

A collection of offices or forms of prayer in cases ordinary and extraordinary. Taken out of the Scriptures and the ancient liturgies of several churches, especially the Greek. Together with the Psalter or Psalms of David, according to the Kings translations; with arguments to the same.

The Offices of Jeremy Taylor – for use in the Commonwealth

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667) is a familiar figure to most Anglicans as the author of the devotionals, *Holy Living* and *Holy Dying*.

In addition to those well-known devotionals, he also wrote many other works, among them a *Collection of Offices* containing revisions of many of the services in the Book of Common Prayer, including an order for Holy Communion, presented here. This work was occasioned by the Commonwealth, which outlawed use of the Book of Common Prayer. So the intent of these offices was for the use of congregations which wanted to make use of the Book of Common Prayer but could not. This *Collection of Offices* was published in 1658, but may have been in use earlier. It is not clear what, if any, practical use was made of these services, but the need for them ceased in 1660 at the Restoration of the monarchy.

Although Taylor's *Collection of Offices* may function better as a literary work than as practical liturgy, it is important as it claims to be strongly influenced by ancient Eastern (Greek) forms, and also the Spanish Mozarabic Rite. Taylor was thus one of the first Anglicans to attempt to look to these ancient forms for renewal of the Liturgy, which practice has continued right up to the present day.

EVENING PRAYER, Throughout the YEARE.

The 10th Day of May in the Yeare of our Lorde Two Thousand and Twenty

Say one or more of these Sentences.

O Lord the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountaine of living waters.

O Lord though our iniquities testifie against us, have mercy upon us for thy names sake; for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against thee.

Seeke the Lord while he may be found: call upon him when he is neer.

There is no peace saith my God to the wicked.

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the remnant of the transgression of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercie.

Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God for, he will abundantly pardon.

Thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabits eternity, whose name is holy, I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to renew the heart of them that are contrite.

After which adde this short exhortation.

I Beseech you that are present to joyne with me in a humble confession of sins to Almighty God, casting your selves downe with all humility before the throne of Grace.

The Confession.

I.

ALmighty God powerfull and mercifull, thou art a jealous God against persevering sinners, but a gracious father to the penitent, let thy mercifull eares be opened to the petitions of thy servants who with sorrow and shame confesse their sins unto thee.

II.

We have loved the world, not thee: we have obeyed the desires of our owne hearts, not thy holy lawes and Commandements: we have often left our dutie undone, but cease not to please our senses and to feed greedily upon vanity: thou hast commanded us to love our brethren, and instead of loving them we have slandered and reproached, injured and tempted them, envied their good, and rejoiced in their calamity.

III.

O Blessed God we are asham'd when we rememberd our owne follies, our violent passions, our peevishnesse and pride, our vaine thoughts and unprofitable words, our uncharitable and uselesse conversation: we spend our daies in idlenesse and folly, our nights in the images and causes of death; and

though our sins are so many that we cannot number them, yet we so little apprehend our owne dangers that we neither leave them utterly nor heartily deplore them.

IV.

But O God thou God of pity and compassion have mercy upon us: For thou art our Father, mercifull and gracious, and thou hast revealed to mankind an infinite mercy in Jesus Christ. For his sake be pleased to give us repentance, and to give us pardon, and grant that our soules being wash'd in the blood of the holy Lambe and the Baptisme of repentance, we may live a gracious, a holy and a blessed life, in all godlinesse and honesty, and sobriety, and may die in the love of God, in the charity of our neighbours, in the Communion of the Church and in a sure and certaine hope of life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The prayer of Absolution to be said by the Minister alone according to his piety and discretion when he sees cause.

OUR Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus the great Shepherd and Bishop of our soules, that lambe of God that taketh away the sins of the world, who promised Paradise to the repenting theife, and gave pardon to the woman taken in adultery, he pardon and forgive all your sins knowne and unknowne. O Blessed Jesus in whatsoever thy servants as men bearing flesh about them, and inhabiting this world, or deceived by the Devill, have sinn'd whether in word or deed, whether in thought or desire, whether by omission or commission, let it be forgiven unto them by thy word and by thy spirit; and for ever preserve thy servants from sinning against thee, and from suffering thine eternall anger, for thy promise sake, and for thy glorious Names sake, O Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus. Amen.

Then devoutly and distinctly say the Lords Prayer.

OUR Father which art in heaven Hallowed be thy Name Thy Kingdome come Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespassed against us And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from evill. For thine is the Kingdome, the power and the Glory, for ever. Amen.

The Doxology.

GLORY be to the Father of mercies, the Father of Men and Angels, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory be to the most holy and eternall sonne of God, the Blessed Saviour and Redeemer of the World; the Advocate of sinners, the Prince of Peace, the Head of the Church, and the mighty Deliverer of all them that call upon him.

Glory be to the holy and Eternall spirit of God, the Holy Ghost the comforter, the sanctifying and life-giving Spirit.

All Glory and thanks, all honour and power, all love and obedience, be to the Blessed and undivided Trinity, one God Eternall.

The Heavens declare thy glory: the Earth confesses thy providence: the sea manifests thy power; and every spirit, and every understanding creature celebrates thy greatnesse for ever and ever All glory and majesty, all praises and dominion be unto thee O God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, for ever and ever. Amen.

Then arising from their knees let the Psalme's be said in order, unlesse some extraordinary occasion doe intervene: in which case let Psalmes be selected according to the occasion, or as is afterwards described, concluding with, Glory be to the Father. &c.

Then read upon all Sundaies and Festivals of the yeare a chapter in the old Testament; either in order or by choice.

1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, 2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: 3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. 4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? 5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. 7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. 8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. 10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth. and by the two olive trees, the two anointed ones

The iv chapter of the Book of Zechary

After the lesson recite this Hymne.

I Will remember the workes of the Lord: surely I will remember the wonders of old: I will meditate of allthy workes, and talke of thy doings.

¶ Thy way O God is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

Thou art the God that doest wonders, thou hast declared thy strength among the people.

¶ Thou even thou art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when thou art angry.

For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red: it is full of mixture, and he powreth out of the same: but the dregs thereof all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out and drink them.

¶ But I will declare for ever: I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

For thou art my hope O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth.

¶ By thee have I been holden up from the wombe: thou art he that tooke me out of my Mothers bowels, my praise shall be continually of thee.

For the Lord is a sun and a sheild: the Lord will give grace and glory: and no good thing will he withhold from them that live a godly life.

Evening Prayer during the Commonwealth

¶ O Lord of Hosts; Blessed is the Man that putteth his trust in thee. Glory be to the Father &c.

Or this.

GOd is greatly to be fear'd in the assembly of the Saints: and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

¶ Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise thou stillest them.

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world, and the fulnesse thereof, thou hast founded them.

¶ Justice and judgement are the habitation of thy throne, mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

For loe thine enemies O Lord, loe thine enemies shall perish: all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

¶ The righteous shall flourish like a Palme tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the Courts of our God.

¶ They shall still bring forth fruit in their old age: they shall be fat and flourishing.

¶ To shew that the Lord is upright: he is our rock, and there is no unrighteousnesse in him. Glory be to the Father. &c.

Then read a lesson out of the Epistle of S. Paul, or any of the Canonical Epistles; in order or selected upon special occasions.

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12

And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The xi chapter of the Booke of Revelation

After the lesson, say this Psalm.

Give eare O Lord unto my prayer: and attend to the voice of my supplications.

¶ Turne us O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger towards us to cease.

For thou Lord art good and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all them that call upon thee.

¶ O Remember not against us former iniquities, let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us.

Helpe us O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: deliver us and purge away our sins for thy names sake.

¶ Teach us thy way O God, and we will walke in thy truth: unite our hearts to fear thy Name.

O satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoyce and be glad all our daies.

¶ So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Or this.

IN thee O Lord doe I put my trust, let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousnesse.

¶ Into thy hand I commend my spirit; thou hast redeemed me O Lord God of truth.

Make thy face to shine upon thy servants: save us for thy mercies sake.

¶ For great is thy goodnesse which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee: which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men.

The Angel of the Lord encamped round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

¶ Thou art my hiding place, thou shalt preserve me from trouble: thou shalt compasse me about with songs of deliverance.

Thou makest darknesse and it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest doe creep forth.

¶ O Lord how manifold are thy workes! in wisdome hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

The Glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoyce in his workes.

¶ He appointed the moone for certaine seasons; and the sun knoweth his going downe.

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praise unto my God while I have my being: my meditation of him shall be sweet, I will rejoyce in the Lord.

¶ I will both lay me downe in peace and sleep: for thou Lord makest me dwell in safety.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Or else say 103. Psalme, or the 91. or the 121.

An exhortation to bless God for His mercy

A Psalm of David.

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. 7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. 9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. 13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. 14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. 15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. 16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. 17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; 18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. 20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. 21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. 22 Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

103 Psalm

Then shall follow the Apostles Creed.

I Beleeve in God the Father Almighty maker of Heaven and earth And in Jesus Christ his onely son our Lord which was conceived by the holy Ghost, borne of the Virgin Mary suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried He descended into hell The third day he rose againe 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 quicke and the Dead.

I believe in the holy Ghost The holy Catholick Church, the communion of Saints the forgiveness of sins the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Minister.

The Lord be with you.

People.

And with thy Spirit.

Minister.

Let us Pray.

Our Father which art in heaven Hallowed be thy Name Thy Kingdome come
Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us And
lead us not into temptation But deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the Glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Then follows the first collect as at Morning Prayer.

I.

O Great King of heaven and earth, the Lord and patron of all ages, receive thy
servants approaching to the throne of Grace in the Name of Jesus Christ. Give
unto every one of us what is best for us, cast out all evil from within us, work in
us a fulnesse of holinesse, of wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we
increasing in the knowledge of God may be fruitful in every Good worke
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or this.

SAve us, defend and keep us in thy fear and love O thou God of mercy and
grace. Give unto us the light of thy countenance; pardon of our sins, health of
body, sanctification of our spirits, peace from heaven, and salvation of our
soules in the day of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

I. For repentance and a Holy life.

ALmighty God the fountaine of holinesse and felicity who by thy word and by
thy spirit dost conduct all thy servants in the waies of peace and sanctity,
inviting them by promises, and winning them by love, endearing them by
necessities, and obliging them by the perpetual testimonies of thy loving
kindnesse, grant unto us so truly to repent us of our sins, so carefully to reforme
our errors, so diligently to watch over all our actions, so industriously to doe all
our duty, that we may never transgresse thy Holy lawes willingly; but that it
may be the worke of our lives to obey thee, the joy of our soules to please thee,
the satisfaction of all our hopes, and the perfection of our desires to live with
thee in the holinesse of thy Kingdome of grace and glory through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

II. For Peace.

O Almighty and most gracious Father who art the fountaine of peace, and the
Father of Unions, we pray unto thee for peace, for love, and for thy salvation,
Let a holy peace for ever dwell in our consciences. Let peace and holinesse, and
Gods blessing for ever adorne, support and enlarge this family. Let there be
peace and Union of minds in all Christian assemblies, one heart, and one voice,
the same faith and an eternal charity. Make warrs to cease in all the world, that
the peace and the designe of the Gospel may be advanced, the lawes of the holy
Jesus may be obeyed, and his Name be magnified in all the world for ever and
ever. Amen.

III. For all Christian Princes and the Ecclesiastical state.

Almighty God who rulest in the Kingdomes of men, and in all events of the world, defend those with thy mercy whom thou hast adorned with thy power, lift up the horne, advance the just interests of all Christian Kings, Princes, and states by the power of thy venerable and lifegiving passion.

Give unto all them who serve thee in the ministeries of religion wisdom and holinesse, the blessings of peace, and great abilities to minister prosperously to the good of soules by the power and aides of thy holy Spirit of wisdom.

IV.

Pardon all our sins; take away our iniquities from us all, and preserve us from all danger and trouble, from need and persecution, from the temptations of the Devill, from the violence and fraud of all our enemies. Keep us O God from sinning against thee, and from suffering thy wrath, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

V The collect for the Evening.

O Almighty Father who givest the Sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the Moone and of the Stars for a light by night, vouchsafe to receive us this night and ever into thy favour and protection, defending us from all sad casualties and evill accidents, ruling and governing us with thy holy spirit, that all darknesse and hurtfull ignorance, all infidelity and weaknesse of heart, all inordinate fear and carnall affections may be remooved far from us, that we being justified by the mercies of God in our Lord Jesus, may be sanctified by thy spirit, and glorified by thy infinite mercies in the day of the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

VI. For a blessed death.

O Most gracious and most holy Redeemer who by dying for us becamest the author of life unto us, and hast subdued all the powers of hell and the grave, taking away the sting of death and breaking in peices the powers of darknesse; have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our Death: Let thy holy Spirit governe all our words and actions, our thoughts and designes, our civill intercourse, and the duties of religion; and grant to us so perfectly to obey his commandements, and attend his motions all the daies of our life, that we may by holy habits and a constant performance of our dutie waite for the coming of our Lord, and be ready to enter with him at whatsoever hour he shall come.

VII.

O be mercifull unto us in the day of our calamity, and of thy visitation: strengthen our faith in the day of our sicknesses & trial, when the Cloud is thicke & the storme is great: that we may rely upon thy grace, invoke thy mercies, hope in thy goodnesse, and receive the end of our hopes the salvation of our soules. O Let us never descend into the dwellings of the wicked, nor into the place of them that know not God; but be pleas'd here to guide us with thy councill, and after that receive us with thy glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or this.

O Eternall God thou fountaine of life and pardon, there is no number of thy daies nor of thy mercies; be mercifull unto us now and at the hour of our death; let not thy servants be arrested with sudden death, that we be neither unready

in our accounts, nor snatched hence with an imperfect duty, nor surprised in an act of sin, nor called upon when our lampes are untrimm'd; let it be neither violent nor untimely, hasty, nor unblessed but after the ordinary visitation of men, having in it an excellent patience and an exemplar piety, and the greatest senses and demonstrations of thy eternall mercies. Preserve O God our reason and religion, our faith and our hope, our sense and our speech perfect and usefull till the last of our daies, and grant that we may die the death of the righteous, and let our last end be like to his, free from debt and deadly sin, having first discharg'd all our obligations of justice, and made competent provision for our relatives, that none of ours be left miserable and unprovided in our departure; but grant that being blessed by thy providence, and sanctified with thy spirit, they may for ever be servants of the Lord Jesus.

II.

Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts, shut not up thy mercifull eyes and eares unto our prayers, but spare us O Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and mercifull Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternall, suffer us not at our last hour for any paines of death to fall from thee; but strengthen us with a mighty grace and support us with an infinite mercy, giving us perfect measures or repentance and great treasures of charity, that at the generall resurrection in the last day we may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy welbeloved son shall then pronounce to all them that love and feare thee, saying, Come ye Blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdome prepared for you from the beginning of the world. This mercy O most mercifull Father vouchsafe to give unto us and all thy servants through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

Here may be inserted any of the portions of the prayer of intercession, which is at the end of Morning Prayer.

The Blessing.

THE Lord blesse you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost be amongst you and abide with you, and be your portion for ever and ever. Amen.

The end of Evening Prayer.