resist thy sacred Church with great violence, and most crafty devices: show forth that voice of thine wherewith the earth and every creature therein are wont to be shaken and utterly brought to naught. Be thou (O our God) as a most strong and invincible Tower unto us: cause thou wars here to cease, and make thou spears, horse, chariots, and all kind of weapons blunt, that they may finally leave of their lewd enterprises, who mightily fight against us, and show thou thyself great and excellent above all things, while thou dost manifest thyself to be better for our deliverance than all the armies and puissance of the whole world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) After what sort soever a very sudden or horrible mishap (O most mighty God) shall sore vex us, our hope shall not fail us, neither will we be

anything dismayed or troubled, seeing we are now fully resolved that thou art our only helper and deliverer: although the whole world be moved, the storms of human flesh do swell, and that all the Devils of hell with their whole furniture should seem to shake all things of ours, yet do we repose and settle ourselves in thy unspeakable goodness, and invincible power. Our sins truly deserve all manner of trouble and enmity: but forgive thou us them, (according to thy accustomed goodness) and pitying our present calamities, grant that such as unfeignedly call upon thee, may enjoy health, peace, and quietness of mind: for thou canst very easily disappoint and break the swords, bow, warlike engines, and all the crafty deceits and imaginations of the Devil, not only through thy most mighty and invincible word, but also even with a beck, and at thy only will and pleasure: our earnest request is (O good God) to apply ourselves here unto that we may attentively behold those marvelous acts which thou dost for thy faithful servants, whereby all Nations may right well know and perceive that thou takest our part, and determinest to be a continual helper, of thy blessed people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 47: FOR THE GOOD SUCCESS AND INCREASEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

(Prayer 1) Thou hast vouchsafed (O most mighty God) to gather and collect a Church unto thyself on earth, which thou hast not conveyed into stony houses, or Temples of Marble, but into the lively hearts of men, whom thou deckest and garnishest with thy most wonderful gifts, and dost polish the same passing well with the holy Ghost: and therefore seeing they be endued with so great a reward, it behooveth all faithful people to make an exceeding pleasant mirth and joyful gladness. But the most deadly and heinous sins which we have committed, do greatly darken these thanks givings and merry songs, who are worthily very sore oppressed with the afflictions of them: and seeing we heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess that we have hitherto gone astray, and suffer none otherwise than we have most justly deserved: thou that art very mercy itself,

forgive thy faithful people, and thou also who art most high, and rulest far and near, destroy us not according to our merits. Grant (O excellent father) that our naughty and lewd behaviors hinder not the propagation of thy glorious kingdom: arise and go forwards by causing strange people to be in subjection to the faith, and make those Nations (which have been hitherto Infidels) obedient to thy sacred word: and thou who hast chosen thee a Church as a most notable and famous heritage, magnify thyself continually by all means and with most exquisite praises therein, in such wise as all men may accompt, preach, and exalt thee for their king: but as for thy faithful servants who now seem to be above all others most cast away, lighten them in such wise with thy blessed spirit, and rule them so by thy holy word, as all men may perceive that they be guided and governed by thy mighty power. And vouchsafe that the sovereign estates and what power soever is in the world, may at length be annexed and knit unto thee, that thou be none otherwise their God than thou wert in old time the God of faithful Abraham. Grant that the kings and princes who ought of duty to help and defend their subjects, may perfectly acknowledge thee, whereby thy famous honor and renowned glory may most brightly shine therein to the singular benefit of thy sacred Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) It behooveth all faithful people (O most good and gracious God) to extol and advance the kingdom of Christ with an exceeding joy, wonderful gladness, and most hearty endeavor: for so thy unspeakable goodness is both mightily declared, and we also are come to the full attainment of our salvation. Surely it is very requisite that all people and Nations should be in subjection to his government, and the world shall go best on our side, who be his peculiar heritage, and especial flock. We heartily require thee therefore (O our most puissant king) who art exalted into the high heavens, and unto the right hand of thy father to vouchsafe for to acquire us of the heinous faults we have grievously committed, and whatsoever sorrowful calamities and strange mishaps be like to fall upon us, put them off from our shoulders through thy inestimable mercy and mighty power, whereby thou thyself alone mayest bear rule and reign in our minds. And grant that all kings, all princes and great states that have authority upon earth,

may inseparably cleave unto thee being the rightful and most true God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 48: FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND CONGREGATION

(Prayer 1) Thy excellent Majesty and exceeding honor (O most good and merciful God) aboundeth greatly in the Church, seeing that thou dost mightily rule her with thy sacred word and holy spirit, neither art thou marvelously praised there only: but what comeliness or perfect joy soever is in the whole world, it issueth and proceedeth doubtless from thee. And forsomuch as thou art far better known there than anywhere else, it cometh hereof, that thou art in the same place a sure defense and most strong fortress to thy faithful servants. Let the kings therefore assemble together, and the princes conspire (as they think good) utterly to subvert and overthrow her, yet shall they be enforced to leave of their fond devices, as who at the feeling of thy mighty power present (being stricken with exceeding fear) must needs cease from their wicked attempts: for such as thou strykest a fear into, they are overtaken with sorrow as women laboring of child. Wherefore (O good God) suffer not our heinous sins to exceed and surmount thy unspeakable goodness: we truly have offended thee very grievously (neither do we deny the same) but together with our heinous sins we acknowledge also thy exceeding great mercy, which we seek for with sorrowful tears, that we may at length be reconciled unto thee, not for our own deserts, but through the inestimable goodness, loving favor, and bening grace of thy dear son: and grant that the fierce enemies of thy blessed Church may in likewise come to utter ruin, as ships are oftentimes torn amidst the sea through the very great and exceeding hideous noise of the wind which is suddenly stirred up: so that like as we have heard with our ears thy most large promises set forth and preached out of the holy Scriptures, so we may also with our eyes see them mightily come to pass and be performed. We have already conceived an assured hope and steadfast confidence by those things which are set out unto us in thy most blessed word,

now grant (we humbly beseech thee) that the thing may take so good success, as through the publishing of thy glorious name and goodness, incontinent after the performance of thy excellent benefits, we may with great solemnity render due thanks for the same. And to the intent it may be everywhere known, that whatsoever proceedeth from thee, is nothing else but upright justice: be thou our God, even our God I say, both so long as we here live, and also everlastingly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) All creatures (O most good and merciful God) do plainly and evidently acknowledge thy great goodness: but thy sacred Church is the especial work wherein thou art singularly preached and magnified. From thence all the whole world receiveth gladness, for so much as the sound doctrine is there, whereby both thou thyself art manifestly known, and we also called to heaven, for what most pleasant, joyful, and blessed thing so ever can be had upon earth, it flourisheth there. And therefore no marvel is it, though the adversaries force rageth against her with cruel threatening, outrageous madness, and furious violence: if thou be at hand without delay, thou dost maintain, favor, and defend it in such wise, that the mighty rulers of the world, and princes of darkness are enforced will they nill they to be sore troubled to run headlong away, and to be marvelously disquieted with exceeding great fear. Their impotent threatenings are utterly disappointed through thy mighty power: but there thy faithful servants are unburdened of their heavy cares and sad griefs, which benefits of thine we now and then feel not, because we fall exceeding miserably and marvelous painfully into sundry and manifold faults, being driven thereto partly by infirmity, and partly through ignorance. By this so great honor of thy glorious house, we humbly beseech thee therefore to blot out whatsoever we have committed against thee, to the intent that thou thyself mayst rule and govern us in the same Church, to the glory of thy most excellent name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 49: THAT WE ABUSE NOT TEMPORAL GOODS

(Prayer 1) We heartily require thee (O most mighty God) that faith may be annexed to the doctrine of thy holy Ghost, when as being grievously afflicted through the naughty behavior of our outrageous enemies, we may duly way this with ourselves, that they stay most upon their transitory riches and wealth wherein they much abound: for they verily perceive not that men can by no riches in this world redeem themselves from death and eternal damnation. Bridle thou (O excellent father) our affections, in such wise that no frail things take any place at all in us. Let the common infirmity and misery which is wholly sown in such as we be, admonish us, or else very death that spreadeth itself over all people, how wise or foolish soever men be, they can in no sort so mock death, as always to keep and enjoy the goods they have gotten in this wretched world. We also do plainly confess, that we have oftentimes fallen on this behalf, who, trusting in worldly strength, were persuaded of wonderful victories, pomps, and triumphs, as though our names should have been exalted above all measure. Neither did we well consider that a good fortune, and prosperous success of the flesh, endureth but a time, and so many as have assured confidence in them, shall perish at length like beasts, and are put into hell, and imprisoned under an everlasting night. Forgive us (O good God) this heinous crime, that putting away and casting aside all vain hope of worldly wealth, thou thyself mayst take us up into thy tuition, and raise us from eternal death and the pains of Hell. Grant that we stand in no fear at all of them, who have greatly increased themselves and their houses with riches and honor, all which things are but commodious only for this present life, that they might be the better able to follow the sensual appetite of their fleshly lusts. Finally, we humbly require thee (O good God) to deliver thy blessed church from these outrageous enemies which have not this perseverance, as to understand that the honor and authority they have, is given them of God, who die not only like senseless beasts, but (being deprived of their worldly goods) shall after this wretched life, suffer eternal punishment, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) The renowned oracles of the sacred doctrine which thou hast vouched safe to set out in the holy scriptures, ought men (O mighty God) well to consider with most attentive minds: yea, there is no man so ignorant, or any of so high degree, but it behooveth him very diligently, to ponder and weigh the excellent things that thou speakest. And this thou chiefly admonishest us of, that we have not that confidence in the pleasures of this world, (being very vain and frail) which we ought to repose in thee only. What thing soever is wonderful, puissant, exceeding strong, marvelous excellent, or very honorable amongst men, are of no force to redeem and deliver us from death: but such is their property and condition, that they are quickly changed, and perish in the twinkling of an eye: neither may the man which hath his whole affiance in these, abide any while in honor. For so soon as they wither and perish, so soon also doth their counterfeit renown fade away. Wherefore we earnestly require thee (O good father) to forgive us, because we have hither to (so long, and with such a fervent desire) trusted in these transitory riches, that our hearts and minds being withdrawn therefrom, thou wouldest most straightly annex them to thee and thy sacred words, to the intent we may delight in nothing more, than to follow thee, and cheerfully endeavor to do whatsoever is thy holy will and pleasure, least we become as brute beasts, and perish like most dumb cattle, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 50: REMEMBRANCE IN DISTRESS OF THE LAST JUDGMENT AND PROMISES OF GOD

(Prayer 1) O Puissant and most mighty God, who of thy bountiful mercy hast vouchedsafe to gather thee a blessed Church out of all parts of the world, and that first by the Apostles whom in Mount Zion thou endued with thy sons most abundant spirit. Neither wouldest thou for any other cause gather thy very chosen and good people so wonderfully together, but that a true way how to worship thee (wherein doubtless consisteth the whole perfection of faithful believers) might at length be universally known amongst all nations: and cause us

to learn that godliness doth not altogether consist in outward observations and most dumb ceremonies. For like as these things do please thee so long as they are witnesses and testimonies of faith, so if they be destitute thereof, they are exceeding odious, and very detestable in thy sight. The thing that thou chiefly requirest of us, is this, that thy holy name may be highly praised and duly glorified, not only in words and thoughts, but with all the deeds of this our life. Thy blessed will is that we should unfeignedly perform whatsoever we have heartily promised, and with fervent zeal vowed unto thee, so as we be assuredly persuaded that they are both agreeable to thy sacred word, and a furtherance to perfect godliness. Moreover thou requirest us to invoke and call upon thee when we are most touched with adversity, and to render due thanks to thy divine Majesty (as expedient it is so to do) at what time soever we be mightily delivered therefrom. Thou dost exact and require these things at our hands as the chiefest points of our religion. But we (O good God) have hitherto most wretchedly and unhappily sinned, who have always put no small affiance in our own rites, and ceremonies, and perused oftentimes the holy Scriptures when our heart was far from them: discipline hath been displeasing unto us, and we have everywhere (through our most wicked lusts) neglected thy sacred commandments. Now therefore (for thy singular mercy and infinite goodness sake) pardon and forgive us these our misdeeds, and mightily deliver us from such as (being wrapped in with rapine and unchasteness) spake most villainously of thy sanctified Church and holy Gospel, believing that thou spiest not the naughtiness which they lewdly commit, when as thou seemest not to revenge it, but very patiently to permit and suffer the same. Cause them shortly to understand this right well, neither let us be harassed thus violently of them, as though there were none that could or would deliver us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thou hast showed unto us (O most good and mighty God) through that severe sentence of thine, by what thing mortal men's causes are to be decided before thy high judgment seat, and it liketh thee nothing at all to make inquisition for burnt offerings, or outward sacrifices, seeing the Calves, Goats, wild beasts, and finally all living things that be in the world, are in thy mighty

hand and power, neither was it thy good pleasure at any time that these things should be offered unto thee, any otherwise, but as manifest tokens of reverent awe, pure religion, and inward godliness. But thou hast chiefly required this of mankind, that they should yield and render most hearty thanks for the benefits they have received, and to ascribe all the good things they enjoy unto thee only: but let them diligently annex and join this thereunto, that whatsoever they pretend or purpose to do, it may (according to their faithful promise) greatly redound to the glory of thy blessed name, and call upon thee only in their great distress and miserable calamities. We do in this point (as thou O good God right well knowest) err very grievously: and therefore our hearty desire is, that (for thy infinite goodness sake) thou wouldest pardon and forgive whatsoever we have wickedly and after a lewd manner committed against thee, so as we handle not thy sacred word to our condemnation, least we be, through thy upright sentence, pronounced wonderful arrogant, strange children, exceeding covetous, given to fleshly lust, and cursed speakers, but rather that we may earnestly offer unto thee an acceptable sacrifice of thanksgiving, and fashion our whole life according to the square rule of thy blessed commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 51: FOR REMISSION OF SINS

(Prayer 1) We lamentable with hearty prayer call upon thy loving mercy (O most good and gracious God) that we may be cleansed, washed, and purged from our heinous iniquities, and exceeding detestable and mischievous deeds: who do acknowledge and confess how lewdly we have hitherto behaved ourselves, but our grievous sins shall never be of such force, as to make thee unjust, or false of thy excellent promise: we truly do right well understand that our deserts are not such, as thou shouldest vouchsafe to make most large and notable promises unto us, but stand now in great need of thy unspeakable faithfulness and constancy to help us. Thou seest that we were brought forth into this world corrupted and defiled even from our mothers womb, and were before conceived in the same

iniquities also: purify therefore our minds, and garnish them with such a passing whiteness as seemeth acceptable unto thee. Create in us a pure heart, a right, holy, and serviceable spirit, that we be not cast off from thee as most wicked persons, but may recover the true joys and perfect consolation. If thou wilt deliver us from those deadly sins which accuse us as guilty of eternal death, our lips shall merrily and with right great joy show forth thy worthy praise. Grant (we heartily beseech thee) that we may approach unto thy divine Majesty with a troubled spirit, and an humble and contrite heart, as an offering wherein thou chiefly delightest: then shall our present calamities be mollified, and then also shall we not celebrate thy praises unthankfully: manifest thy loving kindness unto Zion, thy beloved Church: for thou right well perceivest the manifold perils it is subject unto, and that she is grievously assaulted both without and within. We heartily require thee to deliver her not only from outward enemies, but also reform the same, and set it in good state, to the intent she may not seem altogether unworthy such an husband as thou art, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We acknowledge (O most mighty God) with how great a pernicious infection of sins we have defiled our minds: which thing seeing that it is most troublesome and exceedingly grieveth us, neither can we (through our own strength and good works) wash out the spots already conceived: but this is our only refuge, that we may come unto thee being the well spring of mercy, so that thou having compassion upon us, mayest do away our grievous offenses, wash away our deadly iniquities, blot out our heinous sins, and purify again our vices, wherewith we are wonderfully infected even from our conception and birth. For if thou wilt most frankly pardon the misdeeds and wickedness wherewith we are sore burdened, then verily shalt thou appear to be exceeding true, faithful, and most constant in thy faithful promises. Vouchsafe to sprinkle us with the blood of thy only begotten son, by which one sovereign thing both the soul and body may be renewed with a marvelous comfortable joy. We earnestly desire a new heart to be created in our bowels, and to be endued also with thy most noble spirit, to the intent we may not be compelled, but with right good will, offer unto thee a sacrifice of a troubled and contrite heart, which thou never usest to

contemn: that finally being so cleansed by thy gracious favor and loving mercy, we may always offer unto thee an acceptable sacrifice of thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 52: AGAINST ALL PERNICIOUS REDUCEMENT

Such as have (through their own maliciousness) prevailed, and by their pernicious facts attained unto some authority, are wont to boast arrogantly thereof, and have always had a great delight in cursed words, accounting it for the singular pleasure in the world, to do hurt, to lie, and to speak very deceitfully. But yet (like miserable wretches as they be) they do not in the mean while diligently consider how suddenly and in a time unlooked for, their prosperous estate and such transitory goods, will be turned upside down, and they also to have no portion at all of eternal salvation, in such sort as they shall not have any place in the land of the living. But we O almighty and most merciful God (who chiefly trust in thy unspeakable mercy and infinite goodness) beseech thee, that the heinous sins being done away, whereinto we have through human imbecility oftentimes fallen, may be of a right lowly mind, neither puffed up with arrogance through any of thy excellent gifts, but by the fall and overthrow of proud persons, may rightly perceive, that they took not God for their invincible strength and sure defense, but riches and worldly prosperity. Grant us we humbly beseech thee for thy infinite mercy and goodness sake, steadfastly to repose our whole confidence in thee only, and that we may like the leafy and flourishing Olive tree, live fruitfully in thy sacred Church, and magnify thee (as meet it is so to be) because thou art most richly liberal to such as be thy faithful and loving servants, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 53: FOR DELIVERANCE OUT OF TROUBLE THROUGH FAITH

Woe be unto the brainsick lewdness of the ungodly which hath burst forth into such madness, that they persuade themselves how there is no God, whereby

they lead a most filthy life, and are defiled throughout with detestable conditions, and most abominable facts: but as they be beneficial to none, so do they seek their own things with doing of wrong to other folk. But, God, whom they little set by knoweth these their lewd practices right well: who, although he filleth the heavens with his Majesty, yet espieth he out men's wicked and lewd facts, amongst whom (alas for sorrow) he seeth not one truly that setteth his mind upon goodness, faithfulness, and uprightness: all have strayed aside from the right way, all oppress the weaker sort, neither do they uprightly honor God, nor truly call upon his blessed name. But the time will come, when as these that be so careless shall be quickened up with most vehement fear. And such as now seem to welter fortunately in their own wickedness, shall at the last be deprived of all their goods, and feel God to show himself angry with them. Wherefore our earnest request is (O heavenly father) that thou wouldest be favorable and merciful to such as fly unto thee for succor, and loosen us from the Chains of our grievous sins wherewith we are fast bound, so that we may be comforted with a right perfect joy, and live with thee in perpetual felicity and most happy blessedness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 54: HELP IN NECESSITY AGAINST THE CRUELTY OF THE UNGODLY

(Prayer 1) At what time thy faithful servants (O most good and merciful God) be tossed with doubtful casualties, and their minds very unstable through most grievous thoughts, then laying aside all man's help (which thou tellest them is altogether vain, and in no wise to be trusted unto) do come unto thee as their most strong defense, calling upon thy invincible Godhead (and that from the bottom of their heart) to deliver them from the outrageous, unmerciful, and cruel hearted, who rise up to assault thy dear saints, whom thou hast chosen unto thyself to inherit thy glorious kingdom: and so much the more maliciously do they deal with them, and practice all kind of outrage, because they never set thee before their eyes, whom they ought to have in great honor and high reverence.

Seeing therefore (by reason of the heinous sins by us committed) we perceive that deserved torments and grievous punishments do hang over our heads, we require thee to show thy lawful favor unto them which make humble intercession, who are heartily sorry in that they have so grievously offended thee, and (for thy infinite mercies sake) stand in their defense when their raging and most cruel enemies do assault them, for although our merits require it not, yet nevertheless doth thy assured faithfulness, steadfast truth, and constant promises assure us the same. But having achieved our desires, we shall with songs of praises, continually call upon thee, and will show forth our thankful mind in the joyful Congregation of faithful and godly men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We do continually call upon thy glorious name (O most mighty God) to the intent we may find thy present help in these extreme miseries of thy grievous afflicted Church: it is now needful for thee (through thy force and invincible power) to rescue us out of the hands of the ungodly, and take us unto thyself: and although our corrupt manners and wicked life which we have hitherto led, do nothing at all deserve the same, yet notwithstanding we know thy favorable mercy to be such that thou wilt not despise those that fly unto thee for succor, be they never so miserable and unworthy: for that mercies sake therefore, and not for our good works, which (as we have none, so can we not boast of any) give ear (O good God) unto our devout prayers, and gently accept the words that we with one consent have poured out before thy divine Majesty: thou seest after what sort the wicked and strangers which fear thee not, do most cruelly rise up against us, who, seeing that they have not thee nor thy sacred words before their eyes, go about by all the means they can possibly devise, to overthrow thy blessed and sanctified Church. Be thou (we humbly beseech thee) our ready helper, make thou thy servants to be of a notable stout courage, and requite the ungodly with the notorious evils which they have deserved, to the intent we may abundantly glorify thy most excellent name, and everywhere show forth thy unspeakable goodness, because we be delivered from all grievous oppressions, and see those things light upon thy enemies, which all the faithful would right gladly wish to have fallen upon them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 55: FOR SALVATION PURCHASED US BY CHRIST

(Prayer 1) We are enforced (O most good and merciful God) by reason of the extreme and urgent distress of the Church, to cry out daily unto thee: for we cannot be quiet in our minds, when as we both see and know for a certainty, that those who wish much evil unto the Gospel, do so carefully endeavor themselves to bring such unto confusion as unfeignedly trust in thee, we greatly tremble, we are thoroughly troubled, and quake for fear, wishing that we had wings like Doves: whereby we (eschewing these mischiefs) may at length rest quietly in thee. But very convenient is it that we should be afflicted for our heinous sins where-with we have of long time, and that exceeding grievously offended thee: those truly are the occasion why these great mischiefs do light upon us. But we earnestly require thee (O most excellent father) not to be more heinously moved against our wickedness and very lewd behavior, than thou wilt give us grace well to bear: deliver us (for thy infinite mercies sake) from subtle words, and deceitful devices, and have a great foresight that thy holy church be not sore plagued of them, who seem sometime greatly to favor her, and were partakers in the same with us, of the most pleasant and sweet food of thy blessed Sacraments. We now heartily call and earnestly cry unto thee with importunate prayers, that as thou hast oftentimes heretofore miraculously holpen thy faithful servants, so thou wouldest at this present time deliver us from imminent destruction. Let not the league be broken which those have that be at one with thee. We now cast our heavy burdens and most grievous troublesome cares wholly upon thy shoulders. Vouchsafe to bear both them and us also through thy mighty power, otherwise we slide and faint under the burden. Wherefore sustain and increase this our feeble and slender hope with thy most present and ready help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) There is right great cause why we should always (O most mighty God) lamentably require thy aiding hand: for we are continually afflicted by sundry mishaps of the world, the flesh, the Devil, and enemies of righteousness, which moveth us more often and after a vehementer sort to wish that thou

wouldest give us wings and feathers of Doves, wherewith we might fly hence most speedily unto thee: for here have we no man to deliver us out of so great evils, but thee only: yea so deceitful is the hope which we repose in men, that such as a man would judge to be most bound unto him in love, those are found his extremest enemies: for venomous tongues do everywhere scourge the godly: violence, quarreling, wrongfulness, oppression, frauds and deceits do in all places assault them. Wherefore we earnestly cry unto thee even from the heart root, that our minds being purged, thou wouldest blot out the faults wherewith we are miserably stained, and betake us to thy self who repose our whole confidence in thee only: for we have cast our heavy burdens and great griefs upon thy back. And in so much as we are almost sunken down under them, we beseech thee to hold us up with thy unspeakable goodness and mighty power, that the confidence we have affixed in thee, do not slide nor be weakened, but may become strong and steadfast daily more and more, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 56: A STEADFAST CONFESSION OF THE GOSPEL

(Prayer 1) Wicked men (O most good and merciful God) go about to swallow us up: they do assault and afflict us so much as in them lieth. But seeing that thy mighty power far excelleth the princes and kings of the earth, and our whole affiance dependeth on thee only, extend now thy favorable mercy unto us: for we heartily confess that we have most grievously provoked thy heavy displeasure for our manifold sins, considering that we have so wretchedly despised the doctrine of thy sacred law and Gospel, which thou hast sent unto us, that we have always hitherto been a slander unto the same. But now are we very heartily sorry for it, who trusting in the death and bloodshedding of thy son Jesus Christ our Savior, do with great fervency and most earnest prayers, lamentably call upon thee for pardon of all our sinful crimes. For when thou shalt have received us into thy gracious favor, we need nothing at all to fear what flesh can do against us. Thou shalt be present at thy own case, and shalt see how the ungodly do all the day long rail upon thy glorious Gospel, and true worshipping of thee, and how

they continually imagine mischief against thy dear and chosen people. Forso-much as therefore they deal lewdly against those whom thou hast redeemed, how shall they escape thy wrathful indignation. Thou art wont to put down thy adversaries at what time thou art angry with them. It is not thy property to be forgetful of the sorrowful mournings and lamentable cries of thy poor afflicted servants: for the whole number of our prayers are already written in the book of thy providence. Hearken unto them (O God our heavenly father) and when as we be moved and stirred up through thy holy spirit to call upon thy blessed name, turn thou our enemies back, and put them to flight. Be thou present with thy army, defend it, strengthen it, and confirm the same with courageous boldness: if thou be on our side, we will not fear what man do against us: who being delivered by thee, shall magnify thy blessed words and faithful promises forever. Vouchsafe (O good God) that we having achieved peace and tranquility, may be conversant in thy sight forever, and directed always with the bright light of thy favorable and loving countenance, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) So long as we live here (O most mighty God) all things are so unquiet and at so small stay unto us through the desert of our grievous offenses, that we be on every side, assailed with the deadly assaults of the force of our adversaries: but unless thou putttest to thy helping hand, we shall seem to be swallowed up out of hand. Wherefore, (to the intent we may be defended so oft as our frail minds be possessed with a vehement fear) we pour out our fervent prayers before thy mercy seat, which glistereth and shineth most far abroad, that regarding and highly esteeming thy sacred words and loving promises in such sort, as (being strengthened by them) we may with a stout courage overcome whatsoever sorrowful, horrible, unpleasant, and rough thing setteth itself against us. As our tears (O excellent father) are gathered and written by thee, even so when thou art called upon, deliver thy faithful servants from the Gyues and Fetters of their careful minds: and thou of thy infinite goodness, purging our guiltiness, bestow upon us so much strength and steadfast hope, as we need nothing at all to fear the violence and power of malicious disposed persons: for if thou shalt be our redeemer (especially from eternal death) we will always in our daily prayers show

forth the worthy praises of thy most glorious name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) We do daily endeavor ourselves (O most mighty God) lamentably to call upon thy mercy, when as they go about to subvert thy sacred Church, who (being not a few in number, and waxen strong above measure) do not cease by sundry means to assault the same. Neither is there anything that maketh us more afraid, than these our own proper sins wherewith we have most grievously offended thee, and made ourselves utterly unworthy of thy gracious favor: yet notwithstanding (of the great and unspeakable loving kindness that is in thee) we cease not to hope, but set thy loving promises before our eyes, the sayings and words whereof, we commend and approve, and also (so much as in us lieth) take hold of them by faith. Grant therefore (O excellent father) that we be not more fearful than is decent, which the flesh is able to work against us. We know assuredly that the wicked do now everywhere maliciously rail upon us, bending all their devices against thy most sacred doctrine, lying in wait, and seeking occasion by all means possible quite to subvert and utterly overthrow thy sacred Church. Despise not thou (O good God) the prayers and sighs of thy faithful servants, so strengthen and confirm our weak consciences, that we pass nothing at all what men do against us. Deliver our souls from sliding and destruction, so that we may both now and also after this life be partakers of thy most commodious and splendid blessed light, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 57: FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL CONTRARY TO HER ENEMIES EXPECTATIONS

(Prayer 1) Seeing that there is no refuge for us (O most gracious and most mighty God) but to fly unto thee only, we commit our whole salvation into thy tuition and government, to the intent thou shouldest miraculously preserve the same, so that thou mayest be our strong defense until this their outrageous fury (who violently oppress thy sacred Church) be much abated and greatly brought low. Therefore we incessantly call upon thy everlasting name, through whose

mighty power and high authority all things may for the Godly be surely brought to pass. Grant (we humbly beseech thee) that our heinous sins be not the cause thou withdrawest thy merciful goodness from us, which, as we confess them to be most grievous and infinite, so are we nothing doubtful but that they shall be forgiven us, for our only mediator Jesus Christ's sake, through whose loving favor thy faithful servants shall not only be preserved in the glorious kingdom of heaven: but for thy excellent promise and goodness sake, they shall also at length be brought to confusion, whosoever they are which go about to oppress thy constant and steadfast believers. Thou thyself right well seest (O excellent father) how his blessed Church is compelled to have her dwelling continually amongst Lions, in the midst of hot burning flames, environed with most forceable weapons, and tongues chiefly that be very noisome and do exceeding great hurt. To the intent therefore thou mayst show forth and mightily declare thy invincible power touching her preservation, grant that the snares and great layings await which be prepared for thy holy ones, may in conclusion be only hurtful to the Authors and chief devisers thereof: but vouchsafe to give unto us a right steadfast heart and exceeding constant mind touching the confession and publishing of thy blessed name. For we heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess thy unspeakable goodness to be so great, as it deserveth high praise, not only in voice, but with Lute and Harp, and by all ways and means of commendation that possible may be, which pierceth the clouds even unto the glorious heaven. And for because it may daily increase the better, and be more understood, lift up thyself in this our age, by showing forth thy right excellent power in being our shield of defense and buckler, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) There is nothing that doth more relieve and comfort our feeble minds being in great distress and extreme calamities (O most good and merciful God) than the Anchor of faith, which dependeth most steadfastly upon thy excellent goodness. Wherefore, seeing that not without just cause we burn and fry in our lewd vices, we resort unto thy divine Majesty, and (being marvelous sore burdened with the grievous fardell of our most heinous sins) do daily call upon thee for thy assistant and ready help. Send us aid from heaven we humbly beseech

thee, otherwise we shall not be in safety from the Lions, Spears, Darts, and deceitful tongues, wherewith Satan doth marvelously afflict thy holy Church. Advance thyself and make thy infinite power most manifest in taking us out of our enemies hands. For so thy unspeakable clemency and notable faithfulness (which far surmount the Clouds and glorious heavens) shall appear bright in their own excellent greatness, and we in giving due thanks for our deliverance, will joyfully sing double praises to thy glorious name for evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Seeing that thy blessed Church (O most mighty God) is so vexed with the cruel enemies of thy glorious name and blessed doctrine, we repose our whole confidence in thee only, and fly for succor under the shadow of thy wings: we acknowledge and confess that it is our parts to direct our supplications perpetually unto thee, when thou only and none else art able to redress our good cause. We do not deny but that our deserts are marvelous wicked, insomuch as we should very justly be altogether destroyed with these present calamities: who have nothing faithfully performed that which in name and outward show hath been of us professed. But it is thy nature, O good God, (forsomuch as thou art mercy and very goodness itself) not to cast off those which fly unto thee for succor. Send down thy aiding hand from heaven (we humble beseech thee) whereby thou mayst deliver thy faithful people from the reproaches of ungodly and wicked persons. The Antichristians roar against thy blessed Church like Lions, and their hot burning fury against thy holy word increaseth daily more and more. Show forth thyself therefore (O excellent father) and cause thy glory wherewith thou art renowned above all other, to be manifestly known. Rend the nets, fill up the ditches, and make the deceits of none effect, which they practice against the sacred Gospel, whereby our mind may daily more and more be strengthened heartily to confess, courageously to extol, and above all things to exalt thy wonderful praises incessantly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 58: AGAINST OUR NATURAL DECLININGS FROM GOD & CRAFTY LAYINGS AWAIT OF THE UNGODLY

(Prayer 1) The princes of this wretched world (O most mighty God) do grievously assault thy blessed Church, because sound and upright judgment is not given upon divine and heavenly things, by such as continually imagine mischief in their minds, and only practice violence against thy elect and chosen servants. But how should they do otherwise, that even from their mothers womb are borne wicked into this world, and have a most noisome venom (like unto poison of Serpents) naturally grafted in them, which could never by any exhortations or friendly warnings at gods hand be taken out of them: for they put those things after none other sort from them, than do the deaf Adders that shun the charms of the Charmers. Our heinous sins therefore have very well deserved that the outrageous enemies of thy faith and doctrine should afflict us, which now we both heartily confess, and also (for thy infinite mercies sake) earnestly require thee to pardon and forgive. Furthermore we fervently desire this at thy merciful hands, that thou wouldest break in pieces and gnash the Lions teeth, to the intent they may shed away as water, and be like broken shafts, neither let those men hurt thy faithful servants anymore, but cause them to wither away as a Snail in her shell, and be weak as the untimely fruit of a woman. And finally, let their outrage fade away even so easily as a flame made of thorns is quenched. But cheer thou up (O good God) thy faithful servants, who (seeing the great revengements which thou thyself takest upon the sworn adversaries of thy blessed religion) may right well perceive that thou hast a reward laid up in store for thy faithful believers, and let their well doing be established, when as they shall assuredly know and perfectly understand that thou executest straight judgment upon the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Antichrist with all his adherents do imagine none other thing in their mind against thy sacred Church (O most good and merciful God) than mischief and most wicked devices: but whereas they make a goodly show to the intent they would be accounted godly and religious, yet in very deed they imagine

nothing but lies, going astray from thee, even from their birth, having always hitherto marvelous great delight in erroneous things. Now at length are they desirous to spew out and cast forth their venom which they (like the Adder) have kept in a readiness, neither could they so be charmed with the sayings of the holy Scriptures, as to cease from their own lewd desires. Surely (O heavenly father) we are not they that deserve not to be destroyed by them for our evil deeds and lewd behavior, for so much as (through thy excellent mercy) we have well known the way of truth and life, albeit we have continually started aside therefrom, and given ourselves to vain imaginations and wicked desires. But deal thou with us according to the glory and honor of thy name, and vouchsafe to yield unto us not that which we have deserved, but that which by thy promises benight us. Overthrow, grind to powder, and utterly make void the subtle devices, outrageous force, and devilish power of the enemies of thy glorious name and sincere doctrine, so that the godly may perfectly rejoice when as they see thee take their cause in hand, and shall perceive that there is some fruit of righteousness, while thou dealest by upright judgment, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) The behaviors of the wicked (O most mighty God) are so corrupt and naughty, that very little wholesomeness or none at all can seem to be in their decrees: they practice deceits, they offer wrong, and now from their childhood have both fallen from thee, and also live in subjection to their own cankered maliciousness: in fierceness, in hardness of heart, in furious mood, in outrage of mind and in unbridled cruelty, they may be likened unto stinging Serpents, roaring Lions, and such kind of ravenous beasts: therefore (we earnestly require thee) not to suffer us for to fall as our heinous sins have justly deserved, into such an extreme madness, that (forsaking thee who art the Well and Fountain of all good things) we may put our trust and confidence in them, neither permitting us to follow their lewd decrees and fond fantasies, which were so perilous a thing as the other. Cause us (we humbly require thee) to dissent wholly from them, and in the meantime let their power in doing any hurt be utterly abated, so that as men altogether unarmed, although their desire to do mischief be not assuaged, yet both ability and knowledge to fulfill their wicked desire and extreme

eagerness be quite taken from them. Confound thou in the turning of a hand their lewd devices, and cause the Congregation of the faithful greatly to triumph, when as they may right well perceive that thou both renderest the fruit of righteousness to the righteous, and also takest punishment of the ungodly, according to their wretched and lewd deserts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 59: AGAINST THE PHARISEES AND FALSE PROPHETS

(Prayer 1) Our earnest request is (O most mighty God) that thou only wouldest be our speedy deliverer, when as the extreme enemies of thy sacred doctrine and pure religion do grievously oppress us: now it appertaineth unto thee for to defend us from naughty persons, who gape much for our destruction, and have augmented their force and power with great and huge conspiracies, to wipe out thy holy ones from off the earth. They do persecute us nothing at all for our heinous faults and mischievous deeds, whereof we acknowledge and confess that we have committed many, but they run upon us for hatred they only bear to sincere godliness and perfect religion, to the intent they would both craftily and with extreme violence furnish themselves to our destruction. But thou (O good God) who hast dominion over all creatures, first pardon whatsoever we have wickedly committed against thee: then stir up thyself, and at length discuss the cause of the godly. Our most cruel enemies go to and fro, they grin like Dogs and run about in all Countries, for, when they speak anything of our matters, swords and weapons only are in their lips, but thou (O good God) shalt laugh these men to scorn and have them in great derision: we attend and look for help altogether at thy merciful hands, who art our mighty Tower and most strong defense. Let thy sacred Church be such a partaker of thy wonderful and unspeakable goodness, as she may see her desire upon the enemies of all righteousness. Slay not these men after an accustomable manner, but destroy them utterly in such a sort as thy blessed people may not lightly forget the same: cause thou them to become runagates and beggars forever, by reason of their abominable vices,

blasphemous lies, and cursed perjuries, wherewith they are be wrapped and abound greatly: consume thou such manner of men at length, bring them to naught I say, as they may become a laughing stock and by word unto every man, to the intent all people may assuredly know and right well perceive that thou showest thyself a very God unto thy blessed Church, wherein thou oughtest to be highly magnified as a firm defense, and most strong aid for all such as will unfeignedly invoke and call upon thy glorious name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We being hedged in (O most mighty God) through human infirmity, and bound in conscience with the chains of most heavy sins, do continually with right great lamentation, call upon thy unspeakable mercy, wherewith thou mayest willingly and gently bow down thy favorable ear to our humble petitions: the force of our outrageous enemies doth wonderfully assault, marvelously invade, and greatly oppress us, but seeing that the strength of our nature utterly falleth in this behalf, and sheweth itself altogether unavailable, arise thou (O God) and overthrow by thy mighty puissance, whatsoever shall be repugnant to our salvation, and finally deride and mock such a one as hath a greater pleasure to resist thy blessed will, then to submit himself thereunto as meet it is he should so do. We have reposed the whole strength of our welfare in thee only, having no mistrust but that thou art our chief goodness and most merciful God: although therefore the fierce enemies of thy glorious name compass us about, and after a sort besiege us with the dark and obscure blindness which they shed, we (trusting in thy excellent goodness) hope that the malicious wickedness they have imagined, shall not fall on us, but light upon their own necks: wherefore let thy inestimable goodness (according to our assured hope) be in stead of a strong fortress, puissant refuge, and mighty Bulwark unto us, who are wonderful desirous to celebrate and set forth thy exceeding great honor and unspeakable mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 60: FOR GOD'S HELP IN NECESSITY

(Prayer 1) Thou hast used oftentimes (O most good and merciful God) to chastise thy dear children with a fatherly correction, so that they being at length brought low through unfortunate mishaps, and broken with miseries, may right well perceive and understand that they have sinned greatly, who aspiring with all their endeavor to come unto thee, may much covet to be delivered from these abominable vices wherewith they were before exceedingly overwhelmed: there dost thou yield thyself again, being altogether appeased and at atonement with them. Wherefore we humbly require thee (O heavenly father) that thou wouldst in like manner keep still with us this thy ancient covenant, and vouchsafe to take thy poor humble suitors which fly unto thee for succor, from their grievous sorrows and lamentable miseries that our heinous sins do daily purchase unto us: which we mistrust not but will come to pass, forsomuch as we be nothing doubtful but such things as thou hast promised shall not fade out of our remembrance. For this cause chiefly is our mind much revived, hereby we be well cheered, and finally by this we are certainly persuaded that we (which seemed in times past, and that lately to be rejected of thee) are now in very deed and that wholly received into thy loving favor. Proceed and go forward therefore to succor us, so that we being furthered by thy mighty defense, may boldly and manfully go through with the matter, to the glory of thy blessed name, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thou seemest very often (O most good and merciful God) to put back thy faithful servants from thee, and being in a manner sore angry with these men, dost scatter them abroad into diverse parts of the world: but thou comforting thy blessed people again with thy exceeding great clemency, bowest down thy favor and loving kindness afresh towards them: by means whereof our hope is renewed in us, that (seeing it hath seemed good unto thee to move the land in this our age, and to dismay the inhabitants thereof with a new and extraordinary fear) thou wilt also heal her grievous wounds. And although it be thy good will now and then to vex thy faithful people with hard and most bitter mishaps,

in like wise as if thou shouldest give them a poisoned cup to drink of: yet notwithstanding, thou raisest up the banner of salvation unlooked for, unto such as daily fear and perfectly honor thee, to the intent that thy loving promises being assuredly performed, they may lead their life very prosperously under the same: now therefore turn thou always thy eyes from the sins we have most grievously committed: for we deny not but that we have done very wickedly and perversely, but for so much as (of thy infinite mercy sake) thou wilt pardon and quite forgive such as unfeignedly call upon thee, finally aid thou thy beloved Church according to thy accustomed use, and mightily preserve her with thy puissant right hand. But go thou O good God (which seemest to have forsaken thy blessed people for a time) now forth with us, and raise up thyself to be our ready helper, for we crave not thy favorable aid without just cause, who have learned even by experience itself, that man's power and strength is but a vain thing to stay by. Be thou therefore a present succor unto those which repose their whole trust and confidence in thee: grant that they may deal manfully and do mighty acts, so that they may by thy means get the victory over their most cruel and outrageous enemies, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 61: CONSTANT FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

Our earnest and fervent desire is, O most good and merciful God, that as thou art in deed a singular good father and wonderful merciful unto us, so thou wouldst hear the lamentable cries which we pour out before thee, by reason of the exceeding heaviness we are oppressed withal, and for the grievous temptations we endure, suffer not thy beloved servants, miserably to perish, in whom the devil goeth about to quench and bury thy benign grace and especial good gifts. Permit us therefore to have a fort and strong Tower with thee, whereunto because we are not able to climb up of our own power, breath thou thy loving favor down upon us in such wise, as we may be lifted up unto the Tabernacle of thy glorious sight, and under the covering of thy glistering wings, so that by this means we shall be delivered from the threshold and jaws of death. We truly have

transgressed thy holy law, and through our most heinous sins have defiled the sacred body of thy blessed Church. How be it whilst we acknowledge this, and lamentably require thy favorable mercy, surely we feel very great ease and comfort, neither are we now afraid of any bitter mishaps, forsomuch as our whole confidence dependeth upon thy inestimable goodness, but rather our heart is inflamed with an ardent love both in celebrating thy glorious name, and also in rendering most abundant thanks for those things, which by our profession we owe and think to be due unto thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 62: TRUE FAITH AND CONTEMPT OF MUTABLE THINGS

Seeing that we are persuaded (O most good and merciful God) that thou art our strong defense, invincible tower, sure aid, and mighty safeguard, we keep a quiet and very peaceable mind even in the midst of our extreme miseries and grievous calamities. For we doubt not but that the devil and his wicked members shall have no success at all in those things they enterprise to do against our welfare: and whosoever they be which thrust forward themselves contrary to thy blessed will, are in no wise able to stand and abide, but are at the end disappointed of that they look for. Wherefore we humbly require thee, that our offenses being done away, which (by reason of our infirmity) we deny not, but are an infinite number, thou wouldest still persevere to be our Buckler and sure defense as thou hast hitherto been accustomed. Forsomuch as through thy especial help, we shake off all worldly men's fear, as whom we know to be altogether vain, yea and so foolish, that if they were weighed in a balance, they should be found altogether lighter than vanity itself. And as we dread them nothing at all, so likewise our earnest request is, that we may have no affiance in evil gotten goods and flourishing riches, but always well and diligently to set before our eyes, that thou art just, merciful, and of a wonderful invincible power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 63: IN DISTRESS FOR THE COMFORT OF THE GOSPEL

We do in this wretched life (O most good and mighty God) with great fervency, sigh, desire, and earnestly thirst for thee only, when as all things are become troublesome, horrible, and cruel unto us. We are greatly desirous clearly to behold thy singular virtue and excellent honor, for nothing can happen more blessed, nothing more joyful, and nothing more pleasant to mortal creatures, then the perfect knowledge thereof. We may through thy ready help (O heavenly father) exalt thy glorious name continually, when as we render due thanks for the excellent benefits thou hast bestowed upon us, always requiring of thee in our earnest petitions and most ardent prayers, those things which may be both to thy glory and our own salvation. These verily are the mere delights of the godly, there is the mind fed with perfect and true gladness, when as even at midnight in the bed it is not forgetful of thy goodness and clemency. But our heinous offenses are a very great hindrance to this singular benefit, whereinto both our infirmity and ignorance driveth us, which, we humbly beseech thee (for thy infinite mercies sake) to wipe away: be our ready helper as thou hast begun, hide us under thy favorable wings, and cause our minds to be linked always unto thee. But as for such as resist thy glory obstinately and with stubbornness, let them run headlong into the deep gulf of perdition, and make us evermore rejoice and be glad in thy comfort and consolation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 64: AGAINST THE WICKED ENEMIES OF THE GODLY

If we were not altogether drowsy minded and utterly dulled (O heavenly father) we are daily stirred up to invoke and call upon thee with our fervent prayer. For why, Satan and his wicked retinue make great haste both day and night to destroy us, and the filthiness of the flesh striveth continually to drive us headlong into the disobedience of thy blessed commandments. Seeing that therefore our mind is on sides assailed, and the strength we have become feeble and

diminished, through a false tongue, deceitful words, most piercing stings, and deadly darts, we fly unto thee only, being the true haven of safeguard, and require, that since thou perceivest us to be sore and painfully troubled sundry ways for the sins and grievous offenses we have committed thou wouldest for thy tender mercies sake pardon and forgive what spot or guiltiness soever we are infected with, ruling and governing us in such sort, as we may lay all the burdens wherewith we are grievously oppressed, on thee only. So shall we have just cause to be exceeding joyous, neither shall it repent us anything at all, but contrariwise we will greatly glory for that we have betaken ourselves wholly to thy protection and government, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 65: FOR SUSTENANCE AND ALL KINDS OF GOD'S BENEFITS

So great and manifold are thy benefits (O most good and merciful God) towards mankind, as all people in every place ought greatly to laud, wonderfully to praise, and highly to extol thy blessed name: for what thing can be more pleasant to men, then that thou dost easily hear them at what time they call upon thee for such things as they stand in need of. In what other good thing ought we more to rejoice of then this, for that thou yieldest thyself appeased and favorable to our iniquities. Or why be we not right happy and blessed whom thou didst vouchsafe to annex unto thyself in thy sacred congregation, in feeding our hungry stomachs with spiritual good things, and heavenly dainties? Thou dealest favorably even with all other creatures for thy elect's sake: thou stablishest the Mountains, stillest the raging of the sea, appeasest the madness of the people, and dost refresh and lighten with great joy the uttermost parts of the earth, through the brightness of the heavenly fires. Thou sendest seasonable and timely showers, whereby only cometh fertility, and the fields wonderful garnished with all kind of fruits, whereby both men and beasts have abundantly whereon to feed. Grant thou therefore thus much also unto us (who art the ardour of so many good things) that we may render most condign thanks, and use to our health and comfort

those things which thou so lovingly bestowest upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 66: IN NECESSITY TO THE GLORY OF GOD, FOR LETTING US AT LIBERTY

Such is thy mighty power and invincible force (O most good and merciful God) that thou at length usest to subdue under thy obeisance the enemies of thy name and glory, even by thy puissant strength, how much so ever they strive against thee in their furious madness: which thing the godly duly waying with themselves, have a very great and fervent desire to honor thy divine Majesty, to exalt thee with praises, and faithfully to worship thy excellency. For as thou in times past causest the sea to open herself unto the children of Israel, and didst turn aside the river of Jordan against his stream, and hast expelled the Jews enemies from their ancient inheritance, who seemed otherwise not to be subduable: so we now earnestly require thee that thou wouldest do the like for thy dearly beloved: let them flourish in heavenly gifts, so that they faint not through exercise of temptations, but being well tried, fined, and thoroughly purged with unfortunate mishaps, they may shine in the brightness of virtues, who having comfortable things prepared for them of thee, being their father and creator after their grievous afflictions and much troublesomeness of mind, let them in the end render unto thee, the vows of praise, and songs of commendation. Move us forward I humbly beseech thee, to fear and honor him, by having his benefits very diligently in our remembrance, which (of his infinite goodness) he hath bestowed upon us, who being provoked by our thankfulness, may hereafter give a more loving and favorable attentive ear to our lowly prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 67: FOR THE AUGMENTATION OF THE GOSPEL

The two things (O most mighty God) which mortal creatures do very greatly wish for, are these, namely that they may be acceptable to thy divine Majesty, and

replenished with the light and brightness of thy loving countenance, which two we right well know do fail us by reason of the sins we have very grievously committed: therefore our earnest request is that thou wouldst heal our deadly wounds with the plaster of thy unspeakable mercy, and whatsoever we have offended thee in, let thy loving favor wholly remit, and cause thy most gladsome light to drive away the darkness that we have procured unto ourselves: which suit, if we may obtain, yet shall we readily acknowledge (although we be environed with the darkness of this mortal life) the devises, ordinances, and means, whereby thou dost greatly govern, providently maintain, puissantly defend, and mightily preserve all things with incomparable goodness and faithfulness, and providest wonderfully for thy blessed people: which things being well seen and rightly considered, we and all people shall show forth thy worthy praises, and be also thoroughly replenished with pleasant joy, forsomuch as thou rulest all Nations, Provinces, and Kingdoms, with rightful judgment and most indifferent justice. For if all people did manifestly know the same in such sort as it is, every man would praise thee in the open face of the world. Grant unto us therefore (O excellent father) these two things, neither disdain to add unto them a plenteous fruitfulness of the earth: for the more bountifully thou dealest with thy dearly beloved children; the more shalt thou be feared and amplier honored, through the whole universal world, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 68: FOR THE UNITY AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

(Prayer 1) We have both our health and also all other commodities of this life at thy merciful hands (O most good and mighty God) being the fountain and original of all good things, who dost both adorn and continually bestow so great benefits upon thy faithful servants, that impossible it is to count the number of them. But this chiefly ought not to be passed over with silence, that thou thyself hast so happily and with so good success fought our battles against sin, death, the devil, and all evils, insomuch as the deadly enemies of our salvation felt thee to

be our present help, when as thou diddest puissantly overcome, mightily subdue, and grievously punish them. Wherefore it is our right bounden duty to render perpetual thanks with Psalms, loving praises, godly songs, and all kind of ditties and music, which thing that it may not be done maliciously, and grudgingly, but with a mind void and free from fleshly cares and carnal desires, we humbly beseech thee to pardon whatsoever we have transgressed, either through the darkness of ignorance or weakness of mind, and proceed also ever hereafter to defend us from the crafty snares and subtle layings await of the force of our enemies (as thou hast heretofore steadfastly from time to time assisted such as trust in thee) whereby all men shall assuredly perceive that thou so favourest the faithful believers, as thou givest unto them abundance of strength and power invincible, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing that thy power is such, O most good and merciful God, as no enemies (although they be never so strong and mighty) are able to stand against thee, our earnest request is that thou wouldest (for thy infinite mercies sake) most puissantly arise to help us. The children of Israel felt thy presence to be a continual safeguard unto them, at what time they encountered to fight with their enemies, although kings and armies thoroughly furnished were raised up against them: forsomuch as therefore thou hast lifted up thy invincible power and puissant strength on high, disdain not (we humbly beseech thee) to turn thy loving countenance towards us, who do continually wrestle with Satan, the flesh, and lusts thereof: surely we acknowledge that thou art our sole and only defense, who fly therefore unto thee, because thou art the fountain and root of all good things, requiring, that we (being mightily delivered from the mischievous evils which environ us on every side) may set forth the worthy praises of thy most glorious name, even as it hath right well deserved, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Thy force and puissance (O most good and mighty God) is of so great a strength, that when thou movest and stirrest up thyself, they are immediately scattered from their place, and put to flight whosoever they be that bear hatred to thy blessed name and glorious kingdom: wherefore, neither do we

doubt but that at this time the power of Satan and his adherents (who cease not everywhere to overthrow thy faithful people) shall be dispatched and come to naught, even like unto smoke that vanisheth, and mists which pass away. And for this cause, there is laid up a great pleasure and exceeding comfort unto the faithful, whereof, we heartily require thee that we also may be partakers, and that thou wouldst ease us of the fardell of sin wherewith we are most grievously burdened, and that taking us unto thy gracious favor again, thou wilt indue us very largely with thy Holy Spirit. Seeing that thou art the father of the fatherless, and a revenger of such as be miserably oppressed, vouchsafe also to deliver us from the fetters of our iniquities, neither be thou anything less our strong defense, then thou wert the children of Israel's mighty protector in the wilderness. We be as thou well perceivest (by reason of our heinous sins) greatly disfigured: let therefore the bright favor and light of thy favorable countenance be present with us, whereby our minds may be made splendid and reformed unto the sovereign bless and highest felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 4) Such is thy excellent wisdom (O most good and merciful God) that as thou hast an innumerable manner of ways and infinite means to preserve thy faithful servants, so hast thou also as many to bring the wicked to perdition. Wherefore in restoring thy blessed people being sore oppressed both of sin and Satan, and in getting great and famous victories of thy cruel enemies, out of all doubt, thou deservest that so many as naturally appertain to the stock and lineage of Israel, should set out thy worthy praises and most noble triumphs with a wonderful great gladness. Wherefore we humbly require thee (by thy notable and exceeding great power) that what gifts of salvation thou hast begun to bestow upon us, thou wouldest from day today augment and increase with a prosperous success, whereby we may offer unto thee (who art borne up beyond the heavens with noble triumph) not the sacrifices of brute beasts, but ourselves as an acceptable and blameless freewill offering, to the intent it may be left for a sufficient witness both unto us and to all others, that it only appertaineth unto thy singular force and incomparable power to bring thy elect children unto the most desired

felicity, and chiefest place of blessing they look for, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 69: IN TRIBULATION FOR THE GLORY OF THE RESURRECTION

(Prayer 1) Man's weak and frail nature (O most mighty God) is continually tossed and troubled with infinite calamities. Neither should that seem a matter so greatly to be lamented, if in this universal case, such as faithfully honor and worship thee, were not seen to be more grievously afflicted and punished than the rest: but the world goeth so that the stormy waves, the clammy mire, the deep and whirling gulfs of temptations do little better than choke up those which have a steadfast belief and assured trust in thee. Which matters being done to the intent they may patiently and with a quiet mind suffer whatsoever is commodious for them, doth certainly not much further the salvation of such as be weak, who see these things come to pass, unless thou (for thy infinite goodness and unspeakable mercies sake wherewith thou art plentifully endued) puttest too quickly thy speedy furtherance: for so shall the thing which seemeth to have weakened and dismayed their hearts, wonderfully cheer and refresh them: for if thou shalt give ear unto our lowly prayers (as our assured trust is) and deliver us out of so great perils according to our humble petitions, these grievous afflictions truly shall bring forth fruit not to be repented of. Grant we heartily beseech thee (O excellent father) that such as be in a manner consumed and at death's door for the zeal they bear to thy glory, may according to their fervent prayers, obtain this of thee, both the enlarging of thy most famous kingdom, and also their welfare which assault the same, and be sworn adversaries thereto, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Such was thy exceeding great goodness and clemency towards mankind (O most good and merciful God) that to save them thou diddest suffer thy son Jesus Christ our Lord to be touched with most grievous reproaches and heinous slanders, insomuch that even at the hour of his death he being greatly a

thirst, they gave him none other drink, but most sharp and sour vinegar mingled with gall. If we be anything forgetful of these things, either we show that we are utterly destitute of faith, or make ourselves guilty of most hateful ingratitude. We have before our eyes the most grievous vengeance which in the end thou tookest of those wicked and ungodly persons, who raged so greatly against thy most dearly beloved son, and yet are not moved by their example to amend our naughty facts and wicked life: then the which, look how much he is now more glorious and excellent then he was at that time, so much the more wrong and reproach is done unto him on our behalf. We therefore humbly require and earnestly entreat thee that thou wouldest vouchsafe to inspire into us a more perfect mind and a better desire which profess his glorious name and most pure religion, by the self same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 70: IN NECESSITY

For this intent and purpose (O most good and merciful God) have we recourse in our fervent prayers to thy gracious tuition and favorable mercy, for that we see nothing in this life, either void of perils, or in safety from the outrageous enemies of our salvation, through whose spiteful malice, devilish falsehood, and tyrannous cruelty, we find all things very froward, and full of most grievous enmity: but because we feel ourselves guilty of no small or light crimes, and are nothing ignorant how thou of thy justice takest punishment of our grievous sins, we humbly beseech thee (according to thy wonted and accustomed mercy) to forgive us whatsoever we have filthily committed, and what vengeance or punishment is worthily and of desert due unto us, may either be utterly released, or else mercifully mitigated. So shall so many as be sworn adversaries to thy true religion which we profess, be abashed and put to utter shame when thou shalt have helped and assisted us: but contrariwise they which be greatly desirous to set forth thy glorious name, shall be right glad and triumphantly rejoice with us. Therefore make no long tarrying to be our ready helper, least the ungodly (which

thing they are very ready to do) upbraid us therewith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 71: THAT OUR FAITH FAILETH US NOT IN AGE AND GREAT DISTRESS

Forsomuch as we do evidently know (O almighty God) that there is always speedy succor in a readiness to help and further such as fly unto thy protection, therefore have we reposed our whole trust and confidence in thee only, that of whom we ought to crave assistance, unto him must our faith and hope be most advisedly directed. Thou again, cherishest, and garnishest those which honor thee from their youth, insomuch as that if thou seemest at any time to leave them, it is wont to be taken for a wonder. We hope therefore, that (seeing thou hast been always with us from our conception and birth) thou wilt not forsake us, neither in our crooked old age nor at the last end of our life: in consideration whereof, that what praises and thanks we are bound to give unto thee, the same do we daily yield, and (as our assured trust is) shall yield forever, that as thy benefits towards us are infinite, and the more thy goodness also and mighty deeds are set forth, so much the more are they known to surmount the prowess of all praise and commendation. Notwithstanding, unto the rest of thy benefits, add this also (we heartily beseech thee) that as thou layest now and then bitter and unfortunate things upon thy faithful servants, so thou thyself wouldst vouchsafe readily to comfort and quickly ease them of the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 72: THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MAY COME UPON US THROUGH THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

Forsomuch as we shall have Jesus Christ our Lord as a most just judge, it is meet that we should always both fear and reverence him. For seeing that his father hath as now also endued him with a singular power, this was his chiefest

care, that the righteous might be strengthened to the intent they should both set up, and also enlarge the true worshipping of him so far as might be. Our humble request is therefore (O heavenly father) that (before we be brought unto his tribunal judgment seat) we may be redeemed from the heinous sins which we are guilty of, who being thus regenerated by his blessed spirit, may bring forth plenty of good works, so that we be not dampened for our wicked misdeeds, which thing if we by strong and constant faith may perceive ourselves to have obtained, we shall verily (by reason thereof) judge ourselves blessed and marvelous happy for the same, who mind to extol and celebrate thy excellent name and glory with most high praises, whereby the whole earth (if it were possible) may have true and perfect knowledge of thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 73: THAT WE MAY NOT REPINE AT THE PROSPERITY OF THE WICKED

Although thy goodness (O almighty and most gracious God) be exceeding notable towards those men that reverence thee with true and perfect devotion. Yet notwithstanding (such is the weakness of man) that the prosperity of the wicked doth very often blear and dazzle the eyes of thy elect and chosen servants, whilst they see all things happen unto them luckily and as they would wish, who condemn as well all human laws as divine, and are fallen into so extreme wickedness, insomuch as they both think and preach most shamelessly, that thou hast now no regard of our affairs and welfare. Neither suffer (we humbly beseech thee) the feet of our faith either to stagger or to be anything doubtful, stretch forth thy mighty hand to our great misfortune, and bridle our mouths and imaginations in such sort, that we begin not to imagine a vain and unprofitable manner of worshipping thee. Strengthen us so, as we may patiently and with a Christian kind of sufferance abide the issue and uttermost success of things. At what time thy last exceeding great judgment shall mightily show forth herself, then will it appear with how notable an uprightness thou orderest all things. Grant us also in the mean season, to desire nothing more fervently, then that our

minds may be fastened and linked unto thee with an indissoluble knot, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 74: FOR THE CHURCHES PRESERVATION AGAINST THE ADVERSARIES OF THE GOSPEL

If it shall happen (O most mighty God) which we right well know doth oftentimes come to pass, that (by reason of the manifold sins which are by us oftentimes committed) we provoke thy wrathful indignation against us, and purchase the grievous scourges wherewith we be much chastised. Be mindful (we humbly beseech thee) of thy exceeding great goodness and loving promises, which thou knowest we have already laid hold of by faith, neither deliver thou our souls into the power of the outrageous adversaries of thy glory and our salvation. Forsomuch as they earnestly bend themselves about none other thing, but either to throw down thy excellent works, or to make void and of none effect the salvation of mankind, which with so great mercifulness thou hast purchased, let their enterprises be made frustrate, whose drifts tend to none other end but that thy glorious name may be blasphemed and very evil spoken of. Be mindful (we humbly beseech thee) of the good things which thou hast hitherto bestowed upon us, neither cease to bring unto perfection the work of redemption that thou hast already mightily begun in us. Arise (O good God) and aide such with thy speedy helping hand, as unfeignedly call upon thee, that the fond devises of the ungodly have no success at all either against thy renowned glory or our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 75: THAT WE MAY BE OBEDIENT TO THE WORD OF GOD

(Prayer 1) Our earnest and fervent desire is (O most mighty God) to celebrate thy glorious name and exceeding wondrous acts: for we require thee (even from the bottom of the heart) to bring to pass, that thy blessed people may be defended from these terrible dangers, in such wise as they come not to utter ruin.

Remove our heinous sins out of thy remembrance (we humbly beseech thee) neither impute this thing chiefly unto us, that where as thou hast called us unto thee, and set before our eyes an order of true godliness, and made the same free for everyone of us to lead our life according to thy blessed word and Christian profession, we have not only behaved ourselves coldly therein, but have most unthankfully cast away the discipline and trade of living which the faith thou enlargest us with and bestowest upon us, is worthy of. Regard not therefore the number of our heinous sins, neither how great our deserts be, nor yet what thy justice might rightfully require at our hands: but (for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake thy most dearly beloved son) be merciful unto us, and set forward thyself to defend us against our most vehement and outrageous enemies, and publish that abroad to their shame, which is rightful and exceeding just, when it shall seem good in thy sight. Thou upholdest the earth and whole world, and every creature depend only upon thee: wherefore if thou dost stand on our side, nothing can so hinder us, but that we may be safely preserved. The very foolish and ungodly Antichristians have not only lift up their horns, but also are wonderful outrageous against us, who utter horrible and unspeakable blasphemies against thee, and with a stiff neck cast away from them every yoke or burden that thy sacred word bringeth. Our help (O good God) which is of any force, cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, nor yet from any other part or coast of the world: but thou only oughtest to be our judge, who canst at thy will and pleasure both raise us up and cast us down again. But forsomuch as the cup is in thy hand, let them drink and suck out the dregs thereof, wherewith they may be so brought a sleep, as thy blessed Church may be no more hereafter troubled of them. We will then talk of thee, and sing Psalms unto thy glorious name, when as the horns of the ungodly shall be broken in pieces, and the righteous take quiet and peaceable rest in thee, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) For this intent and purpose (O most mighty God) are we determined to honor and extol thee, because thou art always ready to hear those that call upon thy glorious name with a right sincere faith, and dost manifest thy presence by the bestowing of notable and excellent gifts. We render most hearty

thanks unto thee for this cause chiefly, in that thou hast vouchsafed to choose unto thyself a Church out of this great number of us, wherein (seeing it is convenient that thou shouldest reign and show thy almighty power) we earnestly require thee, utterly to subvert all manner of ungodliness, and contrariwise maintain innocence and right pure religion. What earthly and fleshly thing of the world remaineth in us, let it forthwith be drowned, and cause thou all things (which by thy heavenly spirit thou hast bestowed upon us in our regeneration) to be thoroughly grounded in us: make thy righteous and elect servants like unto most strong pillars, but let such as inhabit the earth, which strive against thy holy name, and blessed doctrine, stagger and fall. Have a regard to this, we humbly beseech thee (O excellent father) that the fools may forsake at one time or other their folly, and let the wicked at length cease to abuse their power, which they seem to bend against godliness and thy sacred Gospel: do away their furious words, arrogant taunts, and rebellious blasphemies. Neither have thou (O good God) any respect in this case what our sins have deserved (which are very heavy and right grievous to be borne) neither are we ignorant of them, nor yet do we mistrust, but thou (for thy infinite mercies sake) wilt utterly blot those out, least we be enforced through the same, to drink dry the cup of thy most bitter wrath. Let so many as give themselves to naughtiness, drink of the same, yea make them to suck out all the dregs thereof, so that thy blessed church may have thy just judgments in perpetual remembrance, and extol them with continual praises, when as she shall see the horns of the ungodly broken, and such mightily preserved and highly set up as have altogether addicted themselves to righteousness and a perfect godly life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 76: THAT OUR COURAGE FAILETH US NOT IN AFFLICTION

(Prayer 1) It hath pleased thy unspeakable goodness without any of our deserts (O most mighty God) that thy blessed word should be well known amongst us, and thy sons holy Gospel preached in the midst of us, which thing,

as we do know to be a singular and right excellent benefit, so do we diligently consider, that (through our own default) the same doth greatly burden us. For we have doubtless used shameful unthankfulness towards thy divine Majesty, in that we have framed our life nothing at all according to the knowledge of thy blessed word and sacred doctrine. Notwithstanding forsomuch as we be sorrowful for our great wickedness, and are willing to amend our heinous faults, we humbly require thee to help them that are fallen, stretch out thy aiding hand to such as call upon thy most holy name, and pardon us whom it heartily repenteth to have anything at all offended thee. And forsomuch as (according to thy loving promises) we be thy Tabernacle and dwelling place, against which the ungodly have set themselves in battle, to the intent they may utterly subvert it and pull up the same by the roots: break thou their Darts and Bows in pieces, and strike down their shields, swords, and armor. This canst thou do without any trouble, because thy force is more excellent and of greater power then all the tyranny of the world. Let it therefore waste all to spoil them: let both their horsemen and footemen be cast in a dead sleep at thy mighty rebuke. And when as such have slept their sleep which lean so proudly to their own strength, let them find in their hands that which may either do them good or delight them. We know for a certainty that thou art very terrible, and how no man is able to stand before thee when thy heavy wrath shall be kindled: wherefor we humbly require thee to arise and save thy meek people. For at what time thou shalt subdue this force and fury of our adversaries, it will redound to thy worthy praise: forsomuch as therefore thou canst mightily bridle the spirit and cruelty of Princes, neither suffer us to come under the yoke thereof, but rather assist us in such wise, that we, achieving and getting the victory, may pay the hearty vows which we owe unto thee, with a right joyful mind and most ready will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as (O most mighty God) thou hast chosen thee an house and mansion place in thy sacred Church, therefore art thou well known in her, and thy glorious name is there most notably set forth, because thou hast full many a time and very often driven the shafts, bow, sword, and shield therefrom, with all warlike engines, and subtle devices invented by soldiers, which the fierce

adversaries of thy sacred doctrine and enemies of true religion did prepare against the same, being set up thereto by thee. There thou hast (I say) for this cause been continually famous and had in very great admiration above all robbers and tyrants of this wretched world. Wherefore our right humble request is, that our sins be not the occasion thou withdrawest thyself from so laudable and renowned a custom of thy excellence. But if thy sacred Church be a little while afflicted and grievously troubled, as we have well deserved, make thou, for the glory of thy name, her puissant adversaries, (yea rather thine) of such feebleness, as those be which are a sleep, so that, if they will abuse their strength, let them greatly fail thereof, and cause both their footmen and horsemen (through thy rebuking of them) to be of no force at all. We right well know (O good God) that thou only oughtest to be feared, insomuch as no man is able to endure thy wrathful displeasure. Arise therefore to judge thy sacred Churches cause, insomuch as her mild Citizens may by thy puissant help be mightily preserved, and that whatsoever the most disdainful enemies have enterprised by threats to do against the same, it may redound to thy own praise and renowned glory. Grant (O good God) that we may with an exceeding cheerfulness and joyfulness of heart, render such thanksgivings as we have vowed unto thee for so great a benefit, when as we shall perceive all the kings of the earth to stand in great fear of thy excellent Majesty, and that thou hast abated the courages of the mighty princes of this wretched world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 77: A PRAYER OF CONSOLATION IN DISTRESS, BY CONSIDERING THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD

(Prayer 1) We cry unto thee in heart and voice (O most mighty God) with such an assured confidence, that seeing thou be our puissant God, we are heard of thee in these our sorrowful tribulations, who (through our earnest repentance and hearty invocation of thy blessed name) make diligent search for thee, whilst we are on every side oppressed with much anguish and sore afflictions, neither is there any other firm and substantial consolation remaining unto us. For so long

as our mind is grievously troubled, and heart exceedingly disquieted, what other thing remaineth, but that we (being moved with extreme heaviness and doleful sorrow) do make our moan and heavy complaint unto thee. Above all other things our heinous sins do sting us, whereby we both right well know that thou art offended, and also feel by experience a troublesome and wounded conscience in ourselves. Wherefore our minds are miserably afflicted, and being overwhelmed with fear and sorrow, all our strength doth utterly fade away. Our eyes attend diligently upon thee, whose mind and heart being broken and cast down, we lamentably require thy favorable mercy. Ah God most dear father, shall our manifold sins be the cause why thou wilt always hide thyself from us? Wilt thou cease to show thyself both merciful and gentle unto us? For thou truly art of nature patient and long suffering: wherefore let us not be destitute of thy mercy and loving kindness which are immeasurable. Be not thou (O good God, who art the father of mercy) forgetful to show thy favorable compassion towards us. We verily have provoked thy heavy displeasure, by reason of our naughty behavior: notwithstanding thou canst with thy most high right hand easily alter the same and pardon our grievous offenses, which we have no mistrust of, so long as thy excellent works depart not out of our remembrance. Thou wert wont to show wonders in delivering thy faithful people: therefore at this time also stretch out thy mighty power against the ungodly, who have assailed thy blessed flock with deceitful policies and warlike cruelty, and deal with them according to thy old accustomed manner. It is not unbeknown to us how wonderfully thou did deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians. The waters of the great deep, the clouds, the thunders, the lightnings, and all creatures have at thy forceable word set forth their safeguard and welfare: insomuch as thou didst lead out thy chosen people like sheep by the hands of Moses and Aaron, even whither soever it pleased thee. Be thou (O excellent father) in such wise assistant unto us with thy armies, that (being delivered from our most cruel enemies) we may through an unfeigned faith and pure conversation of life, be drawn unto thee, who art our assured hope and chief thing we delight in, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We have a perpetual regard to thy excellent goodness (O almighty God) in these most troublesome times, who make thee weary through our daily prayers and very fervent petitions, flying to thy divine Majesty as unto our only Savior, whilst thy blessed Church is in so great peril. Neither is our sorrow and mournings smally increased, so long as we call to remembrance the things that were done in old time, wherein a man might with an assured mind and very quiet conscience, peaceably and without offense have addicted himself to set forth with high praises, both thy glorious name, and also thy excellent doctrine. But forsomuch as we have very much abused the gift of so great security and most sound quietness, we do now earnestly beseech thee (O excellent father) to forgive whatsoever we have committed against thy excellent Majesty: but seeing it cannot come to pass that thou shouldest be forgetful to show mercy towards thy faithful servants, cast us not utterly away. And forsomuch as it behooveth thy loving promises to take place at length, withdraw not thy favorable mercy altogether from us. We do now right well call to remembrance thy wondrous works of old, which thou wroughtest in delivering the children of Israel out of Egypt: for so soon as the waters in the sea beheld thy omnipotent power, they were sore afraid, and moved after a marvelous sort. Thou didst fight against the ungodly with dark clouds, thunderings, lightnings, winds and an horrible tempest. In like manner therefore thou then delivered thy people of Israel, even so now preserve thy blessed Church from the outrageous cruelty of Satan and envious enterprises of his wretched adherents, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) The greater the afflictions be (O most good and merciful God) that we endure, so much the more are we accustomed to pray more fervently unto thee: for seeing that we now right well perceive and do daily more and more feel that thy sacred church is miserably tormented and vexed sundry ways, we come and make intreatance to thy gentleness, beseeching thee to aid her in such wise as thou wert wont to do in her first age. Doubtless thy most perfect nature, and also thy exceeding constancy, wherewith thou art endued, cannot abide that thou (who hast been always favorable towards those which thou didst most tenderly love) shouldest now gather, thy goodness together in a bundle, to the intent

thou wouldest withdraw the same from them. Wherefore our earnest and hearty desire is that thou wouldest utter thy ancient invincible power towards us at this instant, in raising, cherishing, and restoring thy holy Church, no less then thou shewedst the same in times past touching the deliverance of the Israelites from the Egyptians bondage and servitude: to the intent that how much the more care thou hast thereof, so much the more a great deal it may appear that thou hast mightily delivered the same from the devil, sin, and most cruel death, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 78: FOR GRACE AND UPRIGHTNESS OF HEART

(Prayer 1) Forsomuch as the divine Scriptures have most perfectly published thy exceeding glorious works (O most mighty God) by setting thy children at liberty in Egypt, assuredly knowing that whatsoever things are set forth in the holy Bible, they all make very much to our comfort and consolation: we now most heartily require thee, that thou wouldest in these exceeding dangerous times continually renew our memory with thy Holy Spirit, who, being moved herewith, may repose our whole confidence in thee only. Thou broughtest thy children of Israel out of Egypt, in working of dreadful things against Pharaoh. The sea gave place, a cloud covered them, a light of fire guided them on their journey, the rock gave water, the heaven sent them both manna and flesh: and in Mount Sinai thou showedst thyself at what time it pleased thee to give them a law by Moses. Thou therefore who hast done so great and manifold things for the Israelites, forsake us not in such wise that the sheep of thy flock may be scattered abroad by the Devil and Antichrist. We verily have sinned against thee, and that grievously and very often: howbeit they also were oftentimes rebellious and murmured against thy divine Majesty in the wilderness, when as they had less credit to thy sacred word than beseemed them. There thou didst sharply punish that people, neither yet sufferedst thy heritage to be destroyed, but knewest well that they were flesh and had a very wavering spirit: wherefore thou wert so touched with mercy that thou didst help them in adversity. We therefore

earnestly require thee (O good God) that thou wouldest do none otherwise to thy blessed Church at this present, in mightily defending and valiantly delivering her, than thou didst the Jews when thou hadst laid thy rod of correction somewhat upon them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess (O most mighty God) that the ingratitude of mankind is exceeding great, which thing truly appeareth plainly by our lewd deeds: but seeing that it is an easy matter for every man to be blind in his own case, it is more manifestly set forth by our forefathers acts, which are most truly made mention of in the holy scriptures. We have heard that the children of Israel were delivered through thee, by a number of miracles, when as thou broughtest them out of Egypt, who being governed, defended, and nourished in the desert with such a diligent study and prudent care, as no greater could be devised and imagined, yet for all this the same people are reported to show themselves so much ungrateful and oblivious of thy excellent benefits, that they always murmured against thee their god, their maker, deliverer, and guide most just. Therefore we humbly beseech thee, O excellent father, that (seeing thou of thy free mercy hast elected us, and moreover beatified us with the highest ornaments of thy grace) thou wouldest never suffer or cause the same to depart out of our memory, but rather stir us up every moment with thy blessed spirit to render such kind of thanks unto thee, whereby both thou mayst be most honored, and we greatly provoked forward to lead a godly and virtuous life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Besides the prodigious wonders and marvelous signs (O most good and merciful God) whereby thou thoughtest good diverse and sundry times to maintain and defend the fathers in the old law, the self same hast thou commanded both to be set forth for the commodity of those that come after, and also to be registered for a perpetual remembrance, to the intent that so many as shall perceive the things by faith, may conceive as assured an hope of thy mercy, loving kindness, and faithfulness toward themselves, as they wonder exceeding greatly at thy unspeakable goodness extended upon their old fathers. For the seeing of those men's chastisements by the severity of thy just judgment, may also

be a very great warning unto them, that they shall be no more spared then the others, when through their lewd behavior, they cease not to provoke thy wrathful indignation against them: Our earnest request is therefore (O heavenly father) that we may reap much commodity hereby. For we verily are (through thy gracious favor) delivered from everlasting destruction, even as they were out of Egypt. But this is our most earnest request which we require as now at thy merciful hands, that we be not led by our filthy lusts and lewd desires to provoke thy heavy wrath unto our confusion, in such sort as they were by grudging at thy inestimable goodness in the wilderness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 4) We may right well perceive (O most good and merciful God) that the desires of our wicked lusts be much hurtful, either because we are provoked through them to pour out complaints against thee, who art most perfectly good, or else for that (in compassing the filthy desires of them) we purchase greatly unto ourselves the most severe punishments of thy unspeakable justice: for we are now admonished in due time by the holy ghost, of all such things as happened unto the Israelites in the wilderness. Wherefore we (being taught by other men's perils) are very careful, least we be wrapped in similar misfortunes through the like misbehavior. Our earnest desire is therefore that thou wouldest give ear unto our fervent prayers, wherein, we humbly beseech thee to give us grace that we may never be forgetful of thy excellency, neither let it come at any time into our harts, either by words or thought, to dally with thee, in whom is nothing but most perfect verity. For whensoever we fall through human infirmity, have thou mercy upon us, who knowest us to be both frail flesh, and also very weak spirited: and so (of thy infinite goodness) incline thyself now partly to raise us up, being already fallen, and partly also to confirm us, that we be not thrust down into everlasting destruction, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 79: FOR OBTAINING OF MERCY AND FAVOR AGAINST THE PERSECUTORS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer 1) Thou hast chosen us (O most mighty God) to be thy heritage, and doubtless there is nothing permitted which might be a furtherance to the furnishing, garnishing, and making us right blessed: thou hast given us the knowledge of thy sacred scriptures, the preaching of thy blessed Gospel, the administration of thy holy Sacraments, and others innumerable, which belong to the beautifying of this thy heritage. But we alas, (being ungrateful of all these most excellent and singular gifts) have accomplished nothing as was required of us. Therefore the wicked and barbarous Nations are not without just desert stirred up together (through thy wrathful indignation) to invade thy holy Church, and to shed the blood of thy faithful people and blessed inheritance as if it were water, making of us a very scorn and laughing stock: and that (which is more lamentable and greater to be sorrowed) they persecute in us not our deadly sins, but thy own self, thy holy Gospel, thy divine honor, and pure worshipping of thee. Wherefore (O God most dear father) our earnest request is that thou wouldest not be always angry with thy people and sheep of thy pasture. Pour out therefore this thy wrath (which is kindled against us for our sins) upon the heathen that have not known thee: and suffer not thy blessed Church to be devoured of the ungodly. We heartily desire thee (for thy infinite mercies sake, and by the intercession of thy most dearly beloved son our Lord) to have no more in remembrance our old heinous sins. And seeing that we put our whole trust and confidence in thy goodness only, assist and deliver such as cry and call unto thee, even for the glory of thy names sake. Be merciful unto our grievous sins, otherwise the ungodly will say that thou hast rejected thy own case. Let the sorrowful sighing and lamentable tears of the oppressed come before thee, and not be put out of thy sight: pardon whatsoever we have grievously committed against thee, and vouchsafe to show upon us the force of thy assistant help to the intent that we thy loving heritage, thy faithful people, and sheep of thy good pasture, may give

thee thanks forever, and show forth thy worthy praises from one generation to another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Let the wonderful examples of thy rigorous justice (O most mighty God) wherewith thou hast subverted the Kingdom of Israel, and wrapped that people for their rebelliousness against thee, in slaughters, rapes, booties, burnings, captivities, with all kind of miseries and infelicity, be a wholesome and comfortable admonition unto us, so that we may with a right cheerful mind, lay hold upon true repentance, and be delivered thereby from most grievous torments, which (through our innumerable heinous sins) we have worthily deserved. For very meet it is that thou shouldst have an especial regard unto thy most blessed and glorious name: but if thou shalt pour out thy wrath upon us, the wicked will imagine that thou hadst no care to help such as duly honor thee, and crave thy assistance with abundance of tears: for if any calamity or adversity light upon thy sacred Church, it is incontinent their accustomed manner malipartly to scoff against the same, saying, where is now their God become? What profit have they by their religion? By means whereof this kind of reproach redounded unto thee, upon thy sacred doctrine, and upon thy holy Gospel. Wherefore our humble and earnest request is, that (being right mindful of the sheep of thy pasture) thou wouldest so defend and maintain us, as we may perpetually in all places, both publish and also set forth thy worthy praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 80: FOR THE REPAIRING OF THE AFFLICTED CHURCH

(Prayer 1) Thou hast always hitherto been accustomed (O most mighty God) to be present like a loving shepherd, with thy faithful people, and to lead them forth under thy protection, as if they were sheep. We now therefore require thee to stir up thy mighty power in so great perils, and show us the bright light of thy favorable countenance. Raise up thyself and be ready to help and deliver us. We truly acknowledge and earnestly confess, that (in consideration of our

heinous iniquities and most grievous sins committed against thee) thy heavy wrath hath not without good desert been kindled against us, and thy justice to be the principal cause why these exceeding great mischiefs wherewith thy blessed Church is now oppressed, have invaded the same. But seeing that at this present, we are right heartily sorry for all the sins which have by us been committed against thee, and that we may lamentably require thy loving favor and mercy, how long wilt thou be angry with us? How long wilt thou suffer the great strife, grievous rebukes, and opprobrious slanders wherewith the ungodly and most lewd persons do touch thee in us? Turn unto us, O excellent father (in this most troublesome time) the quiet and cheerful countenance of thy inestimable goodness, and be mindful of thy notable benefits which thou hast bestowed upon thy sacred church: and seeing that thou hast hitherto nourished it, beatified it, and always garnished the same with the most plentiful and large gifts of thy blessed spirit. Deliver her not now over (we humbly beseech thee) to be spoiled of the outrageous, ungodly, and most cruel Antichristians: suffer not so pleasant and chosen a vineyard, which (with thy most high and exceeding mighty right hand, thou hast planted and increased) to be shamefully and after a very wretched manner cast down, set on fire, and utterly rooted up. Look down from heaven and have an especial regard unto such as earnestly cry and call for thy speedy assistance: let the ungodly perish at the rebuke of thy loving countenance, who do perpetually blaspheme cruel bondage of Antichrist: but we vile wretches have most filthily abused our freedom and benefit of quietness. Thou hast oftener than once (as thou didst unto the Israelites) both by the sacred Scriptures, and also through the ministers of thy blessed word, protest unto us on this wise: give ear unto me (O my people) and acknowledge me truly to be thy God, not in words (I say) only, but in mind verily, and with a perfect and most pure worshipping. But we (alas) have turned our heart from thy holy words, whereby our heinous sins are continually more and more increased, and the adversaries of thy holy Church also (whom thou without doubt wouldest have overthrown and cast down if we had given credit unto thee) are now become a very terror unto us: for we that might exceeding quietly and carelessly have enjoyed thy most sweet

and pleasant gifts, are now overthrown day by day with greater and more grievous afflictions. Yet we humbly beseech thee (for thy singular mercies sake) not to forsake thy sacred Church being vexed so miserably and after such a wretched sort. Be present at length thereunto in such wise, that she may perpetually keep and retain the true Religion and pure doctrine which thou hast set forth and delivered unto her, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) It hath pleased thee (O most mighty God) of thy great mercies sake, both to be in deed, and also called a shepherd unto sch as trust unfeignedly in thee: from thy high throne therefore, in the which thou settest upon the Cherubins and all the powers, stir thy healthful strength and might (we humbly beseech thee) that we may be mightily preserved thereby. But thou who seemest sometime to be angry with thy faithful servants, and makest them after a loss to become a derision and mocking stock for the ungodly to jest at: turn now at length the countenance of thy blessed grace and loving favor upon them: and suffer not thy holy Church (being thy true vine which thou hast planted with thy wonderful providence, and husbanded by thy self) to be trodden down and laid waste of savage and most cruel impiety: repay the same again in such wise, we humbly beseech thee, that those things which are in her pressed down by the undermining of hypocrisy, thou mayest bring to light and restore again whatsoever hath been consumed by the fiery flame of tyranny, and a fresh make whole and sound the things that are much mangled and maimed: let thy favorable hand be prompt and ready to our speedy defense, so that we (being quickened by thee) may call upon thy blessed name, and being lightened with the benign countenance of thy loving mercy, may live safe and sound to thee only and none other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 81: FOR PERSEVERANCE IN FAITH

We have no small cause (O most mighty God) to celebrate thy inestimable praise with exceeding great gladness and a very cheerful mind, for so much as thou hast of thy infinite goodness delivered us from the miserable servitude of

our grievous sins and tyranny of the Devil. Seeing that therefore we acknowledge thee to be our only God, we earnestly desire thy gracious goodness to grant us thy request, that we may give ear only unto thy divine majesty, and honor thee alone, neither make any thy equal, or prefer anything before thee. For in that we have been of such boldness as to do so already, thou (who are the true God) hast caused us to suffer no light or common punishments, forso much as we being left unto our selves, have condescended unto our own lewd desires, and followed our wretched lusts then the which plague, we know now assuredly that nothing could happen unto men more miserable and noisome: where by we are taught to desire with all our hearts for to give ear unto thee, and that we may walk hereafter in thy blessed commandments, which being obtained, we understand for a certainty that thou wilt perform thy faithful promises, insomuch as thou repellst and keepest under the fierce enemies of our salvation, and wilt at length, perpetually feed us with thy most pleasant and unspeakable dainties, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

PSALM 82: FOR A GOOD MAGISTRATE

(Prayer 1) The government of all kingdoms and earthly power appertaineth unto thee (O most good and merciful God) who neither minister justice nor right unto their people, unless they be ruled and guided with thy blessed spirit. Wherefore we earnestly require thee to help mortal men's causes which be far out of order, both by multiplying and maintaining of good Princes: and also by correcting the lewd and outrageous, so that poor men's suits be not neglected, that the oppressed may be set at liberty, and that godliness in especial may flourish and greatly go forward. And as thou hast vouchsafed through thy divine power to beautify our Magistrates, Princes, and King, with thy heavenly name, even so we heartily require thee also (of thy unspeakable goodness) to cause their work and ministry to be such, and so duly executed, as the faithful (so long as they live in this wretched world) may honor thee purely and lead a right virtuous and godly life, so that together with them they may be brought unto thee (who art

king of kings and Lord of Lord's) where they may jointly be partakers of eternal good things, and most excellent felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess (O most mighty God) that thy chosen people who have neglected their obedience towards thee are very often enforced to be in subjection unto wicked rulers, and unbelieving Princes, neither is there any cause why we should complain of injury proffered unto us in so doing. For we have so grievously and after such a froward manner sinned against thee, as we have not only deserved these, but also much more heinous punishments. Notwithstanding, the assured hope we repose in thy blessed words and loving promises, we most heartily and with much fervency beseech thee to succor thy sacred Church in these most troublesome times. And thou who hast vouchsafe to beautify the superior powers and Magistrates with the name and title of God's, vouchsafe also to overlook their counsels with thy justice, showing thyself as an upright judge amongst them, least they (being left unto their own sensuality and lewdness wherewith man's corrupt nature is of it self greatly overcharged) do not very wrongfully persecute thy holy Church, and yield unto ungodliness those things which be neither meet nor convenient. If thou O most dear father, do (according to our earnest prayers) intermeddle thyself amongst them in ordering the common wealth, we doubt not but thou wilt (by thy direction and furtherance) revenge the poor and fatherless, and set such at liberty from their most grievous and extreme perils, as be exceedingly afflicted and very sore oppressed. Our earnest request is, that thou wouldest not deliver thy blessed Church under their rule and dominion which walk in darkness, who, having no manner of understanding, nor perseverance of their duty, go about so much as in them lieth to overthrow all right, justice, and godliness. Now when these men (who are so highly promoted by thee, as to be called God's, and the Sons of the most highest) do neither perceive nor yet understand the same, they deserve to be cast away, and die like most vile persons. The Church (O good God) is thy chosen heritage, wherefore mightily assist it, and take thou thyself upon thee her case to maintain and defend, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 83: THAT GOD WOULD DEFEND HIS WORD IN DESPITE OF THE UNGODLY

The hatred, armies, deceits, and pernicious devices of the fierce enemies of our salvation (O almighty God) do so daily increase, that we are enforced to cry upon thee continually. Whose whole drifts tend to none other purpose then to pull us from thee, and that there might not any person be found, which should either trust in thee, or purely call upon thy blessed name as he ought to do. For our own flesh, our senses, and ungodly men have together with the fierce rulers of darkness, conspired against thy sacred Church, and finally all earthly and worldly affections and ability have lift up themselves to overthrow the same. Wherefore our earnest request is that thou wouldest not keep silence, neither hold thy peace, nor yet be in quiet: for like as thou hast of old time overthrown the Egyptians, Midianites, Canaanites, and Philistines, for the safeguard of the Israelites: even so at this day deliver thou those which have wholly committed themselves to thy faithful protection and government, whose force, puissance, and salvation, is laid up in thee only. Bridle thou so the boldness of our outrageous enemies (or rather of thine) to the intent all men may perceive that thou only art the God, whom (rejecting all manner of superstitions) they ought wholly to worship and purely call upon, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 84: FOR THE INCREASEMENT OF FAITH

Look what earnest and fervent desire so ever the old fathers had (O most mighty God) to come unto the place wherein thou haddest appointed a Tabernacle to thyself for that time, even the like are we kindled withal in beholding the repairing of thy sacred Church, and to see therein a very great company of Godly men lawfully assembled together for the advancement of thy glory, hearing thy holy doctrine, and duly receiving of thy blessed sacraments accordingly. Wherefore we humbly beseech thee, (which art our God and King) that we may one day or other rejoice to be there: for what felicity soever may be attained unto in this frail life, we doubt not but it will light upon the sacred company of the godly.

Give ear therefore (O excellent father) unto our earnest prayers, and grant that we make none other accompt of thy blessed house, then thy will and pleasure is we should do: for a more blessed thing it were for us to have one days meeting and abode therein, then if we abide never so great a time of continuance in the congregation of the ungodly, or in such a one as is not lawfully assembled with the advantage and overplus of all the pleasures of this transitory world. Seeing that therefore thou art our most splendent light, and strong defense, cause our assemblies on the earth so to redound to thy unspeakable glory, that our assured hope (by coming in the end unto thee into the everlasting tabernacles of the heavens) may be augmented, and very much increased, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 85: FOR THE WHOLE CONGREGATION OF CHRIST

(Prayer 1) Shew thyself gentle and gracious (O almighty God) towards thy beloved Church, for thy exceeding great glories sake and mercy most magnificent, that we may be miraculously delivered from the horrible fardell and cruel bondage of our deadly sins: who have hitherto been bond slaves to the flesh, and wretched prisoners of the devil, and yet hast thou vouchesafe to release and forgive us the whole number of our deadly iniquities, and covered all our heinous offenses. Notwithstanding therefore we are now also very ungrateful, and such as be not worthy of thy gracious benefits: our earnest request is that thou wouldest withhold thyself from thy wrathful indignation. Surely thou art justly angry with us, but (for the glory of thy name) repress this fury which is stirred up by reason of our grievous sins, and lead us into the strait way of perfect health, forsomuch as it appertaineth not to thy loving kindness, to be always offended with thy faithful servants, or to continue thy heavy wrath and fierce indignation unto many generations. Deal with us after thy old accustomed manner, and not according to our lewd deserts, scatter abroad our cruel enemies, and put them to flight whom thou (being provoked through our great default) wouldest that we

should feel. Thou which in thy great wrath dost kill, and being pacified, quickenest again, show thy mercy and saving health, like as thou hast set destruction before our eyes, to the intent thou wouldst both terrify and chastise us. Grant that we (which have heretofore been marvelous rebellious and very stubborn) may ever hereafter give obedient ear to these things which thou speakest and wilt us to do. Let thy unspeakable loving mercy and famous truth be linked in us together, and vouchsafe that peace and righteousness may with an indissoluble band, stick fast in our hearts, that when as thou hast delivered us from the hands of the most outrageous Antichrist and his cruel Champions, we may yield unto thee the plentiful fruits of holiness and perfect righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as (O most mighty God) we be thy adopted sheep, faithful people, and loving heritage, our whole assurance is that thou wilt be merciful unto us, yea and so favorable, as to forgive our cursed iniquities and heinous sins, and to pardon such grievous penalties and horrible punishments as we have right worthily deserved. Quench thou of thy loving kindness (we humbly beseech thee) thy great fury which we have kindled against ourselves, and dissolve the ireful indignation that we have provoked to be poured upon us, forsomuch as it is not thy property (although our lewd and naughty behavior hath justly deserved the same) either to be always angry, or else to show forth thy fierce wrath a long time. But contrariwise dost rather set out thy inestimable goodness everywhere and in all places, and art accustomed to proffer salvation unto so many as fly unto thee for the same. Grant thou (O most dear and excellent father) who speakest always peaceable matters and those things which are for our singular commodity, that we may have a very great regard to thy blessed words. Which thing if it so fall out, we shall not only be saved and adorned with glory, but also everything of ours shall be replenished with goodness, truth, righteousness, and peace: faith shall abound, and through the same shall we be plenteously justified. Our earnest desire is to obtain this at thy merciful hands, that we be not idle and unfruitful servants, but may walk in holiness and innocence before thee all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 86: IN DISTRESS

(Prayer 1) Seeing that (O almighty God) our wretchedness and poverty is right great, therefore have we very much need of thy salvation, for so long as we now fly unto thee to the intent thou shouldest be our speedy succor and assured defense, we call to remembrance our most grievous sins, corrupt life, and lewd behavior, which neither we will hide, nor yet (if we were willing thereto) could keep the same secret from thee. Thou right well perceivest all our naughtiness, which we truly acknowledge and confess unto thy divine Majesty: we have grievously sinned, we have done greatly amiss, we have been marvelous disobedient, very stubborn, and exceeding willful against thee, who deserve far more heinous displeasures than these which we now feel and suffer. But bow thou down thy favorable look (O excellent father) and give ear unto our fervent prayers, have compassion upon us that cry out daily unto thee, and lift up our sorrowful eyes and heavy minds towards thy most excellent mercies seat, having this assured confidence, that, thou who art ready to forgive, rich in loving kindness towards such as call upon thee, and exceeding mighty in thy works above all Gods, wilt not despise us in so great distress and tribulation. Thou art most puissant, thou showest wonderful things, and thou art God alone. Teach us therefore thy perfect ways, cause us to walk in thy blessed truth: call back our wandering heart unto thee, that it may stand greatly in fear of thy holy name. Thou verily hast nobly made us partakers of thy excellent mercy, but forsomuch as we were very ungrateful, the hosts of the ungodly are risen up against us, and the forefront of cursed men's battles hath assailed us, who neither regard thee at all, nor make any accompt of thy most blessed name and pure doctrine, endeavoring alongelye by their most lewd practices, through the same mean to destroy at one push both the true worshipping of thee and our souls also. Seeing that therefore thou art a very merciful God, long suffering, of great love, and true to trust unto, have an especial regard unto the children of thy loving promise, be favorable, strengthen, and defend them, advance thy Banner to our salvation, so that the cruel

adversaries may be confounded, and all men right well see and evidently perceive thee only to be our most good and loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Notwithstanding we do right well consider (O most mighty God) that our force and counsels are very simple, yet we doubt not but that we thy blessed Saints and elect vessels, are provoked to pour out our earnest prayers and woeful cries continually before thy divine Majesty, and to repose our whole confidence in thee only. Be thou therefore pressed and ready (who art very meek and loving, and also endued with most bountiful mercy and goodness) to hear them that call incessantly to thee for speedy help. Before all things teach us thy most perfect ways, so that (all dissimulation and hypocrisy being laid apart) we may very purely and with much sincerity obey thy blessed commandments. And like as nothing is able to match thy Godhead, so our earnest desire is that all mortal men should know and duly reverence the same: which thing shall be done, if, as thou hast oftentimes delivered thy loving servants from most dangerous perils: so thou wouldest at this present have an especial regard unto them, by increasing their strength and making their perfect deliverance more ample, at what time the most puissant enemies of man's salvation rise up mightily against thy faithful people. Publish we humbly beseech thee, this famous and notable sign, to the intent that when as the cruel adversaries of thy glory shall right well understand the same, they may in good earnest unfeignedly turn and be converted unto thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 87: REEDIFYING OF THE CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

Seeing that the Church is thy blessed house wherein thou (O Lord God) art highly praised and greatly commended. Vouchsafe we humbly beseech thee, that the foundation thereof be not made upon sand, but in a large plain ground situated upon the hills of thy most holy Saints, whose head and Chieftain is Christ. And to the intent thou (O good Lord) mayst continually abide therein, or the

place of thy habitation to be wonderful pleasant and delectable, in which thou speakest things of very great importance, whereunto men have recourse from all parts and borders of the world, being augmented through the mighty preaching of thy blessed word, and is notably increased upon all men by the comfort of thy exceeding sweet promise: let her fame be very largely spread abroad, for that she hath no respect of persons or deserts, but cause all thy sanctified children (be they Jews or Ethnics, Lord's or servants) to spring and grow up in the same together, through the steadfast and unremovable faith they have in Christ Jesus. For this was thy own purposed will (O most high and mighty God) even from the beginning, to gather some together out of diverse nations of the world, through the most manifest declaration of strange and unknown tongues, by whom thou mightest be highly celebrated in pleasant songs and loud blasts of glorious Trumpets, through Jesus Christ our Lord. So be it.

PSALM 88: IN THE TRIAL OF FAITH

(Prayer 1) Seeing that our only salvation dependeth wholly upon thy divine Majesty (O almighty God) and that we do cry daily upon thee, bow down thy favorable ear to our humble prayers, turn not away thy face from them, but permit the same to come into thy blessed presence, specially at this time when we be so glutted with adversity, who are neither unjustly, nor yet without good cause punished with these troublesome and most sharp afflictions: for we have behaved ourselves so unthankfully, lived after such a wicked sort, and so negligently honored thee, as all those evils light upon us for our naughty and lewd behavior. How be it we are exceeding sorry for the same, and do lamentably in our most fervent prayers, require thy favorable mercy, beseeching thee not to deal with us according to our iniquities and naughty usages. Make us not like unto them that now lie in the grave, neither reckon us with those that go down into the pit. Thou seest what man's strength is, what succor is to be had in fleshly hands, and how vain a thing outward power is: wherefore make haste to be our ready helper, neither establish thou thy wrath upon us, nor yet suffer us to be drowned in these

stormy times of Antichrist. We are become an open shame unto the adversaries of thy glorious name and Gospel, our friends and acquaintance withdraw and hide themselves from us. For which cause we call earnestly upon thee, and stretch forth our sorrowful hands unto thy most favorable mercies seat: hide not thy loving face from us, we humbly beseech thee, whereas otherwise we shall die like miserable wretches, neither be able to abide the terror of thy fierce justice. Although our dear friends, near neighbors, and familiar acquaintance withdraw themselves far from us, yet show thou thyself present with us, and lighten us in such wise with thy most ready help, to the intent, that being delivered from so great perils, we may not praise thee in the grave, or in death, but amongst such as remain a live, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Because (O most mighty God) we often fall from thee like men, so long as we here live, our minds being overcast with darkness, and we who ought to walk outwardly in thy blessed ways, have divers times either fallen, or else do cowardly lie still: from the which thou (of thy unspeakable goodness) hast been accustomed to raise up such as thou well favourest, either with some sickness, or adversity, to the intent thou mayest shake of their unpalpable darkness and slothful sluggishness from them, which thing we assuredly know thou wilt presently do, and that without any delay, who feel ourselves so bowed to the ground and made crooked with the heavy burden of woeful miseries, as we are even in a manner brought to utter confusion and undoing. Wherefore our earnest request is, (O most dear Father) that thou wouldest not chastise us in thy fury, nor destroy us with the wrath of thy sore displeasure: but we would that the things which have hitherto happened, might make to our renewing or restoration. For we now pour out our humble petitions and lamentable cries before thy eye sight: thou seest how our friends and allies are gone clean against us, and that the adversaries laying await for our life, cease not to pitch snares, who do always imagine crafts and deceits whereby they might do us some notable mischief. Give ear (O good God) to our fervent prayers and earnest petitions, and suffer not the enemies of thy glorious name to triumph over us. Forsake us not utterly, hold not thyself aloof from us, and make haste to be our ready helper,

forsomuch as the whole hope of our salvation consisteth only in thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Forsomuch as (O almighty God) during this wretched life, we are hedged in with naughtiness on every side, who have such plenty of calamities, and be so glutted with miseries, that being yet alive we walk in the midst of death: therefore with vehement and continual prayer we cry unto thee without ceasing, whom we accompt as our only Savior. Behold (we humbly beseech thee) how we by reason of our heinous sins, are so sore pined away, as we be now in a manner swallowed up of final destruction: thy grievous wrath and heavy indignation being kindled for their sakes, doth make us much afraid, and miserably vexeth us. Neither can our faithful friends, loving neighbors, or well willers, help us anything at all, touching our deliverance from so grievous inconveniences. Wherefore make hast (O excellent father) to help us, and for thy infinite mercies sake, pardon whatsoever we have most lewdly committed against thee: which, if thou dost not so long as we here live, that (which our desire is thou wouldst remove from us) can take no place after thy last judgment and sentence of condemnation. Show forth again the light of thy favorable countenance upon us, which (by reason of our most wicked and lewd deserts) thou seemedst worthily to have turned so long time from us, whereas otherwise we shall not be able to endure any longer, our conscience accusing us, and the sharp hands of thy justice overwhelming us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 89: TO PUT GOD IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS PROMISE

(Prayer 1) Thy inestimable mercy (O almighty God) is most manifestly known, both because all Saints do celebrate the same, and also for that it doth continually utter and show forth itself throughout all generations, by means whereof thou art brought to make a covenant with thy elect people, the Christ's kingdom and his seed (which is the Church) should always endure, neither ought any mortal man to fear or stand in doubt, that thou art not able to perform

whatsoever thou hast steadfastly and with a solemn oath promised. The evident proofs of thy almighty power appeared by punishing the Egyptians: and seeing that the heavens, the earth, the whole circuit of the world, the winds, the seas, and whatsoever thou hast made, pertain to thy mighty government, we doubt not but thou canst right well preserve thy beloved people whom thou hast adopted unto thee, and which walk in the light of thy blessed countenance. And hereupon we have great need, that thou shouldest do thus much for us in especially: namely to vouchsafe to forgive us the sins, wherewith we confess ourselves to have most grievously offended thee, forsomuch as they truly be the only things why we are sore afflicted, and it is the weight of them that press us most down. Give pardon therefore unto such as humbly call to thee for ready help, and be our strong defense against the fierce adversaries of thy blessed name: stretch out thy mighty arm, make thy hand strong for our preservation, and in these dangers arm thy puissant right hand for our deliverance, least the outrageous violence of the ungodly prevail against us: and suffer not the children of iniquity to trouble us according to their hatred and malicious evil will. Shake thou those and turn thou them so aside, that they be not able to execute the mischievous devises which they intend to do against our holy Gospel. We call upon thee, being our only Savior, loving God, and merciful father: perform therefore and keep thy sacred covenant which thou hast favorably made with thy faithful ones. We have utterly forsaken thy divine law, we have not walked in thy holy commandments, we have unhallowed thy sacred things, neither have we been obedient to thy blessed will: wherefore refuse we not to be beaten with the rods of thy heavy displeasure, or to be kept under, with the scourges of thy most grievous chastisement, but this only is our humble request, that thou wouldest not bereave us of thy unspeakable mercy, favorable loving kindness, and unspotted truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We heartily acknowledge (O almighty God) that it is the use and guise of the Godly to set forth thy unspeakable mercy and favorable goodness, when as their affairs have so good success as they would gladly wish: but if we undoubtedly shall retain and keep that custom in unfortunate mishaps and

grievous calamities, as to set out thy favorable mercy and loving kindness continually throughout all generations, then shall we be most assuredly able to bear witness of the effectual working of thy grace in us. Suffer therefore (we humbly beseech thee) the promises and covenants which thou madest with David thy most faithful servant, never to slip out of our memories, namely, that thou wouldst of his seed give Jesus Christ a most puissant and everlasting king for all faithful believers, under whose government the universal Church should both be defended from the enemies force, and also greatly flourish, being right well garnished with all kind of good things. More than once we have tried the assuredness of these faithful promises. For thou hast oftentimes delivered thy blessed people from most grievous and horrible dangers, for none other cause than this only: and therefore are we now encouraged to be importunate upon thee, that thou wouldest (according to thy old wont and accustomed manner) provide remedy for the necessity of thy loving people, when they stand in most need thereof, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Thou hast not only promised unto us (O most mighty God) abundance of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord, whereby we may be acceptable unto thee, and become thy trusty friends, dear children, and peculiar heirs, but also thou hast taken upon thee to bestow so great clemency upon us, that if we fall into any kind of vice through our weakness, thou wilt chastise our iniquities with a fatherly rod and merciful scourge, and not turn away thy loving countenance and well inclined mind from thy blessed Church at any time. Be mindful therefore (O heavenly father) of this thy sacred covenant which thou didst once determine to be more firm and of steadfaster continuance then the high heaven, the bright Sun, and the splendent Moon: but forsomuch as thy wrathful indignation is not a little kindled by reason of our most grievous sins, and that thou seemest to thrust down the case of thy faithful servants, and not a little to favor the adversaries of true godliness and enemies of thy glorious name, show forth now at length (we humbly beseech thee) thy great mercies of old, neither suffer us which are the dear members of Christ (although of our parts marvelous unworthy) not

to be made a laughter and mocking stock for the unbelievers to jest at, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 90: BOTH TO ATTAIN UNTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND THE VANITY OF THIS LIFE ALSO

(Prayer 1) Forsomuch as thou (O almighty God) wouldest we should have this knowledge of thy holy Tabernacle, that it was not in deed of so great bigness as it could contain thy infinite power and immeasurable nature, therefore do we now heartily confess this to be most manifest, that thou art the only tabernacle, habitation, and sure refuge to our weakness: neither art thou to be compted a fresh or new made dwelling place for the faithful, but such a one as is perpetual and permanent, seeing thou choosest them before the making and constitution of the world. And therefore the grievous calamities and painful miseries which we endure, drive us from all sides unto thee our mighty bulwark and most strong defense. Surely we lead both a very miserable and fugitive life, which floweth abroad like water, fadeth away as a sleep, and withereth incontinent in such sort as doth a green herb, while we are continually consumed and put in fear by thy grievous wrath and heavy indignation. We acknowledge that the heinous sins which we have lewdly committed, be the only cause why thou art justly sore displeased with us, for if thou didst purpose assuredly to be revenged of them, thy most ardent displeasure would utterly consume and bring us to naught. Our earnest request is therefore (O mighty God) that thou wouldest forgive the heinous offenses and exceeding wicked deeds wherewith we have greatly offended thee, so that thou dost not condemn us forever, but cause us to reap this singular commodity of these present mischiefs, that (considering and well weighing the force and efficacy of thy heavy wrath, and our brittle and most short life) we may with a greater earnestness stand more in fear of thee. Use thy old accustomed manner (O excellent father) in showing thyself as now well pleased with thy afflicted and persecuted children: then shall we perfectly rejoice and be right glad when thy working appeareth and is made manifest unto us. Let thy holy Ghost (we humbly

beseech thee) direct us in such wise, as thy famous honor, thy excellent glory, and thy clear brightness, may shine both in us and in all our doings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) If we do greatly rejoice in our own behalf (O most mighty God) that the plenteousness of thy loving favor was so exceeding abundant towards us, that such as thou right well lovest, those didst thou elect before the foundation of the world was laid, and didst predestinate to be partakers of thy eternal joys or ever the mountains were made, or any part of the world brought in ripe shape: our joy doubtless shall be doubled, if we thoroughly weigh and consider how that of our own selves (both by infirmity of nature, and also through the wickedness of our heinous sins) we are otherwise nothing. For we run headlong into perdition, slide as water, vanish away like a dream, and in the twinkling of an eye we wither like grass. Which discommodities, at what time we call to remembrance, let them (we humbly require thee) stir up in us an occasion of learning and wisdom, so that we may understand and right well perceive how unworthy we are (in respect of ourselves) to enjoy thy loving favor, and contrariwise, how great thy benign clemency is towards us, by the which (we heartily beseech thee) to turn thy favorable countenance upon us, in showing that we are thy workmanship, as we be in deed. Let thy excellent brightness lighten our blind minds in such sort, that our deeds never swerve from the mark of thy exceeding great glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 91: IN TEMPTATION AND PERILS, FOR DELIVERANCE AND PRESERVATION

(Prayer 1) Whosoever dependeth wholly upon God, so that he accounteth him to be his sure defense and most strong hold, he needeth not to fear any calamity, no layings await, nor finally to dread any distress. For God no less defendeth his servants, then the hens do their chickens at what time they hide them under their wings, or that the Soldiers defend and cover themselves in battle with their shield and target. For can pestilence, plague, calamity, or wasting, terrify

those which believe faithfully in God? Nothing truly shall make them afraid? For although Satan and all the ungodly work most grievous and pernicious things against him, yet hath God committed his welfare to an innumerable company of Angels, through whose conduct and protection he is not only defended, but carried also on their hands and shoulders, that he dash not against hurtful things. There is no power in the most cruel beasts, but is trodden upon and beaten down under his feet. If we therefore stand now in much fear of the wicked, it is a plain token that we have small confidence and little trust in thee, by reason of which dull and weak faith, we are become so pliable to an innumerable sort of sins, as by our backslidings from thee, we provoke thy grievous wrath continually against us. Wherefore our hearty request is, that (according to thy accustomed goodness) thou wouldest in such wise pardon whatsoever we have very lewdly committed against thee, and make us hereafter most earnest lovers of thy divine Majesty, that we may in right perfect faith, have thy glorious name and dignity in wonderful admiration, and cause our prayer not to be unfruitful before thee, whereunto we humbly beseech thy infinite goodness, that thou wouldest make answer according to our demand. And finally be present to the fervent petitions and troublesome matters of thy blessed Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Such as repose their whole trust and confidence in thee only (O almighty God) have put themselves under the shadow of thy assurance and fortress of thy most strong defense, where they may be in safety from all the assaults of the enemies, and preserved from every pernicious thing that may annoy them. When as wicked men (being undoubtedly members of the devil and his Catch-polles) shall practice any evil thing against them, they shall at no time be left destitute of God's assured help and faithful promise, for he will quickly defend them as a mighty strong shield. And when most grievous temptations, which happen daily, do rage on every side, whereby an infinite number of mortal men fall down headlong into everlasting damnation: whatsoever they are which have assured themselves in their hearts and prayed unto the Lord: thou art my God, and thou art the thing I only trust in: evil shall in no wise happen unto these kind of men, but they shall remain steadfast and without fear when others fall and come to

naught. He will not only deliver them from troublesome mishaps by the hands of blessed Angels, but also there shall be no beasts so venomous and outrageous that may hurt them anything at all. And therefore we humbly require thee (O excellent father) to vouchsafe that we may not be secluded from partaking of so great good things, but that we may in such wise love thee, and so repose our whole trust in thy divine Majesty, as we may seek none other refuge and pillar to stand by, but thee only, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 92: AGAINST THE PERSUASION OF SUCH AS WOULD HAVE JUSTIFICATION TO PROCEED OF GOOD WORKS

We are then slack in celebrating thy glorious name (O almighty God) when as we forget thy wonderful works, which, so soon as we diligently consider, and think more attentively of, they shall by and by cheer us exceedingly, and consequently enforce a great strength and efficacy in us touching the setting forth of thy worthy praises. But such truly are very foolish and dull sighted, who either do not weigh them, or else are nothing moved therewith: their eyes therefore are sore blinded, because they see the matters of the ungodly to have good success and go long unpunished. But these manner of men ought to consider that for this purpose thou wouldest do thus with the wicked, because they might be the more sorrowful to see their flourishing estate suddenly altered, yea, and that in a time unlooked for, who (after they have walked in the shadow of felicity) may run into mere and assured calamity, and such verily as is everlasting, and hath no end, when as the just men (like the Ceder and Palm tree) enjoy the sincere and everlasting good things in the blessed habitation of the heavens. We humbly beseech thee (O excellent father) to cherish and comfort this hope in us, to the intent we may right well perceive, that thou art both good and just, and also dost publish unto all creatures that there is no unrighteousness in thy noble judgment, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 93: FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM

When as we right well consider (O most mighty God) that the world was made of thee to abide exceeding firm and unmovable, who dost govern the same with so great constancy and in such perfect order, as we verily know thy excellency, might, and noble power thereby. Wherefore we take heart to us, and persuade ourselves most assuredly, that thy loving promises shall be of no less assurance to stick unto, then the nature of things teacheth us, that thy glorious kingdom is both strong and unmovable. Although therefore the cruel enemies of our salvation do vaunt themselves against us, fret exceedingly, and continually dash us together with the surges of their irefulness and grievous temptations, and rise up against us like huge waters, and tempestuous seas, yet our assured hope is that thou wilt defend us with thy invincible power and exceeding great might. Vouchsafe therefore, that both this faith may always be printed in our minds, and also that thy good and notable promises which thou hast made unto thy blessed Church, may not only come to pass, but also (being bestowed upon it) may long time be preserved in the same, so that thy most famous goodness and unspeakable mercy may be published more and more throughout the universal world, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 94: AGAINST OUR ENEMIES, DECEITFUL TEACHERS, AND CRUEL TYRANTS

The presumption and stateliness of sinners (O most mighty God) is wonderful, for it doth not only tear in pieces the feeble, and grind to powder the weaklings, but also bringeth them in the end to such madness, as they judge their wickedness and grievous offenses which they have most lewdly committed, to be hid and unknown unto thee. Vouchsafe therefore that this kind of foolishness may be far from our thoughts, and grant that we may be most assuredly persuaded, that thou having made the ear, formed the eye, and given unto men the power and ability of understanding, art ignorant of nothing which is done by us

in earth: but rule and order us so in the mean season, as we may not only escape and fly from the everlasting and perpetual destructions which are prepared for the ungodly, but also enjoy the most high quietness and perpetual felicity which thou hast vouchesafe to bestow upon thy faithful servants. If thou verily be not present, having the help always prepared and in a readiness, wherewith thou mayest mightily defend us, we shall easily fall into those mischiefs which hang over our heads. Be thou (we humbly beseech thee) our Castle, fortress, and strong shield of defense, least we seem to have vainly reposed our whole trust and confidence in thee only, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 95: FOR TRUE FAITH

(Prayer 1) Forsomuch as (O most mighty God) thou art our salvation and strength, it is meet we should praise thy glorious name to the uttermost of our powers: and to the intent we may the more orderly do the same, we first and foremost come unto thee with hearty confession of our heinous sins. Whereas thou hast (of thy infinite goodness, and not for our merits sake) chosen us to be thy blessed people and sheep of thy pasture, as having no need of our service at all, forsomuch as thou art the great king above all god's, in whose hand be not only the earth and exceeding high Mountains, but also the heavens and all creatures: we have grievously offended thee diverse and sundry ways, hardening our sinful hearts at thy fatherly admonitions, who have very readily fainted in temptation, our mind hath fowlye erred, and we have always (by reason of our lewd sins and most wicked deserts) become burdensome and marvelous troublesome unto thee. For which cause thou hast at this time raised up so proud and cruel enemies against us, by whom we are brought into great peril and danger: nevertheless acknowledging how unrighteously we have dealt, we know for a certainty that besides thy infinite goodness and mercy, there remaineth none other defense for us. Wherefore with these our fervent prayers and earnest supplications we press into thy sight or ever we perish, requiring thee not to grind us unto powder in thy most grievous wrath: take away the heinous sins (we humbly beseech thee)

wherewith we and our fathers have greatly tempted thee, and provoked thy heavy displeasure against us. Call to remembrance that thou art our mighty God, valiant king, and loving shepherd. Therefore mightily preserve, valiantly keep, and nobly defend us from those that hate thee no less than they do us: suffer them not (according to the lust of their cruelty) utterly to destroy the work of thy blessed hands which thou hast begun passing well in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy excellent Majesty and invincible power (O most good and merciful God) is of such force, as everywhere it excelleth and beareth dominion most amply and without desert, but seeing that all things as well high as low were made by thee, there is nothing to be found either hidden in the depth of the earth, or set up in the height of the mountains, whereof thou wert not the author and first founder: for which cause we justly desire to show forth thy worthy praise. To the furtherance hereof also maketh this, that thou art our only stay, and we as thy blessed flock and sheep of thy pasture appertain and belong unto thee only. Therefore do we greatly worship, humbly reverence, duly honor, and right earnestly call upon thy most favorable Godhead, requiring this especially, that thou suffer not our heart (which of nature is disposed unto evil) to be hardened at thy friendly admonitions. Make the same soft (we heartily pray thee) with the inspiration of thy good grace and holy spirit, neither suffer us to strive and struggle against thy blessed commandments, like unto the stiff-necked Jews, who would so often times put thee to the trial of thy mighty power: but seeing it was not their hap to enjoy the promised land, grant (for thy infinite mercies sake) that we may at length be permitted to enter into the haven of eternal felicity after our long and daily travail, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 96: THANKSGIVING FOR CHRIST'S BENEFITS BESTOWED UPON US

(Prayer 1) We are admonished for diverse and sundry causes (O most mighty God) greatly to magnify thee, and highly to sanctify thy holy name. But

able we are not thus to do, unless the heinous sins wherewith we are miserably oppressed, be first put away and driven far from us. We have received at thy merciful hands (through the preaching of thy blessed Gospel) the most noble and excellent gift of salvation, but we have hitherto led our life so coldly therein, and wrought so contrary to our vocation, in neglecting and despising thy sacred commandments, that needful it was in the end for the calamities which we now suffer, to encounter without lewdness, and that thou shouldest extend thy furious wrath upon us, by these most grievous perils, being moved and provoked thereto through our wicked deserts and naughty behavior. Notwithstanding (O good God) have no regard at all to our merits, but rather see to this, that thy famous glory may be greatly published amongst the heathen, and thy wonderful works made manifest unto all people. Both thy adversaries and ours also repose their whole affiance in worldly strength and cursed Idolatry, who would enforce us to yield such honor unto Antichrist as they do: whereas we contrariwise acknowledge thee to be a great and terrible Lord above all God's. Wherefore we earnestly call upon thy excellent Majesty, and in these dangerous days fly unto thy mercy seat, requiring pardon for our heinous sins, and that thou wouldest show how vain our enemies goods be. Judge (O good God) the adversaries of thy true worship, and enemies of thy sacred Gospel, so that thou (as right meet it is) mayst reign and bear dominion over the heathen. Stretch out thy invincible power, thy puissant glory, and thy renowned magnificence (O good God) for our speedy deliverance, who being delivered from so many and great inconveniences, may render unto thee due oblations of hearty praises. Cause thy glorious name to be well spoken off in every place, and let all men honor and reverence thy divine Majesty with most pure and perfect devotion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy benefits (O almighty God) are not only bestowed upon us continually, but also after a new and unaccustomed manner do spring up fresh from time to time: wherefore (unless we will be marvelous ungrateful) they deserve that we should, evermore magnify the same with new praises and pleasant songs. Such is thy magnificence and unspeakable power, whose beauty and

Majesty is so great, that thou dost surmount beyond all measure, what Godhead or Deity soever men could at any time devise to themselves. Grant therefore that whensoever we go about duly to honor and reverently to worship thee, we may cheerfully offer up ourselves and all that ever we have to thy incomprehensible glory, so that we may preach thy glorious kingdom to all nations, not only with words, but in virtuous life and holy conversation, to the intent every man may right well know and perceive that like as thou hast created us and the whole universal world, so also shall we and all things be repaired again, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 97: THAT WE MAY APPEAR IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT WITH A PURE AND CHEERFUL HEART

(Prayer 1) Thou thyself (O most mighty God) which art the author of full joy and perfect gladness, art also endued with exceeding severity and dreadful power, which thy properties thou bestowest upon man, according to thy infinite justice and righteousness. Wherefore our earnest request is, that thou wouldst not burn us up with the fire of thy wrathful indignation, who otherwise (by reason of our heinous sins) are worthy of most grievous punishments, but (according to thy great mercy, and through the merits of thy only Son Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior) remit and pardon whatsoever we have lewdly committed against thee: but contrariwise, turn the wrath of thy heavy displeasure upon thy fierce adversaries. Let those men be set on fire, make them to tremble, let them melt away like wax at the sight of thy bright countenance. But let us (being restored and reformed in a new kind of life by thy blessed spirit) feel in ourselves, and set out thy noble justice such wise unto them, as all people may right well perceive the same. For although we have greatly and very much strayed from thy holy will revealed unto us in the sacred scriptures, we are notwithstanding heartily sorry for our lewd deserts, and be very desirous to make thy glorious renown exceeding famous. Let not therefore this our assured hope and fervent desire be made frustrate: put them to confusion who believe nothing at all in thee, but

have an infinite number of Idols, wherein they put their whole trust, whereunto they show much worship, marvelous great honor, and wonderful obedience. And finally grant this thing also, that such as thou hast regenerated and quickened with thy blessed spirit, may utterly detest sin, and whatsoever fighteth or is repugnant to thy holy will. Afterward take the souls of thy faithful servants out of wicked men's hands, and when we be thoroughly delivered from them, cause us not only to rejoice with great gladness, but make thy healthful light of salvation to shine upon all that are thine, whereby they may be converted unto thee, and celebrate thy worthy memorial with perpetual praises, through the self same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing it is thou (O almighty God) that rulest far and near, and mightily governest all things, there is nothing in the whole world but ought to be exceeding glad thereof: for like as thy glorious kingdom (which is the chiefest thing to be desired) is most gorgeously decked with justice and equity, even so is there such strength and puissance grafted in the same, as no crafty devices, and subtle practices can prevail against it, but that (whatsoever thou hast with a most rightful counsel and singular justice decreed upon) shall be brought to good end. We earnestly require thee therefore that as the earth, heaven, and universal world are most evident witnesses of thy unspeakable wisdom and singular justice, so the truth and sincere worshipping of thee may appear in thy blessed Church, where all men may heartily rejoice together, because superstitious and corrupt Religions are altogether banished. Let them be joyful in this behalf which purely and with fervent zeal do unfeignedly love and honor God: whom finally (we humbly beseech) to augment the light of our minds, and that we may with an exceeding pleasant cheerfulness, rejoice in the sacred Congregation of his blessed Saints, for the unspeakable benefits he hath bestowed upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Forsomuch as all thy judgments (O most good and merciful God) do shine forth with perfect equity and right up justice, we ought therefore to be exceeding glad and very joyful. For although thy faithful servants be punished for a while so long as they are in this wretched life, yet the time will one day

come, when thou by fire and with the clear lightsome presence of thy divine Majesty shalt judge the world, rewarding every man uprightly according to his deserts. Then shall the very heavens show forth thy righteousness, and all men compelled whether they will or no, to say that thou art most just: and then also shall thy blessed Church be filled with true and perfect joy. Seeing that therefore the matter standeth thus so long as we are here strangers from thee, cause light to rise in us, and a spiritual rejoicing with exceeding pureness of heart, whereby we may sincerely and after a due manner joy in thee only, so that one of us may always put another in remembrance not to be forgetful to publish thy unspeakable holiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 98: FOR THE FAVOUR OF CHRIST THROUGH HIS GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

(Prayer 1) Thou hast showed oftentimes that salvation belongeth unto thee only (O most mighty God) for the doing and accomplishing whereof thou hast no need of any creatures assistance. Thou shewedst marvelous wonders in our fathers days, and diddest often preserve them with thy only right hand and blessed arm: for thou hast in such wise extended thy ready help towards them, that thy excellent mercy and unspeakable goodness became manifest to all nations. Seeing that therefore thou hast not hitherto been forgetful of thy faithful promises, but rather hast always assisted thy beloved servants, when soever they stood in need of a deliverer: whereby they thought thy glorious name was to be extolled and praised all manner of ways, so much as in them lay, both with heart, voice, trumpets, harps, shawmes, and sundry ditties of songs: we therefore thy faithful people do in like sort pray at this present, that thou hidest not thyself from us in this time. Thou truly art not ignorant how many and how great the perils are, which do grievously molest us. And so long as we do wey the case by our own deserts, they seem to be more hard and grievous unto us then we be able in any wise to bear: for we have sinned in such wise against thee, so impudently transgressed thy sacred laws, and so often played the rebels against thy divine

Majesty, that if thou shouldest reward us according to our lewd life and filthy conditions, we may be even in utter despair of our salvation. But we do greatly and with much fervency labor to obtain this at thy favorable hands, both that thou wouldst deal with us according to thy accustomed manner, by forgiving the penitent, pardoning their heinous offenses which incessantly call upon thy blessed name, and being merciful unto such as faithfully trust in thee. And also that of thy singular justice and excellent clemency, thou wouldst mightily deliver us, after a puissant manner maintain us, and defend us with an invincible force, from the most cruel enemies of thy blessed name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) All mankind in general (O most mighty God) are bound to praise and set forth thy blessed name exceedingly, for the notable benefits thou bestowest upon them, and most especially, for that thou hast delivered us from everlasting death by the help of none other creature, but only through the sole oblation of thy alone and most dearly beloved Son: insomuch as we may rightly say, that thou only defendest us with thy holy arm and puissant right hand. Thou hast very certainly showed how mindful, and what a good keeper thou art of faithfulness and goodness, which the whole ends of the earth and all mortal creatures may assuredly see and right well perceive by our redemption: but we be so dull, rude, and blockish, that we have in a manner lost the whole perseverance of so noble and great liberality, the fault whereof we must impute to our heinous wickedness and mischievous deeds. Wherefore, with a mighty lamentation and very sorrowful cry, we do earnestly call upon thy inestimable mercy to forgive whatsoever we have most grievously committed against thee, and to take from thy blessed Church the occasions of so great sorrow. For whilst we know godliness and religion to hang in so great distress, we can in no wise sing unto thee with heart and voice as we ought to do, or provoke all creatures through our great joy, to unspeakable gladness. We do now earnestly require thee to come and judge the case of thy faithful people. Rayse up and sustain with thy judgment such as mourn, and comfort the afflicted, that thy equity and justice (wherein thou dost

much excel all others) may most manifestly show forth it self, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 99: FOR THE JUSTIFICATION OF FAITH, AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF WORKS

(Prayer 1) It is truly an exceeding great force of thy glorious kingdom that thou (most mighty God) usest in the defense of the Godly, and overthrowing of the envious and rebellious people, which our fathers have oftentimes had trial of. Whereby we do most certainly believe and earnestly confess, that so long as thou dost favor thy faithful servants, the courages, minds, and strength of those that assault them, yea and the very earth also doth quaille: seeing therefore that thy puissance and strength is so great is the Church, let thy mighty power (we beseech thee) disquiet and trouble all nations which would quite subvert and utterly overthrow thy glorious kingdom. And as thy puissant force and mighty strength surmounteth all God's and kings, even so now show thyself a terrible and fearful GOD for the preservation of thy blessed Church. It is verily not unbeknown unto us, that thou lovest judgement, and decidest men's causes uprightly. We heartily require thee therefore to vouchsafe, that (when as our iniquities which we have committed provoke thee to extend thy severity upon us) thou wouldst turn thy eyes from these things, and bend them wholly upon Jesus Christ our savior, who is for us in the stead of Aaron, Moses, Samuel, and a true Bishop. Be mindful of the prayer, sacrifice, blood and tears which he shed for us upon the Alter of the Cross. Admit, we have committed an infinite number of naughty facts, yet remember that we through him do call upon thy blessed name, pardon therefore, forgive, and utterly remit our heinous transgressions, and make no tariance in delivering us from these exceeding great and dangerous perils, so that we may lead our life with an uncorrupt heart towards thee, and exalt thy glorious name, even as it right well deserveth, with such praises as may pierce the heavens, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Although the ungodly (O most mighty God) seem to ruffle sometime so greatly, as they turn all things upside down, yet there is no cause why the faithful should be greatly afraid, forsomuch as thou hast taken the government of all worldly things into thy mighty protection, and guidest with thy excellent wisdom the state of the whole world: for whosoever they be which are assuredly persuaded in this point, they leave fear for such as be otherwise minded, while they themselves (being fully replenished with pure joy and perfect gladness) do extol thee with incessant praises to the uttermost of their powers, and show forth thy famous glory by all means that can be devised: unto whom we also annex our endeavors with an exceeding cheerful courage, and also humbly require thee in our most fervent cries and earnest petitions, that as thou shewedst thyself gentle and treatable unto Moses, Aaron, Samuel, and the remnant of thy most faithful priests, when they did invoke and call upon thy glorious name: give ear in likewise to us at this present, and defend thy sacred Church (which now standeth in great need of thy mighty assistance, if ever it wanted the same) no less with thy divine presence, good counsel, holy spirit and grace, then thou diddest help our fathers in times past with a pillar of fire, with clouds in the Sea, and in the most wide and large wilderness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 100: THAT WE MAY IN ALL PLACES BOTH GLORIFY GOD AND ALSO CONFESS HIM

(Prayer 1) Verily thy exceeding great honor (O most mighty God) and notable benefits bestowed upon us, require this, that we of duty should come before thy presence with thanksgiving, and magnifying thy blessed name with a notable gladness and unspeakable joy. There be two things chiefly which seem to hinder us from doing thereof: first we are burdened with an innumerable multitude of horrible vices, and so kept down with sin, that we dare scarcely lift up our eyes unto thee: furthermore we are by the desert of our own lewd facts, environed in such wise with anguish and fear of Antichrist, as we are in a manner

swallowed up therewith. For experience teacheth that he is so stirred up against us by thy justice, through our own wicked behavior, that (unless thy loving mercy be our ready helper) man's power and strength shall further us nothing in this behalf. First and foremost therefore our earnest request is, that thou wouldst take utterly away from thy faithful servants, the burden of wickedness, and grant that we may lead a pure and undefiled life, instead of such a one as is very lewd and marvelous corrupt. Secondly, that thou wouldst deliver thy blessed people from the Lawes of the most cruel enemies, whose endeavor is always to bring not only the bodies and goods, but also the souls of thy faithful servants to eternal destruction. Thou that art our God, suffer not these things to be done we humbly beseech thee: we are the work of thy hands, for thou diddest make us and not we ourselves. Seeing therefore that we be thy chosen people, and sheep of thy pasture, be present so to help us both in the outward and inward man, that we may in the end enter the Court of thy divine presence, by publishing thy unspeakable goodness with high praises, godly Hymns, and pleasant songs, so that assurance thereof may be given by us, both to all Nations, and throughout all ages, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We being greatly assured by the outward testimony of the sacred scriptures, and inward inspiration of thy blessed spirit (O most good and merciful God) that thou wilt be favorable and merciful unto us and all ours, are both filled with perfect joy, and receive full pleasure. But forsomuch as we right well perceive by the excellent benefits of faith, that thou art our founder, by whom we are created and chosen to be thy beloved flock and peculiar people, we can never be fully satisfied with due thanksgiving, and remembrance of thy so great goodness. We come and approach unto thee therefore with incessant praises and humble supplications, most earnestly requiring thy divine Majesty in our fervent prayers, to manifest thy glorious name unto all Nations, and of thy loving kindness to set thy sacred Church again in such blessed felicity, as all men may right well know and perfectly understand thy clemency extended towards her, both for the verity of the doctrine, and also for living and conversation fully agreeable to the things that are faithfully and truly taught, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 101: FOR A GODLY LIFE

(Prayer 1) Thou requirest this especially in such men's livings as profess thy blessed name and holy Gospel (O most good and merciful God) that they should lead their life exceeding justly and with great uprightness, and to perform the deeds of charity towards their neighbors: which thing seeing the holy Scriptures do everywhere beat into us, we unfeignedly confess that we have in no wise performed it, and in this behalf we acknowledge before thy divine Majesty, our grievous wickedness and most wrongful dealings, and the cold zeal we have had towards thy holy Church and blessed people: praying thee that thou wouldest pardon and remit whatsoever we have hitherto traitorously and rashly committed against thy sacred commandments, and grant that (being enforced thereto through the wisdom of thy Holy Spirit) we may begin an innocent and blameless life: let all wicked devices be excluded far from our hearts, and cause us to detest such matters as be repugnant to justice and equity, so that we may neither think nor yet do anything which may be disagreeable to thy blessed law and good pleasure. Moreover (we humbly beseech thee) not to forsake thy holy Church in this most troublesome time: for thou both seest and right well perceivest, how the cruel, malicious, and ungodly Antichristians have invaded her: being so puffed up with pride, and inflamed with fury, scorning as well divine laws as human with like stateliness and equal contempt, doing nothing with courtesy and faithfulness, but practice to bring all things to naught by forged tales, politic deceits, and very much outrage: wherefore our earnest request is (O good GOD) that thou wouldest make haste to succor thy faithful people, and destroy with thy puissant force and mighty power, such as are wicked, who be no less adversaries to thy blessed name, than of our peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) It behooveth the Church (O almighty God) which is thy blessed house, to be decked with all manner of ornaments appertaining to holiness and virtue, whereof, forsomuch as we see it to be as now miserably destitute, we humbly beseech thee, who art benevolent, and wisheth her (as we doubt not) all good

and prosperous things, whom thou especially favourest according to the meaning of thy loving promises, grant her in such wise to be restored, as all things may be ordered there by thy spiritual wisdom, and avoid those offenses therefore, unto which everlasting damnation is due by justice. Let them depart thence which fall from thee by infidelity, and are through obstinate willfulness, traitorous rebels to thy sacred law: let backbiters, together with such as are proud, and those which dare shamelessly presume anything, be utterly rooted out. And contrariwise, let there be space in especially for such as be very zealous of the truth. Let not these be only conversant there before thee, but cause them to feed thy blessed people with a singular faith and innocence, and minister all things diligently unto them, which be necessary toward salvation. Remove far from thence, far from them (O excellent father) be all man's invention and deceitful idolatry, so that finally all Godliness may be utterly rooted up from the Congregation of the faithful, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 102: IN THE TRIAL OF FAITH AND AFFLICTION OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer 1) We are of our own selves altogether unworthy (O most mighty God) that thou shouldest give ear unto our prayers, seeing we have everywhere transgressed thy sacred law and blessed commandments, and lived exceeding dishonestly towards thy holy Gospel, and our vocation. Howbeit, hide thou not away thy face (for thy infinite mercies sake) from our humble petitions and earnest supplications. For we are grievously assailed and sore oppressed with most great perils. And therefore bow down thy favorable ear unto us, and grant them with speed their desires which invoke and call upon thee. First we require to be delivered from our heinous sins and lewd corruptions, and let our weak and feeble hearts be strengthened in thy blessed way, and the withered powers of our mind (which are dried up) watered with the holy Ghost, that we may live unto thee, who (being altogether repaired and wholly renewed) may cause thy glorious name and sacred Gospel to be well spoken of. This once done, extend thy

invincible power and might upon such as raise up innumerable slanders and reproaches upon the name of thy Son and his holy doctrine. Have mercy out of hand (we humbly beseech thee) of Zion, that is to say, thy blessed Church, for the time is now come that she standeth in great need of thy ready help. Look out, we heartily pray thee, from thy high dwelling place, behold our grievous calamities, and hear their pitiful cries which are in great bonds, much beaten, and grievously tormented to death diverse manner of ways for thy glorious names sake, by preserving thy chosen sheep out of so great dangers, whom the Antichristians do adjudge not only to death, but also to utter destruction, that thy adopted children may one time or other lead a peaceable and quiet life before thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) The whole company of thy faithful people (O most good and merciful God) do lamentably require thy favorable help, which is cruelly oppressed through the tyranny of sin, and the sacred sap of godliness almost dried up in the same, for her mouth is in a manner so stopped up that she cannot sing thy worthy praises, and there remaineth not well near any member in her body that may execute his office in helping one another. Thou therefore which always flourishes fresher and fresher, rise up to be our speedy helper, because we have now thought it high time for thee to assist thy blessed Church so grievously afflicted: which thing if thou wilt grant us, we doubt not but the fear of thy glorious name and sincere godliness shall be spread very far abroad. For if thou wilt deliver thy faithful people from so great and mischievous dangers, thou shalt teach thereby that thy loving promise remaineth always firm and unimpaired: in such wise, that although the heaven and earth be troubled with wonderful interchanges, and be so shaken as they perish, yet doth the same continue always one towards thy elect servants, whereby, we heartily beseech thee, to be both preserved, and also set in good estate again, not according to our own strength and deserts, but through his mercy and gentleness effectually working the same, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 103: FOR A NEW LIFE

(Prayer 1) We are bound (O most mighty God) for thy singular deserts extended towards us, to praise thee continually, with mind, heart, and all our whole power, rendering condigne thanks unto thy divine majesty, unless we will like ungrateful persons, forget all those things which thou hast hitherto bestowed upon us. First thou hast freely offered us forgiveness of sins, by Christ, and regeneration through his precious blood: hereunto is added doctrine, sacraments, bodily life, and whatsoever else appertaineth to the preservation both of the outward and inward man. But we heartily acknowledge that we have notwithstanding most filthily abused all these thy excellent benefits, for we have done nothing faithfully that answereth fully to our calling. We now therefore do humbly beseech thee to pardon our grievous offenses and lewd behavior, amending our corrupt manners and the dishonest life which we have led hitherto. Deal not with us after our sins, neither reward us according to our iniquities. Wilt thou (seeing that singular loving kindness and mercy prevaieth with thee) be always revengeable? or correct and chastise us in thy fury? Remember that thou art our father, and therefore earnestly do we desire thee to show forth a fatherly affection towards such as both honor and worship thee. It is not unbeknown to thy divine Majesty that we are dust, and (unless thou be present with us) the vainest things that ever were made: we are more lither than grass and flowers. Regard not therefore our lewd and wicked facts, but way rather the league made betwixt thee and us, and deliver thy faithful people from the hands of thy cursed and most mischievous enemies, so that we may magnify thy wondrous works, with the glorious Angels, and all holy men for evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Man's weak and feeble nature can at no time (O almighty God) praise thee according to thy worthiness: for thou dost not only bestow upon us the benefits whereby we both obtain life, and also do from day to day continue and maintain the same, but thou hast forgiven thy faithful people their most grievous and infinite sins, by Christ, which surmounteth all other things that

thou hast participated amongst us, for the which most excellent and notable gift, we yield thee hearty thanks, although not such as we ought, yet such as we can: and to the intent we may thereby become more cheerful in requiring the same, our earnest request is (O excellent Father) that thou wouldest establish and perpetually maintain the word of pure and sincere doctrine in the mouth of thy blessed Church, so that an alteration of her old Leaven being made, she may (like the Eagle) from time to time renew her youth. And like as thou dissembling the sins of the Israelites, didst not only bring them to the dwelling place that thou hadst promised by Moses whom thou hadst taught, but also through the perpetual benefits of thy excellent mercy bestowed upon that people didst show and manifest, that thy goodness, towards them, surmounted all their mischievous deeds, no less space than the heavens are distant from the earth: be thou (which art our father and we thy dear children) moved with mercy towards us, who are like to be overwhelmed with darkness and lewd behaviors, unless thou presently puttest to thy assistant helping hand. Cause us to find by proof that thou hast renewed the covenant made betwixt thee and us, and (the same being restored) let us with all earnestness, endeavor ourselves to set forth thy blessed law and commandments in holiness of life, whereby not only the earthly Church may render condigne thanks unto thy unspeakable goodness for our salvation, but also the Angels which accomplish thy holy will with a marvelous cheerfulness may do the same, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

PSALM IO4: THAT WE MAY USE THE CREATURES OF GOD IN SUCH SORT AS WE ARE WILLED

(Prayer 1) Every creature doth abundantly show forth unto us thy invincible force, splendant beauty, and famous glory (O most mighty God) inasmuch as we see that all things do adorn thee with their whole power and might, obeying not only thy sacred words, but even thy very beckes also: it behooveth us in like sort to be likewise affectioned, seeing that thou hast created all things chiefly to our profit and singular commodity. For we certainly know and right well

perceive how the earth doth continually yield fruit for our sustentation, and how we be helped with the welles, floods, beasts, rain, herbs, corn, wine, oil, and all kind of food: but our nature is so blind, corrupt, and defiled, that the more we are bound to thee for thy exceeding great benefits, so much the stubbornlier swerve we from thy sacred words and blessed will. Wherefore our earnest request is, that thou wouldest (for thy infinite mercies sake) pardon whatsoever we have hitherto committed against thy divine Majesty, and vouchsafe us to depend solely upon thee, will we or nill we, touching our bodily food, so that also our whole motions, strength, counsels and works be fastened only upon thy excellent goodness. Moreover, we humbly beseech thee, not to turn thy face away from us in these our days, whereas otherwise we shall be sore troubled, give up the ghost, and be brought to nothing. Thou hast (O good God) diverse means and sundry ways to destroy thy mischievous enemies: who usest the most violent winds, lightnings, and flames of fire, in stead of thy messengers, for if thou dost look down upon the earth, it trembleth by and by, and if thou touchest the mountains, they smoke straight ways. Sley thou therefore the wicked Antichristians, in such wise, as they may no more remain: and let peace and tranquility be so given to thy blessed Church, that she may joyfully sing, and pleasantly show forth thy most worthy praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) It is not unbeknown to thy faithful people (O most mighty God) that thou hast created all things from the beginning to the behoove of thy elect servants. Therefore like as we see the whole world which thou hast made to be garnished with wonderful and most beautiful ornaments: so (we humbly beseech thee) to lighten and polish thy blessed Church in such wise (which is the congregation of such as shall be saved) that thy glory may no less appear in her then in the whole world: let the pure light of thy sacred words shine especially therein, which may cause the mighty power and invincible force of thy Spirit to work more effectually in our hearts, and make the constancy in faith of the believers, so great as they may be more steadfast then the mass of the earth, or foundations and pillars of the world. Drive from thence at the rebuke of thy puissance, dangerous temptations, the hurtfulness of hell, and the prince of darkness:

and contrariwise in steed of them, let the inspiration of thy most sweet spirit succeed like springs of living water, and let not perpetual food be wanting to our weakness, where with to feed it. But let there be a fortress in the confidence of thy glorious name, for us to retire unto: and like as in thy blessed creatures is great abundance of light, whether it be in the stars, or in the sundry variety of beasts, herbs, and stones, so we humbly beseech thee, to garnish and beautify thy holy Church with the brightness of all virtues, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) All creatures which thou hast created (O most good and merciful God) are witnesses, by their greatness and most exquisite ornaments, with what a wonderful wisdom and invincible power thou flourishest: there is nothing but it dependeth wholly upon thee, for what things soever have life, are fed by the food which thou givest them, and from such as thou hidest the sight of thy loving countenance, they are not able any longer to endure but die incontinent whensoever they be deprived of thy spirit. Forsomuch as therefore (O excellent father) thou art so good and mighty in working, even towards those things chiefly which thou hast ordained to be far inferior to man, we humbly beseech thee to extend thy favorable clemency no less towards thy blessed Church. She verily is thy own work, wherefore rejoice and delight therein, and (of thy exceeding high providence) cause thy majesty to show forth itself in her most evidently, whereby we may always both jointly amongst ourselves have most pleasant words concerning thy blessed will, and also magnify thee with perpetual praises, forsomuch as thou hast taken all uncleanness quite from her, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 105: THAT WE BE NOT IGNORANT OF THE WORKS OF OUR REDEMPTION

(Prayer 1) Thy marvelous and unspeakable works (O heavenly father) do much counsel us, and thy commandments earnestly teach us, to search for thy loving countenance with a most pure worship and faithful invocation in thy holy congregations, by calling this to mind and remembrance, that thou art our merciful God, who hast made us the true Israel by Christ, and sons of thy most

famous servant Abraham, through faith. Take away therefore from us (we humbly beseech thee) our heinous sins and all uncleanness of life, to the intent we may according to our bounden duty, seek thee and come before thy divine presence. We acknowledge ourselves to have hitherto most grievously offended thee both in mind and voice, and unless thou makest haste to help us, our sins will cast us down into the deep. For (even according to our just deserts) the outrageous enemies of thy blessed name, are raised up and have mightily prevailed against us, who daily strengthen themselves against thy son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We know right well that (by reason of the life which we have hitherto lived repugnant to thy glorious name and our profession) all these most grievous evils have happened to thy sacred Church. But our earnest request is that thou wouldest be mindful of thy faithful covenant, wherein thou promisest that we should be the meeting line of thy blessed heritage: for thy covenant is not transitory, but perdurable. Thou hast used at other times to chastise kings that they should not hurt thy elect people, who dost preserve and defend thy blessed servants inhabiting here upon the earth, so often as it is thy holy will and pleasure. The Heaven, Elements, and all creatures have served thee as soldiers in Egypt for the deliverance of thy faithful people. As thou therefore wert not then forgetful of thy sacred covenant, so show thyself mindful thereof at this present: for wicked men, the devil, and Antichrist, practice by all the means they can possible imagine and devise to swallow us up. Wherefore renew thou thy wonderful works in us, O mighty God, who (being altogether void of help) require thee to hide us under thy merciful wings, and spread them so over us, as thou mayest not only be our defender, but cause us to lead a quiet and peaceable life towards thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing that the godly (O almighty God) cannot have an excellent and more noble desire, then unfeignedly to remember thy marvelous and exceeding great acts, by celebrating the same both in word and most exquisite commendations, being now followers of the faith of Abraham, and children not degenerate from the ancient holy fathers, members of Christ, and instructed by the traditions of his blessed Apostles, do call to remembrance how inviolably thou

hast kept the sacred covenant which thou madest with thy holy Church from the beginning. Thy sure protection and most strong defense hath been always marvelous ready to help thy elect servants at what time they reposed their whole trust in thy unspeakable mercy, and when thou tookest upon thee to be their strong helper and mighty deliverer, no man could in any wise hurt them. Moreover when thou didst strike the whole world by any calamity, with thy severe justice, or didst trouble it with scarcity of food and lack of vitals, all that (so much as it was) turned at length to thy singular welfare and famous glory of the people of Israel. We being greatly admonished by these things, are of very good comfort, who come humbly unto thy divine Majesty, and heartily pray thee that thou wouldest be no less mindful of thy holy covenant towards thy blessed church at this day then thou wert in old time. For thou seest how many discommodities do on every side assail her and besiege it about: we humbly beseech thee (O excellent father) who alone canst do this, to command all those things either to fade away, or else grant them power to purge us of our lewd conditions, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Our earnest request is (O most good and merciful God) that thou wouldest augment the fellowship of thy dear children (as well in number as also in faith) and all other ornaments of thy excellent grace. And like as thou hast given Aaron to be a most faithful pastor of thy children of Israel when they grew to be a very great people, so now also prepare godly, learned, and wise Ministers for thy sacred Church, by whose good behavior the Egypt of our men may fade away, and let the doctrine wherewith we be instructed by them, be kindled daily more and more in us, so that everyone of us may be enriched most abundantly both with spiritual goods, and spiritual fruits. Suffer us not (O excellent father) to be at any time destitute of the bright light of thy sacred word, and guiding of the holy ghost, whereas otherwise we shall both miserably stray in the Wilderness of this miserable life, and also perish exceeding unfortunately, that when as innumerable perils of temptations hang over thy faithful servants, let them not want the strength of thy good grace and loving favor, whereby they may be able (so long as life endureth) to set out thy glorious kingdom unto many, and finally

obtain at thy loving hands the dwelling place of perpetual felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 4) Seeing that the holy scriptures make not mention, without just cause, of the children of Israel's ingratitude and rebellion against God (for they were always troublesome to him by reason of their complaints) we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly father, so to rule and govern us with thy unspeakable mercy and fatherly loving kindness, that we be not found like unto them. They did lately and very readily forget thy wonderful works, whereby thou deliveredst them from bondage: then they trusted in strange God's: they were defiled with fleshly pleasures; and finally did both despise the amiable land which thou promised them, and also polluted themselves with most grievous and shameful offenses. For the which notable and grievous sins, thou hast oftentimes chastised them with a fatherly discipline, but yet (such was thy unspeakable goodness) thou wert never forgetful of thy covenant made with their forefathers. Even so, we humbly beseech thee (O good God) to chasten and correct thy blessed Church (when it doth now and then slide very sore) with thy accustomed mercifulness, and favorable loving kindness, saving the right of the everlasting covenant, which thou hast renewed with us through the death of thy only beloved Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee evermore world without end. Amen.

(Prayer 5) Thy unspeakable goodness is such (O most mighty God) towards the congregation of thy faithful servants, that look whatsoever thou hast done hitherto for setting thy faithful people at liberty, the same also might she now both hope for, and also assure herself of, if she had abidden in the covenant that she made with thee. For even as the persecutors of the Israelites were sore vexed and at length oppressed through thy mighty power: so in likewise (when it shall seem good unto thee) let all such as be enemies to thy sacred Church and verity, be consumed with the force of thy invincible spirit. We now therefore require this especially at thy merciful hands, that thou wouldst (so long as we be strangers from thee in this wretched life, and are compassed about on every side with an infinite number of perils) lighten the night of our darkness with the bright fire

of thy blessed spirit, and vouchsafe to mitigate the heat of our manifold temptations, with the most sweet cloud of thy benign grace, whereby we may so purely and with such safety finish our journey through the deserts of this sinful life, as in the end we may rejoice, for being come unto thee with poured minds into everlasting tabernacles, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 6) Our faith (O most good and merciful God) is more feeble and weak then it ought to be, whereof it cometh that we sin oftentimes with our fathers, whilst that we do not faithfully trust to thy blessed promises: but as thou (who art God) hast not dealt with the children of Israel according to their infidelity and unbelief, but didst deliver them with a strong arm and most puissant power from the bondage of the Egyptians, even so we humbly beseech thee to be in such wise present with us by vanquishing and beating down the grievous sins whereby we are led into captivity, as thou hast drowned the Egyptians in the depth of the Sea, to the intent that we being moved with the feeling of this thy unspeakable goodness, may have a more firm and constant faith, nothing pampering our lusts in passing through the desert of this wretched life, least we also in like manner kindle not thy heavy displeasure against us, as did the Israelites who provoked thy wrathful indignation against thee, through their sundry naughty and lewd desires. Let us (we heartily pray thee) have their penalties and punishments always before our eyes, who being admonished by other men's perils and mischief, may behave ourselves warelier and with more wisdom in thy blessed house, which is thy sacred Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 106: FOR A PERFECT CONFESSION, AND THAT GRACE WHICH GOD HATH ENDUED US WITH MAY HAVE MUCH RULE OVER US

(Prayer 1) We are all greatly bound to magnify thy blessed name so much as in us lieth (O most excellent God) for thy singular goodness and everlasting mercy, who hast very often showed the unspeakable force of thy puissant

strength for thy faithful people's deliverance, the like we now do humbly beseech thee to visit and comfort thy afflicted Church withal, which now is little better then oppressed with the fury of Antichrist and lewd practices of evil persons. But forsomuch as it is thy blessed heritage, we have a marvelous earnest desire once to behold the peace, joy, and prosperity thereof. We know right well, and plainly confess, that we have committed very much lewdness together with our fathers, so that we have sinned exceeding grievously, and have most wretchedly fallen from thee our God: yet do we not therefore despair, because we verily perceive that thou didst always show thyself to be such a one towards thy chosen people of old time which thou diddest adorn with incredible benefits, who although they were altogether forgetful of the same in starting aside to idolatry and ungodliness, yet didst thou only not utterly overthrow those men, but (being chastised with a fatherly correction for a season) restoredst then to their former quietness, at what time they returned into the way of thy holy commandments. Wherefore (we humbly beseech thee) O most mighty God, to preserve us none otherwise, and not according to our deserts, but for the glory of thy name only, that like as we are gathered together out of many nations, so also being delivered from a number of great perils, may show forth thy most worthy praises and speak very much honor of thee, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy inestimable clemency and wonderful goodness (O most good and merciful God) is such, that the deeper we consider the same by thy glorious works, so much seemeth it to be a more difficult thing to praise thee according to thy desert and worthiness: yet seeing the minds of the beholders hereof do always perfectly see that such are blessed which execute Justice and equity, and contrariwise those most unfortunate, that in their life and conversation swerve from thy sacred laws. We earnestly require thee therefore to keep us (through the grace and favor of our Lord Jesus Christ) in the obedience of thy most holy will, and call us back from our innumerable and most grievous sins, vouchsafing finally to preserve thy blessed church, not verily for her own deserts sake, but for the honor of thy most glorious name. Let it never be forgetful of thy unspeakable benefits, which, if we do not always well consider, we shall

readily yield to worldly and fleshly desires. Remove far from her, hatred and sects, whereby thy faithful Ministers have been sometime vexed by the craft and subtlety of the Devil. And like as thou hast of old time spared thy people (whom thou determined to destroy) at Moses intercession, even so pardon and forgive us all manner of crimes and faults that we have offended thee in, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) The fathers in the wilderness behaved themselves heedlessly towards thee (O most mighty God) and were so shameless, as they are a spectacle unto us, who did (in a manner perpetually, or at the least within a short while one after another) provoke thy wrathful indignation, swerving marvelous unfortunately from thee through their lewd temptations, wicked grudgings, and most odious repinings. Wherefore thou wert rightly, and not without good cause moved against them, for which things sake thou shewedst forth thy heavy displeasure now and then in suffering and permitting their cruel enemies marvelous severely to chastise them. These things ought to be an ensample and warning unto us, for to have an especial regard to eschew those kind of vices, for the which we know they were cast off from thee. Howbeit, we are so apt and pliable to wickedness, that we have miserably defiled ourselves with the self same vices no less then they did. And therefore have we oftener then once felt, that thou (who art a righteous Judge) hast given us up to be punished by our own wickednesses and lewd desires: but (seeing we have now suffered punishment enough) we humbly beseech thee, that like as thou didst help the Israelites when they called upon thee, in the chiefest storms of their calamities, being nothing forgetful of the covenant thou madest with them, so also thou wouldst be our mighty defense, and set us at liberty from our errors and bondage of sins that we are grievously burdened withal, into the favor of our Lord Jesus Christ thy son, who liveth and reigneth with thee evermore world without end. Amen.

PSALM 107: FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S BENEFITS, CONTRARY TO ALL WORLDLY LEWD THINGS

(Prayer 1) Such verily are greatly bound to thy clemency, O almighty God, unto whom (so long as they sail and are miserably tossed of stormy tempests and windy waves) thou sendest thy ready help in time convenient, and that because they have faithfully called upon thee. Also thy mighty power is no less showed in giving abundance of water to dry and sandy places, and in altering and turning the barren ground to a fruitful soil. And contrariwise, men's sins are the occasion thereof, that by a wonderful exchange, thou makest pleasant and fertile places to be come barren and altogether fruitless: in fine, to the intent thou mayst be well known, thou causest mortal creatures to feel thy invincible force, by casting down exceeding mighty kings and princes, and making them to be had in contempt, and become a most shameful laughing stock, and liftest up the poor and basest in degree, unto highest kingdoms. We earnestly require thee therefore not to suffer us to think of those things negligently, but rather grant this thing only, that we being moved hereby may commit ourselves altogether both to be preserved through thy unspeakable goodness, and also guided by thy sacred law, so that thou being our chief Capitaine and ruler, we may swim out of worldly surges, whose minds being hitherto utterly void of good deeds, may now bring forth most abundant fruit: and that whereas we have been pinched with an exceeding scarcity of goodness, we may (by thy only help) attain to the excellent riches of the kingdom of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Whosoever they be (O most good and merciful God) that thou deliverest from exceeding grievous dangers, it behooveth them incessantly to celebrate thy worthy praises, and to render condign thanks to thee for the same. Such as are driven to wander from place to place, and walk through theivish ways in solitary and unhaunted places, being in danger of wild beasts and thieves, even these when they earnestly pray unto thee, do daily feel thy loving mercy and ready help. Thou art present also with them that are distressed with captivity, bound with fetters of Iron, and laid in most dark dungeons. Neither art thou forgetful

of them whom deadly diseases have almost consumed and made utterly an end of: forsomuch as thou hast once decreed that such as lamentably require thy assistance from the bottom of their heart, shall never be destitute of thy helping hand. We therefore that have of long time and that grievously wandered out of the path of godliness and holy life, do now come unto thee for succor, who (being so wretchedly oppressed with the tyrannical bondage of our heinous sins) do call upon thee, and finally in all our prayers do earnestly desire that thou wouldst heal the diseases of our wounded souls, so that we may always live as thy faithful servants, and thou thereby to receive perpetual praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 108: THAT THE GODLY MAY HAVE GRACE TO WITHSTAND THE ASSAULTS OF THE WICKED

(Prayer 1) Strengthen and furnish our minds and hearts in such wise with thy holy spirit (O most mighty God) that although diverse and sundry mishaps fall upon them, or that they be shaken with the fear and dread of the enemies of true godliness and sincere religion, yet they may not cease to show forth thy worthy praises. Let our whole wit, mind, and perseverance. (O excellent father) be stirred up in us for the right understanding of thy goodness, and acknowledging of the most steadfast faithfulness of thy benign promises. For these two things are so famous in thee, as they do not only (by reason of their hugeness) surmount the high Clouds of the air, but also far exceed the height of the heavens. Therefore are we bold to humbly entreat and heartily beseech thee, that (our innumerable and most grievous sins being forgiven) thou wilt set up thy honor again, and show thy famous glory to the whole world, by delivering thy sacred Church from the Jawbones of Antichrist. Call to remembrance that she is thy beloved heritage and chosen possession, which (although for our iniquities sake) thou seemest sometime to relinquish and cast off from thy favorable protection, yet art thou not able for thy goodness and faithfulness sake, to forget it in deed. Wherefore our whole trust consisteth in thee only, as they that know most certainly that

man's help is of none effect. Be thou therefore present with us, and grant that we may behave ourselves both boldly and with great constancy in the behalf of thy glorious name and of thy holy Gospel, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Whilst we call to our remembrance and think upon the riches (O most good and merciful God) of thy loving promises, we are wonderfully stirred up to celebrate thy name with singular praises, which then augmenteth a more vehement desire, when we find by experience that thou dost very faithfully perform whatsoever thou hast promised to bestow upon us. Thou verily hast given us hitherto many things, and that truly without our deserts, yet there be many remaining, which we earnestly require may very speedily be accomplished. Thou hast begun to deliver us from the hands of our cruel enemies, and let this lucky beginning proceed to a further success: we be now so far forth exempted from sin, that (so long as we truly believe in thee) they shall not be imputed to us unto death. But yet for all that are we hitherto still oppressed with them: let us therefore by thy high and mighty power, shake of their yoke daily more and more. Forsomuch as thou art the first founder of thy sons Kingdom (who is the true David) have a regard therefore, (we humbly beseech thee) to set forth and make famous the light thereof amongst all Nations, and that he may purely and with great devotion be honored and called upon by us in especial, whereby thy sacred Church may do things nobly for the advancement of thy glory, and not be plucked back by the enemies of ungodliness from the right path of perfect religion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 109: OF THE GODLY FOR THE ENEMIES OF THE GOSPEL

(Prayer 1) We acknowledge and confess that thou alone (O most mighty God) dost give us all things which we possess: under whose government and religion we accompt it a marvelous felicity to lead our life, neither have we any other thing so dear and precious unto us, as to continue in the praise and commendation of thy glorious name. Dissemble not at this time nor keep silence

against the wicked persons and guileful enemies of thy holy Church, who do not only rise up against thee with forged tales and blasphemies, but also make war against us with a most furious hatred and outrageous cruelty, being utterly forgetful of all humanity and godliness. But thou (O good God) right well knowest how peaceably we have been hitherto towards them, and have heartily loved those men, and earnestly prayed for them both publicly and privately, who now recompense us with extreme afflictions and grievous calamities for our good turns extended towards them. Wherefore be thou stirred up against them (O heavenly father) let their cursings and blasphemies which they have continually in their mouth return upon them, overtake, and sore oppress them, having a just reward for their hatred and injuries, which they extend chiefly both towards thee and also towards us that be thy faithful people. But deal not with us (O most merciful father) according to the worthiness of our iniquities, who have in such wise sinned, and behaved ourselves so wickedly in thy sight, as there are no punishments (though they be never so grievous) but that we have deserved then. Yet have thou not a regard unto us, but to the glory of thy own name: preserve and succor us, for thy infinite goodness sake, when we be grievously afflicted and utterly destitute of all succor: let the Antichristians be put to rebuke and clothed with shame, and cause revilings to be a daily cloak to cover them withal. But be thou always ready to assist us with thy ready help, save the souls of thy faithful servants which depend wholly upon thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing therefore thou art the same God (O heavenly father) which we make a vaunt that thou art, Neither be thou silent or at rest in so great oppressions of thy sacred Church, when as none other things are everywhere heard, than mere blasphemies against thee, against thy pure doctrine, and against thy blessed people, yea and that chiefly of such, for whose preservation she hath always prayed heartily to thee. Thou knowest right well how we have continually wished that peace and all good things might happen unto our chiefest adversaries, who notwithstanding are now most impudently puffed up, forso much as they verily think that they have espied a convenient time to overthrow thy blessed heritage. Wherefore, they surely do right well deserve that thou shouldest pay

them the hire of their lewd behaviors, and all those things which we have now heard thy holy spirit to threaten against obstinate and incurable sinners. But our conscience doth accuse us that we have behaved ourselves most unworthy of thee and thy sacred doctrine, who first confess our sins to be exceeding grievous, and secondly do earnestly desire thee (for thy infinite mercies sake) to forgive us the same: and finally that thou wilt succor thy afflicted people, to the intent we may both confess thee, and also celebrate thy glorious name in holy and great congregations, because thou hast set thyself as a ready defender at the right hand of the poor, and of such as are very like to be overthrown, and hast preserved their life and religion from the force and madness of Antichrist, who now seemeth to presume and take upon him to do what he listeth against them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) O most good and merciful God, who of all the praises wherewith the Church magnifieth thee, art the rightful and rich ground and matter, it is not hidden from thy divine Majesty, what the subtle and deceitful sort do daily practice against the same. She of her gentleness loveth them with a motherly affection, and with prayers both most fervent, and also most often, doth make supplication to thee for their welfare. Notwithstanding, seeing that they do not amend, but are more stubbornly boldened in their naughtiness (we humbly beseech thee) at length to assuage and repress their furious rage, and appoint some mean and end for thy servants' afflictions. Thou seest how all things are now in a manner brought to extreme weakness, so that there is almost nothing in thy worshipping, but is shamefully defiled and very lewdly corrupted. Make haste therefore to be our ready helper, to the intent it may be perfectly known that thou wantest neither strength nor wisdom to succor those that be thine, which shall be marvelous convenient for the declaring and publishing of thy blessed name and most worthy praises: wherefore, seeing that there is now great scarcity of good and spiritual stuff in thy blessed Church, remedy thou the same with the most plentiful treasures of thy bright light, pure doctrine, benign graces, and unspeakable benefits, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 110: FOR THE BENEFITS OF OUR REDEMPTION PURCHASED BY CHRIST

(Prayer 1) Seeing that thou (O most mighty God) hast vouchsafed thy dearly beloved Son our Lord and savior Jesus Christ to sit at thy right hand, having a full, perfect, and sovereign power, insomuch as he doth rule and govern all things, neither shall there be any of his adversaries remaining, but may at length be cast under him as his footstool: ponder diligently we humbly beseech thee, after what sort the ungodly and most outrageous Antichristians advance themselves in these days, who dare openly say of him: we will not have this man reign over us, neither can they be anything satisfied by showing forth this their outrageous anger after a most spiteful manner, both against thy blessed spirit, and also upon us thy chosen people: wherefore send out from heaven (O mighty GOD) thy puissant Scepter and rod of thy great fury upon them, so that thy dear son may (by the holy ghost and sacred Gospel) be of sovereign authority, even in the midst of his deadly enemies. Grant also his faithful people to be of such a willing and ready mind, as they (being a very great number) may assemble and meet together for the defense of his glorious kingdom, not only with their most fervent prayers, but also by all that means they can possibly imagine and devise. We truly are (by reason of our heinous sins) unworthy of so great and unspeakable a benefit, who have hitherto led our life nothing faithfully. Have no regard to us at all (O heavenly father) but unto thy solemn oath and promise, wherewith thou hast ordained thy dear son to be both a noble Prince, and also a loving priest in the true Church for the preservation thereof. Vouchsafe therefore in these our days, that the kings, rulers, and mighty powers of this wretched world, (who have so laid their heads together against him) may be utterly consumed with the fury of thy heavy displeasure, and do due execution upon these blasphemous and most dishonest adversaries, so as this sacred Dominion and Empire of the glorious Gospel may be greatly enlarged throughout the universal world, and that Jesus Christ thy dear son which seemeth to be in a manner altogether oppressed in us, may be right well known to lift up his head most renownedly, and after an

excellent manner, for whose sake we heartily require all these things, which liveth and reigneth with thee evermore world without end. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as it is thy gracious will and pleasure (O most good and merciful God) that our savior Jesus Christ thy dear son should show forth his notable power over all creatures, and set in such wise on thy right hand, as at length the force of all his outrageous enemies may be like a footstool cast under him: our earnest request is that he would now set out and publish his mighty power in this great needful time of the Church. Let him raise unto himself willing and forward laborers for such a noble, excellent, and most commodious a work, who being inflamed with the zeal of his honor and dignity, may establish the truth of his doctrine, amend men's manners, and set up integrity of life amongst thy faithful people. For, seeing we heartily acknowledge and humbly confess that we have both defiled and polluted ourselves by diverse innumerable and most grievous crimes, we earnestly beseech thee to absolve us of them, through the expiation of Christ our mediator and high priest, which thing unless he doth it, who is ordained a priest for us after the order of Melchizedek, we can none other ways obtain the same. Forsomuch therefore as our heinous sins are blotted out and wiped away by him, turn thy heavy displeasure from us, and pour it out against the stubborn and rebellious enemies of all godliness. Give sentence in such wise upon the wicked people, that at what time thy straight justice shall be seen, known, and manifestly perceived, all men in general may lift thee up with perpetual praises, according to thy worthy deserts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) We know (O almighty God) that the dissolution of the world is not so long deferred, and that our Lord Jesus Christ thy most dearly beloved son being conveyed out of our sight, sitteth on thy right hand in glory, for any other cause, but that all the enemies of the Gospel should in the mean while fall down flat under his feet, and that his doctrine (which by the impulsion of the holy Ghost is spread abroad from Mount Zion throughout the whole world) should both be published far and near, and also bring forth fruit in such wise, that thou mayest have whole nations true worshippers of thee, not now constrained and

brought thereto by compulsion, but of a willing heart, and such as will think it a goodly matter to spend not only all their goods, but even their life also for the defense of thy sacred truth. Seeing that thou (O excellent father) hast promised with an assured oath to perform these things in very deed, we do challenge thee at this time upon thy faithfulness to accomplish them with so much speed as possible may be: pronounce sentence (I heartily pray thee) with thy sacred Church, which the prince of darkness hath of such long time and so sharply assailed. Tear in pieces the devils cursed engines, and mad outrage wherewith the infernal powers keepeth her besieged, so that one time or other Christ may put up his bright head amongst us, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the holy Ghost evermore world without end. Amen.

PSALM III: THAT GOD'S WONDERFUL WORKS MAY BE MADE MANIFEST

(Prayer 1) All thy works, O most mighty God, are very great and wonderful, which (if we did devoutly and with much fervency search out) we should find nothing in them that should not greatly satisfy our desires. But (alas for sorrow) seeing that we are so much burdened with a corrupt life and an innumerable multitude of sins, we are not able purely and with singleness of heart, to behold the magnificence and uprightness that thou usest in thy marvelous works. Yet notwithstanding by calling to remembrance the unspeakable benefits which thou hast bestowed upon us and our fathers, we cannot but say that thou art loving and merciful unto us. Abolish not thou therefore (who never hast forsaken thy faithful servants, by nourishing and giving them the promised heritage of the Gentiles) the holy covenant which thou madest with them, neither be forgetful of us, for thy infinite mercies sake, but show forth thyself an earnest lover of judgment and verity, by manifesting the equity, justice, and uprightness of thy blessed will. The cause why our fierce enemies do so assail us, is not unbeknown to thee, but thou understandest right well the cruel malice and mischievous hatred they have borne to sincere godliness, true religion, and pure invocation of

thy blessed name: who cannot abide that the Gospel should flourish in our Churches, for which cause they are so earnestly bent to swallow us up. Send thou therefore redemption unto thy faithful people: and let the blessed covenant which thou hast made with thy sacred Church, be inviolable and everlasting, in respect whereof (we humbly beseech thee) mightily to deliver us, so that all men may right well perceive thy infinite goodness, and greatly fear and stand much in awe of thy divine Majesty: but cause us always to celebrate thy most worthy praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) If we did diligently peruse and seek out the things which thou (O almighty God) hast created, we should even with all our heart be enforced to acknowledge the equity and uprightness of them: forsomuch as we see nothing amongst all thy creatures but is wonderful notable, and most excellent. Moreover the famous tokens of thy inestimable goodness which thou dost for men, are of everlasting memorial, and ought at no time to be forgotten. Thy faithful servants have hitherto never lacked or been destitute of thy ready help, who hast very carefully thought always of the covenant thou madest with them. For thou givest us abundantly all manner of things which are for the health of the body, thou adornest them with an exceeding great heritage, and dost furnish them with doctrine and most wholesome precepts: adding moreover hereunto the wonderful promises annexed to a marvelous steadfast verity, and finally hast been accustomed to deliver them from sorrowful bondage and grievous oppression. We that believe assuredly these things, do now with much humility, present ourselves before thy gracious presence, requiring thee to remit the most grievous sins wherewith we have offended thee, and to deliver us from imminent perils, so that we (being void of fearfulness and free from wicked persons) shall by that means have the fear of thee (which is the beginning of wisdom) and the true understanding of thy blessed law, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) We ought to pour out (both openly and in private places) no feigned praises before thee (O most good and merciful God) but such as proceed from the bottom of the heart: for thy notable facts whereby thou hast linked us unto thee, are so to be marveled at of all men, as the Godly do not search those

out but for a singular delight they take in them. Neither doubt we but that thou wilt yet do such things for our preservation, as shall be worthy to be registered in perpetual memory: for we are nothing mistrustful that thou canst be at any time forgetful of thy holy covenant which thou hast vouchsafed more than once to enter into with thy faithful servants. We right well perceive, and the Scripture doth everywhere put us in remembrance, how thou hast always stood most constantly to thy blessed covenants. For thou hast not only brought our Fathers out of Egypt, but of thy wonderful clemency fed them in the desert, who didst (according to thy faithful promise) place those thy people in the land of Canaan: our earnest request and humble desire is therefore, O excellent father, that thou wouldst extend thy mercy and truth no less towards us. For performance whereof send out thy most puissant force of thy blessed word, whereby the true honoring of thy holy name in thy sacred Church may be set free from errors and darkness, so that we may at length luckily attain to the true worshipping of thee, which is the original and pillar of all wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 112: THAT THE GODLY MAY BE BLESSED

(Prayer 1) Forsomuch as we have not yielded such honor unto thee (O most excellent father) as was our right bounden duty, neither have been obedient to thy blessed commandments as we ought, therefore are these troublesome and difficult times now come upon us. For those which duly obey, faithfully love, and truly worship thee according to thy prescript word, do not wallow in darkness, but are strengthened in righteousness, and order all their doings with an upright judgment. Let thy unspeakable mercy therefore, O most mighty God, amend that in us which hath (through our lewd default) been greatly appeared. First vouchsafe to give thy benign consent unto this, that we swerve hereafter nothing at all from the perfect way which thou hast set forth unto us: then, so strengthen our minds and hearts, that we be not more afraid of imminent mischief then need is, but undershore thou the weakness of our feeble mind, and grant that we may repose our whole trust in thee only. Cause the horn of thy

people to be exalted and lifted up in this so sharp and perilous a battle. Thou seest how greatly our wicked and ungodly enemies do fret at us, for if they were of ability, they would not only destroy us and all that we have, but also utterly race and abolish out of the Church the pure worshipping of thee, all perfect Godliness, and true religion: who gnash the teeth of their cruelty, and with most forceable weapons they rage without mercy. Beat thou down therefore and make frustrate their devilish enterprises with thy excellent might and invincible power, so that they may fade away as void of their fond practices, and all their most detestable imaginations utterly perish, to the glory and praise of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) The due fear of thee (O most mighty God) that is to say, reverent godliness, causeth men to be right blessed, who care for none other thing then how they may most readily obey thy blessed will. Therefore are we moved lamentably to require thy loving mercy, whereby thou mightest renew thy holy Church being in a manner come to utter ruin: for otherwise shall not her or rather thy posterity or offspring be at any time either famous or mighty, for the abundance of spiritual gifts is to be looked for from none other place, neither will light burst out by any other means in the middle darkness of errors and wickedness. Moreover, if godliness (according to our earnest petition) may revive in her, the perfect office of charity towards our neighbor shall not be wanting, but every man will pleasure his brethren so much as in him lieth, ordering his doings not rashly or by chance, but with a spiritual and ghostly judgment. Wherefore we earnestly desire thee to establish us quickly in thy confidence, from the which, let not (either tempestuous storms and grievous adversities, or the delight of fortunate things) in any wise withdraw us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Like as they which endeavor themselves to the uttermost of their powers for to follow true godliness and the observation of thy holy commandments (O merciful God) do lead a right happy and blessed life: even so do we right well perceive that it was very agreeable to thy incomparable justice, that we should be presently tormented with these troublesome times, who have coldly

applied ourselves to the true honoring of thee, and negligently obeyed thy sacred law as becometh us. But take not thou (O good God for thy infinite mercies sake) such revengement of our sins as they have justly deserved, but cause some light to shine out unto us in so great a mist of darkness, whereby pure godliness may be set up again in thy sacred Church, and holy religion flourish exceedingly. Grant moreover that thy true word and faithful promises may take such deep root in our sinful hearts, that (although we hear of grievous mischiefs hanging over our heads) yet let us not start nor stagger anything at all from thy sacred faith and holy purpose. Underprop thou us thy own self, by causing it thus to fall out that we may in this dreadful time, lean steadfastly to thee alone, so as Antichrist may fret and gnash with his teeth, and the spiteful adversaries of thy glorious name pine away. But contrariwise let the praise and clearness of thy favorable mercy exalt itself more and more, and be made manifest to all creatures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 113: FOR THE COMFORT AND CONSOLATION OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

(Prayer 1) Seeing that we ought to magnify thy glorious name (O most good and merciful God) so much as in us lieth, and by all the means we can possibly devise, who have not lived in such wise heretofore, as to further thy worthy praises according to our right bounden duty, but rather thy blessed truth and sacred Gospel hath (through our great default and cursed lewdness) been much slandered, and that thing which ought to have been highly commended amongst all Nations, is everywhere (by our naughtiness) made of none accompt. Wherefore we heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess that thou hast most grievously vexed and troubled us, to the intent we should the better understand thy justice, and upright judgment. Yet notwithstanding, our earnest request is, that (forsomuch as nothing can be compared unto thee in respect of goodness and mercy) thou wouldst at length be our ready helper and speedy deliverer: who hast been accustomed, of thy infinite bountiousness, to look not only upon the

things that are in heaven, but also dost humble thyself to behold all matters which be done upon the face of the earth. Have an eye therefore unto the troublesome estate of thy blessed Church, and diligently regard the most grievous oppression of thy faithful people. Forsomuch as we have hitherto wallowed in the miry puddle of our lewd vices, and be now (according to our just deserts) sore tossed with the heavy burden of extreme adversities. Stretch thou out thy helping hand to aid our princes and armies, who usest to take the simple out of the dust, and dost lift the poor from the dunghill, and succor thy blessed Church in such sort, as it do not become altogether barren. Vouchsafe that it may one day rejoice in peace and tranquility, and grant her to be made unto thee (through thy sacred word and holy spirit) a mother of many children, by whom thy glorious name may be exalted with perpetual praises, even as it behooveth then, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Whosoever addict themselves to honor thee (O most mighty God) with faith and pure devotion, are bound to render immortal thanks to thy glorious name, which they ought to pay unto thee in all places, every year without ceasing, every day, and every hour. The puissant force of thy great goodness extended towards us is manifested in such wise, as all men must needs confess that thou art no less merciful then invincible. For although thou art said to have placed thy kingly Court and Palace in the highest coasts of the Heavens, notwithstanding thou submittest thy divine providence to every base thing which lieth hid in the lowest part of the earth, insomuch as nothing can be done either in heaven or earth, but is clearly and most plainly seen of thee. For seeing therefore we perfectly understand that such things as be done of us are not unbeknown to thee, and that it is always thy accustomed manner to raise up the poor and needy (so they believe unfeignedly in thee) out of the fowl and filthy dust, to more noble and most renowned Kingdoms: who also dost often cause the childless and barren women to have a plenteous household, we do with great humility lamentably require this at thy favorable hands, that thou wouldest be merciful unto the calamities thy blessed Church is now in, so as it may at length (by thy good means) be most noble and right famous, which yet goeth bestoubered with filth

and dust, and whereas she seemeth to have left child bearing, let her be glad with a perfect and substantial joy for the number of her most faithful sons, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 114: FOR A TRUE FAITH BY THE CONTEMPLATION OF GOD'S WONDERFUL WORKS

When as thou (O most merciful God) broughtest the children of Israel by thy invincible power, from the bondage of Egypt, and hadst laid sufficient grievous punishments upon the cruel and obstinate Egyptians, having a fatherly careful regard and singular affection towards the people of the Jews, diddest therefore most manifestly declare (through wonderful examples and most abundant favor) that thou wert with them at the division of the waters in the red sea, by the marvelous quaking of mount Sinai, by the going back of the river of Jordan, and the incredible gushing of waters out of the hard rock: whereby we may right evidently understand that all things happen prosperously, and are greatly obedient to those whom thou hast vouchsafe to register in the number of thy elect servants. For which cause sake, an exceeding lively hope is raised up in us, that seeing our assured affiance is, that we belong to thy blessed house by the adoption of faith, it will come to pass, that as we be already delivered by thy benign grace from the misery of eternal death, so also whatsoever is among thy blessed creatures (whether it be the likeness of prosperity or adversity) shall redound at length most luckily for the welfare of thy sacred church: unto the which thing as we right well perceive that our heinous sins be worthily and not without just cause a great let and hindrance, so also, we humbly beseech thee, (for thy infinite mercy and promised good wills sake) to bring the same very speedily to pass, and that in the name of thy son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee evermore world without end. Amen.

PSALM 115: FOR A CONSTANT CONFESSION OF THE GOSPEL

At what time we do lamentably require thy favorable mercy (O most mighty God) thereby to be delivered from such horrible calamities as do greatly assail us, which is not done only to the intent we ourselves should receive benefit thereby, but also that thy blessed name might become more glorious through out wonderful deliverance. For if thou shouldst suffer thy blessed servants to lie under foot, we see it would easily come to pass, that the children of this wretched world will upbraid them, and accompt the hope they repose in thee only to be as a vain thing. As for our part, who being illumined with thy heavenly grace do very well consider (that what good thing soever is in this wretched world, whereof the unbelievers have made themselves their idols) they have neither power nor ability at all to make men happy and blessed, although they both honor and reverence them. Wherefore we know this to be still remaining for us, that so many as have the fear of thy divine majesty before their eyes, and appertain to the spiritual Israel, and be also grafted in the Kingdom and priesthood of Christ, should make their full accompt to have thee as their only helper and defender. For if that be done which they are bound to perform, they shall daily attain greater increase-ments of perfect good things. For which cause we heartily require thee, who dwellest in the high heaven, and hast ordained us to have our habitation in the earth so long as this life endureth, grant us so to live, that thou suffer us not to pass our time like unto them which be dead, who cannot set forth thy worthy praises, but our earnest desire is that we may both in talk and holy works always set out thy most glorious name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 116: TO THE LIKE EFFECT OF THE PSALMS WHICH GOETH NEXT BEFORE

Thou dost then most chiefly declare thy singular good will towards the Godly (O almighty God) when as thou art present to help such as lamentably call upon thee in the midst of their unfortunate mishaps: and the heynouser

those be whereout thou doest deliver them, so much the greater is thy notable loving kindness manifested upon them, and the minds of them all more inflamed to have access unto thee in their most hard and troublesome times. We therefore being sore cast down and overwhelmed with the most grievous burden of our heinous sins, do humbly call upon thee. And forsomuch as we know by experience that men are liars, and all hope to be of none effect which shall be reposed in things created, we heartily require thee with so much earnestness as can be devised, to forgive us whatsoever we have wickedly and lewdly committed, by taking away those punishments from thy sacred Church which our deadly sins have worthily deserved, that we being mightily delivered, may be exceeding joyful before thee, and both quaff the cup of thanksgiving, and also cause thy singular loving kindness, towards us, to be made manifest unto all men. And like as thou hast always had not only a special regard unto the death of the blessed saints, but also unto their miserable affliction and most piteous lamentation, so (we humbly beseech thee) to take pity at this time upon the feebleness of thy sacred Church being in a manner as now destroyed and brought to utter ruin, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 117: FOR THE PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

(Prayer 1) Thou hast created mankind (O most mighty God) to the intent all Nations should be knit together to render universal praises unto thy glorious name: for the doing whereof, thou didst in old time ordain the Patriarchs, Prophets, and Apostles, to this office, and at this time (when all things were now defaced with darkness, fond abuses, and filthy defilings) thou hast gathered us in the sacred Church for the self-same work and purpose. Which thing, to the intent we may commodiously and very conveniently accomplish, we humbly require thee that our heinous iniquities and most deadly sins be not an hinderance hereunto, which as we heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess to be right grievous and innumerable, so we humbly desire thee, that they may be utterly wiped away, clearly remitted, and quite pardoned, who be now (as thou well

seest) so hedged in with great perils, and little better then already oppressed, because we have reposed our whole trust and confidence in thee alone. Look therefore (we humbly beseech thee) that our faith may be so underpropped with thy blessed spirit, as it shrink not in these troublesome days. Set (we heartily pray thee) thy unspeakable goodness before our eyes, which thou hast always most lovingly bestowed upon the godly, that we, acknowledging the same fully and evidently, may be nothing mistrustful but that thou wilt at this present be a faithful patron and assured defender of thy blessed Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) At such time as mankind (O most good and merciful God) was stricken with a wonderful blindness and overwhelmed with mischiefs innumerable, then was thy infallible mercy at hand unto him, through the which thou diddest vouchsafe to deliver thy only begotten son Jesus Christ our Lord for the salvation of the world: therefore are we bound to give thee immortal thanks, who see ourselves preserved by thy mere and singular goodness only, and not through our own deserts. And forsomuch as we have found thee so constant and right faithful in thy loving promises, we doubt not but thou wilt (of thy excellent mercy and unspeakable goodness) at thy appointed time, fully accomplish those small things which are yet remaining to be fulfilled. Our earnest request is therefore, that thou wouldest so fortify our weak minds with the spirit of faith, as we may not only lay hold upon the good things thou proferest us without any mistrustfulness, but also render thee condign thanks in thy sacred Church with all people and nations, for so great bountifulness and liberality bestowed upon thy faithful servants, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 118: THAT WE MAY BE COMFORTED IN FAITH

(Prayer 1) So many as fear God, and be grafted in Christ, and have a fervent zeal to godliness, are daily allured and provoked by new means and infinite benefits, to magnify his blessed name: for seeing that they well know God's goodness to be of such great force as he is present therewith unto those that unfeignedly

call upon him for the same, and delivereth them from all peril and disquietness of mind, who causeth them to have so great faith and confidence, as they need not to stand in need of man's power, be it of never so great a force. Wherefore, in as much as the same is not at this present unbeknown to us, we commit ourselves to thee only (O most mighty God) who art our alone savior, requiring that thou wouldest vouchsafe to defend thy blessed Church being as now hedged in and compassed about on every side with extreme perils: our sins have justly deserved far greivouser things, who do confess (O good God) that we have heinously and like miserable wretches offended thee, but here it behooveth, that for thy singular clemencies sake, our wicked deeds should be vanquished of thy unspeakable mercy. Grant us therefore (being chastised by thee as disobedient and rebellious children) not so to be delivered to subjection and destruction, as we may not highly celebrate, worthily praise, and duly magnify thy wondrous works within the Gates of thy glorious kingdom amidst the congregation of the righteous. Vouchsafe that we, who are now as reprobates, castaways, and made a laughing stock to all men, may be advanced so much in righteousness, holiness, and good living, as all men may right well understand, that whatsoever we determine or go about to do touching religion, it is not man's devise but thy own only work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) We are continually tossed with so many grievous storms of adversities (O almighty God) as it behooveth us to have access and recourse unto thy mercy only, that we be not overwhelmed under them. But now we know for a certainty, that man's power can do nothing touching their overthrow whom thou hast appointed to salvation. Forsomuch as therefore we see them fed with a false and deceitful hope which have any confidence in men, we judge this to be a singular point of wisdom of the godly, to trust hereafter in no mortal creature, but to repose their whole affiance in thee alone. For which cause, we humbly beseech thy divine Majesty (O excellent father) that, although thou art sometime angry, and, by reason of our heinous sins, dost worthily chastise and subdue our stubbornness, yet let us not fall utterly away from thee, which thing shall verily come to pass, if thou wilt build us upon that most firm cornerstone, who as he

was laid aside and disallowed of men, so is he advanced by thee to the chiefest top and pillar of glory, through our Lord Jesus Christ thy son, who liveth and reigneth with thee evermore world without end. Amen.

PSALM 119: IN NECESSITY, ANGUISH, AND DISTRESS

(Prayer 1) Thou hast always of thy unspeakable goodness and clemency (O most good and merciful God) from time to time endued us with notable and plentiful benefits, but we of the contrary part (who ought to obey thy blessed commandments with all earnestness) have very miserably transgressed the same, and procured unto ourselves the evils wherewith we are sore oppressed, neither can we justly complain, that Antichrist and his cursed members have worse dealt with us then our deserts required: but know assuredly that thou dost not chasten and correct us in thy furious displeasure, but with fatherly mercy and loving kindness. Wherefore we (whom thou sore chastisest) having recourse unto thee, require these things at thy merciful hands, that thou wouldst open the eyes of our mind with thy healthful light, so that we be not blinded at the beholding of thy wondrous works: let not thy sacred precepts be hid from us so long as we be pilgrims in this wretched world, causing our minds to be continually inflamed with a most ardent desire towards those things which thou hast given in commandment to be observed. Grant that our deserts be not such henceforth, as we be reprov'd amongst the lewd sort, or cursed like execrable things, because we have greatly swerved from thy holy precepts. Thou seest right well the slanders and reproaches wherewith thy cruel enemies do everywhere assail us, and after what sort the great princes and mighty rulers of this wretched world when they were set together against us, did strive not only by word, but also by endeavor to turn us away from thy sincere word, from the devout worshipping of thee, and from thy pure ceremonies. Thou therefore so strengthen and quicken us with thy puissant force and mighty power, as we may be assuredly persuaded that thy faithful promises are most true and certain, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2, Aleph, Beth). Such truly are to be accounted right happy amongst mortal men (O most good and merciful God) as have thy sacred law always set out before the eyes of their mind, which they make as a pattern to begin their life by, and as a rule to proceed by, when they have begun, so that if they shall perhaps go astray, their fault may both be amended thereby, and they also lead a virtuous life according unto justice. These shall live blameless, and when their doings shall be examined by upright judgment, they shall not be ashamed, which will greatly avail, if it be diligently practiced from the tender age. But we heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess (O most dear father) that all man's policy is altogether unprofitable, and none accompt at all to be made thereof, unless thou be present with thy blessed spirit, and dost direct our minds, for otherwise what gain may we have by meditating of thy holy law, then a cold and very hurtful knowledge. Wherefore our earnest request is, that thou wouldest not only minister strength unto us by thy grace, for the accomplishing of those things which thou commandest in thy divine law, but also to bring this unto good effect, so that we may have more felicity in them, then in all our own devices, and take a greater delight in the execution hereof, then in any fleshly or worldly pleasures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3, Gimel, Daleth). Seeing that all the force we have, dependeth upon thee (O most good and merciful God) and that we do nothing, without thy gracious aid and furtherance, which may please thee, we have good cause to fly unto thy excellent mercy seat, so that we may (through the help and assistance of thy good grace) frame our deeds altogether confirmable unto thy holy laws, which thing can in no wise happen unless thou removest from our eyes the vale which evil lusts and lewd desires do always put betwixt us and thy wholesome doctrine, by reason whereof we do not well consider the beneficial things which are there commanded us to observe. Drive also far from us (we heartily beseech thee) the swelling of the mind and a haughty concept, wherethrough we are accustomed beyond all measure to have men's ordinances and human devices in marvelous admiration, so that sometime thy holy precepts seem vile unto us, in comparison of them: and that most chiefly when as we be afraid to abide the

displeasure of mighty men and the shame of this wretched world. At what time therefore our mind shall be thus diversely severed, refresh thou us (O good God) with thy blessed word, and mitigate with thy spiritual calmness, the over unquiet thoughtfulness of our mind, and suffer us not to be deceived by the leasings of this corrupt life, being of themselves marvelous pleasant and flattering. For if thou shalt once set our distressed heart at liberty, there can be no cause to the contrary, but that we may make wonderful expedition for the accomplishing of thy sacred commandments: which, we humbly beseech thee, to vouchsafe that we may obtain with as earnest an intention as can be possibly devised, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 4, He, Vau). When as we on the one side do consider the weakness of our own strength (O most mighty God) and contrariwise the absoluteness and perfectness of thy blessed law, we evidently perceive, that for the obtaining thereof, thy most puissant help will stand us in very great stead: first therefore teach us the true ways of thy holy commandments, moreover illuminate in such sort our mind and understanding, as we may be able to incline with great fervency unto those things which thou hast both taught and commanded. Furthermore it is needful for thee to grant us power and ability to perform whatsoever we have learned of thee, otherwise it shall profit us little or nothing at all to have knowledge, unless some part of obedience be either performed or at least wise begun in us, which the lewd inclination of our sinful heart doth greatly hinder; and finally our senses and corrupt affections are wonderful huge adversaries hereunto. Succor thou us therefore, we humbly beseech thee, with thy good grace and abundant favor, forgiving whatsoever we have committed and do daily after a most sinful manner against thy sacred law, neither let it be imputed unto us for our eternal destruction. And in the mean season (O good God) let thy loving mercies utter and show forth themselves to be a strong defense and mighty preservation for thy sanctified Church, which thou seest grievously tormented with great perils, mischievous reproaches, and diverse kinds of afflictions, not permitting her to be in such sort wrested out of thy hands, as she may be robbed

either of thy blessed word, or of the lawful, holy, and most pure honoring of thee, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 5, Zain, Heth). We fly unto thee in this most troublesome time (O almighty God) when as we see thy blessed church so sore afflicted, and that through our own evil deserts: who have greatly sinned against thee, done very lewdly, and transgressed thy sacred laws innumerable ways, and there is but one thing only which raiseth up our hope, and comforteth us most in these our grievous afflictions, namely that we know how thou art right mindful of the loving promises made to thy faithful servants. Forsomuch as our sins and former wretched life do marvelously accuse us, (we humbly beseech thee) therefore so to quicken and lift us up with thy unspeakable mercy, which we see offered unto us in the benign promises of thy holy Scriptures. Our earnest request is that thou wouldest not permit us to swerve from the sacred law which thou hast vouched-safe to set before us, who do with much fervency desire to be inseparably annexed unto thee, howsoever the ungodly do sore vex and scorn us. For seeing that thou hast diverse times heretofore taken upon thee to decide thy faithful servants causes when as they were in a manner drowned with extreme calamities: therefore now also leave not of to succor and help those which unfeignedly call upon thee. Thy outrageous enemies commit none other thing than to deprive the Church of thy sacred words, thy holy ceremonies, and all devout worshipping of thee. Forsomuch as thou art our only lot, we lift up our eyes unto thy face with our whole heart: but or ever the multitude of wicked and most abominable men do swallow us up, be thou present for thy infinite goodness sake to succor us, so that we may apply ourselves day and night to laude and praise thee for thy just judgment, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 6, Zain, Heth). We have not conceived hope of our salvation (O almighty God) anywhere else, than from thy most faithful promises, drawing out thereof only an assured consolation, if that at any time either the flesh, man's reason, the devil, or wicked men shall vaunt themselves anything stoutly against us. We take a marvelous good courage against all these things, forsomuch as thou wilt most largely perform whatsoever thou hast faithfully promised, because,

that even from the beginning, we have had thy faith in perfect remembrance, seeing it doth manifestly appear how thou hast never deceived any that trust only in thee. Vouchsafe therefore that we may both day and night be inseparably annexed to this most strong rock, invincible fortress, and well cast Anchor. For inasmuch as we mistrust not but thou wilt perform whatsoever belongeth unto thee, this remaineth, that we execute with an exceeding fervent desire, the charge which is left unto us, so that we may (marvelous speedily) bestir our steps and feet toward the fulfilling of thy blessed law. Cause thou us (O excellent father) we humbly beseech thee, to cut of and cast aside all delays, and that contrary to the expectation of the ungodly, who always cast lettes to entrap us, we may be obedient to thy sacred precepts, so that all those which honor and love thee purely, may accompany us, that like as the earth is everywhere replenished with thy inestimable goodness, so the number of thy true and faithful suppliants may be daily more and more greatly augmented, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 7, Teth, Yod). Thou hast been hitherto accustomed (O almighty God) to deal lovingly with thy faithful servants, and we especially being (through thy unspeakable mercy) brought to the true knowledge and perfect understanding of thy sacred Gospel, have had thy excellent benefits in a wonderful trial, which we do plainly acknowledge and confess that our heinous sins have greatly defiled, wherewith we have not only polluted ourselves, but also thy holy name, and the blessed doctrine of thy dear son is thereby evil spoken of amongst the Gentiles, and a great number (by our default) driven with fear from the way of truth. We now therefore heartily beseech thee (O heavenly father) to cause us for to savour thee rightly and so acknowledge thy blessed name as we may most constantly stick to thy sacred words and holy commandments. Let the afflictions wherewith we are touched be effectual spurs and pricks to move us for to return into the right perfect way: and forsomuch as thou art good and favorable unto all men, suffer not those (whom thou hast adopted to be thy beloved sons by Christ) to deny thee shamefully. For the more that the devil, Antichrist, and his cursed members endeavor with all their industry to pluck us from thee, make

thou us on the contrary part (we heartily pray thee) to be unfeignedly obedient unto thy blessed precepts: and what troublesome things soever these men have subtilty devised, let the same turn to the profit of thy blessed Church. Let our heart (which of itself is gross and fat) be made soft diligently to perceive and right well understanding thy sacred word and divine law, having it in more credit and estimation, then gold, silver, and all the treasure of the world. Forsake not (O good God) the work of thy hands, which thou thyself haste made and garnished: and let the ungracious persons be put to shame, who (through a lewd zeal) go about to overthrow thy blessed ways. But let such rejoice in thee, as honor thy divine Majesty, and have an eye with a pure faith unto thy loving promises. Cause them also to enjoy thy unspeakable goodness, and lead always such a life as may right well please thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 8, Teth, Yod). There is nothing either more honorable or greatlier to be wished for of us (O most good and merciful God) then that thou wouldest give us power to understand thy holy word with a right up judgment: and we so fervently desire this, that we may be also in a readiness to purchase the same with any calamity whatsoever it be. Wherefore if thou see that thou canst by evil success of fortune or by adversities bring thy elect to a right mind, which slide away oftentimes, deal which way thou seemest best for to make us apply ourselves with earnest desire to live after thy divine law. And seeing thou hast fashioned us in our mothers womb, so favor thou us also and illuminate us in such wise that we be not blinded in the word of thy blessed truth. For whilst we earnestly desire these things at thy merciful hands (O excellent father) we do not only with heart crave our own consolation, but the comfort of all those which make much of thy sacred law and perfect truth. These verily will wonderfully rejoice, if they shall perceive everyone of us to be annexed unto thee with uncorrupt minds. Wherefore we heartily beseech thee, that thy holy will (which thou hast set forth unto us in the sacred Scriptures) may be dearer unto us then gold, and more beloved then all riches, so as we may embrace the same with a right perfect heart, and nothing whatsoever we attempt to do, may redowne either to our shame or to the dishonor of thy sanctified Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 9, Caph, Lamed). Forsomuch as we have an especial regard (O most mighty God) in these our days to thy faithful promises, and that our soul doth in a manner faint with longing for thy aid: whiles health seemeth to vanish away from before our eyes, it is time for thee to be our ready helper and sure defense. Wey not, we humbly beseech thee, our weak faith; corrupt vices, and wicked behavior wherewith we have slandered thy blessed name, and caused thy sacred gospel to be evil spoken of. Vouchsafe (O good God) that we may lead the rest of our life, altogether in godly and religious works: for if we shall obtain this at thy merciful hands, we mistrust not but thou wilt immediately after pour out thy fierce judgments upon thy enemies, who do assault us thus cruelly. And thou thyself seest how undeservedly they do it. For although we have sinned so heinously as we have procured unto ourselves grievouser punishments then these be, yet our adversaries have not for our sins sake only digged these pits for us, but they persecute, yea and would utterly destroy us, for that religion is a little purged, and the true worshipping of thee restored. Therefore confirm and strengthen thou us (O excellent father) for thy infinite goodness sake, vouching safe that thy holy word may have a perpetual abiding in thy sacred Church, and suffer us not to perish in this grievous persecution, but cause us to be delighted therein and to refresh ourselves therewith, that forsomuch as we are thy faithful servants, and have no confidence at all in man's force, save and defend us thy own self from such perils as hang over our necks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 10, Caph, Lamed). Our souls have now fainted us (O most good and merciful God) with careful longing after thy blessed word, so long as we hope both for help, and salvation at thy hands only. Unto thee, I say, do we lift up our hands day and night, to the intent thy faithful servants may at length enjoy their hoped promises, who in the mean season do desire to have this granted us, that in no wise we be forgetful of thy sacred law, whilst thou delayest thy help in the midst of our grievous calamities. And like as thy sacred law abideth steadfast in the most beautiful furniture of the heavens, and by it a most firm stability in the earth, and also that most commodious and goodly variety of time

persevereth and hath his continuance: even so we humbly beseech thee, that it be not worn out of our heart and inward parts by any process of time, for unless our meditation be always hereof, we shall easily perish in our sorrowful afflictions. Seeing then it is thy blessed word which quickeneth us, (for if we give credit thereto, we shall obtain both salvation, and also know how to behave ourselves according to justice, neither shall we be troubled at the injuries which our adversaries proffer us: grant O excellent father, that this may never slip out of our remembrance, but vouchsafe us rather to see an end of all other things, then thy sacred word either to be forespent or overthrown in thy blessed Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 11, Lamed, Mem). Whosoever they be that apply themselves to thy blessed word (O most good and merciful God) shall reap at length no small fruit and commodity thereby, for they shall not only surmount their enemies in knowledge and understanding of heavenly things, but also far excel those which are had in great reputation, both for their learning, and also for the experience they have attained unto, by reason of their long life. To the intent therefore we be not deprived of so great a benefit, we humbly beseech thee, that (detesting utterly the lewdness of our heinous sins) we may have more felicity in thy sacred words than in all other pleasures. And forsomuch as this life of ours is hedged in and compassed about on every side with blind ignorance, we cannot have a meter lamp than thy divine word to lighten our minds withal: man's way ought to be ordered and directed hereby, even like a most clear light, and that chiefly, when as the matter itself doth declare how that everyone of us do bear his life always in his hands, by reason of the exceeding great perils we are in. There want not everywhere puissant Champions of the adversaries which lay a thousand snares for our life: wherefore we entreat thee so much as in us lieth, that thou wouldst stir up our sinful hearts to fulfill thy holy commandments which thou hast vouchesafe to beatify with so great promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 12, Mem, Nun). Thy divine law and sacred words (O most mighty God) be of such force, as those which love them and think continually thereof, become every day wiser then other, and surmount all mortal men in

understanding, although they be better learned and ancienter in years: which study is marvelous commodious to withdraw our feet from the path of wickedness, and doth sometime confirm our feeble footsteps, least they swerve perversely from thy blessed commandments. Forsomuch as therefore we have miserably declined from thee in our former life, and shamefully sinned, which doth manifestly appear in that we have neglected thy righteous words, loving promises, sacred ceremonies, and whole law. Wherefore we ought not to wonder or complain at all that thou dost at this present punish us unjustly: but have truly well deserved this (through our naughty and lewd behaviors) that so unjust and cruel enemies should rise up against us: for these things verily would not have happened unto us, if we had always used thy blessed words and holy precepts as a Lantern to our feet: nevertheless our earnest request is (O good God) that thou wouldst (for thy infinite mercies sake) have an especial regard to the grievous dangers and perils whereinto our soul is now brought. Pardon, we heartily beseech thee, our heinous sins, and make our heart meek and forward to fulfill thy holy commandments, so that thou mayst deliver us from the snares which the enemies of thy blessed name have laid to tray us in, and suffer not those whom thou hast chosen and adopted into thy everlasting inheritance, to be utterly oppressed and come to miserable confusion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 13, Samech, Ain). Such as be illumined with thy heavenly spirit (O most mighty God) do utterly hate all manner of sin and iniquity, and therefore have thee for their sure refuge and strong shield: because they see them live most blessedly and in great felicity, whom thou dost strengthen with thy puissant force and invincible power, and such as thou sustainest and nourishest be delivered from most grievous perils, whereas contrariwise so many as fall from thee, and go astray from thy blessed precepts, are horribly punished. Our earnest desire is therefore, that (being moved by like persuasions) we may both put our whole trust in thee only, and also become most zealous in all thy holy commandments. For flesh and the power of our adversaries practice continual enmity against us: let them not be of such force as they may destroy us, but make us rather stick fast unto thy sacred words, so that we may take as much delight in them as in the

greatest pleasures: for the accomplishing whereof it is very needful that thou, of thy infinite mercy, dost instruct and teach us. For seeing the knowledge of divine things cannot be attained unto without thy good spirit, vouchsafe thou therefore thy own self, that we may very perfectly understand thy sacred law, and judge thereof aright, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 14, Ain, Pe). Thy blessed words (O almighty God) are in all places so worthy of admiration, that they cannot but be regarded of the godly, therefore we earnestly require thee, that thou (who art merciful and plenteous in goodness) wouldest look upon us altogether well appeased, and so frame our thoughts and deeds, that we give no room at all to ungodliness, then the which nothing is more vain: for seeing we be men, and therefore hedged in with a fleshly burden, suffer not the weight thereof to overwhelm us, but rather breath the spirit of repentance into our nostrils, whereby we may shed forth most flowing rivers of tears for the faults we have everywhere committed. For because thou art our exceeding right up Judge, who neither cloakest our sins, nor yet permittest them to go unpunished: and seeing that thy judgments and laws are stuffed with so great uprightness, as nothing is contained in them, that any creature can by just reason reprove or find fault with (for silver and gold tried in the fire, matcheth not the pureness of them.) Therefore we earnestly desire thee, that thou wouldest not only cause us to acknowledge them, but also obey the same so much as our feeble and weak nature is able to do, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 15, Pe, Zade). Our mind (O most good and merciful God) is very much darkened even of native infection, with a thick mistiness, so that it is not able to understand thy holy commandments perfectly: and we are of nature exceedingly bent unto affections, which as they be displeasing to thee, so they marvelously like us, and we cannot abide the scorning of the ungodly wherewith they vaunt themselves over us when we do wholly apply our minds to serve thy excellent Majesty. We earnestly require thee therefore, that thou wouldst lighten our darkened minds, assuage our lewd affections, and strengthen us in such wise, that what reproach so ever shall hang over our heads for thy glorious Gospels sake, we may overcome it with a stout courage. And cause us to resist those which

jest at us, with a steadfast hope and assured confidence we have to thy loving promises, so that the naughtiness of lewd lusts may be broken in pieces with the puissant force of thy blessed truth. Let not any worldly power (most dear father) be an impediment to us, but that we may steadfastly defend thy holy precepts in the presence of all men be they never so glorious and wonderful in their doings, which I beseech thee to make so pleasant and delectable unto us, as we may compt nothing in this life to be preferred before then, neither any matter to be an hinderance, but the we may perform the same with an exceeding cheerful mind, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 16, Cuph, Res). We require thee (O most mighty God) even from the bottom of our heart, and with an unfeigned faith, that we may be diligent observers of thy sacred law and holy commandments: for we are wonderfully provoked to defile thy blessed precepts through the impulsion of fleshly motions, fierceness of our native corruption, and vices grafted in us, but seeing that we have bound ourselves with such a number of most grievous and detestable sins, it is no marvel, if thou (who usest justice and severity towards thy elect servants) dost suffer us to be thus tormented and put in fear of Antichrist and his rascals. But now our earnest request is that thou wouldest (for thy great goodness and infinite mercies sake) pardon whatsoever we have grievously committed against thee: and look upon the state of the Church, being in a manner rent and torn, with a marvelous loving eye and right favorable countenance, delivering her (according to thy accustomed manner) from imminent perils, when as she could not be preserved but by thy only guidance and government. It is meet (O good God) that salvation should be far from the ungodly who do utterly despise thy sacred word, holy law, and blessed commandments: but it happeneth otherwise to them that trust in thee, for they have loving promises of their salvation, of all the which, truth is the most excellent and notablest. To the intent therefore it may remain without spot and unviolated, defend us with thy own hands when as we be in great distress and much peril for the profession of thy glorious name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 17, Cuph, Res). Forsomuch as through fleshly affection (O most good and merciful God) we are persuaded to receive anything rather than thy divine law, therefore have we daily recourse unto thee in our fervent prayers, that thou wouldest guide us with thy holy spirit for the observing thereof. And to the intent our lamentable cries may not be in vain, soften thou our hearts, and bow thou our minds in such wise, that they may care for nothing so much, as to obey thee in all things whatsoever they do. We meditate upon this one only matter at midnight, and in the dawning of the day, that whereas there wanteth no store of things to draw us another way, we may therefore be fortified with thy mighty protection against the same. And as thy blessed precepts be certain and sure, so cause us to stick fast unto them: for whosoever of a frowardness swerve therefore, do stray far from salvation: by means whereof, if this shall happen unto us through our infirmity, lay to thy helping hand without any delay, by raising up us that are fallen: and although our case be very naught, yet help us with the warrant of thy blessed word. For seeing it is not unbeknown to thee (O excellent father) how many go about to destroy us: therefore make thou speedy hast to be our ready helper and deliverer, by confirming those most steadfastly which invoke and call upon thee with most steadfast belief in thy faithful promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 18, Schin, Tau). The Devil verily, Antichrist, and puissant Princes of this wretched world, do persecute thy blessed Church (O most mighty God) without any offense given, who seem in such wise to vaunt themselves and wax furious against godliness, as the faithful be not without just cause greatly afraid, whom nothing but thy word is able to make merry and restore to gladness again: therefore stir us up in such sort with thy blessed spirit, that we may be always wonderful desirous thereof. For we certainly know that peace will ensue, augment, and continue in them which love thy sacred law, so that nothing verily shall be able at any time to do them hurt, but if we be as now void of perfect peace and quietness of mind, the occasion without doubt must rise hereof, because we have neglected thy holy word, and slenderly followed thy divine law. Pardon us therefore, pardon we humbly beseech thee, what wicked and lewd thing soever we

have committed against thee, so that we may not decline any more hereafter from the perfect way of thy blessed commandments: then may we claim unto ourselves the true and substantial delights, wherein our souls may live, yea and lead such a pleasant life, as they may by all means endeavor to set forth thy most worthy praises. For seeing that we have wandered hitherto like brute beasts, therefore call thou us away, O excellent father (who art our only savior) from the heinous errors and grievous sins we are infected withal, so that everyone of us may be wholly addicted to obey thy sacred will and holy commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 19, Schin, Thau). Although the malice and deceits of those which in the world are always adversaries to thy glory (O almighty God) be both mighty and of great force against our feeble courage: yet notwithstanding on the contrary part, so great is the pleasure which thy sacred word bringeth unto us, that it is now dearer unto the godly than any spoils be they never so fat, or than any pray be it never so rich: for they prick us forward to render day by day wonderful praises unto thee. And this only remaineth as a special comfort that thou wilt not suffer us to be deprived of the salvation which we look for at thy merciful hands. Our earnest request is, that thou wouldest (for this cause) give an attentive and ready ear to our humble petitions, that forsomuch as the righteousness of thy blessed law is in all points true and steadfast, furnish us fully with this thy holy spirit, that whatsoever we have now chosen to keep, through the grace thereof, we may accomplish so much as our feeble nature is able to do: and where the weakness of the flesh faileth, there let the invincible power and notable strength of thy holy spirit supply. We have wandered hitherto (O Lord God) diverse ways like foolish and misled sheep, for unless thou dost seek us out with a fatherly and shepherdlike providence, we shall readily perish in our naughtiness: and therefore suffer us not who are in very great danger, to walk anymore in darkness and amongst ravening Wolves, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 120: AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF GOD'S DIVINE WORD

(Prayer 1) We being wearied and sore troubled (O almighty God) with most grievous and exceeding perilous mishaps, as thou right well knowest, do daily fly unto thy gracious mercies seat, humbly requiring thee to give ear at length unto the fervent prayers which we always make, namely that thou wouldest deliver thy blessed Church from the deceits, lies, and false imaginations of Antichrist and his retinue. For the blasphemies, reproaches, and slanders wherewith they invade and defame thy holy gospel, may be compared to deadly sharp arrows, and hot burning coals, through which the hearts of the godly are stricken with exceeding great sorrow, and their minds be inflamed with zeal and rightful anger for the glory of thy name. We acknowledge ourselves verily to have well deserved for to be troubled with such unclean infection and outrageous pestilence, because we have sinned most heinously against thee and thy divine law. But our earnest request is that (of thy natural and free mercy wherewith thou art endued) we who are so greatly desirous of perfect peace, for the true honoring, sincere celebrating, and due setting out thy worthy praise, may at length attain thereto through thy most gracious favor, sore against their wills, which are chiefest enemies to the peace and tranquility of thy faithful, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

(Prayer 2) We know by experience (O almighty God) how great the affliction and misery of the Church is, for the vices and lies of corrupt opinions sakes which are brought into it. Wherefore we humbly beseech thee to deliver her from this kind of calamity: for we have now at length begun right well to understand how deceitful and crafty the seducements of Antichrist hath been hitherto. Cause henceforth the puissant force and most sharp weapons of thy blessed word to be present, whereby all the subtlety of Satan may be confounded and brought to naught. Yea rather thrust thou in thy most mighty shaft (which thou usest diverse times to punish ungodliness withal) against this pestilent plague, so that all malicious snares may thereby be consumed, as it were with most hot burning coals: whereas otherwise, if thou dost not lay to thy most strong and puissant

hand, our pilgrimage shall be continued in woeful miseries and sinful wickedness without end. For there is no hope of peace to be looked for where thy sacred truth is had in deadly contempt: yea rather it seemeth daily to be the further of from thy blessed Church, the more love and earnest desire she hath thereto. Seeing therefore that it behooveth us to wage continual war against spiritual wickedness, refuse not thou (O excellent father) readily to help such as unfeignedly call upon thee for the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 121: IN NECESSITY FOR GOD'S DIVINE PRESERVATION

(Prayer 1) We look for thy assistant help (O most mighty God) with an exceeding heaviness of mind in these our most troublesome mishaps, elevating our eyes to thee only, through whose mighty power, like as we know that heaven and earth was created, so also our assured hope is that thou canst deliver us from these present mischiefs. Verily we acknowledge our sins to be such as they have deserved to be punished with these sore afflictions and grievous chastisements. For we have not yielded due honor and reverence unto thee when as thou didst call us to the profession of thy sacred gospel, but seeking our own profit only, have miserably neglected thy renowned honor and famous glory. Wey not therefore (O good God) this our ingratitude and wickedness committed: but (for thy infinite mercies sake) keep our feet from falling, by settling them so in thy holy law and sacred commandments, as they swerve not at all therefrom. Moreover seem not to slumber or sleep touching the defense and preservation of thy blessed Church being so sore afflicted. If it hath been thy accustomed manner to defend thy faithful servants from the heat of the Sun in the day time, and from the cold of the Moon in the night, despise not us that suffer so many and great torments through the fury and outrageous madness of Antichrist: preserve not only our souls and life from his subtle devices, but especially maintain thou thy pure religion, which he doth most of all fight against. For our earnest request is that thou wouldest so direct the beginnings and endings of our doings, in the true

paths of thy blessed commandments, as they may perpetually abide in the perfect rule thereof, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) So long as we (O almighty God) are tormented with these sorrowful and most troublesome times, our hearts and eyes are erected to thee only, as under whose dominion we doubt not but the chief force of all things consisteth, whereby we are greatly inflamed lamentably to require thy ready help. For by what most excellent power thou hast formed the heaven and earth, it is now very needful for thee to help thy blessed Church with the same, when it is in a manner swallowed up with the most noisome lawes of her cruel enemies. Suffer not (we humbly beseech thee) the feet of our faith to stagger or falter: for of itself (such is the infirmity wherewith we are clothed round about) it is weak and wavering enough. We truly fell first from thee, and swerved wretchedly from the law and decrees of thy blessed will: but vouchsafe, we humbly beseech thee, not to deal with us according to our worthiness, but after thy unspeakable goodness and most excellent mercy, preserving the Church, being well hedged in and compassed about with thy puissant defense, for if thou shouldest forsake her (who art otherwise the keeper of Israel) she can in no wise endure. But if it be bereft and spoiled of thy mighty protection, then through whose care and industry may she be preserved? Grant that we may gather our wits to us and call them back unto thee, to the intent thou mayest not only be our defender, but also the preserver of all that ever we have, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Forsomuch as we are always subject to adversities (O most mighty god) during this wretched life, therefore do we loke everywhere about us with our eyes, from whence found and perfect help might be ministered unto us: and thou before all things meetest with our faith. For seeing we right well know that all creatures were made by thee even from the beginning, and that thou nourishest with thy perpetual goodness, both celestial powers, and also terrestrial: we humbly beseech thee, that whereas otherwise thy high and excellent providence is not used to be interrupted, thou wouldst show thyself to be a most vigilant shepherd towards us. Let thy loving favor (we heartily pray thee) be everywhere our sure defense, that we burn not with to fervent an heat of filthy lusts,

or (through coldness of infidelity graft in our sinful hearts (both the love we ought to bear towards our neighbors, and also the godly devotion which of right is due to thee, be not utterly extinguished. O that we might by daily prayer and intercession, obtain to be kept pure by thee from all infection of vices, so that our life may be such, as either by our going or coming, we may be both cleansed from our wicked faults and also, plenteously garnished with most excellent virtues, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 122: THAT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH MAY (THROUGH FAITH & CHARITY) BE RESTORED

(Prayer 1) The Godly do continually stir up one another to make holy assemblies (O almighty God) with wonderful exhortations, wherein thy blessed name is lifted up with high praises, the faithful instructed in thy sacred words, and thy holy Sacraments duly received. Now forsomuch as we see presently before our eyes that this is in a manner hindered by Antichrist, to our exceeding great sorrow, for (like a naughty pack and cast away as he is) he practiseth nothing else, but that the holy Jerusalem which is newly begun to be edified and repaired, should fall to decay again and be utterly overthrown, to the intent the pure worshipping and holy invoking of thy blessed name might have no more place there. We earnestly and with a fervent mind and vehement affection humbly beseech thee (O most excellent father) who well considerest how great a broil and trouble he maketh, that thou wouldst cause those things for to have good success, which appertain unto the quietness of Jerusalem, being thy holy and sanctified Church, our unseemly deserts somewhat laid apart. For seeing we do exceedingly filthily transgress and most lewdly defile thy sacred laws, we ought of right to assure ourselves of no good thing. But when as we have an especial regard to the honor of thy glorious name, then taking a courage again, we do boldly require thee, that thou wouldest be present with them which are assembled together in the name of Jesus Christ, and do call upon thee thereby, to the intent we may one day repose ourselves in the true Jerusalem, being quite delivered from the

furious and violent invasion of Antichrist. And cause that those Citizens which do credit the sacred doctrine of thy holy Church may by thy excellent benefits become friends and faithful brethren one to another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Although the holy Scriptures do teach us everywhere that the heaven (O most good and merciful God) is thy dwelling place, yet the same do in such wise set out thy infinite goodness, as the Church is both called, and also is indeed thy sanctified house wherein thou most frequentest: at what time therefore we shall come together in the holy congregations, our earnest request is that we may be there with cheerful and very desirous minds. For thou truly hast (of an exceeding liberality) adorned thy holy Church with most flourishing and excellent gifts, neither is there anything pretermitted that appertaineth to her garnishing, which may either belong to the spiritual decking and beautifying thereof, or to the plenteous enriching of it in abundance of all heavenly good things. Which seeing they have proceeded most fully from thee, this only remaineth, that thou wouldest so condescend unto our fervent prayers, as the members thereof may be annexed together with a perpetual concord: cause their meetings to be in such sort as they may render due honor unto thee, let the sacred scriptures be there purely and sincerely interpreted, and let thy glorious Kingdom from day today be more and more enlarged, making all these things to be stablished with thy joyous peace and the tranquility of thy holy spirit. For so long as we pray for the quietness and felicity hereof, let us procure substantial and perfect good things both to our neighbors, and also unto thy blessed house, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 123: FOR THE MERCY OF GOD

(Prayer 1) There remaineth no greater help for thy faithful servants (O most mighty God) then that which cometh from heaven: for the puissant force of Antichrist and his devilish practices have so greatly prevailed, as true godliness, and the right honoring of thee are in a manner extinguished and utterly overthrown.

Therefore lift we up our eyes to heaven unto thee, to the intent thy helping hand may revive us again, and that we may escape out of so manyfold great dangers. For as the eyes of servants and maids look unto their Masters and Mistresses: even so do our eyes wait upon thee, being the only refuge of our salvation: that like as they do wholly depend and hang upon their Masters and Mistresses, so do we cry daily to thee until thou have mercy upon us. Be not thus exceeding wrathful and angry at our wickedness, wherewith we are little better than overwhelmed, that thou dost less regard the glory of thy name, then the revenging of them. Pardon we humbly beseech thee, thy poor suppliants, that they may be nothing destitute of thy infinite mercy and singular goodness. Have pity upon us (O good God) in these miserable days, be favorable unto us, who know right well with what troubles and reproaches thy holy Church is everywhere sore touched. Let not the arrogancy and despitefulness of the wicked pass any further, being now so puffed up without measure through the prosperous success of the matters they take in hand, as man's power is nothing able to assuage the same. Make thou therefore (who art invincible and omnipotent) an end of their outrageous madness, and keep them within their bounds, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Although thou hast appointed thy seat and dwelling place (O most good and merciful God) to be in the passing high heavens, yet notwithstanding thou never ceasest to stir us up with thy holy spirit, whereby thou instructest the hearts of the faithful, who at what time we be tried with heaviness of mind, irksome tribulations, and dangerous perils, endeavor ourselves both by our earnest prayers and continual petitions to crave help at thy hands only. Now therefore, like as servants are attendant only at the hands of their Masters, and handmaids wait diligently upon their Mistress hand, even so the eyes of our faith look only upon thee (O heavenly father) and shall always hereafter have a due regard to thy divine Majesty until thou hast mercy upon us. Be favorable unto us we humbly beseech thee, according to thy accustomed mercy and loving kindness, neither suffer the force of our fierce adversaries to have thy faithful servants in contempt and make us a jesting stock. We doubt not but thou knowest right well that the mighty and high minded of this wretched world do with much

arrogancy both hate and despise thy holy and sanctified Church. Wherefore our earnest request is, that thou wouldest speedily lay to thy ready helping hand, not permitting her neither to be polluted with superstitious and devilish errors, nor yet oppressed by Satan or force of the ungodly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Look down from heaven upon us (O most excellent father) who do elevate and lift up our eyes to thee only, earnestly requiring that thou wouldest defend us by thy ready help from the great perils wherewith we be at this present sore vexed. For seeing thou hast created us, and we be duly and rightfully thine: Lord (of thy infinite goodness) despise not thou thy servants who look for help at thy hands only in this their needful time. We acknowledge verily, we confess I say, that we have (by reason of our heinous sins and great offenses committed against thee) deserved these things which are now fallen upon us. But our fervent desire is, that thou having compassion upon thy loving servants, wouldest pardon (for thy great goodness and infinite mercies sake) what things soever they offend thee in them. Weigh not (O good God) our unworthiness, but consider the rebukes and slanders wherewith thou art touched in us. For whilst the wicked enemies do stir up blasphemies against thy faithful people, they do wrong, not unto us, but to thy glorious name, when as they rage by force of arms and great violence, they chiefly shoot at the overthrowing of thy true honor, sincere religion, and most blessed word: these are the things which they mean to take utterly away, if they might have success. For so long as they perceive themselves to abound in much strength, and do whatsoever it pleaseth them, they become marvelous high minded, and thy Church being troubled by them, is put to an exceeding great foil, which hath none to fly unto for help, but thee only who art their Lord. Drive thou away these injuries and mischievous evils which they bring upon us, we humbly beseech thee: for nothing is required in this behalf, but that thou wouldest defend the honor and glory of thy true doctrine and sacred gospel, least the wicked make a laughter hereat. Grant (O good God) that those men may one day feel the force of thy blessed verity, so as they shall will

they nill they, acknowledge thee to be a God of might, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 124: AGAINST VIOLENCE AND DECEIT

(Prayer 1) Unless thou dost assist us (O most mighty God) with thy puissant power and ready helping hand, the Antichristians are so bent to rise up against thy faithful people, as they seem to committe nothing more then to swallow us all up even quick: whose madnesse is in such wise kindled, that (if thou putttest not to thy helping hand) they are like to consume and devour us, which truly we cannot deny but hath been of our part justly deserved, if we well weigh and consider our own sins. For what scourge and torments can we deem that thou ordainest unjustly for us, weighing so great ingratitude as we have showed towards thee? who have been such transgressors of thy holy commandments, as there is no penalty so great, but that we both are worthy thereof, and also seem so to be. For although thou wilt not be present to help thy sacred Church for our sakes, yet do it for the glory of thy name, least the most raging rivers do overwhelm and choke it up with their overflowing and violence of waters: turn away (we heartily require thee) their mouths and teeth from thy holy ones, least they tear them in pieces like unto a pray: who verily hunt for nothing else by their subtleties and lewd practices, than to catch and snarl in the traps of their ungodliness those which have addicted themselves to thy blessed words, to the purging of the true worshipping of thee, and to a more sincere and pure manner of religion. Make hast therefore (O good God) to be our speedy helper, and deliver us from the Nets of such cruel hunters. But vouchsafe thou (we humbly beseech thee) who hast made heaven and earth, that we may impute our whole salvation unto thee only, and none other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Unless, thou thy own self (O most good and merciful God) dost at this present suppress and keep under the fury and madness of the Antichristians, in such sort as they be not able to accomplish those things which they have now enterprised and devised amongst themselves, they will swallow up thy

sacred Church whole and quick: who do in such wise rise up, gnash their teeth, rage, and swell for anger, as thy faithful servants are now in a manner almost drowned of them, unless thou dost very speedily assuage and thrust back the storm of ungodliness, and huge waves of the devil. Turn away thy furious wrath from us (we heartily pray thee) O heavenly father, and punish not thee wickedness which we have committed against thee, according to our just deserts: who do not this only to the intent thou shouldest consider our worthiness, but that thou mightest not fail thy own name, thy pure doctrine, and thy faithful promises. Grant that we may once say, verily our God is to be magnified and praised, which will not suffer his blessed Church to be dispersed of wicked men's outrageous cruelty, but hath taken her from the snares and Jaws of ungracious persons, by his exceeding famous and most puissant arm. Cut their Nets asunder, let their naughty enterprises be frustrated, and make their force to fail them, who do now greatly terrify all such (O good God) as stand in fear of thee: let us look for help at thy merciful hands only who hast made heaven and earth. Wherefore our earnest petition and hearty request, is, that thou wouldest (of thy singular mercy and excellent clemency) yield thyself pliable to our fervent prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Such as belong to thy heritage, and are the true Israel, must needs confess with us (O most mighty God) that unless we had been preserved and holpen by thy singular favor and mighty power, we should have been swallowed up and utterly consumed to nothing more than once, by the fierce enemies of our salvation. For if we look for help elsewhere to succor us, we know assuredly that it is of no force at all. The violence and outrage of those men which do grievously assault us, is like most swift streams of water that do suddenly overflow the fields, whose outrageous cruelty may be fully compared to the fierceness of brute beasts, which men also use such crafty and covert snares to trap us in, as the fowlers and hunters are nothing comparable unto them herein, but seem very simple, and far their inferiors. Wherefore (according to our bounden duty) we render condign thanks unto thee, forsomuch as thou hast hitherto delivered thy simple and feeble flock from so great perilous dangers, and request this at thy merciful

hands, that thou wouldst in likewise not suffer thy sacred Church hereafter to be overthrown, neither by outrageous violence, nor yet through subtle deceit, so as our assured confidence in thee may be daily more and more greatly augmented and mightily increased, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 125: FOR THE PRESERVATION AND LONG CONTINUANCE OF FAITH

(Prayer 1) Forsomuch as man's help (O most good and merciful God) is very weak, wonderful uncertain, and marvelous deceivable, we are evidently taught to repose our whole confidence in thee only, unto whom whosoever they be that do annex themselves, they never go nor yet wander out of the right way. Thou therefore which hast promised to stablish Mount Zion (being thy holy Church) in such wise with thy mighty protection, as it may abide forever against all the crafty assaults and layings await of her outrageous adversaries: have the like regard (we humbly beseech thee) to the same at this present, neither permit the rod of the ungodly to wax fierce upon her. For if it be enforced to be in subjection to thy wicked enemies, even they also which seem godly men shall fall readily into impiety. Punish our sins, O good God, (which be great and grievous) with another manner of chastisement and correction: for we do desire no more at this time, but that we may not be oppressed by Antichrist, requiring thee to defend the congregations of thy faithful environing them about on every side like most defensible Mountains, so that the wicked adversaries of thy glorious name have no power to make havoc of them at their will and pleasure. Deal lovingly and favorably in these days with such as be greatly desirous of goodness and upright dealing: but cause those to feel and have in trial what the workers of iniquity do deserve, whose minds are not only wrapped altogether full of ungodliness, by practicing mischief and naughtiness, but also endeavor so much as in then lieth, that thy blessed word may nowhere flourish, that true religion might be utterly extinguished, and the perfect invoking and calling upon thy glorious name quite rooted up. But as for thy beloved Israel, after she hath enjoyed peace and

tranquility, let it be joined more and more unto thee, so as she may continually lay sure hold upon thy worthy praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) In whose minds soever the belief of thy faithful promises (O most mighty God) is assuredly grafted and firmly established, they being like unto well grounded Mountains, do nothing shake in troublesome times, but their constancy and unremoveableness is of such force, as their assured hope is, that they be no less armed with thy mighty protection and sure defense, then was the City of Jerusalem environed with a rampire of Mountains which did overlook it round about on every side. Now therefore when as the mischief and flame of the ungodly is occupied on this one point, how to scatter the Church and to oppress it, assist the same (O excellent father) and make it manifest unto her what a singular love thou bearest thereto. But if (as we openly and with a sincere faith acknowledge and confess) our horrible naughtiness have deserved, the (being deprived and left destitute of thy aid) we should be given over into the madness and cruel hands of the Antichristians: weigh not, we humbly beseech thee, what our misdeeds do rightly deserve, but have a regard how we are committed unto thee, and that thou art put in trust with us in Christ: neither show thyself wrathful contrary to thy old and ancient custom, whereby thou never gavest liberty to the tyranny of wicked persons to persecute the godly any long time, least if thy upright judgments should be prolonged, they perhaps (who are righteous) may be boldened to revolt therefore, and yield to naughtiness, as the common sort do. Be thou (O most mighty God) good, loving, and merciful unto these men whose earnest desire it is to have the zeal of godliness imprinted in their hearts, and extend thy indignation rather upon those which think and do nothing but rather that which is lewd, unrighteous, and wicked. But preserve and increase (for thy infinite mercies sake) the accustomable peace of thy beloved Israel, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Whosoever do give credit to thy sacred truth (O almighty God) as becometh them, remain irremovable like unto steadfast Mountains, and most strong rocks, what great storms of temptations soever the devil or world do stir up against them: for as Cities be fortified and arranged everywhere about with

thick ramparts, strong walls, huge towers, and high hills, so God doth, as with a shield defend those whom he greatly favoereth, and which are his elect servants, and guardeth them also like an exceeding strong Bulwark. Therefore do we not without just cause (O excellent father) call earnestly upon thee, that thou dost not permit the ungodly to pour out their cruelty upon the Church of the righteous, least if such as be yet weaklings amongst the faithful, see the prosperity of wicked persons, they also of an evil zeal, begin to follow their lewd vices and most grievous sins. Wherefore rather defend and advance (we heartily pray thee) thy blessed saints, and be favorable unto them, whom thou hast now appointed to follow thee with a perfect mind and uncorrupt faith. But beat down such with thy puissant strength and mighty power, as be enemies to godliness and the honor of thy glorious name, so that thy sacred Church (which is the holy Israel) be not defrauded of the joyful salvation she looketh for at thy merciful hands, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 126: THAT WE MAY BE DELIVERED FROM THRALLDOM & ATTAIN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

(Prayer 1) Surely the thralldom and bondage of thy blessed church (O most good and merciful God) hath been hitherto exceeding hard beyond all measure, being sore oppressed under the tyranny of Antichrist, and yet notwithstanding, thou (of thy infinite goodness) hast redeemed it to our wonderful comfort, and the great hope of others which as yet have an earnest desire to the attaining of Christian liberty. We at this present heartily beseech thee (that at what time the devil and power of the adversary seem by all the means they can devise to bend their force for to hinder the good works which is begun) not to be forgetful of thy Churches captivity, from which thou hast after a sort begun to restore the same, who verily hath behaved herself so unthankfully towards thee, as one that made small accompt of the benefits bestowed upon her, according to their worthiness. But forsake her not (for thy accustomed mercies sake) before thou hast fully repaired in her that which remaineth as yet to be restored thereto, yea rather

vouchsafe to bestow upon the same (as on fields wanting moisture at noon time) the most swift streams of thy heavenly grace, and flowing waters of thy blessed spirit, to the intent we may with abundant gladness reap the pleasant fruit of the prayers which we do now sow with tears: so as the heathen which behold these calamities with a doubtful mind, wherewith the outrageous enemies of thy glorious name do sore oppress us, may at length openly publish that thou hast dealt honorably with thy faithful servants by which means we may (after these grievous sorrows be ended) enjoy not only such a gladness as we would willingly wish, but also a very healthful comfort, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing it is thy most ancient accustomable manner, O almighty God, to aid and help such as unfeignedly trust in thee (by thy wonderful and singular providence) when as they be fallen into greatest distress, so that thou sendest them deliverance even when they least look for it, seeming rather to enjoy the same as a dream then like a matter of truth: we have no despair at all of thy sacred Church, being almost without hope of recovery, who know right well that it is a light thing to thee, yea and exceeding easy, to fill our mouth with laughter and our tongue with joy, in such wise as our cruel enemies shall be enforced to say whether they will or not, that these men's God hath undoubtedly done wonderful great things for them, at what time he caused those his servants to enjoy a notable comfort and marvelous delectation, even when they were without hope thereof. Our earnest request is therefore that thou wouldst, for thy infinite mercies sake, pardon the offenses wherewith we have stubbornly (through our outrageous madness, feeble imbecility, and natural corruption) provoked thee to extreme anger, so that we obtaining again at thy merciful hands the ancient favor and benevolence, may find no less alteration of our estate, than those which being parched with a Southern drought and such ardent burning as is at noon day, may be moistened with a fresh and sovereign abundance of waters unlooked for. And what things soever we sow with tears, grant us (we heartily pray thee) to reap them at length with great joy and gladness, so that finally we may have most plentiful fruits of consolation out of the prayers we (in most humble wise) pour out daily before thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) When it happeneth at any time (O most good and merciful God) that thou of thy singular goodness, dost utterly deliver thy sacred Church from the captivity and thralldom of the devil, and that it beholdeth all thy members and hers quite set free from fond errors and blind darkness, then shall it be replenished with such gladness as she shall rather think how she dreameth of that great good thing, then verily to enjoy the same. At what time she may well say that she is merry indeed, and shall be endued with perfect gladness, neither shall she not only render immortal thanks and praises unto thee, but also every man will marvel at the high and mighty things thou hast done for her. Our earnest request is therefore, that thou wouldst now at length condescend unto the accomplishment of these things, and exceedingly favor her captivity being thus miserable and of such long continuance: deliver thy faithful servants from obscure darkness, and unloose the bands of thy accustomed loving kindness wherewith thou hast redeemed the children of Adam which are so long a time in bondage and thralldom: and with the lively waters of thy benign grace cause thou the barrenness and thirsty soil of our soul to be right pleasant and fertile, so that the woeful tears which the godly did sow and pour out in the time of their captivity, may bring them at length to their desired joys, and that such (as with great sorrow and heaviness) have hitherto sown the seed of fervent prayers and doleful sighings, may with very much joy and marvelous pleasure reap the sound fruits of true godliness and pure religion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 127: FOR SUSTENTATION AND SAFE KEEPING

(Prayer 1) It is out of all controversy, and a matter agreed upon among all godly persons, that no family can be well ordered, or any common wealth rightly governed, unless thou (O most mighty God) dost further and prosper their proceedings. We therefore who are not ignorant but thou wilt do far better for thy holy Church than for any house of honor, or most large City of this world, know assuredly that the same can by no means continue without thy mighty preservation, and that especially in this time, when as both so many of the devils engines,

and also of Antichrists subtle policies, do much invade us. For that thing therefore which could not be achieved by the painful labor, careful watchings, and great industry of men, we do most earnestly require of thee (O heavenly father) by continual prayers, who hast been accustomed to grant unto thine, as it were in their sleep, the thing which seemed otherwise to be exceeding difficult and almost impossible. First and foremost, take away our grievous iniquities which are the chiefest let and stay why thou relievest not the present wretchedness and miserable calamity we are in, for it is they and none other thing that do diserver and withdraw us from having confidence in thy unspeakable mercy. Now at what time thou shalt have pardoned them (as our earnest desire is, that thou wouldst) be so good as to increase thy blessed Church with a plentiful issue: for if she shall engender children unto thee, let them (who are worthy of thee and thy blessed spirit) be sent out like arrows, through thy invincible arm against the outrageous enemies of godliness and doctrine of the sacred Gospel: but cause the uncorrupted Congregations and assemblies to have a company of valiant and strong men, who (so long as they take upon them to defend thy sincere truth both in word and deed) may neither be ashamed, nor yet once shrink back therefore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) All our force and enterprises are of none effect (O almighty God) without thy especial grace and favor: for if no private house can be maintained, or any City built, except thou layest to thy present help and gracious good will, how much less then may the blessed Church be reedified, enlarged and set at a stay, unless thou be marvelous ready to assist the same with thy holy spirit and benign grace: men have labored in vain, their rising up early, and holding long fastings, shall be to none effect and vainly and to no purpose shall they forespent themselves with toiles and troubles. Wherefore we earnestly entreat thee (O good God) that thy divine presence and mighty power be not far from us in any of our attempts and enterprises. For what thing verily soever hath been at any time gathered up and repaired of the ruins of the Church, it taketh no good success without thee, yet rather thou hast given the same to thy laborers as it were in their sleep, making it such a thing by thy secrete and wonderful means, as human

strength (if it were duly considered) is altogether insufficient to so puissant a work. But seeing we have been now very ungrateful, and most lewdly abused so great and manifold benefits, thou hast not without just cause begun to vex us with exceeding grievous troubles, from which men's painful travail and subtle policy are of no ability to deliver us. Make thou hast therefore, for thy accustomed mercies sake, (when we think least hereof, or judge ourselves to be in danger of many perils) to entangle those which fly unto thy divine Majesty, that being set at liberty, we may acknowledge thee to be the only Author of true and perfect salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Because so many as enterprise anything without thy especial assistance and favorable good will (O most gracious and merciful God) do labor to no purpose and trouble themselves in vain, and that they which have not thee for their ready helper, cannot save and defend themselves from their cruel enemies: therefore seeing (that both thy Church standeth always in very great need of building, and the City of our congregation is destitute and void of defense) we call upon thee only to be our courageous helper, who art ready to aid the builders, and canst strongly defend the valiant fighters. But to the intent we may the readilier attain the same, multiply (we earnestly require thee) the issue of thy sacred church, which may be sent out as arrows to raise it up everywhere by thy blessed word, and be made so skillful and well practiced in handling thy sayings, that when those things be done which appertain to their vocation, they may by no means be put to shame and rebuke of the most godless and unfaithful persons, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 128: THAT WE MAY FEAR GOD & LEAD A BLESSED LIFE

(Prayer 1) If no good thing or any kind of felicity can happen to any but to such as fear God and reverence him, and to those, which (through a perfect life) walk faithfully in the ways of his blessed commandments, the matter is now manifested unto us why we are thus vexed with grievous calamities. For whereas thou

of thy infinite mercy (O almighty God) hast given us a comfortable and wholesome doctrine, we have performed nothing less than honored thee as is our bounden duty: who have set more by our own filthy desires, then the fear of thee and due reverence of thy glorious name, by casting aside the ordinances of thy blessed precepts. Wherefore there is no cause why we should complain that afflictions are wrongfully laid upon us at any time. Pardon we heartily pray thee, our grievous iniquities and mischievous deeds, and renew in us (for thy infinite mercies sake) perfect fear, true godliness, and holy conversation. Finally shine down out of Zion (that is, from thy exceeding high light, and such as cannot be attained unto) upon thy afflicted Church, and deliver the same from the number of perils which she is in danger of. But forsomuch as thou hast coupled her unto thee to be thy wife by faith, grant that she may have an infinite company of holy children: let her be as a vine spreading itself far abroad, which Antichrist may not with all his industry be of force to cut and hew down. For we require this chiefly at thy merciful hands (O most excellent father) that thou wouldest indue thy heavenly Jerusalem with good and wholesome things, and send peace and tranquility upon thy true Israel, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy sacred word (O most good and merciful God) doth teach us that godliness only maketh men right happy and blessed. For the fear and dread wherewith godly men do reverence thee, is an effectual bridle to cause them for to proceed justly in the way of thy righteousness. But because this virtue is a singular ornament of thy beloved church, our earnest request is, that there may be continual laboring in the same by doctrine and example to nurture thy blessed children, so that the works be not in vain, or to none effect. Let her be daily made like unto a most fruitful woman, that may be compared to the rank Olives and exceeding fertile vines: which unspeakable happy gifts we mistrust not but thou wilt one day bestow readily upon us, if from the seat of thy Majesty, it shall please thee to behold the congregation of the faithful with thy merciful eye, because all things that appertain to true and perfect felicity, come from the will of thy inestimable goodness. For seeing we doubt not but this redowneth to the honor of thy glorious name, (that a continual offspring of thy dear children should be

multiplied in the blessed Church, and become notable in peace, in praises, and in purity of life) we heartily require thee in our most fervent prayers to obtain the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 129: AGAINST THE COUNTERFEIT HOLINESS OF SUCH AS WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY THEIR WORKS

(Prayer 1) Thou knowest (O most good and merciful God) how greatly the enemies of thy glorious name have fought continually against thy sacred Church, and always troubled the same from her infancy, yet notwithstanding thou hast done this of thy singular favor thou barest thereunto, that her adversaries could never prevail against her, who diddest it for this intent, because thy faithful promises should be accomplished. They seemed diverse and sundry times to thrust the share of affliction very deep into her back, who (having a marvelous obstinate heart) purposed to make exceeding long ridges upon the same. But thou O good God of thy perfect justice, hast always cut a sunder the cords of the ungodly in pieces. Wherefore we now heartily beseech thee not to regard our wicked facts, but the glory of thy name. For if thou shouldest deal with us according to our worthiness, we do not only deserve such painful miseries, and sorrowful calamities, but much more grievouser. Yet (for thy infinite mercies sake) pour not out thy furious wrath on us, but upon the ungodly, let them be confounded and turned backward, and grant that they may quickly wither even as the grass, before they be anything able to bring their lewd enterprises to an end: whose deserts are not such as we ought to pray for their good success, seeing their practices be exceeding naught. But now cause the Church of thy faithful people, to enjoy some blessing of peace and tranquility, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) The assaults of thy faithful people (O most good and merciful God) be not only very many and diverse, but they are also continually tempted, and be enforced to fall into utter destruction: for the devil and power of our fierce adversaries desire nothing more, than to turn thy Image unto them from

the purpose thou hast ordained it for. And therefore we heartily cry and call unto thee (who hast an incomprehensible mercy joined with thy exceeding great Justice) that thou wouldest, for the entire good will and loving favor thou bearest unto us, break a sunder the sithes cords of temptations, and tear in pieces the subtle snares of such as lay deceitful traps to snarl us in, so that the wicked enemies of our salvation, may (according to their just demerits) be brought to utter shame and confusion, to the intent all men may right well know that thy perfect righteousness will not suffer their devilish frauds and cursed deceits to escape always unpunished: whereby thy blessing which thou hast appointed for the elect and chosen, may not be impeached: and let not the force of the devils subtleties and crafty imaginations, disappoint the salvation, which we (that hope in thy faithful promises) look to achieve and attain unto, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 130: FOR GRACE IN THE TIME OF NEED

(Prayer 1) Thou art wont very often (O almighty God) to punish thy faithful servants grievously, to the intent they might thereby return unto thee with earnest and perfect repentance, which now experience teacheth us to feel in thy sacred Church by reason of these most troublesome times: for we that have been hitherto innumerable ways very ungrateful towards thee, and everywhere transgressed thy holy law and blessed commandments, are so oftentimes vexed with the fierceness of the cursed devil and his bondslaves, that we be enforced to cry unto thee out of the bottomless pit, and from the immeasurable deepness of our adversities, requiring thee not to mark our heinous sins so severely. For if thou (O good God) wilt duly consider and justly punish the iniquities that we have committed (according to their just deserts) which of us shall be so blameless and holy, as he may be able to stand before thy justice? But, forsomuch as we right well know that thou art endued with exceeding great gentleness, we do both early and late look and wait for thy ready help. Although therefore our iniquities are very many in number, vouch thou safe (for thy most abundant goodness and

infinite mercies sake) to redeem us from them all, so that we, being delivered from imminent perils and present calamities, may as well believe in thee only, as publish to the whole world that there is true and perfect redemption, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing that we be perpetually tossed (O almighty God) with the most deep sea of temptations, neither are able of ourselves to match them, there is good reason why we do not without just cause require thee speedily to help and succor our woeful miseries. But, if thou (who art both a rightful judge and perfect arbiter of our causes) wouldst consider all things whatsoever we have grievously offended thee in, and earnestly mark the same, who were able (I pray thee) to stand before thy tribunal seat? Seeing therefore thy mercy is notable and infinite, our earnest desire is that we may in such wise depend only thereupon, as the iniquities which we have committed, might be redeemed thereby, who are nourished daily and hourly in this hope alone, trusting that thou wilt never be forgetful of the true Israel, which is thy holy and blessed Church. Grant us therefore (we humbly beseech thee) to obtain at thy favorable hands, pardon and remission of sins, as a sound and sincere fruit of this steadfast confidence, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

PSALM 131: THAT WE MAY HAVE HUMILITY AND DESPISE ARROGANCE

(Prayer 1) Forsomuch as we are marvelous ungrateful towards thee (O most mighty God) for the exceeding great benefits bestowed upon us, leading a life hitherto nothing agreeable to thy holiness and our vocation, there is no cause why our heart should be puffed up, or walk in wonders. Cause thy holy spirit to be abundantly poured upon us, insomuch as all pride and arrogancy being utterly laid aside and quite done away, we may heartily acknowledge this which is most true, how that we are heinous sinners, by which means thou wilt (through a true and sincere repentance) pardon our naughty and lewd behavior. Moreover frame and confirm us in such wise towards thee, as we may be like unto a weaned

child, which always longeth for his mother, by whom it is cherished and nursed. Unless thou therefore be our ready helper, what other thing either can we or ought we to judge of our own power and strength, but the same shall be hurtful unto us. Wherefore, seeing that thy blessed Church hath none other refuge but thee only, being utterly void of all human help, therefore even after the manner of a child it looketh unto thee, whose earnest desire is that thou wouldest not utterly forsake her, but so assist the same with thy favorable goodness, as she may always wholly addict herself to call upon thy glorious name, and publish thy famous renown, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as (O most good and merciful God) it verily behooveth thee only to be high and excellent, our earnest request is that thou wouldest not permit pride to break into our heart, being of itself stubborn and rebellious enough, seeing that all human arrogancy and overweening of ourselves cannot be but very vain, as that which hath neither true nor just cause so to do. We desire therefore a very meek heart and marvelous lowly eyes to eschew all such lewd devises and fond enterprises as may exceed the mean and bounds of our vocation. Vouchsafe (we humbly beseech thee) that our mind may none otherwise depend upon thee, then Infants hang upon their Nurses breasts. For we perceive right well that thy blessed Church shall never be compted in a prosperous estate unless she doth both utterly despair of herself, and also repose her whole hope and confidence in thee only, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 132: THAT THE GOSPEL MAY REIGN AMONG US

(Prayer 1) We know right well (O most good and merciful God) that thou art not forgetful of the covenant thou madest with us in Christ Jesus: but acknowledge ourselves to have swerved from thy most sacred covenants and blessed agreements. For, whereas it behooveth us to frame our life so as we might please thee, and that all our deeds ought to redowne unto the glory of thy blessed name, then the which we have done nothing less, who have marvelous coldly exercised true and perfect godliness, neither endeavored ourselves to re-edify thy

holy Church with a fervent desire as it became us to do. But be not thou revenged (O good God) upon our naughty facts, neither let these things which we have heinously committed against thee, be an occasion that thou shouldst not give ear unto our hearty prayers. For this verily do we earnestly desire in all our humble petitions, that the place wherein the Ark of thy glorious covenant remaineth, that is to say, (thy elected church) may continue thy loving Spouse, enjoining at length a quiet and peaceable rest, to the intent thy blessed kingdom may more prosperously be enlarged, and the glory of thy famous name spread abroad far wider than it is at this day. Show we humbly beseech thee, that thou art (according to thy faithful promise) truly resident in thy holy Church, by induing thy faithful servants with true holiness and perfect salvation. Suffer not (as thou hast lovingly promised) the light of thy people to be extinguished and quite put out: but let the princely beauty and renowned glory of thy excellent Majesty shine perpetually in her, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as thou of thy infinite goodness (O most gracious and merciful God) hast determined to dwell perpetually in the congregation of the faithful (which is the Church that Christ hath redeemed with his precious blood) we humbly beseech thee never to forget this thy most loving promise. For our earnest request is to have thy resting place abide in us, and that thou wouldest have an holy and well furnished habitation in our hearts through faith. As therefore we mistrust not but thou wilt keep this thy sacred covenant firm and steadfast, so we heartily desire thee to vouchsafe that we on our part may not swerve therefore, but follow and accomplish to the uttermost those testimonies of thy holy will, which thou hast thought good to teach us in thy sacred scriptures, so that the ministers of thy Sacraments, the faithful people, and all the estates and degrees of thy elect servants, may shine in true godliness and most sincere virtues, to the honor of thy glorious name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 133: FOR CHRISTIAN CHARITY

(Prayer 1) When as those which take upon them the defense of thy glorious name (O most mighty God) do live wonderful friendly amongst themselves, and practice all the means they can devise to honor and reverence thee, then doth thy blessed church increase daily more and more in famousness and puissant power. And in likewise on the other side it is greatly torn and weakened if they which ought to have dwelt together like brethren, break out into dissensions, or else be plucked asunder through any debate. Our earnest request is therefore to have such peace granted us by thy excellent goodness, as we may be joined together like members in thy one body which is the holy Church. But, seeing that our innumerable sins do marvelously hinder so great a felicity, how then can it fall out that such as be at discord with thee, may be in unity amongst themselves? We earnestly desire this at thy merciful hands, that the heinous offenses wherewith we have sundry times and that grievously provoked thy wrathful indignation being quite forgiven, thou wouldst receive us again into thy blessed favor, causing us faithfully to embrace mercy and loving kindness in such wise, as we may be annexed unto thee without separation: for hereof our tranquility shall have her original and derivation, hereof shall there be made an excellent and most fertile Church of good deeds, hereof shall the hid and secret treasures of thy holy spirit open themselves unto us, and burst out into very sweet and pleasant fruits, and finally a most redolent smell of justice and virtue shall breath forth from thence throughout the whole world. Grant therefore (O excellent father) to thy humble suitors, that they may have peace with thee, amongst themselves, and also with all men so much as in them lieth, whereby, they being gathered together in thy blessed name, according to thy loving promises, may have thee present with them, feel thy most plentiful blessing, and finally obtain eternal joy and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as thou hast of thy singular favor and exceeding great goodness (O merciful God) adopted us to be thy dear children through faith we have conceived in Christ Jesus, it behooveth us to lead a life amongst ourselves

not like strangers, but as brethren and sisters ought to do: neither have the godly a greater desire or more pleasure in anything, than to be in perfect unity and peaceable agreement in the house of God. Wherefore it is no small grief unto us that this brotherly affinity is everywhere rent and broken asunder, which we ought warily to cherish and have in great estimation. But we acknowledge ourselves to have given an apparent cause of this grievous vexation and sorrowful calamity: for how can it be then that we who are not knit unto thee with our whole heart, and be nothing in such wise obedient to thy sacred commandments as thou requirest, should be well joined together, or be in love with our neighbors? We humbly beseech thee therefore (O good God) to pardon whatsoever we have heretofore lewdly committed against thee, being adversaries to thy divine law and sacred commandments, and to couple us one to another, with an exceeding steadfast charity, into the sacred body of thy holy Church, so that our loving consent and faithful agreement may spread it self abroad most largely as a sweet smell of mutual love, and through the pleasant dew of thy heavenly blessing, become every day more fruitful than other in good and godly works, leading (of thy singular good will) not only a quiet and peaceable life, free from the present evils in this wretched world, but finally obtain such a one as is blessed and everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Seeing thou hast of thy loving kindness (O most good and merciful God) chosen all faithful people to be thy dear children, grant that we who are brethren by a blessed generation, may be fastened together in mutual love, long peace, and perpetual charity, so that (during this life) we may take perfect pleasure of such kind of tranquility, and also become an exceeding delectable odor towards the perpetual salvation of all others which be as yet strangers to thee. Thy blessed Church may be (O heavenly father) through this especial example, greatly wondered at of all men. For certainly we know by experience that thou hast used to pour out a most ample blessing upon so many as lead an agreeable and friendly life in thy healthful doctrine and pure religion: and therefore do we now require this earnestly at thy merciful hands before all riches and other earthly commodities, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 134: FOR FAITH IN OUR DAILY PETITIONS

(Prayer 1) It ought to be a most pleasant and joyful thing unto us (O almighty God) to celebrate thy high praises perpetually, and show forth thy marvelous works without ceasing: for the performance whereof, godliness would require, that we should not only do the same on the day time, but also in the night season. But yet notwithstanding, our most heinous sins and continual backslidings compel us rather to burst out into sorrowful tears, piteous sobbings, and deep sighs, wherethrough we may say always before thee: we verily have sinned (O good God) exceeding grievously, whose offenses are more in number than the sand of the sea, and Stars of the sky, but now we lift up our hands unto our holy sanctuary, which is Jesus Christ thy dearly beloved Son, so that whatsoever we cannot obtain through our own worthiness and deserts, we endeavor to achieve the same by his only means and gracious favor. We heartily require this at thy merciful hands (O most excellent father) that thou wouldest at one time or other, out of Zion (that is to say out of the hid treasure of thy clemency) be favorable unto the people which fly to thee for succor, by delivering them from present mishaps, whereby thou (who diddest make heaven and earth) hast vouchsafed to call us unto the knowledge of thy blessed name, so that we may lawfully render abundant thanks and show forth thy worthy praises with a most free and joyful heart, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing thou hast beatified all those with a notable promise (O most mighty God) which are knit together in the honoring of thy blessed name, so that thou wilt not only be present with them, but also bestowest excellent benefits upon these men whosoever they are that excel in sincere faith and pure godliness, and have an exceeding desire to be in the blessed congregations, inso-much as there is nothing which they more covet or desire, than to appear diverse times before thee in the sacred assemblies. But because we see ourselves greatly defiled with most heinous faults, overlading us in such wise, as we dare not celebrate and praise thee as Christians ought to do: our earnest request is therefore that thou wouldest (of thy unspeakable mercy, infinite goodness, and excellent

clemency) deliver us from the Champions of Antichrist and his ministers, who endeavor themselves so much as they can possible, that thy faithful servants might no more assemble and meet together for to honor thee sincerely and as they are willed to do. Reserve those to thyself (we humbly beseech thee) who have so great a desire to lift up their hands unto thee and to direct their prayers unto thy mercies seat with a most holy intent: show these men much pleasure from heaven, cherish them greatly, and be their strong defense, being a thing nothing impossible to thy wonderful and invincible power, forsomuch as the whole world and all things contained therein, were not only made by thy puissant might, but also endure and be preserved through thy omnipotency, by Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Thy unspeakable goodness is such (O most merciful God) as it ought always to be greatly praised and highly magnified. We will therefore lift up pure hands in all places, touching the publishing of thy glorious name, and render perpetual thanks (according to our bounden duty) for thy loving kindness extended towards us. But, seeing that this ought to be done in the most sacred and holy assemblies, our earnest desire is for to have thee present there with us, and to bestow thy plentiful blessing upon thy beloved Israel, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 135: AGAINST A VAIN AND FALSE CONFIDENCE

(Prayer 1) Whosoever they be that are moved by the holy ghost to assemble together (O almighty God) for to celebrate thy glorious name, have a wonderful heap of benefits set out before them, which thou hast most plentifully bestowed upon us. For look what things thou hast by thy wonderful wisdom created in heaven and earth, all the same dost thou continually dispose according to the pleasure of thy good will, causing the clouds, rain, winds, and other works of nature to be in such wise obedient to thee, as they serve exceeding commodiously for the utility of mankind. But seeing that the hearts of kings and princes are under thy dominion, thou dost continually bow them so far as the preservation

of thy faithful servants doth require, which is sufficiently manifested enough by Pharaoh king of Egypt, Zion, and Og, most puissant princes of the land of Canaan. By reason whereof, the hope that we have assuredly conceived in thy beloved promises, is so confirmed and established, that (although we may see the Church grievously oppressed with exceeding great perils) yet our only trust is that thou wilt so aide and help the same, out of the hid and secret treasures of thy loving mercy, as first and foremost to pardon our innumerable and most shameful declinings from thee, wherewith we have mischievously polluted ourselves: and that thou wilt also in such wise vanquish, subdue, and repress the malapertness of the devil and his guard, as we be not enforced any more by them, to embrace again an idolatrous trade of worshipping thee, and give honor to those Images which can neither speak, hear, nor yet have breath, although they seem as if they had both ears, hands, and mouths. Grant we heartily pray thee (O excellent father) that all men may perpetually laude and set forth thy glorious name out of Zion (which is thy true Church) with an ancient, yea rather an everlasting peace and tranquility, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thou deservest very great commendation for a number of excellent causes (O almighty God) and diverse ways to be extolled with most noble praises: first and foremost thou art good, and thy name is marvelous pleasant and wonderful amiable. Moreover thou hast chosen us to be thy peculiar people, that is, and true Israel, who art of such an invincible force, as there is only not any creature, but also none other God at all that may be compared to thee in power. For thou only dost wondrous things in heaven, in earth, in the sea, and in the deeps and bottomless pit: thou also stirrest up and bridlest at thy will and pleasure, the flaming lightnings, boisterous winds, rainy showers, raging waters, and stormy tempests. Whose mighty puissance, the Egyptians, Amorites, and Chenaneits have felt, when thou didst defend the children of Israel with thy accustomable clemency, and governedst them through an unspeakable loving kindness and wonderful mercy that thou didst extend towards them. Judge thou therefore thy faithful people, who hast been accustomed to rule the course of nature by such a wonderful means, and finally comfort thy beloved servants,

have an especial regard, behold, and see (we humbly pray thee) the grievous calamities of thy sacred Church, neither deal with us according to our wicked and lewd deserts. We acknowledge verily (even from the heart) that we have led a life to much unbecoming thy glorious name and our vocation, who do not now return unto dumb Idols (when we are thus grievously afflicted) being the works of men's hands, having as it were a mouth, eyes, and ears, and yet do they not speak, neither see, nor understand: but have recourse unto thee, our true and only God, that like as thou lovest the sacred Church and wouldst be highly praised therein, so vouchsafe to deliver the same from imminent perils, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) There be two things (O most good and merciful God) which ought chiefly to stir us up to speak of thy worthy praises: whereof, the one is this, for that nothing can be found or imagined greater than thou art: the other, because there is a pure joy and assured pleasure conceived in the very setting out of thy worthy praises. Moreover the number of thy notable benefits are so great, as not only matter to the publishing of thy glory is ministered everywhere, but also that it doth in a manner overwhelm such as think thereupon anything earnestly, as they can readily find neither beginning nor yet end for the setting forth of thy glorious name, without the wonderful assistance of thy holy spirit. Which thing (so long as it is duly considered of our parts) we do earnestly require in our daily prayers, that especially in the sacred assemblies, we may with most pure faith set out thy worthy praises, yield thee thy true worship, and publish thy renown with a pure life and holy conversation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 136: FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S OMNIPOTENT GOODNESS

(Prayer 1) Thy puissant power and singular goodness (O most gracious and merciful God) doth everywhere so abound upon us, as man's thought and imagination cannot sufficiently comprehend the same: for if we look unto the sky that is garnished with exceeding beautiful and almost innumerable lights, or if

we consider the earth which is marvelous abundantly replenished and decked with most pleasant fruits, they be always wonderful tokens of thy unspeakable and passing good will towards us. Hereunto are added, the wonders which thou didst in Egypt, where through (when thou hadst spoiled the tyrant of all that ever he had, and finally bereft him of his life) thou madest it manifest what a pleasure the freedom of the children of Israel was to thee, unto whom thou shewedst thyself no less a most steadfast preserver in the wast and loathsome wilderness, then an exceeding strong defender, at what time they walked through the whole land of Canaan, and causedst the huge and mighty kingdoms thereof to be under their subjection. Thou therefore who art endued with excellent goodness, wonderful clemency, and unspeakable mercy that never hath end, have an especial regard (we heartily pray thee) unto thy beloved Church, being now in marvelous great peril and extreme danger, neither let the most lewd deeds (wherewith we have both polluted our own selves, and also thy sacred Gospel) draw thee from thy native loving kindness. Pardon (we heartily pray thee) whatsoever we have committed against thy divine Majesty: and suffer not thou (who givest sustenance to all flesh) thy faithful servants to be deprived of a perfect doctrine and most pure and sound sacraments, which are indeed the feed of eternal life. Vouchsafe that every man may hereby perceive how good and mighty thou art, to the intent all persons may everywhere (as right meet it is) fear and love thee with a most fervent and hearty good will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy goodness is such and of so great force (O most mighty God) as thou wouldst not only have us fed thereby, but also (which is not the least part of our felicity) that we should feel and perfectly acknowledge the same: who hast for this cause, brought forth exceeding beautiful things as well in heaven as in the earth, after a most wonderful artificial manner. All which matters, if we did behold with a godly affection and well disposed mind, our heart without doubt should always be kindled and inflamed with a fervent desire it hath towards thee. To the intent therefore our stony and frozen hearts might be more vehemently stirred up, thou hast chosen out for thyself one people, which was Israel, by whom thou mightest declare with how great zeal and after what manner of

providence and most large benefits thou hast showed thyself beneficial unto such as continually applied themselves to the true worshipping of thee and unto godliness. But hast at length poured out all treasures of thy excellent goodness in Christ Jesus our Lord, and thy most entirely beloved son, to the end thou wouldst deliver us from eternal and everlasting death. For which cause sake, we being provoked (through the wonderful miracles of so great and manifold benefits) do render hearty thanks unto thee, although verily not such as thou deservest, yet those that we are able, and to the uttermost of our power we do commend thy sacred Church unto thee, by the selfsame Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 137: AGAINST SUCH AS BE ENEMIES AND DERIDERS OF THE GOSPEL

(Prayer 1) Whosoever they be (O almighty God) that make a true account of sincere godliness and pure religion, are exceeding sorrowful if they see the sacred Church scattered, wholesome doctrine derided, the praises of thy divine name had in contempt, and such things as appertain to a devout worshipping of thee turned unto heathenish gewgaws and voluptuous pleasures. To the intent therefore these things may in no wise happen as now unto us, which we see not to be far off, we power forth daily before thee, with great submission, these our doleful complaints, that thou wouldest first of thy exceeding great goodness and loving mercy, blot out all our heinous offenses (being in a manner infinite and exceeding grievous) committed not only through weakness and ignorance, but also done oftentimes both maliciously and of a set purpose. Moreover be favorable unto our grievous sins, and turn away from us in such sort the most fierce wiles and subtle layings await of Antichrist, as thy sacred Church be not deprived of all blessed joy and spiritual gladness: suffer not the mouths of good and wholesome instructors to be closed up, permit not thy due honor to be had in oblivion, nor yet let the hymns and songs wherewith thou art highly celebrated, be usurped of such as will have the same in derision. We humbly beseech thee, O excellent father, that (what wrath or indignation so ever is due unto us by reason

of the heinous sins we have wickedly committed) thou wouldst, for the glory of thy famous name, turn it from thy sanctified Church, and pour out the same rather upon them, who, with a enemy like rage and most malicious affection, imagine nothing else, but quite to mar and utterly lay waste thy blessed heritage, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy sacred Church would be greatly desirous (O most mighty God) to extol thy famous name joyfully with Psalms and Hymns, but as yet her oppression and bondage is so great in darkness and blind errors of new fond superstitions that have been brought thereto, as it is more agreeable for her sorrowful estate, rather to lay aside the instruments of gladness, and give herself day and night to weeping, wailing, mournings, lamentable prayers, and most fervent supplications, wherewith she may crave thy furtherance and ready help: to the intent it may (in the strange tents of this wretched world) rather be forgetful of all delectable pleasures, then utterly void of true and perfect worshipping of thee. Our earnest request is therefore that thou wouldst very speedily deliver her from the tyranny of the enemies of Godliness, who have in nothing so great a delight, as to rejoice in the destruction thereof. Turn thyself we heartily require thee, unto them, and restrain their mad outrage, so that they may hereafter the less pollute and defile the Church thy loving spouse, either with their devilish errors or lewd behaviors, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 138: THAT ALL MEN OF GREAT POWER AND HIGH AUTHORITY MAY EMBRACE THE WORD OF GOD

(Prayer 1) Thy mercy (O most mighty God) is so notable and famous, as it ought to be celebrated, with seemly praises, even in the assembly of princes and highest powers: for seeing that thou hast, with all faithfulness abundantly accomplished thy loving promises, the reputation of thy glorious name is wonderfully augmented by giving salvation everywhere to such as lamentably require the same. Forsomuch as therefore the monuments of thy great mercy be innumerable, we earnestly entreat and humbly beseech thee not to decline therefrom in

these our most wretched days, nor yet permit thyself to be alienated and withdrawn from us. Although we have not framed our deeds, according to thy sacred laws and divine will, as was our bounden duty, but have wretchedly sinned against thee, deadly offended, and spitefully revolted from thy excellent Majesty: which verily we heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess, and albeit we are unworthy that thou shouldest be favorable and merciful unto us, yet it greatly appertaineth unto thee for to pardon such as crave mercy at thy hands through an unfeigned faith. Weigh not then (in this so cruel a case) what we are bound to do, but that which belongeth to thy unspeakable goodness. For if thou wilt be present at this time to help such as unfeignedly call upon thee, there is no man living but shall follow thee with a wonderful admiration. The common people, the nobility, yea and kings also shall strive who may praise thee most: for thou shalt very manifestly prove to their faces, that thou hast a great respect to such things as be exceeding lowly and of very small reputation, although thy tribunal seat be in heaven: for, notwithstanding thou seemest to dwell very far of from us, yet thou makest all men understand the wonderful tokens of thy excellent justice and unspeakable goodness. Establish us (O good God) with hope in in such wise, as if we should walk even through the midst of trouble and great distress, thou wilt not permit our courage (being upholden with thy right hand) anything to fail, but remember the work of thy hands, what manner a people so ever we be of ourselves, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) The people and common sort of men ought not only to extol the honor of thy glorious name, and nobleness of thy famous words with right great praises (O almighty God) but also such as be noble and renowned are bound to do the like, because thou pourest thy singular benefits upon all mortal creatures, and never failest of thy loving promises in faithfulness and truth, but rather dost perpetually give an attentive ear to those which call upon thee with a pure faith and uncorrupt mind. Let so many therefore as be famous and excel in dignity and power amongst men, praise thee when as they shall perceive the marvelous wisdom of thy deep counsels and excellent devices. For, though thou excellest all others in height, yet dost thou not despise such things as be humble and lowly,

but seemest to behold the proud a far of, because thou allowest in no wise their doings. We humbly require thee therefore to refresh and quicken us in the midst of our sorrowful tribulations, and repress the violence and hatred of the outrageous enemies of godliness, so that whilst thou shalt nourish and defend us (being the work of thy puissant hands) thy infinite mercy may be made right famous with eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 139: FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Thy knowledge and wisdom (O most mighty God) is of such force, as thou perfectly knowest all men's words, deeds, and thoughts, who also understandest the imaginations of our minds before we utter them. For no man is able to conceive and evidently discern the great wisdom thou showest in making and forming of our bodies: if we were comparable to the swift course of the Sun, or did excel the quickness of the Morning, or might clime up to heaven, or go down to hell, there is no place but thou wouldst meet with us, who hast seen and most evidently perceived even from the first creation, the unshapen mass of our bodies with all the members thereof, when as yet there was none of them. Forsomuch therefore as thou seemest to be on all sides so wonderful, our earnest request is that thou wouldest (for thy famous honors sake) be at length highly revered and duly worshipped in thy blessed Church. Let the wicked and such as have thy glorious name in great contempt, depart thence: but try thy faithful servants, we humbly beseech thee, and search them thoroughly out, to the intent they may know themselves: that if perhaps they swerve from the true and right way (as it often so happeneth by human infirmity) bring thou them again of thy great goodness, into the straight path of perpetual felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 140: AGAINST THE VENEMOUS TONGUES OF THE UNGODLY

Seeing that we can look for none other thing to proceed from wicked and ungodly men (O most good and merciful God) then abominable naughtiness: for where there is a lewd heart, a man can never see an uprightness to be observed neither in words nor deeds. Therefore do we most earnestly call upon thee, so much as we can possible, to rid and deliver us from the violence and malicious enterprises of lewd persons. But many are the cords, traps, and snares, which the Devil and his cursed members do prepare against the Church. Be thou thyself therefore her mighty strength and puissant preservation, by fortifying the same in such sort with thy steadfast defense, at what time the battles of temptations are fought, as the lewd subtleties, wherewith it is furiously assailed, and unluckily oppressed, may fall and light upon the Authors thereof. Which thing, if thou wilt thus do, thou shalt retain thy old wont by undershoring with thy divine and celestial help, such as be utterly destitute of man's aid: whereby the godly may continually set forth thy glorious name, and enjoy eternal felicity by the favor of thy bright and shining countenance, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 141: AGAINST HYPOCRISY

(Prayer 1) We daily crave for thy gracious help (O almighty God) and earnestly require this at thy merciful hands, that our fervent prayers may be accepted with thee as a most laudable sacrifice: for, seeing we perceive it cannot be done, unless we refrain our minds wholly from vice, we desire thee therefore inespacially to remove all our sins from us, wherewith we have exceeding filthily defiled both our own selves and thy glorious name also: who do not keep this secret, that we have lived heretofore unworthily and after a most wretched manner, but acknowledge and make the same manifest before thee, with a common and very willing confession. Our earnest desire is then that thou wouldst pardon thy poor suppliants, by severing our hearts in such sort hereafter from the contagion of filthy wickedness, as we may in no wise attain thereto, either by thought, word,

or deed: vouchingsafe to fortify godly men's minds with such a manner of puissant force and renowned godliness, that they suffer not themselves to be deceived with the subtle allurements and crafty promises of the wicked, but rather beat, chastise, and correct thou us thyself (O good God) then permit us to be shaken or made tender with the subtle enticements, delectable pleasures, and poisoned flatteries of mischievous persons. We be discouraged and slain (as thou right well knowest) and final destruction hangeth over the Church: notwithstanding we lift up our eyes exceeding steadfastly towards thee, and heartily require that thou wouldst deliver us from the subtle wiles and crafty layings await of execrable men. But, forsomuch as they are past all hope of recovery, better it is for them to be caught in their own nets and lewd engines, to the intent thy sacred Church may escape the mischievous hands of those wicked and ungodly men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Make haste to be present with us (O most mighty God) according to thy accustomed goodness, when we heartily invoke and call upon thee, least we be enticed by any means from thy sacred word and pure religion. Let the unfeigned prayers (which we pour forth) ascend into thy sight like a pleasant perfume, and a most acceptable sacrifice, although our sins do not deserve the fame. For we earnestly confess, even from the heart root, that we have very often inclined to most hurtful things, and not obeyed thee hitherto in word and with mouth, but have offended thee in that behalf also, and been more ready and hasty then needeth, to committe deadly wickedness, which is the only cause why thou dost now thus grievously rebuke and chastise us. But grant this (O good God) for thy exceeding great goodness and infinite mercies sake, that we may assuredly know these thy favorable chastisements to be the mere benefits of thy most fatherly good affection towards us, so that (when as they proceed from thy divine providence) we may both accompt and also esteem them more profitable, then if we enjoyed marvelous abundantly the love of the world and pleasure of ungodly persons: for our assured affiance is such in thee, as we know most certainly that it is thy accustomed use to help them (so that they crave the same at thy favorable hands) whose bones are both broken a sunder and also dispersed

in such wise, as though they should go down out of hand into hell. Forsake not therefore the Church (according to thy wonted manner) in these perilous days, at what time she is in most misery, but deliver her from the traps, snares, and nets of the ungodly, and let the wicked fall into their own wiles and pits, which they have made and digged, and not thy faithful people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 3) Withdraw not thy ready help from us, we humbly beseech thee (O most good and merciful God) so long as we lamentably require the same at thy merciful hands: for this is our daily sacrifice wherewith we do greatly honor and highly reverence thy glorious name, neither doth it less please thee to have us taught in thy blessed word, then if we should burn upon Alters a most sweet odor and pleasant perfume of spices, as the use and custom was in old time: our earnest desire is therefore, that thou wouldest set a sure watch upon our tongue and heart, that we may not do anything either in word, or thought, (and much less in deeds) contrary to thy blessed law. Remove from us all intercourse of the ungodly, but cause us to take in exceeding good worth brotherly admonitions and friendly rebukes, having no regard at all to high praises and pleasant flattering tales. For seeing that there be a thousand snares and traps which our ancient enemy hath laid to snarl us in, let thy gracious favor at length deliver us from the whole number of them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 142: FOR COMFORT IN PERSECUTION

(Prayer 1) We cry out daily in thy sight (O most good and merciful God) pouring out our fervent prayers and humble supplications, that the sorrow and heaviness conceived in our heart may be uttered, and this we do in thy gracious presence, who only knowest the way and means how to deliver thy faithful servants in their uttermost troubles. Our spirit verily is continually vexed within us, so long as we consider the present state of things, insomuch as whether we look on the right hand or towards the left, we see no man truly which will unfeignedly take upon him either to defend or acknowledge the cause of thy blessed Church.

Which evils indeed happen unto us by reason of our heinous sins, wherewith thou art thus grievously offended against us, as to stir up so fierce and sly enemies against thy chosen people, who lay snares almost in all places, and extend violence everywhere upon us. Be merciful now therefore unto us (O God our dear father) at what time we seem to be destitute of all succor, neither is there any remaining alive that hath a regard for the preservation of our souls: hear thou thyself our woeful complaints, and be a sure refuge for us, and our portion amongst the living: by delivering us from our malicious persecutors, who seem at this present to have the upper hand. For if thou wilt mightily deliver thy sacred Church from this sorrowful calamity, thy excellent name shall be spread abroad in every place, and all men will rejoice with us, upon whom they shall perceive that thou hast showed this unspeakable favor and loving kindness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Seeing that we are perpetually environed (O most mighty God) with an infinite number of perils, necessity itself persuadeth us never to desist from prayer, but always to pour them out exceeding fervently before thee. For, to whom may we better declare our extreme heaviness and grievous misery (which doth daily assail us) then to thee? who knowest all things right well, neither art ignorant of the crafts and subtleties of the force of our cruel adversaries. Thou only canst succor and deliver us: who may not trust in man's aid, either because they will not, or else for that they be not able to help us. And therefore do we earnestly cry unto thee, being our sanctuary and lotte in the land of the living, to the intent thou wouldst set us free from the devil the ancient enemy of mankind, and his cursed garde: whose minds being thus recreated and refreshed, shall incessantly acknowledge thy blessed name: and all such as be faithful lovers of virtue, will together with us publish and set out thy excellent benefits with condigne and deserved praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 143: IN TEMPTATION FOR THE AVOIDING OF DESPERATION

(Prayer 1) We do earnestly desire thee (O most good and merciful God) to accept our common petitions, and that thou wouldest (for thy excellent mercies sake) hear the hearty prayers which we pour out before thee, neither deny we that the heinous sins, wherewith we daily provoke thy heavy wrath, hath not deserved the same. But if thou wilt enter into judgment with us, and give severe and upright sentence, seeing that no man living, yea no creature at all (be it never so pure and holy) is able to abide the same, we also shall without fail be cast, neither have any force to stand in thy presence before the tribunal seat. Look thou therefore upon us with thy loving favor and wonted clemency, that as the enemy hath greedily persecuted our souls, so verily we seem, being sore smitten and greatly forsaken, to be in a manner at the point of death, because our spirit is thus vexed within us, and heart made desolate. Who are notwithstanding right mindful of thy old and ancient mercy, wherewith thou hast been accustomed to succor and help thy elect people at what time they were miserably afflicted. Therefore do we not only lift up our sorrowful hands unto thy divine Majesty, but endeavor ourselves so much as in us lieth for to have thee deliver thy blessed church from the hands of her outrageous enemies: directing us so with thy good spirit, that we may hereafter execute those things faithfully which are right and holy, according to thy divine will and pleasure, being conveyed out of this present distress by thy good guidance, and quickened with thy ready help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) The infirmity of our righteousness (O most good and merciful God) is of such force, as those which be instructed with thy blessed spirit, know very well that it is not able to stand before thy judgment seat: when as therefore we do consider our lewd deserts, our spirit fadeth away, and our heart waxeth amazed. But we have recourse out of hand to thy infinite mercy, who do heartily acknowledge and earnestly confess that our righteousness proceedeth not of ourselves, but cometh from thee only: so that we (being stayed up and confirmed by

this steadfast faith) do lamentably require thy favorable assistance in the dangerous perils of this wretched life. For, unless thou putttest to thy ready helping hand, we do utterly despair of our salvation. Show us the way wherein we may walk without danger, and teach us after what manner we may accomplish thy blessed will, and rule all our thoughts and deeds by the help of thy holy spirit which proceedeth from thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 144: AGAINST WICKED DOCTRINE AND IDOLATROUS WORSHIPPING

(Prayer 1) We unfeignedly confess (O most good and merciful God) that all warlike force and policy proceedeth from thee only, who bestowest the same at thy will and pleasure, upon such as thou wilt: forsomuch as therefore we ascribe all power and victory to thy blessed name, we take thee only to be our strong Castell, invincible Tower, unremovable rock, and mighty shield. For although we right well perceive that man of his own nature is a thing of naught in respect of that he should be acknowledged of thee, and we to have sinned so heinously, as we are altogether unworthy that thou shouldst make any accompt at all of us, but having nevertheless assured confidence in thy unspeakable mercy, we are bold to direct our hearty prayers unto thy divine Majesty, in this our most difficult and troublesome time, requiring thee to show forth thy mighty power from heaven for our deliverance, by scattering and dispersing of our cruel enemies. Stretch out thy puissant hand (we humbly beseech thee) and rid us from the layings await of ungodly persons. It is thou which hast sent help unto kings and princes that put their whole confidence in thee, by the delivering not of David only, but also through the often setting at liberty of very many of the ancient fathers from noisome mishappes and extreme perils. Forsomuch as therefore thou hast always endued thy faithful servants with innumerable and most excellent benefits, as well temporal as spiritual things, that is to wit, a plentiful issue, flocks of sheep, riches and honor, insomuch as all people might easily judge the nation blessed which took thee for their God. Reject not now thy sacred Church:

for, seeing that thou knowest the great afflictions, wonderful perils, and marvelous distress she is in, make speed to help her, neither permit the enemies of thy glorious name to lay the same waste: and grant that she, being at length delivered from these evils, may sing new songs unto thee, and extol thy excellent name with perpetual praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) There is none other force (O most good and merciful God) besides thine, wherein thy faithful people may have their rock, their fortress, shield and place of refuge in a readiness. But should thy godliness make any accompt of us who be vile dwarfish men? For both we and all our doings shall fade away like a shadow and mere vain thing, unless thou of thy excellent mercy be present and deliverest us, from the dangers that are without measure laid everywhere for us: who then can otherwise escape the subtle crafts and wily imaginations wherewith the enemies of mankind doth daily assail us? Our earnest desire is therefore to have thee lay to thy helping hand, whereby we may diverse times celebrate thy worthy praises with new songs and ditties. Neither do we only require this, that those things may thrive with us which appertain to this life and a worldly prosperity: for, although these commonly be of great weight, yet do we accompt it a greater blessedness, if thou verily wilt so show thyself to be our god, as in deed thou art, through Jesus Christ thy son, who liveth and reigneth with thee evermore world without end. Amen.

PSALM 145: FOR THE GLORIFYING OF GOD'S WORKS IN US WITH THE PRESERVATION OF THE CHURCH AND COMFORT OF THE FAITHFUL

Thy worthiness is so noble and excellent, O almighty God, as our searching (be it never so exactly done) can in no wise comprehend the same. Yet we certainly understand this by faith, that thou art exceeding merciful, and so aboundest therewith, as it is very long before thy heavy wrath be kindled. For such is thy unspeakable goodness, that nothing can be found either among the creatures which thou hast made, or in the government of the world, but that thy singular

clemency appeareth in the same. Forsomuch as therefore we know assuredly that the sacred Church which is thy glorious kingdom, shall endure forever, we earnestly require thee to uphold the same continually, when as it is like to fall, to raise it up when it seemeth most pressed down, by feeding all thy people in time convenient with thy blessed word, and satisfying all such (with thy liberal grace) as repose their whole trust in thee: neither suffer these men's prayers to be in vain which with a pure and unfeigned heart call upon thy most holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 146: FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGING OF OUR DUTIES IN PRAISING GOD AND TRUSTING IN HIM, OF OUR WEAKNESS, AND OF GOD'S PROTECTION OVER ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE

Thou right well deservest (O most good and merciful God) that we should continually extol thy worthy praises from the bottom of our heart and with a right pure mind, neither can we practice anything in this life more noble or of greater profit. In thee only ought we to repose our whole trust, and not in men be they never so famous and puissant: for their body is easily dissolved, their soul is soon breathed out, and their imaginations are of none effect. But thou (who hast created the whole world) dost confirm thy faithful promises with everlasting truth in revenging the oppressed, satisfying the hungry, delivering the fettered out of prison, giving sight to the blind, recomforting the heavy hearted, favoring the righteous, defending the strangers, fatherless children, and widows, and also in disappointing the lewd wiles, sly crafts, and subtle deceits of ungodly persons. Seeing that all these things be thy wondrous works, and are seen of us continually, they do marvelously establish our wavering faith. And therefore, being stirred up by them, we do earnestly beseech thee both to govern and also preserve the Church (which is thy blessed kingdom) among the waves of this wretched world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 147: THAT THE WORD OF GOD MAY BE A GREAT FORCE IN US

We are bound to render exceeding great praise (O most mighty god) to thy glorious Majesty, who do evidently perceive that thou healest those which are broken in heart, exaltest them that be meek, and bringest the ungodly even unto hell. There is no force able to encounter with thy puissance: which rulest the stars, and callest them forth by name for the accomplishing of thy blessed will, as though they were thy sheep or servants. Thou therefore that bringest forth clouds, rain, and hay, which dost feed cattle and young Ravens, and preservest such as fear thee, without the help either of footmen or horsemen: look upon thy blessed Church, we humbly beseech thee, fortify it against her enemies, and indue her children with continual peace. Suffer it not to pine away for lack of the food of thy blessed word: and even as by thy word thou sendest forth snow, ice, and hore frost, dissolving the same incontinent with a puff of wind when it seemeth good in thy sight, even so with thy gracious favor, cause thou those adversities which thou procurest for a time to exercise her withal, to vanish speedily away. And thou (who hast not dealt in such wise with other nations as to reveal the mysteries of thy sacred scriptures unto them, grant that we may use them to our souls health, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 148: THAT GOD MAY BE COMMENDED IN ALL HIS CREATURES

(Prayer 1) Seeing that the monuments of thy excellent goodness and invincible power in all things which thou hast created (O almighty God) be far and near so famous and notable: the setting out of thy worthy praises in them, seemeth wonderful and in a manner singular, if so be that any man doth deeply well consider the heavenly minds, the Sun, Moon, Stars, and workmanship of the Skies, none other thing shall be found there, then a mere commendation of thy loving favor and unspeakable wisdom. All which things, seeing that the clouds, rain, thunder, winds, hills, plants, living creatures, with the whole

universal work both of nature, and of civil ordinance, whereby common wealths be governed amongst men, do manifest the same unto us: it is a thing to be wondered at, how we should be so cold in this behalf, that being so pricked forward and stirred up with all things, should keep silence and become almost as dumb persons in publishing of thy worthy praises, yea (and which ought to seem more hard and grievous) instead of praising and glorifying thy excellent name which we owe unto thy divine Majesty for so great benefits as thou hast bestowed upon us, we have requited thee with slanders, reproaches, and blasphemies: which things (although we do not pronounce in express words) yet notwithstanding, forsomuch as we have so sore defiled ourselves with the most filthy spots of sin, dishonored thy holy doctrine, and by our lewd examples have called others back from the praising of thy blessed name, we dare not be so bold as to speak of thy commendation, and therefore worthily are our calamities made every day more grievous then other. But our earnest request is (O good God) that thou wouldst swerve nothing at all in this most sorrowful time from thy accustomed goodness and loving mercy: who know thee very well to be of sufficient force for to vanquish all manner of things that be repugnant to thy blessed will, which puissance of thine is in no wise shaken of, albeit thou hast thought good to hide it for a time, to the intent we should understand how sore we have sinned. Vouchsafe now therefore that thy blessed Church may (according to thy faithful promises) both enjoy and also retain all good things which make to the glorifying of thy blessed name, even as it deserveth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Thy immeasurable goodness, infinite power, and excellent wisdom (O most mighty God) hath after a wonderful sort set forth itself in all things which thou hast created for our sakes. Wherefore it is not without just cause said that every creature doth publish thy glorious renown, for they have not come to light of their own proper nature: but to the intent they should be, they were called out by thee, and afterward when they were made, thou didst not stablish them any otherwise then by thy sacred commandment, who do observe the laws which thou hast appointed, neither pass they the certain and decreed bounds that be limited them. All which things so long as we do daily behold with

diligence, it is very requisite that we should be stirred up to magnify thy blessed name, because in them thy own only workmanship cometh to our sight and remembrance: whereupon we, being moved hereby, do as now fly unto thee for succor, whom we have learned to be the author of so great and manifold good things, whose earnest desire is, that thou wouldst lift up the horn of thy mighty power unto thy beloved people being thy blessed Church, so as she may have sufficient ability to withstand all the force of hell, and be linked daily more and more unto thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 149: FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

(Prayer 1) Eight worthy art thou (O almighty God) to whom new songs should continually be sung in the sacred Church, and whose praise should be set out in the Congregation of Saints. For can it be that such as are thy faithful people will not publish thee their king and maker, doing the same not only with heart and voice, but also with every outward instrument prepared for the same purpose. Seeing then that thou oughtest to be so greatly commended and highly magnified for thy nature, goodness, and excellent benefits extended towards us, be not so greatly provoked at our heinous sins, as to chastise us in thy fury: pardon us, (we humbly beseech thee) for thy infinite mercies sake, when we turn unto thee, and lamentably crave thy ready help by continual prayer. But if thou have so good a liking of thy blessed people as thou hast oftentimes affirmed, then assist and garnish them with thy ready help in so great an extremity. Give us this cause of exalting thy glorious name, which may be evermore in the mouth of thy faithful servants. For we doubt not but thou canst be revenged of the nations and people that blaspheme thee, and bind the kings and princes (who be adversaries to thy blessed religion) with fetters and links of Iron, by executing most severe justice upon them. Our earnest desire is therefore that thou wouldst either convert them unto thee with the two edged sword of thy blessed word, or if it seemeth not good in thy fight so to do, remove the same far from our necks, that all men may right well perceive what great things thou dost for such as commit

themselves wholly to thee, and be desirous to celebrate thy worthy praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Forsomuch as thou hast from time to time (O most mighty God) blessed us with new benefits, it is very requisite (unless we will become utterly unmindful of our bounden duty) that we should daily with fresh ditties and new songs give thanks to thy blessed name in the congregation of the faithful. For what end shall we make of praising thee, whom in all things and at all times we feel to be our maker and perfect king of our salvation? Certainly seeing that we right well perceive thee to be so favorable to the faithful, and dost garnish such as be godly with most plentiful gifts, it is requisite that we should utter tokens of a right thankful mind, in thought, word, and work, and with all instruments, means, and ways wherewith that thing may best be done. And to the intent this thing may be the better accomplished of us, put into the hands of our heart, the sword of thy blessed word, whereby we may take vengeance of the flesh, wicked vices, and lewd desires, which do in a manner destroy us, and so to bridle and keep under sin which is natural unto us, that it may be deposed from the tyranny which he executeth upon the children of Adam, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 150: THAT WE MAY PRAISE GOD WITH A CHEERFUL HEART

(Prayer 1) When as all things which thou hast created (O almighty God) praise thee, they do not only that which is due to thy famous honor and glorious renown, but also they work most wonderfully and abundantly their own perfection: for there is nothing which we can do of more excellency, then to celebrate thee as being the original and end of all good things, whose immeasurable benefits we feel daily poured upon us. But neither can we sufficiently enough perceive them, nor yet thy infinite goodness, so long as we be here oppressed with the most grievous burden of our heinous sins, and borne down by reason thereof, with an exceeding great weight of afflictions, so that a man must needs

unskillfully praise the thing which he knoweth not. We do therefore earnestly require thee (O mighty God) even from the bottom of the heart, to disburden us of the fardell of our corrupt naughtiness, which being laid down, we mistrust not but the darkness of present calamities shall be driven away from the sacred Church, so that she may lift up her eyes to her maker and redeemer, who (wondering as well at the riches of thy excellent goodness, as of the unspeakable wisdom) shall magnify thee with most high praises, as meet it is. But now verily, so sorrowful and lamentable things do encounter us everywhere, that we see nothing towards us saving thy wrathful indignation: which as we deny not ourselves to have deserved, so we earnestly desire and heartily pray thee, to withdraw the same from us at length, to the intent we may be stirred up to the worthy praising of thy glorious name, not only in words, but with all tunable instruments meet to lift up our minds unto thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer 2) Like as the holiness and magnificence of thy excellent name (O most mighty God) is continually celebrated in the glorious Sanctuary of such as be blessed and spiritually minded, which thing may be done so much the more excellentlier of them, for that they behold the secretness of thy Majesty both nearer and perfectlier: even so is it meet also that mortal men should always addict themselves to extol thy worthy praises: who see the immeasurable treasure of thy excellent goodness, mighty power, and incomprehensible wisdom to be daily manifested, both in heaven and in all creatures. But above all others, this belongeth to our charge, who (being illumined with faith and with thy heavenly spirit) do understand more of thy divine mysteries out of the holy Scriptures, then nature is able to set forth with all her beautiful furniture: and therefore (we humbly beseech thee) to stir up our sinful hearts in such wise, as we may worship thee with most pure praises and exceeding fervent petitions, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.