

Prayers for Private Devotion.

MORNING PRAYERS.

1.

O GOD and Father, Source of life and of blessing, unto Thee my heart is lifted up in adoration, unto Thee are my eyes directed in the opening hour of a new day. Thou sleepest not, Thou slumberest not, O Guardian of Israel. Thy eye has watched over me, Thy protecting hand has shielded me through the dangers of the night. Thy goodness, which is without end, has given me the refreshing quiet of sleep and has quickened me with the energy of new life. Thy love, which is new every morning, has given me the joy of beholding again the earth, radiant with the sun, and the circle of my loved ones, gladdened with the blessings of health and content.

O how should my soul fail to praise Thee, seeing all Thy bounties so freshly given! In the chorus of the thousands of Thy creatures, who lift up their grateful voices from the hour of dawn, let also the thanksgiving of my heart find a perfect accord.

Grant that this day, which I receive as a gift from Thee, shall not pass over me in vain. May it be dedicated to Thy glory, to the culture of my immortal soul, to the service of my fellow-men. Let this day not prove an empty page in the record of my life. O make me able to accomplish something

worthy of Thy love, something that shall, in the sphere of my daily doings, further the wise and holy purposes for which Thou hast placed man on earth.

In humility let me walk before Thee, O God, my heart composed through reverence and love to trust steadfastly in the wisdom and goodness of Thy all-ruling will.

With sincere piety, may I be able to take from Thy hand whatever Thou givest, be it good or ill. O give success to the work of my hands; direct the purposes that fill my heart. Amen.

2.

O GOD, open my lips that I may fitly speak Thy praises. Unto Thee, O God, does my spirit lift itself at the opening of the day, that in communion with Thee, my life may begin anew and my hope again find strength. In the calm mystery of sleep, I lay in peace. Thy hand was spread over me in protection. I awake to speak of Thy grace at morn, of Thy faithfulness at night. Hear my voice in the morning; be gracious unto me, O merciful Father.

In Thee do I put my trust. Be my shield in the troubles of the day. Bestow grace upon me from Thy boundless love. Create within me a pure heart, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew Thou within me. Teach me, O God, to comprehend the way of Thy commandments, that I may follow Thy path to the end of my days.

Hear my prayer, O God, and let my fervent supplication not be in vain. Amen.

3.

ALMIGHTY God, Thou hast permitted me to awake to the light of the new day. Let me not sink into the darkness of error and sin. Do not withdraw Thy hand from me; let Thy grace be near me. Incline my heart unto Thee, that all my thoughts, and words, and deeds, may make answer to the call of Thy will; that I may follow whither Thy word shall lead, and may ever do what is right and good in Thine eyes.

Grant me clear insight into the truth, steadfast apprehension of the right, that through the mazes of this world's errors and temptations, I may pass on unhindered and unfalteringly into the pathway of godliness. Enlighten my eyes that I may comprehend Thy will. Shelter me in the shade of Thy promise, protect me with Thy faithfulness, as with a shield. Lead Thou me by the hand as a father leadeth his child, lest he fall. Be with me in every danger and save me.

Satisfy me early through Thy mercy, that I may rejoice in Thee and give thanks unto Thee all the days of my life.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:
 בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלָכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

Sh'ma Yisroël, Adónoy Elohénu, Adónoy Echod.

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

Boruch Shém k'vód mal'chuso l'ólom voéd.

Praised be His glorious name for ever-more.

NIGHT PRAYERS.

1.

UNTO Thee do I come in the calmness of this hour, when all the earth is wrapped in the stillness of night, to speak Thy holy name, as the day passes on into the boundless hour of eternity. With grateful heart I give thanks unto Thee, O God, for all that this day has brought me, the treasures of joy, of earnest, noble effort, of sweet affection, of uplifting hope, and the fulfillment of duty. All its changing emotions and experiences pass in review before me. In Thy holy presence I ask of my soul: "How hast thou made use of these gracious gifts of God; what hast thou done for thy own ennoblement, what, for the good of thy fellow creatures?"

Alas! too clearly does the light of conscience reveal to the inward eye of the soul, the shortcomings of the day: how much that is blameworthy in act, how many duties neglected, how much good despised, how many impulses to virtue and righteousness stifled by selfishness or indolence.

O Father of love and mercy, do not, I beseech Thee, for all this, turn me away; do not withdraw Thy mercy from me. In sorrow and repentance I humble myself before Thee; cleanse Thou me of my sins, purify my motives, uproot every ignoble passion and purpose. Give me a strong will and a courageous spirit to uphold what is just and right and true. Let Thy grace be round about me and mine in the hours of the night. Ward off all dangers and mishaps from my home. Unto Thee do I commit my soul and the welfare of those dear to me. Thou wilt not leave, Thou wilt not forsake

us. My heart is firm, trusting in Thee. Thou art with me; I fear nothing. Unto Thy loving mercy, O Father, do I commit also the well-being of my fellow-men. Wherever, in this night, the sick and suffering, the afflicted and the desolate are turning prayerfully unto Thee, O send them help from Thy sanctuary, courage and strength to bear whatever Thou sendest. Give Thy help unto all Thy creatures, O God; grant heavenly peace unto all human hearts. "I will lay me down in peace and sleep, for Thou, Lord, makest me dwell in safety." Amen.

2.

○ MY God, how shall I be able to acknowledge or thank Thee for all that I owe Thee? Thou hast given me life, and surrounded me with all that makes life pleasant; Thou hast delivered me from many evils, and Thou continuest daily to shower Thy mercies and favors upon me. What return can I make for all and each of Thy benefits, and for the special favors of this day? Grant that by my deeds I may bestow the only praise which is agreeable in Thy sight, who art so bountiful to Thy servant. Strengthen me, O God, that I may love Thee with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my might, that I may love all my fellow-men as Thy children.

I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

Visit, I beseech Thee, O God, this habitation, and keep from it all that is evil. Let Thy peace dwell therein, and may Thy blessing be upon us for ever! Amen.