

Morning to Evening Prayer

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live.”

John 11:25



*Seeking the renewing of lives through God's compelling love in
Lynchburg and the world*

Introduction to Morning to Evening Prayer

Christ is risen! He is risen Indeed! The resurrection of Jesus affirms the victory of Jesus over Satan, sacrifice over sin, life over death, and hope over despair. In the resurrection, we have a foretaste of future resurrection of the believer's body and the world. We celebrate the season of Easter for seven weeks of joy until Pentecost because His resurrection perfectly finished the work of salvation for us. Alleluia, Christ has won. Alleluia, Christ reigns!

Psalm 92 encourages a regular rhythm of prayer from morning to evening. ¹"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; ²to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night. ³to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. ⁴For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy,"

As we pray in the morning, we pray with the assurance of God's love and seek His loving guidance each day. We seek direction from the Word of God as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). This Word of God dwells richly inside us as we pray it in the morning. Midday we continue to seek the Lord in order to make the most of our remaining time with insight and wisdom.

We end the evening with thankfulness for God's faithfulness, reflecting on all His work throughout the day. Remembering God's faithfulness, we often realize our unfaithfulness. As we confess our sins, God forgives and cleanses us through Christ's atoning work, His sacrifice for our sin. We respond with thankfulness for His mercy.

In the Rhythm for Morning to Evening Prayer, you will see the different elements of the Morning, Midday, and Evening Prayer Guides. The bullet points under each element describes how to practice each one. There is a new guide for each week of the month to follow each day: morning, midday, and evening. Daily there is a new morning and evening Psalm, morning Scripture, and midday proverb. The Sunday Catechism can be found in the index section in the back (pg. 35ff). You may use this guide individually or with a group by having a leader read the plain text and everyone read the bold. This pattern of prayer helps us to be glad in the work of the Lord and to sing for joy in His presence as we seek His guidance.

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Rhythm for Morning to Evening Prayer

Morning Prayer Guide:¹

† **PSALM PRAYER:** Ephesians 5:18-20 (*see Psalm Index*)

- Praise God for His character and work in the Psalm.
- Seek God based on the words of the Psalm.

† **SCRIPTURE READING** 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (*see Scripture Index*)

- Adoration: Read and adore God for His great character and kingdom clarified in the verse.
- Meditation: Read and consider key phrases, prepositions, people, plots, connections, and redemptive themes.
- Confession: Read and confess ways you do not reflect God's character and kingdom in the verse.
- Thanksgiving: Read and give thanks for God's grace, forgiveness, and help in or around the verse. (foreshadowed/promised in the OT & fulfilled in Christ's life, death and resurrection in the NT)
- Supplication: Read and seek God's guidance in applying the text. Write down the application.

† **THE GLORIA** Ephesians 1:3

- Sing praise to our Triune God for His holiness, greatness, and presence.

† **THE CREED** Titus 1:9

- Hold firm to the trustworthy Word and sound doctrine taught.

† **THE LORD'S PRAYER** Luke 11:1-4

- Recite the Lord's Prayer so that your personal prayer might be shaped by the structure of the Lord's Prayer.

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Colossians 4:2

(Pray Forward into the day)

- Pray forward into the day, focusing on your schedule, concerns of the day, and updated prayer list.

† **PROMISE FOR THE DAY** 2 Corinthians 1:20

- Trust in God's promise of His daily presence and provision as you live out God's mission for the day.

¹ For Shortened Prayer: Scripture Reading, Lord's Prayer, Personal Prayer, Promise for the Day

Midday Prayer Guide

† **PSALM PRAYER** Ephesians 5:18-20
- *Praise God's character/work & seek God based on the Psalm.*

† PROVERBS PRAYER

- *Pray for God's wisdom to guide you for the rest of the day.*

Evening Prayer Guide²

† **PSALM PRAYER** Ephesians 5:18-20 (*see Psalm Index*)
- *Praise God's character/work & seek God based on the Psalm.*

† **CONFESSION** 1 John 1:9
- *Consider your daily activities, attitudes, and interactions and confess any sinful ways you broke God's law or failed to fully obey God's law.*

† **GOSPEL PROMISE** Psalm 32:5
- *Remember the promise of Christ's forgiveness through His life, death, and resurrection.*

† **THANKSGIVING PRAYERS** Psalm 136:1
- *Rejoice in Christ's forgiveness, reflect on your day, and give thanks for the many blessings and opportunities of the day.*

† **SONG OF PRAISE** Psalm 103:1-3
- *Sing praise to God because all blessings come from Him.*

† **SUNDAY CATECHISM** Titus 1:9 (*see Catechism Index*)
- *Hold firm to the trustworthy Word and sound doctrine taught.*

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Colossians 4:2
(*Pray Backward over the day*)
- *Pray back over your day concerning events and interactions you experienced throughout the day.*

† **PROMISE FOR THE NIGHT** 2 Corinthians 1:20
- *Trust in God's promise of rest and care for the night hours*

² For Shortened Prayer: Psalm Prayer & Personal Prayer

Morning Prayer Guide 04/12-04/18

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life!

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouths will declare Your praise.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† SCRIPTURE READING (*see Scripture Index*)

In Your steadfast love give us life, that we may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.

Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

(Read Scripture: Adore, Meditate, Confess, Give Thanks, Pray)

† THE GLORIA “Alleluia! Alleluia” (*Ebenezer*)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;

Alleluia to the Savior, Who has won the victory;

Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity.

Alleluia! Alleluia to the Triune Majesty.

† THE CREED 1 Corinthians 15:1-6

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

† THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Ephesians 1:16-18

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him,

¹⁸ **having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe.**

(Pray Forward into the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE DAY** Ephesians 3:20-21

Resurrect our hope in Jesus, renew our character, and restore our world!

“²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Midday Prayer Guide 04/12-04/18

† **PSALM PRAYER** *(see Psalm Index-Morning Psalm)*

Be gracious to us, O Lord, for to You do we cry all the day.

Gladden the soul of Your servants, for to You, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

(Read portion of Morning Psalm and pray)

† **PROVERBS PRAYER** *(see Proverbs Index)*

So teach us to number our days

that we may get a heart of wisdom.

(Read Proverbs and pray)

Evening Prayer Guide 04/12-04/18

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory.

(*Read Psalm and pray*)

† CONFESSION

Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned Him Lord of all.

We confess that we have not bowed before Him or acknowledged His rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give Him glory.

(*Confess personal sin*)

Forgive and raise us from sin, that we may be faithful to You;

Obedying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who rules the world and is head of the church, His body. Amen.

† GOSPEL PROMISE John 11:25-26

† THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

† SONG OF PRAISE “In Christ Alone”

**“In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.”

† **SUNDAY CATECHISM** (*see Catechism Index*)

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Ephesians 1:16-20

¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him,

¹⁸**having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe.**

(Pray Backward over the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE NIGHT** Psalm 4:7-8

⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Morning Prayer Guide 04/19-04/25

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life!

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouths will declare Your praise.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† SCRIPTURE READING (*see Scripture Index*)

In Your steadfast love give us life, that we may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.

Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

(Read Scripture: Adore, Meditate, Confess, Give Thanks, Pray)

† THE GLORIA “Gloria Patri” (*Greatorex*)

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end! A—men, A—men!

† THE CREED The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

† THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Colossians 3:1

If then you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

(Pray Forward into the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE DAY** 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Resurrect our hope in Jesus, renew our character, and restore our world!
¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Midday Prayer Guide 04/19-04/25

† **PSALM PRAYER** *(see Psalm Index-Morning Psalm)*

Be gracious to us, O Lord, for to You do we cry all the day.
Gladden the soul of Your servants, for to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls.

(Read portion of Morning Psalm and pray)

† **PROVERBS PRAYER** *(see Proverbs Index)*

So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

(Read Proverbs and pray)

Evening Prayer Guide 04/19-04/25

† PSALM PRAYER *(see Psalm Index)*

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† CONFESSION

Father, You have transferred us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Though Your kingdom is glorious and good, we confess that we busy ourselves building our own kingdom.

Rather than speaking of the glory of Your kingdom and power, **we boast of our own accomplishments and rely on our own strength.**

Rather than seeking to advance Your kingdom in love towards others,

we feel inconvenienced by their needs and become angry when their needs disrupt our plans.

Rather than trusting and submitting to Your agenda for our life, **we pursue our own agenda with our relationships, our words, our finances, and our time.**

(Confess personal sin)

Forgive us for our selfish living and prideful rebellion.

Transform us by Your Spirit to become Your imitators of love through Christ the King. Amen

† GOSPEL PROMISE Romans 5:16-17

† THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

† SONG OF PRAISE “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

**But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

† **SUNDAY CATECHISM** (*see Catechism Index*)

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Colossians 3:1

If then you have been raised with Christ,
**seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand
of God.**

(Pray Backward over the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE NIGHT** Psalm 4:7-8

⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Morning Prayer Guide 04/26-05/02

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life!

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouths will declare Your praise.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† SCRIPTURE READING (*see Scripture Index*)

In Your steadfast love give us life, that we may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.

Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

(Read Scripture: Adore, Meditate, Confess, Give Thanks, Pray)

† THE GLORIA “Praise and Glory to the Father” (*Regent Square*)

Praise and glory to the Father, praise and glory to the Son,

Praise and glory to the Spirit: ever Three and ever One;

One in might and One in glory, while unending ages run!

† THE CREED Philippians 2:4-11

“⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

† THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Psalm 17:6-7

“6 I call upon You, for You will answer me, O God; incline Your ear to me; hear my words.

7 Wondrously show Your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at Your right hand.

(Pray Forward into the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE DAY** 2 Thessalonians 2:16

Resurrect our hope in Jesus, renew our character, and restore our world!

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, Who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,

17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Midday Prayer Guide 04/26-05/02

† **PSALM PRAYER** *(see Psalm Index-Morning Psalm)*

Be gracious to us, O Lord, for to You do we cry all the day.

Gladden the soul of Your servants, for to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls.

(Read portion of Morning Psalm and pray)

† **PROVERBS PRAYER** *(see Proverbs Index)*

So teach us to number our days

that we may get a heart of wisdom.

(Read Proverbs and pray)

Evening Prayer Guide 04/26-05/02

† **PSALM PRAYER** (*see Psalm Index*)

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory.

(*Read Psalm and pray*)

† **CONFESSION**

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults.

(*Confess personal sin*)

Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for His sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

† **GOSPEL PROMISE** Romans 5:18-19

† **THANKSGIVING PRAYERS**

† **SONG OF PRAISE** “Rejoice the Lord is King” Vss. 1-4

**Rejoice, the Lord is King;
Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:**

Chorus:

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**Jesus, the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above:**

Chorus:

**His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:**

Chorus:

**He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command
And fall beneath his feet:**

Chorus:

† **SUNDAY CATECHISM** (*see Catechism Index*)

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Psalm 17:6-7

“⁶I call upon You, for You will answer me, O God; incline Your ear to me; hear my words.

⁷**Wondrously show Your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek
refuge from their adversaries at Your right hand.**

† **PROMISE FOR THE NIGHT** Psalm 4:7-8

⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Morning Prayer Guide 05/03-05/09

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life!

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouths will declare Your praise.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† SCRIPTURE READING (*see Scripture Index*)

In Your steadfast love give us life, that we may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.

Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

(Read Scripture: Adore, Meditate, Confess, Give Thanks, Pray)

† THE GLORIA “Glorify Your Name” (*Adkins*)

FATHER, we love You, we praise You, we adore You: Glorify Your name in all the earth! Glorify Your name, glorify Your name, glorify Your name in all the earth!

(Repeat, using: JESUS and SPIRIT)

† THE CREED The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

by Whom all things were made; Who, for us and our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

† **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

(Pray Forward into the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE DAY** Jude 1:20

Resurrect our hope in Jesus, renew our character, and restore our world!

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Midday Prayer Guide 05/03-05/09

† **PSALM PRAYER** *(see Psalm Index-Morning Psalm)*

Be gracious to us, O Lord, for to You do we cry all the day.

Gladden the soul of Your servants, for to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls.

(Read portion of Morning Psalm and pray)

† **PROVERBS PRAYER** *(see Proverbs Index)*

So teach us to number our days

that we may get a heart of wisdom.

(Read Proverbs and pray)

Evening Prayer Guide 05/03-05/09

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory.

(*Read Psalm and pray*)

† CONFESSION

Our Faithful God of covenant love, You have saved us as Your people to be a community of love.

But we confess we so often fail to love as Your people.

You call us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us for the glory of God.

But we have rejected one another and shut our hearts from hospitality.

You call us to strengthen the bonds of unity.

But we break apart those bonds with gossip, jealousy, envy, slander, criticism and harsh words.

(*Confess personal sin*)

God of endurance and encouragement, forgive us our sins and failure to love.

Grant us grace to live in harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus.

† GOSPEL PROMISE Colossians 2:13-15

† THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

† SONG OF PRAISE “To God Be the Glory”

To God be the glory, great things He has done!

So loved He the world that He gave us his Son,

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life gate that we may go in.

Chorus:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

And give Him the glory, great things He has done!

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.**

Chorus

**Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

Chorus

† **SUNDAY CATECHISM** (*see Catechism Index*)

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
(*Pray Backward over the day*)

† **PROMISE FOR THE NIGHT** Psalm 4:7-8

⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**⁸In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Morning Prayer Guide 05/10-05/16

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life!

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouths will declare Your praise.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† SCRIPTURE READING (*see Scripture Index*)

In Your steadfast love give us life, that we may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

(Read Scripture: Adore, Meditate, Confess, Give Thanks, Pray)

† THE GLORIA “Gloria Patri” (*Greatorex*)

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end! A—men, A—men!

† THE CREED Colossians 1:15-20

“¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.”

† THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Deuteronomy 4:29

But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find Him,
if you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul.
(Pray Forward into the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE DAY** Romans 16:25-27

Resurrect our hope in Jesus, renew our character, and restore our world!
²⁵ Now to Him Who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Midday Prayer Guide 05/10-05/16

† **PSALM PRAYER** *(see Psalm Index-Morning Psalm)*

Be gracious to us, O Lord, for to You do we cry all the day.
Gladden the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls.
(Read portion of Morning Psalm and pray)

† **PROVERBS PRAYER** *(see Proverbs Index)*

So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
(Read Proverbs and pray)

Evening Prayer Guide 05/10-05/16

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† CONFESSION

Righteous God, Your eyes are too pure to look on evil and Your holiness too great to look at wrong.

We confess our hearts are too impure to see good and our sin too great to discern holiness. We have corrupted hearts and minds which have corrupted our actions. We wear filthy garments outside because we have filthy hearts inside. Though we try to wash ourselves, the stain of our guilt is still before us. We acknowledge our guilt before You, that we have rebelled against the LORD our God. Lord have mercy.

(Confess personal sins)

Forgive our many sins and take away our guilt through Christ.

Remove our filthy garments of sin and clothe us with Christ's righteousness on the inside and outside.

GOSPEL PROMISE 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

† THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

† SONG OF PRAISE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Vss. 1-4

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear,

Now to His temple draw near,

Join me in glad adoration.

**Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!**

Hast thou not seen

How thy desires e'er have been

Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!

Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;

Ponder anew

What the Almighty will do,

If with His love He befriend thee!

**Praise thou the Lord, Who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief
Hath not He brought thee relief,
Spreading His wings to o'ershade thee!**

† **SUNDAY CATECHISM** (*see Catechism Index*)

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Deuteronomy 4:29

But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find Him,
if you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul.
(*Pray Backward over the day*)

† **PROMISE FOR THE NIGHT** Psalm 4:7-8

⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
⁸**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Morning Prayer Guide 05/17-05/23

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life!

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouths will declare Your praise.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† SCRIPTURE READING (*see Scripture Index*)

In Your steadfast love give us life, that we may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.

Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

(Read Scripture: Adore, Meditate, Confess, Give Thanks, Pray)

† THE GLORIA “Alleluia! Alleluia” (*Ebenezer*)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;

Alleluia to the Savior, Who has won the victory;

Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity.

Alleluia! Alleluia to the Triune Majesty.

† THE CREED The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

† THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** 1 John 5:14-15

¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

(Pray Forward into the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE DAY** Isaiah 41:10

Resurrect our hope in Jesus, renew our character, and restore our world!

“fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Midday Prayer Guide 05/17-05/23

† **PSALM PRAYER** *(see Psalm Index-Morning Psalm)*

Be gracious to us, O Lord, for to You do we cry all the day.

Gladden the soul of Your servants, for to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls.

(Read portion of Morning Psalm and pray)

† **PROVERBS PRAYER** *(see Proverbs Index)*

So teach us to number our days

that we may get a heart of wisdom.

(Read Proverbs and pray)

Evening Prayer Guide 05/17-05/23

† PSALM PRAYER *(see Psalm Index)*

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† CONFESSION

Lord of host, You have called us to render true judgments, to show kindness and mercy to one another, and to not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner or poor, and to not devise evil against another in our heart.

But we have thrown off justice and righteousness, we have acted harsh and hurtful, and have schemed wickedness. Forgive us for refusing to pay attention, for turning a stubborn shoulder, and for stopping our ears that we might not hear. We have made our hearts as hard as diamonds.

Lord have mercy on us.

(Confess personal sin)

Forgive us our sin through Christ's blood and renew our hearts by the Spirit's presence.

Cause us to walk in Your statutes and to be careful to obey Your rules.

† GOSPEL PROMISE Romans 6:5-7

† THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

† SONG OF PRAISE "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" Vss 1-3

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To His feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me, His praise should sing?
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise Him for His grace and favor
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Glorious in His faithfulness.**

Father-like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes;
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Widely as His mercy goes.

† SUNDAY CATECHISM (*see Catechism Index*)

† PERSONAL PRAYER 1 John 5:14-15

¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

(Pray Backward over the day)

† PROMISE FOR THE NIGHT Psalm 4:7-8

⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**⁸In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Morning Prayer Guide 05/24-05/30

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life!

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouths will declare Your praise.

(Read Psalm and pray)

† SCRIPTURE READING (*see Scripture Index*)

In Your steadfast love give us life, that we may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.

Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

(Read Scripture: Adore, Meditate, Confess, Give Thanks, Pray)

† THE GLORIA “Praise and Glory to the Father” (*Regent Square*)

Praise and glory to the Father, praise and glory to the Son,

Praise and glory to the Spirit: ever Three and ever One;

One in might and One in glory, while unending ages run!

† THE CREED Colossians 1:15-20

“¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.”

† THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Psalm 86:6-7

⁶ Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

⁷ **In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me.**

(Pray Forward into the day)

† **PROMISE FOR THE DAY** Philippians 1:6

Resurrect our hope in Jesus, renew our character, and restore our world!

“And I am sure of this, that He Who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

Midday Prayer Guide 05/24-05/30

† **PSALM PRAYER** *(see Psalm Index-Morning Psalm)*

Be gracious to us, O Lord, for to You do we cry all the day.

Gladden the soul of Your servants, for to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls.

(Read portion of Morning Psalm and pray)

† **PROVERBS PRAYER** *(see Proverbs Index)*

So teach us to number our days

that we may get a heart of wisdom.

(Read Proverbs and pray)

Evening Prayer Guide 05/24-05/30

† PSALM PRAYER (*see Psalm Index*)

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory.

(*Read Psalm and pray*)

† CONFESSION

We rejoice greatly and shout aloud that you Jesus have come in humility to save us from our sin.

We groan greatly and lament deeply our sin that crucified our Savior.

You save us as Your flock, and You lead us as our shepherd.

But we reject Your grace too often and go astray to our own way.

How great is Your goodness and how great is Your beauty.

How great is our wretchedness and how ugly is our sin. Lord have mercy on us.

(*Confess personal sin*)

Forgive us and cleanse us of our sin through Christ, our Lord.

Strengthen us, have compassion on us, and restore us in Your righteousness.

† GOSPEL PROMISE 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

† THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

† SONG OF PRAISE “Jesus, I am Resting, Resting” Vss. 1-3

Jesus, I am resting, resting

In the joy of what thou art;

I am finding out the greatness

Of Thy loving heart.

Thou hast bid me gaze upon thee,

As Thy beauty fills my soul,

For by Thy transforming power,

Thou hast made me whole.

Chorus:

Jesus, I am resting, resting

In the joy of what Thou art;

I am finding out the greatness

Of Thy loving heart.

**O how great Thy lovingkindness,
Vaster, broader than the sea!
O how marvelous Thy goodness
Lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved,
Know what wealth of grace is Thine,
Know Thy certainty of promise
And have made it mine.**

Chorus

**Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
I behold Thee as Thou art,
And Thy love, so pure, so changeless,
Satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings,
Meets, supplies its every need,
Compasseth me round with blessings:
Thine is love indeed.**

Chorus

† **SUNDAY CATECHISM** (*see Catechism Index*)

† **PERSONAL PRAYER** Psalm 86:6-7

⁶ Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

⁷ **In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me.**
(*Pray Backward over the day*)

† **PROMISE FOR THE NIGHT** Psalm 4:7-8

⁷ You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

⁸ **In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

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Catechism Index

Westminster Confession of Faith

Instructions: The Westminster Confession of Faith is divided by multiple topics (e.g. Of the Holy Scripture) indicated by the chapter number. The theology is then explained in confession statements broken down into different roman numeral points. For each Roman numeral confession statement you will find various Bible texts which support the statement. Read the whole chapter for the Sunday date then explore any support verses.

04/12 Chapter 12

Of Adoption

I. All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for His only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption:(a) by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God,(b) have His name put upon them,(c) receive the spirit of adoption,(d) have access to the throne of grace with boldness,(e) are enabled to cry, Abba, Father,(f) are pitied,(g) protected,(h) provided for,(i) and chastened by Him as by a Father;(k) yet never cast off,(l) but sealed to the day of redemption,(m) and inherit the promises,(n) as heirs of everlasting salvation.(o)

(a) Eph. 1:5.

(b) Gal. 4:4, 5; Rom. 8:17; John 1:12.

(c) Jer. 14:9; II Cor. 6:18; Rev. 3:12.

(d) Rom. 8:15.

(e) Eph. 3:12; Rom. 5:2.

(f) Gal. 4:6.

(g) Ps. 103:13.

(h) Prov. 14:26.

(i) Matt. 6:30, 32; I Pet. 5:7.

(k) Heb. 12:6.

(l) Lam. 3:31.

(m) Eph. 4:30.

(n) Heb. 6:12.

(o) I Pet. 1:3, 4; Heb. 1:14.

04/19 Chapter 13

Of Sanctification.

I. They who are once effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection,(a) by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them:(b) the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed,(c) and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified;(d) and they more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces,(e) to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.(f)

(a) I Cor. 6:11; Acts 20:32; Phil. 3:10; Rom. 6:5, 6.

(b) John 17:17; Eph. 5:26; II Thess. 2:13.

(c) Rom. 6:6, 14.

(d) Gal. 5:24; Rom. 8:13.

(e) Col. 1:11; Eph. 3:16, 17, 18, 19.

(f) II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14.

II. This sanctification is throughout, in the whole man;(g) yet imperfect in this life, there abiding still some remnants of corruption in every part:(h) whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.(i)

(g) I Thess. 5:23.

(h) I John 1:10; Rom. 7:18, 23; Phil. 3:12.

(i) Gal. 5:17; I Pet. 2:11.

III. In which war, although the remaining corruption, for a time, may much prevail;(k) yet through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome;(l) and so, the saints grow in grace,(m) perfecting holiness in the fear of God.(n)

(k) Rom. 7:23.

(l) Rom. 6:14; I John 5:4; Eph. 4:15, 16.

(m) II Pet. 3:18; II Cor. 3:18.

(n) II Cor. 7:1.

04/26 Chapter 14

Of Saving Faith.

I. The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls,(a) is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts;(b) and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word:(c) by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.(d)

(a) Heb. 10:39.

(b) II Cor. 4:13; Eph. 1:17, 18, 19; Eph. 2:8.

(c) Rom. 10:14, 17.

(d) I Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32; Rom. 4:11; Luke 17:5; Rom. 1:16, 17.

II. By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God Himself speaking therein;(e) and acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands,(f) trembling at the threatenings,(g) and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come.(h) But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.(i)

(e) John 4:42; I Thess. 2:13; I John 5:10; Acts 24:14.

(f) Rom. 16:26.

(g) Isa. 66:2.

(h) Heb. 11:13; I Tim. 4:8.

(i) John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Gal. 2:20; Acts 15:11.

III. This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong;(k) may be often and many ways assailed, and weakened, but gets the victory;(l) growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ,(m) who is both the author and finisher of our faith.(n)

(k) Heb. 5:13, 14; Rom. 4:19, 20; Matt. 6:30; Matt. 8:10.

(l) Luke 22:31, 32; Eph. 6:16; I John 5:4, 5.

(m) Heb. 6:11, 12; Heb. 10:22; Col. 2:2.

(n) Heb. 12:2.

05/03 Chapter 15

Of Repentance unto Life.

I. Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace,(a) the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the Gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ.(b)

(a) Zech. 12:10; Acts 11:18.

(b) Luke 24:47; Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21.

II. By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of his mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God,(c) purposing and endeavoring to walk with Him in all the ways of His commandments.(d)

(c) Ezek. 18:30, 31; Ezek. 36:31; Isa. 30:22; Ps. 51:4; Jer. 31:18, 19; Joel 2:12, 13; Amos 5:15; Ps. 119:128; II Cor. 7:11.
(d) Ps. 119:6, 59, 106; Luke 1:6; II Kings 23:25.

III. Although repentance be not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of the pardon thereof,(e) which is the act of God's free grace in Christ;(f) yet is it of such necessity to all sinners, that none may expect pardon without it.(g)

(e) Ezek. 36:31, 32; Ezek. 16:61, 62, 63.
(f) Hosea 14:2, 4; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7.
(g) Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30, 31.

IV. As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation,(h) so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.(i)

(h) Rom. 6:23; Rom. 5:12; Matt. 12:36.
(i) Isa. 55:7; Rom. 8:1; Isa. 1:16, 18.

V. Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins, particularly.(k)
(k) Ps. 19:13; Luke 19:8; I Tim. 1:13, 15.

VI. As every man is bound to make private confession of his sins to God, praying for the pardon thereof;(l) upon which, and the forsaking of them, he shall find mercy:(m) so, he that scandalizeth his brother, or the Church of Christ, ought to be willing, by a private or public confession, and sorrow for his sin, to declare his repentance to those that are offended,(n) who are thereupon to be reconciled to him, and in love to receive him.(o)

(l) Ps. 51:4, 5, 7, 9, 14; Ps. 32:5, 6.
(m) Prov. 28:13; I John 1:9.
(n) James 5:16; Luke 17:3, 4; Joshua 7:19; Ps. 51 throughout.
(o) II Cor. 2:8.

05/10 Chapter 16

Of Good Works.

I. Good works are only such as God hath commanded in His holy Word,(a) and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men, out of blind zeal, or upon any pretense of good intention.(b)

(a) Micah 6:8; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 13:21.
(b) Matt. 15:9; Isa. 29:13; I Pet. 1:18; Rom. 10:2; John 16:2; I Sam. 15:21, 22, 23.

II. These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith:(c) and by them believers manifest their thankfulness,(d) strengthen their assurance,(e) edify their brethren,(f) adorn the profession of the Gospel,(g) stop the mouths of the adversaries,(h) and glorify God,(i) whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto;(k) that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.(l)

(c) James 2:18, 22.

(d) Ps. 116:12, 13; I Pet. 2:9.

(e) I John 2:3, 5; II Pet. 1:5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

(f) II Cor. 9:2; Matt. 5:16.

(g) Tit. 2:5, 9, 10, 11, 12; I Tim. 6:1.

(h) I Pet. 2:15.

(i) I Pet. 2:12; Phil. 1:11; John 15:8.

(k) Eph. 2:10.

(l) Rom. 6:22.

III. Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ.(m) And that they may be enabled thereunto, besides the graces they have already received, there is required an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in them to will and to do of His good pleasure:(n) yet are they not hereupon to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty, unless upon a special motion of the Spirit; but they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.(o)

(m) John 15:4, 5; Ezek. 36:26, 27.

(n) Phil. 2:13; Phil. 4:13; II Cor. 3:5.

(o) Phil. 2:12; Heb. 6:11, 12; II Pet. 1:3, 5, 10, 11; Isa. 64:7; II Tim. 1:6; Acts 26:6, 7; Jude ver. 20, 21.

IV. They, who in their obedience attain to the greatest height which is possible in this life, are so far from being able to supererogate, and to do more than God requires, as that they fall short of much which in duty they are bound to do.(p)

(p) Luke 17:10; Neh. 13:22; Job 9:2, 3; Gal. 5:17.

V. We cannot, by our best works, merit pardon of sin, or eternal life at the hand of God, by reason of the great disproportion that is between them and the glory to come; and the infinite distance that is between us and God, whom, by them, we can neither profit, nor satisfy for the debt of our former sins,(q) but when we have done all we can, we have done but our duty, and are unprofitable servants;(r) and because, as they are good, they proceed from His Spirit;(s) and as they are wrought by us, they are defiled, and mixed with so much weakness and imperfection, that they cannot endure the severity of God's judgment.(t)

(q) Rom. 3:20; Rom. 4:2, 4, 6; Eph. 2:8, 9; Tit. 3:5, 6, 7; Rom. 8:18; Ps. 16:2; Job 22:2, 3; Job 35:7, 8.

(r) Luke 17:10.

(s) Gal. 5:22, 23.

(t) Isa. 64:6; Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:15, 18; Ps. 143:2; Ps. 130:3.

VI. Yet notwithstanding, the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in Him,(u) not as though they were in this life wholly unblamable and unreproveable in God's sight;(w) but that He, looking upon them in His Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections.(x)

(u) Eph. 1:6; I Pet. 2:5; Exod. 28:38; Gen. 4:4 with Heb. 11:4.

(w) Job. 9:20; Ps. 143:2.

(x) Heb. 13:20, 21; II Cor. 8:12; Heb. 6:10; Matt. 25:21, 23.

VII. Works done by unregenerate men, although, for the matter of them, they may be things which God commands, and of good use both to themselves and others:(y) yet, because they proceed not from a heart purified by faith;(z) nor are done in a right manner according to the Word;(a) nor to a right end, the glory of God;(b) they are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, or make a man meet to receive grace from God.(c) And yet, their neglect of them is more sinful, and displeasing unto God.(d)

(y) II Kings 10:30, 31; I Kings 21:27, 29; Phil. 1:15, 16, 18.

(z) Gen. 4:5 with Heb. 11:4; Heb. 11:6.

(a) I Cor. 13:3; Isa. 1:12.

(b) Matt. 6:2, 5, 16.

(c) Hag. 2:14; Tit. 1:15; Amos 5:22, 23; Hosea 1:4; Rom. 9:16; Titus 3:5.

(d) Ps. 14:4; Ps. 36:3; Job 21:14, 15; Matt. 25:41, 42, 43, 45; Matt. 23:23.

05/17 Chapter 17

Of the Perseverance of the Saints.

I. They, whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally, nor finally, fall away from the state of grace: but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.(a)

(a) Phil. 1:6; II Pet. 1:10; John 10:28, 29; I John 3:9; I Pet. 1:5, 9.

II. This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father;(b) upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ;(c) the abiding of the Spirit, and of the seed of God within them;(d) and the nature of the covenant of grace:(e) from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.(f)

(b) II Tim. 2:18, 19; Jer. 31:3.

(c) Heb. 10:10, 14; Heb. 13:20, 21; Heb. 9:12, 13, 14, 15; Rom. 8:33 to the end; John 17:11, 24; Luke 22:32; Heb. 7:25.

(d) John 14:16, 17; I John 2:27; I John 3:9.

(e) Jer. 32:40.

(f) John 10:28; II Thess. 3:3; I John 2:19.

III. Nevertheless, they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins;(g) and, for a time, continue therein:(h) whereby they incur God's displeasure,(i) and grieve His Holy Spirit,(k) come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts,(l) have their hearts hardened,(m) and their consciences wounded,(n) hurt and scandalize others,(o) and bring temporal judgments upon themselves.(p)

(g) Matt. 26:70, 72, 74.

(h) Ps. 51 title and ver. 14.

(i) Isa. 64:5, 7, 9; II Sam. 11:27.

(k) Eph. 4:30.

(l) Ps. 51:8, 10, 12; Rev. 2:4; Cant. 5:2, 3, 4, 6.

(m) Isa. 63:17; Mark 6:52; Mark 16:14.

(n) Ps. 32:3, 4; Ps. 51:8.

(o) II Sam. 12:14.

(p) Ps. 89:31, 32; I Cor. 11:32.

05/24 Chapter 18

Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation.

I. Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes, and carnal presumptions of being in the favour of God, and estate of salvation;(a) which hope of theirs shall perish:(b) yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace,(c) and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.(d)

(a) Job 8:13, 14; Mic. 3:11; Deut. 29:19; John 8:41.

(b) Matt. 7:22, 23.

(c) I John 2:3; I John 3:14, 18, 19, 21, 24; I John 5:13.

(d) Rom. 5:2, 5.

II. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion, grounded upon a fallible hope;(e) but an infallible assurance of faith, founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation,(f) the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made,(g) the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God:(h) which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.(i)

(e) Heb. 6:11, 19.

(f) Heb. 6:17, 18.

(g) II Pet. 1:4, 5, 10, 11; I John 2:3; I John 3:14; II Cor. 1:12.

(h) Rom. 8:15, 16.

(i) Eph. 1:13, 14; Eph. 4:30; II Cor. 1:21, 22.

III. This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties before he be partaker of it:(k) yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may without extraordinary revelation, in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto.(l) And therefore it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure;(m) that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance:(n) so far is it from inclining men to looseness.(o)

(k) I John 5:13; Isa. 50:10; Mark 9:24; Ps. 88 throughout; Ps. 77 to ver. 12.

(l) I Cor. 2:12; I John 4:13; Heb. 6:11, 12; Eph. 3:17, 18, 19.

(m) II Pet. 1:10.

(n) Rom. 5:1, 2, 5; Rom. 14:17; Rom. 15:13; Eph. 1:3, 4; Ps. 4:6, 7; Ps. 119:32.

(o) I John 2:1, 2; Rom. 6:1, 2; Tit. 2:11, 12, 14; II Cor. 7:1; Rom. 8:1, 12; I John

3:2, 3; Ps. 130:4; I John 1:6, 7.

IV. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin, which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of His countenance, and suffering even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light:(p) yet are they never so utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived;(q) and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.(r)

(p) Cant. 5:2, 3, 6; Ps. 51:8, 12, 14; Eph. 4:30, 31; Ps. 77:1 to 10; Matt. 26:69, 70, 71, 72; Ps. 31:22; Ps. 88 throughout; Isa. 50:10.

(q) I John 3:9; Luke 22:32; Job 13:15; Ps. 73:15; Ps. 51:8, 12; Isa. 50:10.

(r) Mic. 7:7, 8, 9; Jer. 32:40; Isa. 54:7, 8, 9, 10; Ps. 22:1; Ps. 88 throughout.

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