

SECOND PRAYER.

OUR God, and God of our fathers, we approach Thee this day with humble hearts, and offer unto Thee the gratitude of our soul. We thank Thee for this holy day, so full of significance for us. For through the beautiful lessons of our confirmation we feel how truly great are Thy works, and how happy are they who walk in Thy ways. We give thanks unto Thee, O God, that Thou hast given us kind and loving parents, who until now have led us, and cared for us, who removed every obstacle from our path.

On this day, O Heavenly Father, Thou didst appear on Mount Sinai to reveal the laws of life unto Thy people. Reveal Thyself also unto us to-day, that from this hour Thy law may be written on the tablets of our hearts, and that by our lives we may show forth the truth of Thy teachings. Even as Israel of old so we to-day stand in pious fear before Thee, exclaiming like them: *Naáséh v'nishmah*, we will do what Thou hast commanded us, and accept Thine eternal truth. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

AS sons and daughters of Israel, we desire to be received into the spiritual bond of our people; we are ready to accept the faith of our fathers, and willing to share with our brethren the responsibilities of our common obligation.

We believe that God is One, holy, and purely spiritual, the Creator, Ruler, and Preserver of the universe, to whom alone belong homage and adoration.

We believe that God has created man in his image and has endowed him with an immortal spirit, through which he may sanctify himself in his thoughts and actions. God has proclaimed the immutable law of morality on Mount Sinai, through Moses, the greatest of all prophets, as an infallible guide for our conduct. Man is responsible for his actions. God is a merciful, but also a righteous judge, who renders to everyone the fruits of his doings.

We believe that Israel is the priest-people of God, destined by Him to proclaim and spread all over the earth the knowledge of the One Eternal, and to teach obedience to His holy will to all families of man. This universal mission of Israel will be realized in the future; the Messianic time, predicted by our prophets, will come, when all mankind, redeemed from error and evil, shall acknowledge the Holy One of Israel as their Father and Redeemer.

Deeply imbued with the truth of these principles, we solemnly profess before God and His congregation, that we are resolved to live in conformity with this faith, to make the fulfillment of these duties the highest task of our lives, and to strive amidst all trials and temptations to remain faithful to our God.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:

Hear, O Israel, the Eternal is our God, the Eternal
is One.

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלִכּוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

Praised be His glorious name for ever.

יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים

The Eternal is God!

Choir: AMEN.

THIRD PRAYER.

MERCIFUL God! From the depths of our hearts we give thanks unto Thee, that Thou hast graciously taught us the knowledge of Thy law, and hast accepted us in Thy holy covenant.

Grant us Thy help, in order that we may become worthy of these blessings, that we faithfully keep all we have vowed unto Thee in this solemn hour, and that we remember the words we have spoken before Thee and cherish them in our hearts.

Heavenly Father! Thou guidest the steps of man, Thou art with him in his days of joy, and in his hours of sorrow Thou comfortest him. Guide us, O God, through life, as Thou hast led us

through the days of our childhood. Guard us from dangers that beset our path, and give us strength to overcome sin and temptation. Grant to our parents years of strength and health, and enable us to repay with kindness the good they have done to us, and let us be the joy of their old age.

Give Thy special help to those whose parents Thou hast called to Thee. Be Thou their kind father, their guide and counsel on the lonely path of life.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Thy blessing and Thy help to all of us who this day have stood before Thine altar. Guard our acts, counsel our will, and may our coming in and our going out be blessed. Amen.

Choir:

"THE LORD HATH BEEN MINDFUL OF US."

ORIGINAL ESSAYS.

Valedictory.

Choir: HYMN.

BLESSING BY THE MINISTER.

CONCLUDING PRAYER.

MERCIFUL Father, accept graciously the thanksgiving of our hearts for the spiritual joy prepared for us this day. The blessing which a living faith in Thee brings, has been confirmed to our souls, and ever-more Thy word shall be a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path. Led by Thee, all-kind Father, we enter on the path that lies before us. What the future conceals from us, is manifest to Thee; therefore we trust in Thee and despair not. Sustain our soul and lead us in the way of righteousness for Thy name's sake. Preserve, O Lord, our God, our lives to the comfort of our dear parents; guard and keep these our benefactors and truest friends, and teach us to afford them satisfaction and delight, even as this day, so at all times. We lift up our souls to Thee, O Lord, at the conclusion of this solemn act; may this hour prove a constant blessing to us; may the impression, to-day made upon our hearts, never fade from our memory, so that, by looking back to this hour and these services, we may ever be deterred from evil, and strengthened in all that is good. May the words of our lips and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable unto Thee, O Eternal, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Choir: HALLELUJAH.
