

This work is a collection of prayers and blessings for various occasions. The source of much of the material in this volume was previously compiled in "A Manual for Priests in the American Church". These contributions, with several additions, have been revised and presented in contemporary language. "Prayers and Blessings" is presented in a concise and easy to use format and will serve as a valuable resource for ministers from many Christian backgrounds.

"Prayers and Blessings" is divided into three sections. The first section, "Prayers", is a collection of over one hundred prayers related to topics such as "Christian Family Life", "Education", "Graces", "Travelers", "The Church" and many others. The second division, "Blessings", gathers blessings for many occasions in one convenient location. Blessings include those for "Crosses", "Candles", "Palms", "Ashes", "Holy Water", and many others. The final section, "Additional Devotions", includes "The Asperges" and "The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament".

"Prayers and Blessings" promises to be a valuable resource for the "ancient-future" Church.



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PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS



Diocese of Saint Cuthbert

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PREFACE

Much of the material in *Prayers and Blessings* has as its source; *A Manual for Priests of the American Church* originally published by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. Many thanks to the Anglican Parish Association for permitting us to include portions of that work which have been rewritten in contemporary language, reformatted, and combined with some additional materials in this edition of *Prayers and Blessings*.

Special thanks are extended to The Rev. Michael Lee, FSC for his labors in this project. We pray that you find this a valuable resource.

*The Rt. Rev. Robert H. Hoyt, Jr. SC
Bishop - Diocese of St. Cuthbert*

PRAYERS

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

COLLECT FOR SAINT CUTHBERT

Almighty God, who called Cuthbert from following the flock to be a shepherd of your people: Mercifully grant that, as he sought in dangerous and remote places those who had erred and strayed from your ways, so we may seek the indifferent and the lost, and lead them back to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

PRAYERS

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

1. For Christian Homes

O Lord, visit our homes, and drive far from them all snares of the enemy: let your holy Angels dwell in them to preserve us in peace, and let your blessing be ever upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. For a Child's Home

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth in the life of an earthly home: Bless the home of this Child; and grant wisdom and understanding to all who have the care of *him*, that *he* may grow up in your constant fear and love; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. For Parents

O God, our heavenly Father, who has blessed your servants with the gift of a child: Grant, that they may show their love and thankfulness to you in so ordering their home, that by the example of their life and teaching they may guide their child in the way of righteousness, and with *him* be partakers with your saints in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

4. For a Birthday

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being: we give you hearty thanks for the preservation of your servant from the beginning of *his* life until this day. Grant that as *he* grows in age so may *he* also grow in grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

5. For Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, who has blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us light and strength so to train

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

them that they may love whatever things are true, and pure, and lovely, and of good report; following the example of their Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

BLESSINGS

BLESSINGS

THE BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

R. *The maker of heaven and earth.*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true light that lightens every person who comes into the world: Bless (+), we pray, this wreath and its candles which we shall light in preparation for the celebration of your coming; and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness, and evermore stand fast in the true faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for evermore; *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF AN AIRPLANE

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

R. *The maker of heaven and earth..*

V. Praise the Lord, O my soul

R. *O God, you are exceedingly glorious.*

V. Who makes the clouds your chariot.

R. *And walks upon the wings of the wind.*

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. *And let my cry come unto you.*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And also with you*

O God, who made all things for yourself, and has appointed every element of this world for the service of men; bl(+)ess, we

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

pray, this airplane; that every evil and danger being done away, it may serve to make the praise and glory of your holy Name more widely known, and the temporal affairs of men to be more speedily carried on; and grant that the minds of those who fly in it may cherish the desire for heavenly things. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O God, the defender of those who trust in you, mercifully grant unto your servants who, journeying by air, call upon your aid, a good Angel from heaven to be their companion by the way: that being kept in all their ways, they may be brought with joy unto the haven where they would be. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF AN ALTAR BOOK

This blessing may also be used for a prayer book or devotional manual.

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

R. *The maker of heaven and earth.*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

O Lord God, cause the might of your Holy Spirit to descend upon this book, to cleanse, purify, bless (+) and hallow (+) it. May He mercifully enlighten our hearts and give us understanding to keep Your commandments, that we may fulfill them in good works according to Your will. Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever; *Amen.*

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

life: grant to all your servants, who will be buried in this place, that their bodies may rest in peace; and that, through the grave and gate of death, they may pass to a joyful resurrection. Who with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit, be ever upon this place, and sanctify and keep it holy, that it may be a fit resting place for the bodies of his saints, until the day of the Lord Jesus, when he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. *Amen.*

And he may again sprinkle the burying ground with holy water

THE BLESSING OF A CENSER

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

R. *The maker of heaven and earth.*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Bless (+), O Lord God, this censer; and grant that as often as incense is burned in it, the prayers of Your people may ascend as a sweet-smelling savor unto You. This we pray through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit; One God, now and forever; *Amen.*

THE CONSECRATION OF A CHALICE AND PATEN (R)

This blessing is traditionally reserved to the Bishop of the Diocese, or to another Priest delegated by him.

**ADDITIONAL
DEVOTIONS,
PRAYERS, AND
BLESSINGS**

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

THE ASPERGES

Note that this devotion is omitted on Palm Sunday.

This ancient devotion is a weekly reminder of Baptism. Where used, it takes place on Sunday, immediately before the principal Mass. The Priest who is to celebrate, vested in a cope of the color of the Mass, and accompanied by his assistants, goes to the Altar. There, kneeling on the lowest step, he intones the antiphon, Thou shalt purge me. And the choir continues the chant. Meanwhile he sprinkles the Altar -three times in the middle, to his left, and to his right-and then signs himself on the forehead with holy water.

Rising, he sprinkles his assistants, who then stand up. He then sprinkles the clergy in choir (if any are present), the singers, and the congregation.

Asperges me

You shall purge me with hyssop, O Lord, and I shall be clean: you shall wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Ps. 51.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after your great goodness: * according to the multitude of your mercies, do away with my offences.

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. Amen.

You shall purge me with hyssop, O Lord, and I shall be clean: you shall wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

On Sundays from Easter Day through Pentecost the following antiphon is substituted for the above.

Vidi aquam

I saw water proceeding out of the temple, from the right side of it, alleluia: and all men, wherever the waters shall come, shall be healed, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.

ADDITIONAL DEVOTIONS, PRAYERS, BLESSINGS

Ps. 118. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious, *
because his mercy endures forever.

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. Amen.

**I saw water proceeding out of the temple, from the right side
of it, alleluia: and all men, wherever the waters shall come,
shall be healed, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Having finished the antiphon, the Priest who has sprinkled the
people, standing at the foot of the Altar, sings:*

V. O Lord, show us your mercy. (*during Easter season
Alleluia is added.*)

R. **And grant us your salvation.** (*during Easter season
Alleluia is added.*)

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. **And let my cry come unto you.**

V. The Lord be with you.

R. **And also with you**

Let us pray.

Graciously hear us, O Lord holy, Father Almighty, everlasting
God: and send your holy Angel from heaven to guard, cherish,
protect, visit, and defend all who dwell in this place. Through
Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or this:

Graciously hear us, O Lord holy, Father Almighty, everlasting
God: and vouchsafe to send your Angel from heaven, to
guard, cherish, protect, visit, and defend all who are
assembled in this your holy temple. Through Jesus Christ our
Savior. *Amen.*

*The Priest then lays aside his cope, puts on the chasuble, and begins
the Mass.*